

Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development

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By

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Barrister Hajara Sadiq and
Jayasanka Anjana Atapattu

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To the countless women in agriculture who nurture our lands and communities with unwavering strength and resilience, this book is for you. To the generations of women who have fought for equality and those who continue to push boundaries for a fairer future, courage and determination inspire us all. Further, to the visionaries, advocates, and change-makers working tirelessly to advance gender equity in every field, this work will be a testament to your efforts and a beacon for future progress.

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FOREWORD

In global development, few areas are as critical as agriculture. It is the backbone of economies, the foundation of food security, and a vital source of livelihood for millions. Yet, despite its importance, the agricultural sector has long been marred by gender inequality, with women—who make up a substantial proportion of the workforce sidelined in the distribution of resources, access to opportunities, and participation in decision-making processes.

"Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development" is a timely and essential contribution to the ongoing efforts to address this inequality. As the world grapples with climate change, food insecurity, and economic disparity, it has become increasingly clear that the solutions must be inclusive, recognizing and empowering all contributors to the agricultural sector. This book provides a comprehensive examination of the critical intersections between gender and agriculture, offering both a theoretical framework and practical strategies for advancing gender equity.

The importance of this work cannot be overstated. By focusing on gender issues in agriculture, the authors of this book bring to light the often overlooked yet significant role that women play in ensuring the sustainability and productivity of agricultural systems. They argue persuasively that agricultural development efforts will continue to fall short of their full potential without gender-sensitive policies and interventions.

What sets this book apart is its holistic approach. It does not merely highlight the problems but also provides actionable solutions. From policy recommendations to case studies of successful initiatives, "Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development" offers a roadmap for integrating gender considerations into agricultural practices and policies. It underscores the need for a paradigm shift that recognizes women not as beneficiaries of development but as crucial agents of change.

As you delve into the pages of this book, you will encounter a rich tapestry of insights and perspectives drawn from diverse contexts and experiences. You will gain a deeper understanding of the barriers women face in agriculture and the innovative ways these barriers are being challenged and overcome. Whether you are a policymaker, researcher, development practitioner, or simply someone passionate about social

justice, this book will equip you with the knowledge and tools to advocate for a more equitable agricultural sector.

I commend the authors for their dedication to this vital issue. Their work is a powerful reminder that gender equality is not a peripheral concern but a central pillar of sustainable development. As we progress to build a more just and inclusive world, the "Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development" will undoubtedly serve as an invaluable resource and guide.

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13th August, 2024

PREFACE

In an era where food security and sustainable agriculture are increasingly at the forefront of global development agendas, the role of gender cannot be overstated. Women, who make up a significant portion of the agricultural workforce worldwide, are pivotal to the success and sustainability of farming communities. Yet, despite their contributions, they often remain marginalized, with limited access to the resources, opportunities, and decision-making power necessary to thrive.

"Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development" seeks to address this imbalance by shedding light on the gender dynamics that shape agricultural practices and policies. This book is born out of the recognition that achieving meaningful and lasting development in agriculture requires an intentional focus on gender equity. It is a call to action for policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and development agencies to consider women's unique needs, challenges, and contributions in agriculture.

This book explores various topics central to understanding and addressing gender disparities in agriculture. From land rights and access to financial resources to the impact of climate change on female farmers, each chapter offers insights into the complex realities women face in the agricultural sector. We also highlight successful initiatives and case studies demonstrating gender-responsive approaches' transformative potential in fostering inclusive and resilient agricultural systems.

The aim of this book is not only to inform but also to inspire. By presenting a clear gender agenda for agricultural development, we hope to encourage a shift in how gender issues are perceived and addressed within the agricultural domain. This book serves as a resource for those committed to creating a more equitable and just agricultural landscape where all contributions, regardless of gender, are valued and supported.

As we look towards the future, the urgency of integrating gender considerations into agricultural policies and practices cannot be ignored. The challenges we face—from food insecurity to climate change—demand comprehensive solutions that leverage the strengths and potential of all individuals. We hope this book will contribute to the ongoing discourse on gender and agriculture and help pave the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Thank you for joining us on this journey towards a more equitable agricultural sector. Together, we can build a world where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality, benefiting individuals and communities.

