

International organization "Women in Europe for a Common Future» (WECF)
Youth Ecological Center Republic of Tajikistan
Project «Empower Women Benefit for All» (EWA)



REVIEW
“WOMEN AND FARMING”
(GENDER ANALYSIS IN AGRICULTURE OF REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN)

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Review

**“Women and Farming”
(Gender analysis in agriculture of Republic of Tajikistan)**

Alla Kuvatova, Associate Professor at Russian-Tajik Slavonic University, PhD

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Introduction

Tajikistan has agrarian economy and more than half of the employee population find job in agrarian sector. Increase in the number of employees in rural areas contribute to the development of private farming (LPH), Dehkan Farms (DF), and the state's provision of 75 thousand hectares of land for the development of these economies.

Accordingly, the development of the agricultural sector in the context of human development goals is a key factor in ensuring economic opportunities for people. Women living in rural areas, play a significant role in the economic survival of their families. Therefore, the priority concerns of women include issues related to agricultural development and access to land, as well as loans for business development.

Despite the predominance of women in the agrarian works, nevertheless, in access to land there is clearly gender disparity. Though women have relatively broad land use right (working in the fields to grow a variety of products, cattle grazing, etc.), they have limited rights to control over land (including registered rights, decision making on the types of land use, land rent, obtaining financial benefits from the harvest, etc).

Gender disparity in access to land is expressed in the fact that women compared to men in average have less area of land, they do not have equal access to decision-making processes in agriculture, to distribution of financial benefits from the harvest, to credit, etc. Among the heads of DF, the proportion of women is 6.5 times less than men.

This review includes an analysis of gender legislation, national policies and strategies of the RT in the field of agriculture, including business and farming, as well as recommendations to address gender inequality in this area.

1. Gender policy of RT

1.1. Review of legislation, national programs and strategies

During years of independence, the Republic of Tajikistan has developed its own model of state policy on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women. "State gender policy is the purposeful set of concrete measures and activities for achieving equality of men and women in personal, social, cultural, political and economic rights, equity and expansion of the life choice opportunities"¹.

In Tajikistan in general, the favorable conditions are created for realization of gender programs, first of all, gender policy.

The goals, objectives and areas of gender policy are defined at the government level, as well as concrete measures for its realization. Committee for Women and Family Affairs at the Government of RT is responsible for implementation of gender policy.

Republic of Tajikistan has expressed its interest and intention to adhere to international standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other UN Conventions on Human Rights. Thus, it ratified a number of international Conventions and Treaties, including:

- Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1993);
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1993);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1998);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1998).

- In addition, the Government observes the implementation of other international documents, as
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)
 - The UN Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals (2000)
 - The UN Security Council Resolution 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889.

By the Constitution of RT, adopted in 1994 "International legal documents recognized by Tajikistan are a constituent part of the legal system of the republic. If republican laws do not conform to the recognized international legal documents, the norms of the international documents will apply" (Article 10).

In order to implement international obligations, the following documents were developed and adopted in Tajikistan, as "National Action Plan on Enhancing the Role and Status of Women for 1998-2005", Presidential Decree "On increasing role of women in society" (1999), "State program on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women for 2001-2010". Some amendments were made to the State program "Access of Women to Land" (2004), and mechanisms were developed for implementation of this state program. The Presidential quota is established for education of girls and young men from remote regions in the universities. (1997, 2006). The following Laws of the RT were developed and

¹ State Program "Main areas of state policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2001-2010", p. 59

adopted, as “On State Guarantees of equality between men and women and equal opportunities for their realization (2005), “Law on Prevention of domestic violence” (2013). The following strategies and programs were developed and approved, as “Poverty Reduction Strategy in RT for 2007-2009, 2010-2012 (PRS)”, “Living Standards Improvement Strategy for 2013-2015” “National Development Strategy of RT for the period by 2015 (2007) (NDS)”, The State program “Education, selection and appointment of leading cadres among capable women and girls for 2007-2016” (2006), “National Strategy on activation of women in the Republic of Tajikistan 2011-2020” (2010), State program “ On training specialists among women and support their employment for 2012-2015” (2012)

All these taken together, including the main legislative acts of the RT, as Family Code of the RT (1998), Labor Code of the RT (1997), Criminal Code of the RT (1998) and others, they all potentially provide required legislative and programmatic basis for implementation of state gender policy through relevant state institutions at various branches – legislative and executive.

