

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

## GENDER ACTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

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# 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

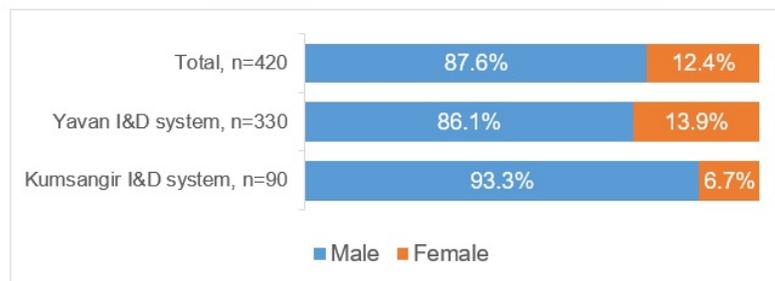
# Households



- 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

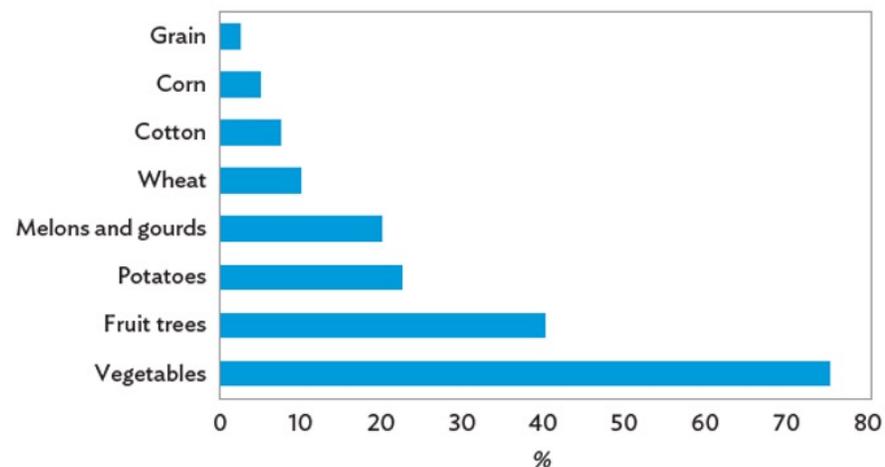
# Farmers

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.