

Closing the gender gap in agriculture for ending hunger and achieving food security



Inclusive and Gender-Conscious Agri-Food Value Chains in the GMS: Challenges and Opportunities

**Southeast Asia Department
Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

STRATEGY 2030'S SEVEN OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES



Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities



Accelerating progress in gender equality



Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability



Making cities more livable



Promoting rural development and food security



Strengthening governance and institutional capacity



Fostering regional cooperation and integration

Target: At least 75% of ADB operations will promote gender equality by 2030

What do these pictures tell you?



Rationale and Background

- ▶ **GEO 6 (March 2019): Gender equality and women's empowerment are multipliers of sustainability.** Resonates well with the **2019 United Nations High-level Political Forum: 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'**.
- ▶ Ensuring **gender-equal representation in natural resource management and decision-making** ensures that diverse experiences and knowledge systems about the environment are integrated and ecosystem conservation and sustainable use of natural resources are enhanced.
- ▶ **Decreasing the gender gap in access to information and technology, and access to and control over production inputs and land, could increase agricultural productivity and reduce hunger and poverty** (*well established*).
- ▶ **FAO Report 2017: Giving women equal access to basic resources and services could increase yields on women's farms by 20-30%**, which could raise macro-agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5-4%.
- ▶ If women had access to the same information and resources as men, **up to 150 million people could be lifted out of poverty.**
- ▶ Providing women farmers with the tools and support to become more productive is also key to addressing climate change – it is estimated that if women could grow 20-30% more food on the same amount of land, we would **avoid 2 billion tons of GHG emissions between now and 2050.**



FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Women are granted fewer and smaller loans than men

Women in forestry, fishing and agriculture receive just **7%** of total agriculture investment



LAND & WATER

In developing countries **10% - 20%** of all land holders are women

Farms managed by female-headed households are between half to **2/3** the size of farms run by male-headed households



PRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

Women make up **43%** of the agriculture workforce in developing countries

If women had equal access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by as much as **20% - 30%**



ACCESS TO DECISION-MAKING FORAS

Women hold **14%** of management positions in the agricultural sector

At the UN Climate Change Summits between 2000-2010, only **30%** of registered country delegates were women



KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

2/3 of the world's illiterate adults are women

One study showed that women's education contributes to **43%** reduction in child malnutrition



SERVICES & MARKET

Agriculture extension services are accessible to only **5%** of women that make up the agriculture workforce in developing countries

Energy services in West Africa have:

- reduced women's daily work by **2-4** hours
- increased women's incomes
- improved education and school enrolment