1.2 Reports and Surveys

Statistical Agency under the President of the RT (former State Statistical Committee of the RT) developed gender indicators for monitoring and evaluation of MDG, PRSP, NDS programs. These indicators are collected from various sources (state statistical reporting forms, agency statistical reporting forms, and surveys). In total 102 gender indicators were developed. Currently the proportion of gender indicators in statistical forms of state and agency reporting makes 39.7%.²

Since 2007, Statistical Agency under the President of the RT annually was publishing the statistical collection “Gender indicators in productivity of dehkan farms”, with gender disaggregated indicators of dehkan farms development.

During the period from 2007 to 2010, several collections under the title “Men and Women in the Republic of Tajikistan” were published. They reflected gender situation in various spheres of society. They also published results, achieved by Tajikistan in implementation of international commitments on gender equality, under CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action and Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

2. Gender equality problems (implementation in practice)

2.1. Barriers in gender policy implementation

There is a number of constraints for promotion of gender equality, and thus for sustainable development of the country as a whole:

1. The society has low awareness on the need in gender equality and implementation of gender policy;
2. Traditional stereotypes about the role and place of women in the society;
3. Imperfect legal framework;
4. Formal equality of men and women;
5. Poor cooperation of state agencies, NGOs, dealing with protection of rights and legal interests of women.

Imperfect legal framework means that there are no developed mechanisms for implementing the Law “On State Guarantees of equality between men and women and equal opportunities for their realization “. Other laws were not aligned with this law. The adopted laws are not analyzed from gender perspective, creating barrier for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Other barriers include the following:

- Limitations and weakness of institutional mechanisms to mainstream gender policy to line ministries,
- Poor mainstreaming of gender approaches to main economic state strategies;
- Lack of efficient mechanisms of cooperation of interagency coordination councils;
- Deficit of financial resources for implementing gender strategies and programs, and poor coordination of donors, state institutions, and public associations on the use and distribution of available financial resources;
- Lack of on-going monitoring and reporting on gender policy implementation.

In view of the above mentioned, still there remain barriers for women in realization of their political, economic, labor, education, cultural and other rights.

² img/ru/genderbaza(2)(2).xls

2.2. Women participation in political life of the country (at decision-making level)

Despite the undertaken efforts by the Government of the RT and public associations on advancement of women to the managerial positions, and state guarantees, declared in the Law on “State Guarantees of equality between men and women and equal opportunities for their realization”, still men continue to dominate in decision making.

Women at leading managerial positions and in government bodies are still underrepresented.

Women as managers, are concentrated mainly at the low and middle level of the government (see Table 1).³

Table 1. Representation of men and women in the government bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan(%), 2010

	Men	Women	Total
Majlisi Milli (Upper Chamber of the Parliament)	85.3	14.7	100
Majlisi Namoyandagon (Lower Chamber of the Parliament)	81.0	19.0	100
Heads of the Government Bodies	95.0	5.0	100
First Deputies	97.2	2.8	100
Deputies	64.4	35.6	100
Heads of the departments, sectors, units	65.8	34.2	100
Chairmen of Regions administrations	100	-	100
Deputies	64.4	35.6	100
First deputies	100	-	100
deputies	90.9	9.1	100
Chairmen of cities and districts administrations	94.4	5.6	100
First deputies	97.2	2.8	100
Deputies	63.9	36.1	100
Heads of the departments in local government bodies	65.8	34.2	100
Jamoat Chairmen	79.5	20.5	100
Deputy Chairmen of Jamoats	59.8	40.2	100

Domination of men at all levels of the government is not conducive to the reduction of hidden discrimination against women while nominating candidates for managerial positions and competitions for vacant civil service positions. In addition, as a rule, in public bodies women are appointed to the position of the deputy head, but not as a head.

Such mechanism, as temporary special measures to promote women, is not used, despite CEDAW international commitments.

The adopted State program on training women - leaders does not have a clear and well thought plan of action for training and promotion of women to managerial positions. The appointment of women from the roster of personnel reserve is not monitored and tracked.

There is no full database of professional women in reserve. There are cases, when incompetent women are appointed to the managerial positions, without relevant professional education and practical experience in this field. Finally, they are dismissed from their position in short time. Such facts also incur damage to the reputation of women leaders.

The analysis of state policy in implementation of gender equality programs showed that, despite the fact, that certain progress has been achieved with regard to gender equality, gender disparity persists and is visible. Another important factor is the impact of rooted into community the traditional and cultural stereotypes, they have negative impact on promotion of gender approaches in policy.

