

# Climate and Disaster Resilient Irrigation and Drainage Modernization in the Vaksh River Basin Project. GEN Project

## GENDER ACTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

*The views expressed in this presentation are the views of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Asian Development Bank, or its Board of Governors, or the governments they represent. ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this presentation and accepts no responsibility for any consequence of their use. The countries listed in this presentation do not imply any view on ADB's part as to sovereignty or independent status or necessarily conform to ADB's terminology.*



# Overview on gender issues in Tajikistan and Vaksh River Basin

- Tajikistan ranks 123rd out of 148 countries on the global gender gap index
- The high level of male outmigration has led to a substantial increase in women's responsibilities in agriculture
- The proportion of women in the agricultural labor force increased from 54% in 1999 to more than 75% in 2020
- Women operate homestead gardens (cultivating fruits and vegetables) to meet their nutritional and food security needs
- Women also manage water collection and allocation within the household for productive and domestic uses, and hygiene maintenance



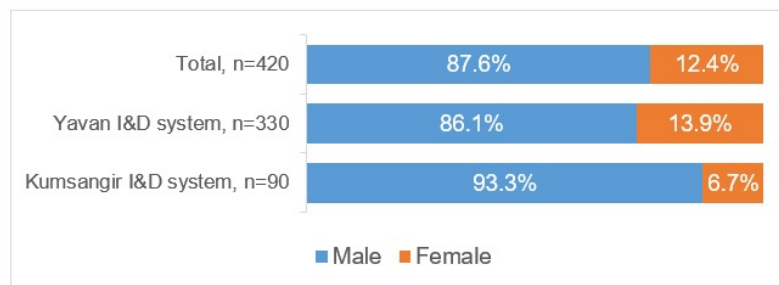
# Households



- Women dominate and are main decision makers in the households
- Kitchen gardens are not prioritized by WUAs, however contribute significantly to agricultural production of the region
- Irrigation water often has multiple uses in the household
- Homesteads often do not receive adequate water supply due to limited or lack of appropriate delivery means and irrigation scheduling because WUAs prioritize water services for larger farms

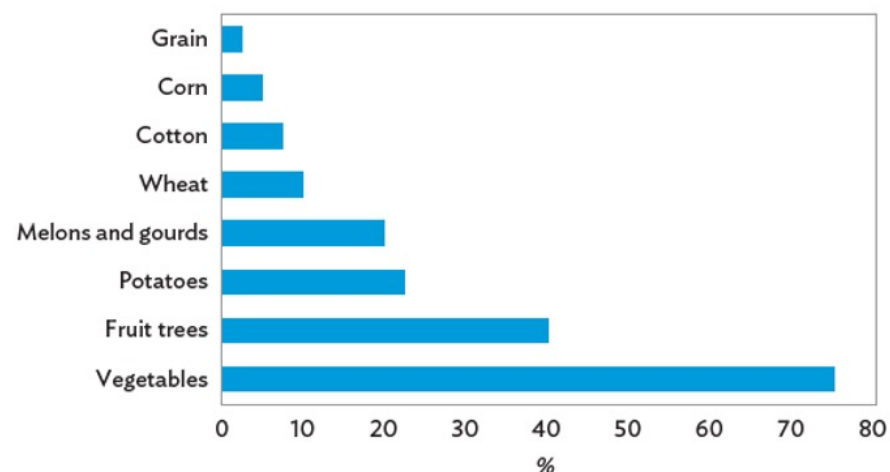
# Farmers

Figure 3: Characteristics of dehkan farmers – distribution by I&D systems and gender



Source: ADB Agro-Socio-Economic Baseline Survey, November-December 2020

Figure 2: Crop Produced by Women – Share of Households Where Women Produce Specific Crops



Source: ADB, 2020. "Women's Time Use in Rural Tajikistan".

- Female-headed dekhkan farms make up around 12% from the total number of farms in the Khatlon province
- Women farmers operate small- and medium-sized farmlands that produce
- Lack of access to secure land restricts women in their productive activities and income generation.vegetables, cotton, wheat, and fodder crops.

# Agricultural workers - mardikors

- Low-cost seasonal labor and especially daily workers represented by mardikor groups have become common
- Female mardikors combine different livelihood sources
- They may fully or partially depend on what they earn from their seasonal/daily activities
- Mardikor women almost always work in brigades (teams) of 30-50 people.
- Women recognized that seasonal work offers good short-term earnings but annualized may only equal the minimum official salary in Tajikistan. Daily wages for these activities vary from TJS 40-100.

# PROJECT GENDER DESIGNS

## **Women's access to economic opportunities:**

- Increase Net Farm income of women-farmers (*Project Outcome*)
- Improve production processes and increase productivity of women-produced crops;
- Support women farmers with labor and water efficient irrigation systems; and
- Mardikor groups' capacity building.

## **Women's access to infrastructure and social services:**

- Increase women's access to modernized I&D systems and services: targets to support access to financial products, services, technology and agricultural support.

## **Participation in decision making:**

- Women's stronger representation and gender integration in water management structures and processes with targets for leadership roles and in management committees/boards
- Development of gender strategy for ALRI and WUAs.