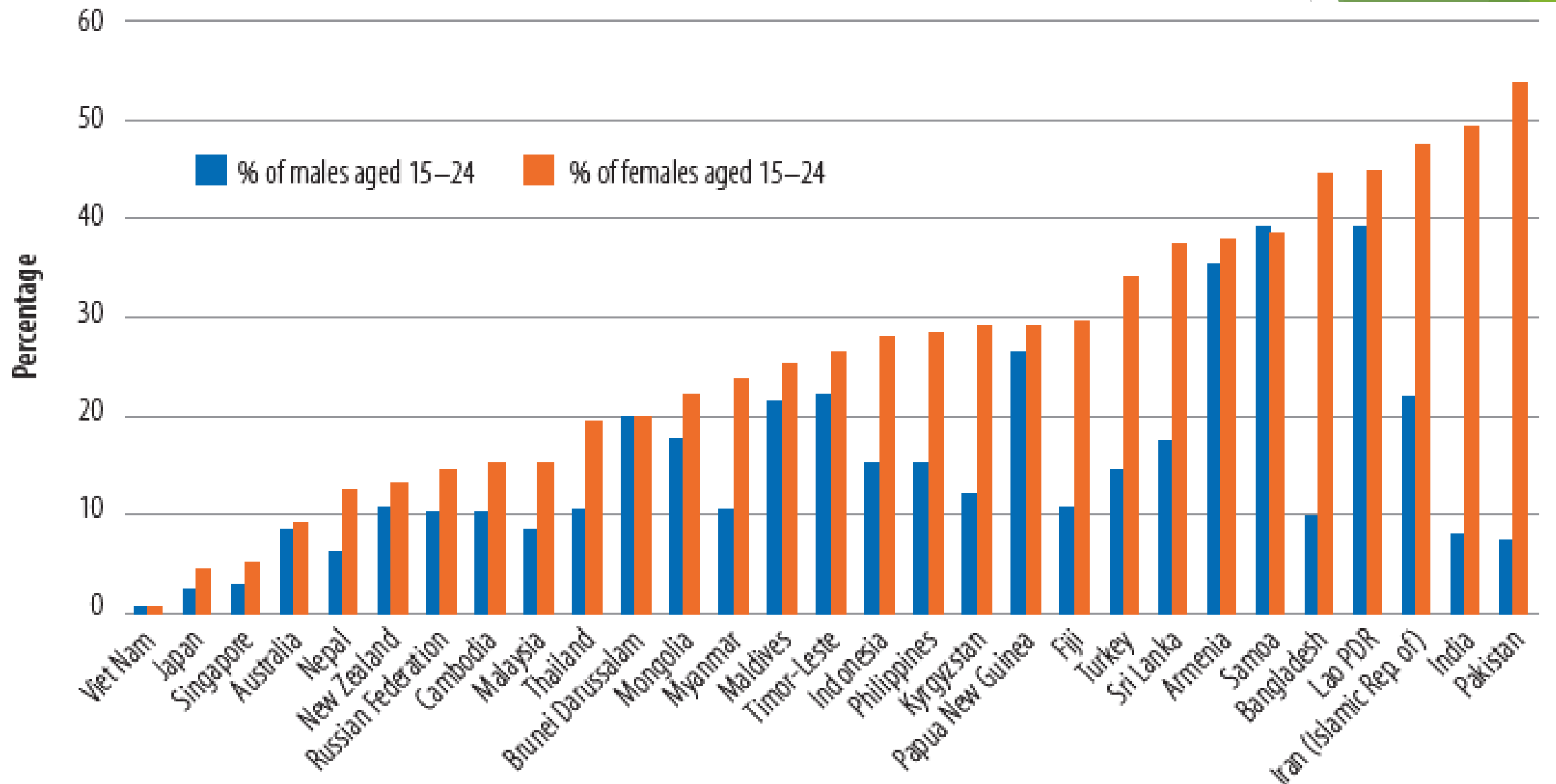
EQUAL ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND POWER