³ The second alternative report of public associations of Tajikistan on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Dushanbe, 2012.- p.31-32.

2.3. Education/socialization/gender stereotypes

Education is one of the main component for calculation of human development index, poverty, access of poor people to social wealth, and also in assessing gender dimensions.

Unequal access of women and men to education is the barrier on the way to gender equality in the society. At higher levels of education, the representation of girls is less; there is significant decline in the number of girls in high schools, especially in rural area. (see Table 2.)

Table 2.

In high grades, the number of girls is declining (share of girls in 10-11 grades, 2009-2010)

Region	Proportion of girls
Tajikistan	42.3%
GBAO	49.0 %
Dushanbe	35.0%
RRS	32.9%
Sughd region	47.8%
Khatlon region	43.4%
Nurabad district	18.4%
Gornaya Matcha	20.2%
Vakhdad district	23%
Rudaki district	27.9%
Matcha district	28.5%
Tavildara district	31%

The number of girls who dropped out and did not complete the secondary school, is growing, not only for economic reasons, but also because of the early marriages.

The level of girls' education significantly impact their economic activity and career promotion (see Table 3).⁴

Table 3.

Level of education of economically active population, aged 15 -75, by Labor Force Survey data – 2009 (in %).⁵

Level of Education	Total	Urban	Rural	Men	Women
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Higher	14.4	18.7	8.5	29.6	9.0
Incomplete higher	0.9	1.1	0.6	1.8	0.5
Secondary vocational (Professional)	6.2	5.7	6.9	8.8	5.3
Initial vocational(professional)	8.0	12.8	1.5	8.0	7.9
Have professional education	29.5	38.3	17.5	48.2	22.7
Secondary (full) general	52.7	47.9	59.0	42.5	56.2
Basic general	14.4	11.5	18.2	7.1	16.9
Primary general	2.8	1.8	4.2	1.7	3.2
No primary general	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.8

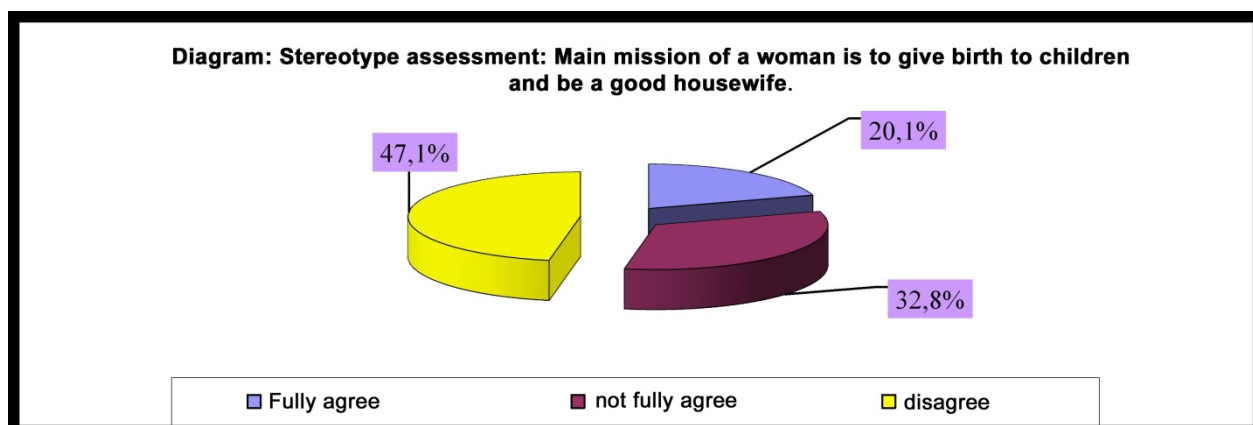
The findings of various surveys show, that society and local communities are not yet ready to the change of social and cultural patterns of men and women behavior. They are not yet ready to strengthening the role of woman. Women are facing a whole range of problems: conflicts of roles, played in social and private life, mass deformed mind-set toward patriarchy, sexism, etc. The large part of population still thinks that the ideal relationships between man and woman is the traditional pattern, which excludes women from social and political processes. Financial dependence on the husband, activities, restricted by family, seem "natural" condition of social relations between men and women.