Professor SADIQ Sanusi Mohammed

13th August 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The journey of bringing the "**Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development**" to life has been one of collaboration, dedication, and shared vision. This book would not have been possible without the support, insights, and encouragement of many individuals and organizations, all of whom have contributed in various ways to its creation.

First and foremost, I extend my deepest gratitude to the women in agriculture who inspired this work. Your resilience, strength, and commitment to your communities have been the guiding force behind this book. Through these pages, we hope to amplify your stories, challenges, and triumphs.

I thank the research teams and field workers who provided invaluable data, case studies, and on-the-ground perspectives. Your contributions were essential in grounding this book in the realities of agricultural life and ensuring that it reflects the diverse experiences of women across different regions and contexts.

My heartfelt thanks go to the experts, academics, and practitioners who generously shared their knowledge and expertise. Your insights have enriched this work, and your commitment to advancing gender equity in agriculture has been a source of inspiration.

I am also profoundly grateful to the institutions and organizations that supported this project. Your belief in the importance of addressing gender issues in agriculture provided the foundation for this book, and your support has been instrumental in bringing it to fruition.

Special thanks should go to my colleagues, who provided feedback, encouragement, and patience throughout the writing process. Your critical eyes and thoughtful comments have helped shape this book into a more comprehensive and impactful resource.

To my family and friends, thank you for your unwavering support and understanding during the long hours of research and writing. Your encouragement has been a constant source of strength.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the countless women and men who work tirelessly to promote gender equity in all aspects of life. Your efforts remind us that change is possible and that a more just and inclusive world is within our reach.

This book is dedicated to all those who believe in the power of gender equality to transform agriculture and, by extension, our world. May it catalyze continued progress and inspire action towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

SADIQ Sanusi Mohammed

13th August 2024

BIOGRAPHY(S):

Professor Sadiq Mohammed Sanusi is a distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics at Federal University, Dutse, Nigeria. With a focus on livelihood and sustainable development, econometric modelling, and climate change management, he brings over 16 years of academic teaching and research experience. Formerly the Head of Department and Deputy Director of Consultancy Services at FUD, his expertise guides students and stakeholders in addressing complex agricultural challenges, ensuring sustainable practices for rural prosperity. As a devoted scholar, he continues to shape agricultural economics discourse, fostering innovation and resilience in Nigeria's agricultural sector.

Professor Invinder Paul Singh, an eminent scholar in Agricultural Economics, boasts over three decades of academic and teaching expertise. Formerly the Dean of the College of Agriculture at SKRAU, Bikaner, India, he currently serves as the Director of IABM at the same institution. Professor Singh's leadership and extensive knowledge contribute significantly to agricultural education and research in India, shaping the future of the field. With a passion for excellence and innovation, he inspires students and colleagues, leaving a lasting impact on agricultural development in the region.

Professor Ahmad Muhammad Makarfi, a distinguished figure in Agricultural Economics, possesses nearly four decades of academic and teaching prowess. As a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension at Bayero University Kano, Nigeria, he contributes significantly to agricultural education and research. Professor Makarfi's expertise enhances understanding of agricultural economics, benefiting students and the broader community. With a passion for excellence and a wealth of experience, he continues to shape the future of agricultural development in Nigeria through his teaching, research, and mentorship.

Barrister Hajara Sadiq, an advocate for gender-based violence (GBV), holds an LL.B in Law and has dedicated her career to promoting justice and equality. As a legal practitioner, she provides support to survivors of GBV and champions their rights. Currently serving as the chair of GBV, Rural Access, and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) in Niger State, Nigeria, she works tirelessly to integrate GBV prevention and response strategies into rural development initiatives. With her passion for advocacy

and empowerment, Barrister Sadiq is pivotal in promoting gender equality and combating GBV in Nigeria's agricultural communities.

Dr. Anjana Jayasanka Atapattu is an accomplished agronomist and researcher specializing in sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, biochar production, and climate-smart landscapes. He holds a PhD in Ecology from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and an MSc in Crop Science from the University of Peradeniya. Dr. Atapattu currently leads the Agronomy Division at the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka, focusing on cutting-edge research in coconut cultivation. He has contributed significantly to sustainable coconut farming practices through innovative research, agroecological approaches, and carbon offset strategies.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Agriculture lies at the heart of global development, providing the foundation for food security, economic growth, and the livelihoods of billions of people worldwide. Yet, a pervasive and often overlooked challenge exists within this critical sector: gender inequality. Women, who comprise a substantial portion of the agricultural workforce, frequently find themselves marginalized, with limited access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power. This gender gap hinders their personal and economic development and poses significant barriers to sustainable agricultural growth and food security.

"Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development" addresses these challenges by placing gender at the centre of the conversation on agricultural development. This book explores the critical intersections between gender and agriculture, offering insights into how gender dynamics influence agricultural productivity, resource access, and the overall well-being of farming communities. It is a call to action for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and advocates to recognize and address women's gender-specific barriers in the agricultural sector.

The importance of this book cannot be overstated. As global challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and economic inequality intensify, the need for inclusive and equitable solutions becomes increasingly urgent. Gender equality is not merely a matter of social justice but a key driver of economic development and environmental sustainability. Empowering women in agriculture unlocks the potential for more resilient, productive, and sustainable agricultural systems.

This book is organized into several chapters, each focusing on a different aspect of the gender-agriculture nexus. We begin by examining the historical and cultural factors that have shaped gender roles in agriculture and then by analyzing current trends and challenges. Subsequent chapters delve into specific issues such as land rights, access to financial resources, agricultural technology, and the impact of climate change on women farmers. We highlight case studies and best practices worldwide, illustrating how gender-sensitive approaches can lead to more effective and sustainable agricultural development.

At its core, this book is about fostering a deeper understanding of the gender dynamics in agriculture and offering practical solutions to address them. It is intended for a broad audience, including policymakers, development practitioners, researchers, and anyone interested in the intersection of gender and agriculture. By bringing these issues to the forefront, we hope to contribute to a more equitable and inclusive future for agricultural development- one where all contributions, regardless of gender, are recognized and valued.

As you embark on this journey through the pages of "Gender Agenda for Agricultural Development," we invite you to consider the profound impact that gender equality can have on the agricultural sector and beyond. Together, we can work towards a future where gender equity is not just an aspiration but a reality that benefits individuals, communities, and the world.

Professor SADIQ Sanusi Mohammed

13th August, 2024

CHAPTER 1

GENDER CONCEPTS AND STEREOTYPES

Introduction

"Some historians believe that it was women who first domesticated crop plants and initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seeds from the native flora and cultivating them out of interest, from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fibre, and fuel". Women and men enjoy equal status in the law of the constitution. Still, a vast difference exists in how society treats men and women. It is the society that has nurtured the 'Gender gap,' as it is a socially constructed attribute of being male and female, by assigning roles and responsibilities concerning one's gender. Gender disparity is a serious concern in all sectors and must be addressed immediately for development to be noticeable. To address gender issues, we must understand the different fundamental gender concepts to deal with them effectively.

Gender Concepts

Sex: Sex is the biological make-up of male and female human beings. It is what we are born with and does not change over time nor differ from place to place.

Gender: Gender refers to the attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female, the socio-cultural relationships between women and men, girls and boys, and the relations between different groups of women and men. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are socially constructed and learned through socialization. They are context-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed, and valued by a woman/man in different contexts. In common usage, the word gender often refers to the sexual distinction between male and female. Gender refers to the relationships between men and women at a particular time in a given society.

Table 1: Differences between sex and gender

Gender	Sex
Socially constructed	Biologically defined
Differs between and within cultures	Determined by birth
Includes variables identifying differences in roles, responsibilities, opportunities, needs, and constraints	Universal
Can be Changed	Remains unchanged

Gender-blind: Gender blindness or sex blindness is the practice of disregarding gender as a significant factor in social interactions. The gender-blind policy ignores the different situations, roles, needs, and interests of women, men, girls, and boys.

Gender awareness: Gender awareness is an understanding that there are socially determined differences between women & men based on learned behaviour, which affect their ability to access and control resources and benefits. This awareness must be applied through gender analysis in projects, programmes, and policies.

Example: People generally understand that there is a social difference between male and female farmers in terms of ‘land ownership.’

Gender-sensitivity: Gender sensitivity encompasses acknowledging and highlighting existing gender differences, issues, and inequalities and incorporates these into strategies and actions.