for



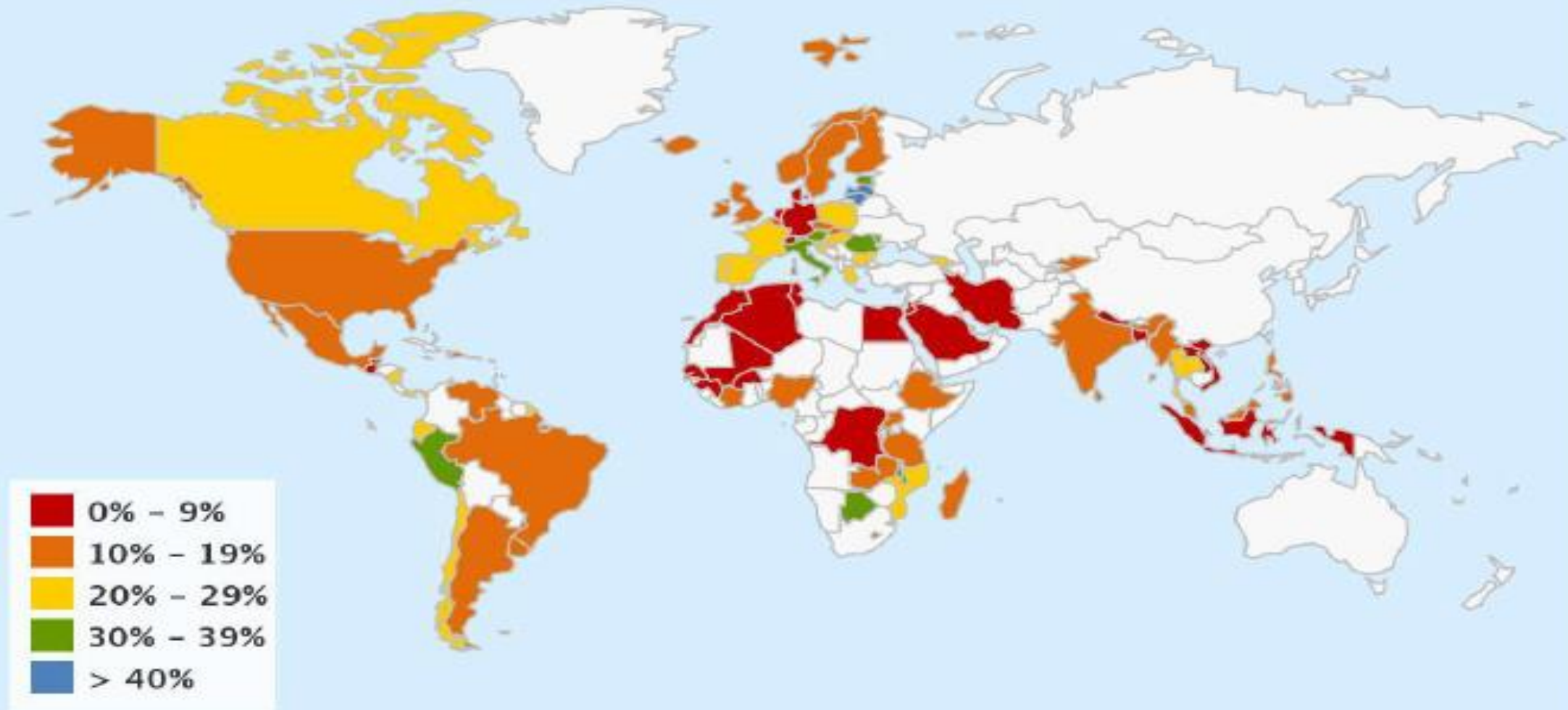
Source: FAO

Youth not in employment, education or training by gender



Access to land

Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex – Females



Distribution of Agricultural Holders by Sex – Males



FAO: Gender and Land Rights Database

Farm business trainings RDTC	Female's participation	Male's participation
Vegetable (2007-2013)	35%	65%
Fruits/nursery (2009-2013)	19%	81%
Mushroom (2009-2012)	53%	47%
Dairy (2008-2013)	23%	77%
Poultry (2007-2013)	16%	84%

Access to agricultural training programs



One major constraint: Time poverty



Needs and Gaps

- ▶ Effective **gender mainstreaming** in agri-food policies
- ▶ Identification of **barriers for job creation** in GMS agricultural value chains
- ▶ Lack of capacity of women farmers to start own agribusinesses
- ▶ Limited **financial literacy** and **business plan development** skills among women farmers
- ▶ Limited access of women to value addition opportunities
- ▶ Lack of agri-food **marketing skills**
- ▶ Limited **access to markets and technologies**
- ▶ Lack of **access to finance** to women farmers and women entrepreneurs

Best Practices from Other Parts of the World

CARE's partnership with PepsiCo in Peru

- ▶ New employment opportunities for women by teaching them soil testing.

Beekeeping and Manufacturing Honey Products in Ethiopia:

- ▶ Ethiopia is the largest producer of honey and beeswax in Africa (Begna 2015). These products are used for making **candles** and Tej or **honey wine** (an important drink in cultural life), and **white honey** from the Bale mountain region is used medicinally (IPBES 2016, pp.312-314).
- ▶ Women contribute to this value chain, usually **by manufacturing honey products rather than beekeeping itself**.
- ▶ Women are now trained in beekeeping to provide income generation and empowerment for women in rural areas

High Mountain Agribusiness and Livelihoods Project, Nepal (HIMALI)

**Climate-Friendly Agribusiness
Value Chains Sector Project
in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar**
A Case Study for Job Creation for Women

Project Impact, Outcome and Outputs

- ▶ **Impact:** Improved **Agricultural competitiveness**
(Indicators: productivity, climate resilience, quality & safety, value addition & rural incomes)
- ▶ **Outcome:** **Productive and resource efficient**
agribusiness value chains in the project areas
- ▶ **Outputs:**
 - ▶ Agribusiness value chain infrastructure improved
 - ▶ Climate-smart agriculture and agribusiness promoted
 - ▶ Enabling environment (policies, standards, green finance, weather, market and credit info) enhanced

Key Gender Actions Common to All Countries

Process-oriented

- ▶ Meaningful involvement of women and women organizations in consultations, training events, demonstrations and study tours on ways to improve climate resilience and sustainability of infrastructure;
- ▶ Raising awareness of grant financing and affordable credit opportunities for agricultural operations;
- ▶ Conduct a detailed gender analysis of the targeted value chains