Thus, by the findings of the household survey, conducted by the Coalition of public associations of Tajikistan "From legal equality - to actual equality" a number of persisting gender stereotypes are recorded. Despite the changes of gender roles in the family and in the society, the majority of population believes that the main mission of a women is to give birth to children and be a good housewife (see

⁴ Вазорати маорифи Чумхури Тоҷикистон. Маҷмӯаи омории соҳаи маорифи Чумхури Тоҷикистон. Душанбе, 2010, с. 77,84.

⁵ See. Situation in the labour market in RT. By the results of the labor force survey, June-July 2009., p.114

diagram).⁶ According to this research, opinion of men and women on gender roles in family is almost the same.



The system of education still poorly uses its potential to impact the formation of public opinion and overcome gender stereotypes, complicating the process of socialization both for boys and for girls.

2.4. Businesses and entrepreneurship

The National Development Strategy identifies that the main priority for ensuring gender equality is equal access of women and men to resources for entrepreneurship⁷.

It is stated in 2007 NDS, that business activity is limited due to the problems of general and private infrastructure. Depreciation policy is not used. State support to business is not systemic, and does not take into account the budget losses, caused by existing benefits. The main sectors of the country, light and food industries, are not adequately supported. The business statistics is not full, the surveys are conducted irregularly. The infrastructure for support to small business is poorly developed. Business and investment risks remain high.

The priorities for improving investment climate, developing private sector and entrepreneurship are the following:

- improving legislation for upgrading investment and business climate;
- simplification of procedures for regulation of entities activities of all types of property;
- expanding support to business.

As for support to business, the Government of RT recently implemented a number of structural reforms, resulting in visible improvement of business and entrepreneurship climate, development of private initiative of economically able population. The reforms laid the basis for development of small business and formation of middle class of entrepreneurs, which is the basis for stability and pillar of the state.

In particular, such measures were taken as:

- Adoption of the concept of business development in RT, "200 days of Reform" Program, etc.
- The Consultative Investment Council was created under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, with participation of business structures.
- The procedure of registration of legal and individual entrepreneurs was simplified through "One Window" stop shop.

In July 26, 2014 President of the Republic of Tajikistan signed a number of laws and regulations governing business activities, in particular the Law "On State Protection and Business Support", "On the activities of the Islamic Bank", "On amendments and additions to the laws of the Republic of Tajikistan: "On mortgage for the property ", "On the pledge of movable property ", " On licensing certain types of activities" that govern social relations associated with the state protection and support, the elimination of obstacles to entrepreneurship and sustainable development in the Republic of Tajikistan, create favorable conditions for the development and strengthening of these spheres. To this end, these laws defined the procedure for organizing a quality and professional service of the newly formed business entities through methodical, information, advice, training and legal support, awareness and legal awareness of

⁶ The survey was conducted in 2009 with the support of OSI in NY. Totally 1500 households were interviewed.

⁷ National development strategy of Tajikistan by 2015., p. 61.

entrepreneurs, cooperation between business entities and public authorities, the introduction of alternative banking, facilitation of bail for movable property and other matters of business.

Legislation on entrepreneurship does not contain any specific provisions on gender equality, neither it contains discriminatory norms against any gender. In practice, women are minority among entrepreneurs. It does not mean that they are discriminated. There is deeply -rooted perception of women as if they are hired labor force, incapable to do own business. Society and state institutions do not care about women's entrepreneurship, they are indifferent.

With the aim to support women's entrepreneurship, starting from 2006 , Presidential grants are extended to public organizations and individuals - entrepreneurs to improve women's legal literacy, job creation and professional skills training for women in 2006-2010. Since 2008 an annual allocation of 1 million Somoni was provided to support women's entrepreneurship.⁸

The chairman of the Committee on women and family affairs under the Government of RT Mahfirat Umar Hidirzoda at press conference held on July 30, 2014 mentioned that in the first half of 2014 according to the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan adopted in December 5, 2013, the size of the presidential grants for the development of women's entrepreneurship has made 2 million Somoni and number of grants increased to 80. Projects in the fields of horticulture, beekeeping, animal husbandry, for the organization of garment production, the production of soaps, organization kindergarten etc. were supported.⁹

3. Women and Farming

3.1. Land legislation of the RT

According to the **Constitution of the RT** (1996) «The land, its mineral resources, water, air, flora and fauna and other natural resources are owned by the state and the state guarantees their effective use in the interests of the people.» (Art. 13).¹⁰

Land Code of the RT regulates land relations and is aimed at creating conditions for the rational use and protection of land, restoring soil fertility, conservation and improvement of the environment, for equal development of all forms of economics. (1996)¹¹.