Example: Gender sensitivity regarding the above example will be reflected in the Ministry of Agriculture Farmer’s Welfare, Govt. of India decides to include the wife’s name in land holding compulsorily, by law, to enable farmers to avail benefits of schemes and programmes.

Gender lens: Gender lens investigation is the practice of investing for financial return while also considering the benefits to women through improving economic opportunities and social well-being for girls and women. Gender lens investigation can include funding women-owned businesses, businesses with a strong track record of employing women, or companies that improve the lives of women and girls with their products and services.

Gender stereotypes: Practice of ascribing specific attributes, characteristics, or roles to an individual, woman, or man on the sole basis of her or his membership of the social group of women or men. Pre-conceived

ideas whereby females and males are arbitrarily assigned characteristics and roles determined and limited by their gender.

Example: Men are earning members of the family.

Women should do household activities.

Gender bias: Gender bias is a preference or prejudice towards one gender over the other. Bias can be conscious or unconscious and manifest in subtle and obvious ways.

Example: Preference to have a baby boy over a baby girl.

Gender discrimination: Prejudicial treatment of an individual based on gender stereotypes (often referred to as sexism or sexual discrimination). Example: Ban on women from entering into some religious institutions.

Gender equality: Gender equality results from the absence of discrimination based on a person's sex, opportunities, allocation of resources or benefits, or access to services. Example: Equal distribution of resources, e.g., land, credit, extension services, etc., among male and female farmers.

Gender equity: Gender equity entails the provision of fairness and justice in distributing benefits and responsibilities between women and men. The concept recognizes that women and men have different needs and power, and these differences should be identified and addressed to rectify the imbalance between the sexes.

Example: Distribution of more resources, e.g., land, credit, extension services, etc., among male and female targets, based on the relative status of male and female farmers at a more disadvantaged position.

Gender roles: Gender roles are learned behaviours in a given society/community or other particular group that condition which activities, tasks, and responsibilities are perceived as male and female. Gender roles are affected by age, class, race, ethnicity, religion, and the geographical, economic, and political environment. Changes in gender roles often occur in response to changing economic, natural, or political circumstances, including development efforts. Gender roles are of four types: productive, reproductive, community managing, and community politics.

1. **Productive roles** refer to the activities carried out by men and women to produce goods and services for sale, exchange, or to meet the family's subsistence needs. For example, in agriculture, productive activities include farming, animal husbandry, kitchen gardening, etc., that the farmer will use for their family and other people.
2. **Reproductive roles** refer to the activities needed to ensure the reproduction of society's labour force. This includes childbearing, rearing, and care of family members such as children, elderly, and workers. These tasks are done mostly by women. For example,

cooking can be considered reproductive in the case of a wife cooking food for her family, whereas productive in a cook working in a home.

3. **Community managing role:** Activities are undertaken primarily by women at the community level as an extension of their reproductive role to ensure the provision and maintenance of scarce resources of collective consumption, such as water, health care, and education. This is voluntary, unpaid work undertaken in 'free' time—for example, collecting water firewood from forests.
4. **Community politics role:** Activities undertaken primarily by men at the community level, organized at the formal political level, often within the framework of national politics. Men usually undertake this work and may be paid directly, or it may result in increased power and status—for example, a village meeting, decision-making concerning community and community assets, etc.

Triple roles: This term refers to the fact that women tend to work longer and more fragmented days than men as they are usually involved in three different gender roles: reproductive, productive, and community management work. It is also called 'multiple roles' or 'triple burden.'

Gender division of work: Gender division of labour refers to who (women or men, young or old) does what, in terms of different types of work such as productive work in factories, offices, and on land; reproductive work such as cooking, cleaning and caring for family members and community activities such as attending community meetings.

Gender needs: As women and men have differing roles based on gender, they will also have differing gender needs. These needs can be classified as practical or strategic needs.

1. **Practical gender needs:** Practical Gender Needs (PGNs) are the needs that help meet socially accepted roles in society. PGNs do not challenge, although they arise out of the gender division of labour and women's subordinate position in society. PGNs respond to immediate and perceived necessities identified within a specific context. They are practical and often concern inadequate living conditions such as water provision, health care, and training.
2. **Strategic gender needs:** Strategic Gender Needs (SGNs) vary according to particular contexts related to the gender division of labour, power, and control. These may include legal rights, reproductive rights, domestic violence, equal wages, land ownership rights, etc. SGNs assist women in achieving greater equality, changing existing roles, and challenging women's subordinate positions. They are more long-term and less visible than practical gender needs.