Outcome-oriented

- ▶ Ensuring women benefit from **jobs created by the project in infrastructure rehabilitation and upgraded agribusinesses**;
- ▶ Integrating infrastructure design features responding to women's needs;
- ▶ Focused **training on skills improvement** for farm mechanization, O&M of irrigation and other infrastructure;
- ▶ Harnessing traditional knowledge of women in deploying climate resilient varieties;
- ▶ Strengthening **links between women-led/owned farms and agribusinesses**;
- ▶ Formulating gender-responsive and climate-friendly agribusiness policies

Country-specific gender interventions

Cambodia

- ▶ Agribusiness value chain support to the Women Farmers Network of Cambodia
- ▶ Focused training on masonry skills improvement for biodigesters construction
- ▶ Involving women as active agents in promotion of renewable energy options
- ▶ As part of promotion activities, raise awareness on benefits of renewable energy options also from gender equality angle
- ▶ Preferential support for agricultural cooperatives with a majority of females

Lao PDR

- ▶ Special attention to women's constraints for participation in the project activities due to time poverty, especially for female-headed households
- ▶ Preferential support for agricultural production groups with a majority of females, and assistance with registration of women farmers as members of such groups

Myanmar

- ▶ Land administration services - Raise awareness on land use and land rights and promote joint titling for land allocation to the poor and landless women and men
- ▶ Encouraging women to become "Contact farmers" and train them in good agricultural practices
- ▶ Target for women to access agricultural digital finance service

Different approach in terms of gender designs

- ▶ The ‘HOW’ reflected in the GAP as process-oriented suggestions (not counted as gender actions) e.g. adequate venue, timing, duration of training; raising awareness on employment opportunities; involving key partners

Sample of detailed GAP included in the PAM for LAO PDR project - for output 1

Project outputs	Gender activities/actions with timeline	Performance indicators/targets	Some important process related aspects
Output 1: Critical agribusiness value chain infrastructure improved and made climate resilient			
Gender Objectives 1.1 Ensure critical agribusiness value chain (VC) infrastructure is responsive to the needs of women and men 1.2 Enhance income generating opportunities for women	1.1.1 Involve women, Sub-CAW gender focal points and LWU representatives actively and meaningfully in each individual event for all consultations and planning of activities related to improvement and climate resiliency of critical infrastructure to be supported by the project. (Q2 Y2-Q4 Y4)	1.1.1 Women are at least 50% of participants (aggregate basis); ^a concrete examples of infrastructure related needs expressed by female participants recorded in the minutes	1.1.1 This would mean paying attention to the following aspects: convenient time, adequate venue, information sharing with visual aids/illustrations, having female facilitators as well, child supervision arrangements even if informal, etc. - This would also mean that brainstorming sessions to (i) prioritize infrastructure needs and (ii) identify needs in terms of physical design features to be integrated in prioritized infrastructure are organized first with separate groups of female and male participants before sharing and decision is made in plenary with female and male participants mixed. Ensure decision-making process is participatory and takes into account the needs that were expressed by female participants.
	1.1.2 Integrate physical design features that are addressing women’s needs into improved climate resilient VC infrastructure (e.g. sealed road shoulders in farm access roads; footpaths/bridges; roadside market facilities; height, location and design of facility/equipment in agribusinesses to be upgraded). (Q1 Y3-Q4 Y6)	1.1.2 Concrete examples of types of physical design features that are addressing women’s needs integrated into improved climate resilient VC infrastructure	
	1.2.1 Ensure women benefit from new permanent jobs created in agribusinesses (rice mills, vegetable pack houses and marketing centers, bio-fertilizer factories) as a result of their upgrading through the project (by Q2 Y7)	1.2.1 At least 40% of new permanent jobs created are for women (overall target); 30% of any new management positions created are for women	

Priorities for Action

- ▶ Assess **barriers for job creation** for women in selected agri-food supply chains
- ▶ Provide support for **mainstreaming gender concerns in agri-food policies** with focus on job creation
- ▶ Strengthen capacity of lead women farmers and women entrepreneurs on **agribusiness plan development, financial literacy, value addition, and climate smart agriculture technologies** and practices
- ▶ Enhance **agri-food marketing skills, access to inclusive markets and support employment of women** in agri-food value chains through partnerships with the **private sector**
- ▶ Pilot **agricultural digital finance service for women entrepreneurs** engaged in agri-food value chains

Panel Questions

- ▶ Current efforts in your country/organization and Challenges
- ▶ Needs, Gaps and any best practices for replication and scaling up
- ▶ Priorities for action over next 5-10 years
- ▶ Pros/Cons of regional cooperation to address this issue

Thank you.

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