Gender issues: Gender issues relate to any problem or concern determined by gender-based and/or sex-based differences between women and men. Gender issues include all aspects and concerns about women's and men's lives and situations in society, how they interrelate, their differences in access to and use of resources, their activities, and how they react to changes, interventions, and policies. This happens because women and men are treated differently.

Gender mainstreaming: Gender mainstreaming is about considering gender in all policies, planning, budgets, implementation, and monitoring of programmes/schemes instead of addressing gender as a separate issue through separate programmes. Gender mainstreaming ensures that women and men have equal access and control over resources, development benefits, and decision-making at all stages of the development process.

Gender analysis: Gender analysis is about analyzing the situation of women and men, girls and boys, and their relations. Gender analysis also considers other social dimensions, such as rich and poor, caste and tribe, urban and rural, educated and less educated, and how these affect relations between women and men. It is the methodology for collecting and processing information about gender. It provides disaggregated data by sex and an understanding of the social construction of gender roles and how labour is divided and valued. Gender analysis analyzes information to ensure that development benefits and resources are effectively and equitably targeted to both women and men and to anticipate and avoid any negative impacts successful development may have on women or gender relations.

Sex disaggregated data: For gender analysis, all data should be separated by sex/gender to allow differential impacts on men and women to be identified, seen, and measured.

Access to and control over resources: Access to and control over resources is about power and specific consequences of the inequality between women and men. This concept has three parts: resources, access, and control. The first resource refers to means and goods, including economic (household income) or productive (land, equipment, tools, work, credit), political (capability for leadership, information, and organization), and time. Access and control have slightly different meanings. Access refers to using and benefitting from specific resources (material, financial, human, social, political, etc.).

In contrast, control over resources also entails being able to make decisions over the use of that resource. For example, women's control over land means they can access land (use it), own land (can be the legal title-holders), and decide whether to sell or rent the land. Access and control over

resources are key elements of women's empowerment and, by extension, the achievement of gender equality.

Gender budgeting: Gender budgeting (GB) is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming to ensure that development benefits reach women as much as men. It is not an accounting exercise but an ongoing process of keeping gender perspective in policy/programme formulation, implementation, and review. GB entails a dissection of the government's budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated into budgetary commitments. The three main components of gender budgeting are policy appraisal, gender budgeting, and gender auditing. Gender-responsive budgets, gender-sensitive budgets, gender budgets, and women's budgets are often used interchangeably.

Gender budgeting:

- Refers to the process of conceiving, planning, approving, executing, monitoring, analyzing, and auditing budgets in a gender-sensitive way
- Involves analysis of actual expenditure and revenue (usually of government) on women and girls as compared to spending on men and boys, respectively
- Helps the government to decide how policies need to be made, adjusted, and re-prioritized
- It is a tool for effective policy implementation where one can check if the allocations are in line with policy commitments and are having the desired impact.

Gender auditing: Gender Auditing is a part of the Gender Budgeting process. Gender auditing is the process that is conducted after the budget has been implemented. It is the process of reviewing financial outlays - looking at trends over time, per centage shares, etc.; analyzing and assessing systems put in place, processes adopted, outcomes, and impacts of budgetary outlays vis-à-vis what was planned - all this through a gender lens.

Gender planning: Gender Planning refers to the process of planning developmental programmes and projects that are gender-sensitive and that take into account the impact of differing gender roles and gender needs of women and men in the target community or sector.

Gender-neutral: Gender-neutral policy is not affected by and does not affect the different situations, roles, needs, and interests of women, men, girls, and boys. In reality, very few policies are gender-neutral. When policymakers claim a policy is gender-neutral, they are usually being gender-blind.

CHAPTER 2

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS

Introduction

"Gender equality is more than a goal. It is a precondition for meeting the challenges of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and building good governance". The Indian farm women have extensive workloads with triple responsibility for the farm, household, and community. Gradually, their work is becoming more challenging due to climate change, degradation of natural resources, natural calamities, male migration, and changing agricultural technologies. Women are heavily involved in agriculture, landscape gardening, livestock care, harvest management, fishing, forest management, and household chores. Most of their time is devoted to collecting fuel, fodder, and water, growing vegetables in the homestead, and rearing backyard poultry. They also contribute considerably to household income as agricultural wage earners and through the cottage industry.



Figure 1: Agriculture Landscape

Participation of Women in Agriculture

According to the Census of 2011, India's population ratio is 943 females per 1000 males. The national literacy rate is 74.04 per cent, but the workforce participation rate for females is 25.51% against 53.26% for males. Women are the backbone of the agricultural workforce, representing 43% of the global agricultural labour force. They devote 45 - 50% of their time to agricultural activities; 79% of women continue to be engaged in agriculture and allied activities, as against only 63% of men (Courtesy: Gender Reference Manual, 2016, ICAR-CIWA). While considering participation in agriculture, 89.5% of the females employed in rural areas are engaged in agriculture and allied sectors, and about 70% of farm work is performed by women. India grows a variety of cereals, pulses, millet, oil seeds, cash crops, plantation crops, and horticultural crops based on its regions, where women play important roles. Dr. Swaminathan, the eminent agricultural scientist, describes that women first domesticated crop plants and initiated the art and science of farming. Women play a key role in conserving natural resources like land, water, flora, and fauna. A recent study conducted by the Women and Population Division of FAO revealed that in developing countries, women provide 70% of agricultural labour, 60-80% of labour for household food production, 100% of labour for processing basic foodstuff, 80% for food storage and 90% for water and fuel wood collection for households. They produce between 60 to 80% of the food in most developing countries and are responsible for half of the world's food production. Women involve themselves in almost all agricultural practices, such as sowing, transplanting, weeding, other intercultural operations, harvesting, value addition, and marketing.



Figure 2: Participation of women in agriculture

Women in Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry is the lifeline of the Indian agro-based economy, contributing 28% to the GDP, whereas the dairy sector alone contributes 15% of the Gross National Income. In the global scenario, India ranks first in milk production, 3rd in egg, and 5th in chicken production. In animal husbandry, women play multiple roles with regional differences. In the dairy sector, their roles range from cleaning animal sheds, care of animals, milking, feeding, watering, grazing, fodder collection, chaffing and storage of fodder, cleaning of milking utensils, processing dung and milk into ghee, butter, khoa, etc. They also take health care of pregnant and sick animals and newborn or young calves. Women make compost from dung and carry it to the field. Sometimes, they prepare cooking fuel by mixing dung with twigs and crop residues. Although women have negligible control over the livestock and its products, they still play a significant role in livestock management and production. If we consider the involvement of women in rural poultry rearing, it starts from feeding and managing the birds to marketing eggs and birds from the household (where buyers come to purchase). Hence, backyard poultry is considered a women-dominated food that serves family nutrition and income. Likewise, the role of women in goat keeping is very significant in rural families. The activities in goat farming performed by women are caring for animals for breeding, care and management of newborn kids, collection & sale of manure, fodder collection, cutting & chopping, taking animals for grazing, and marketing of animals.





Figure 3: Women in animal husbandry

Women in Sericulture

In India, sericulture, one of the most important cash crops, is a village-based industry where women are mostly found as significant activists. Globally, Asia is regarded as the leading producer of silk, as it produces over 95 % of the total output. India has been ranked as the second-largest producer of silk in the world and has an 18% share in global raw silk production, with an annual silk production of around 28,000 Metric Tons. Out of 6.39 lakh villages in India, sericulture is practised in about 69,000 villages (Geetha and Indira, 2011; Lakshmanan et al., 2011), engaging nearly 60% of women in the total workforce in sericulture. In the mulberry garden, they work in cultivating silkworm food plants, inter-cultivation, weeding, application of farmyard manure, leaf harvest & their transportation, pruning, and silkworm larvae rearing for production of raw silk. At post-cocoon technology, women are skillfully involved in silk reeling to unwind the excellent delicate silk filament, twisting, dyeing, weaving, printing, and finishing. At home, women also have the monopoly on looking after silkworm-rearing activities like leaf chopping, bed cleaning, feeding the silkworms, maintaining hygiene, picking up the ripe worms, placing them on montages, and so on.