In 2012 to the Land Code of the RT changes were made, including the provision of equal access of women and men to land.

The country continues to implement land reform. According to the article 3 of the Law of RT “On Land Reform” the main trends in the land reform are:

- **Conduct** inventory of all lands by categories, tenure, land use and type of agrarian land.
- **Identify** unused lands, irrationally used lands and establish special land fund of the local government in cities and districts with the aim of their following reallocation for more efficient use.
- **Give land** for lifelong inheritance to citizens of RT for dehqan and private farming, development of traditional crafts, horticulture and, in the exceptional cases - for construction and use of houses.

The Agrarian Reform Program in Tajikistan was adopted for the period of 2012-2020.

Reorganization of agricultural enterprises and the creation of Dehqan Farms (DF) is one of the priority areas of land reform.

Legal basis for creating dehqan farm (DF) in RT are defined by the Law of the RT “On dehqan farms”¹², №48 of 10 May 2002, oriented at the simplified creating of dehqan farms, without obtaining status of legal entity. For that time, this rule was quite positive measure and boosted the creation of DF. In 1992, a total number of operated DF was 31 and they were acreage 300 hectares and in 2003 there has been already registered 16433 DF and acreage amounted to 240.1 thousand hectares¹³.

On 8 August 2001, the Resolution of the Government of the RT №391 adopted the State programme «Main areas of state policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities for men and women in RT for 2001 – 2010”. The additions to this State Program were approved by the Resolution of the Government of the RT as of 30 April 2004, №196. Thus, in section IY “Women and Economics” the additional subsection is

⁸ Resolution of the Government of RT of 4 July 2006 №307, «On establishment of Presidential grants to support small and medium business, attraction of women and girls to professional orientation, increasing legal knowledge and creating new job seats for 2006-2010» and Resolution of the Government of RT of 4 September 2008 № 448 «On establishing Presidential grants to support women businesses for 2008-2010»

⁹ <http://khovar.tj/rus/society/41850-m-hidirzoda-80-zhenschin-predprinimateley-poluchili-prezidentskie-granty.html>

¹⁰ Constitution of the RT. 1996. www.mmk.tj

¹¹ Land Code of the RT. 1996. www.mmk.tj

¹² Law of the RT “On dehqan farms”.2002. www.mmk.tj

¹³ Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Tajikistan. 2001. Statistical Agency. Dushanbe, 2001, c.175. Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Tajikistan. 2004. Statistical Agency. Dushanbe, 2004, c.173.

added «ACCESS of RURAL WOMEN TO LAND», and in section VIII “Action program” the additional paragraph was included «ENSURING ACCESS OF RURAL WOMAN TO LAND».

In the period from 2001 up to 2008, the legislation on family, land, labor and other legislation was analyzed from gender perspective with the support of UNIFEM, UNICEF, OSCE and other international organizations.¹⁴

In 2007 for the first time the problems of gender policy became the integral part of long-term and mid-term social economic development strategies of the country, and special sections on “Ensuring gender equality” were included into NDS RT by 2015 and PRS RT for 2007-2009.

Agency for Land Management, Geodesy and Mapping at the Government of RT implemented FAO and UNIFEM Joint Project, named “Ensuring food security and improving living standard by institutional land reform in Tajikistan with the focus to gender”. This Project supported drafting Land Strategy of the RT, which included gender aspects in all key sections and areas of activity. Gender indicators are included into the system of monitoring and evaluation of the project. But regretfully, the draft of the Land Strategy was not approved by the Government of RT.

In connection with the amendments to the Land Code and in order to give legal status to DF and the need to bring all land legislation into one unit to finalize legislation, including from a gender perspective, governmental working group was established and functioning now.

3.2 Gender inequality to the land access

Gender analysis showed that the land legislation in Tajikistan as a whole does not discriminate women. However, the land legislation in Tajikistan is enforced without gender consideration. The principles of non-discrimination and equal rights are laid in the legislation. But such principles as principle of equal opportunities and the principle of temporary special measures to overcome gender disparity are not used at all.

Lack of efficient mechanisms at the legislative level to ensure realization of women's rights to land use, in practice cause discrimination against women

The issue of land use with regard of gender factor is addressed in the Rules on reorganization and reforming of agricultural organizations, approved by Presidential Decree on June 30, 2006 № 1775. Paragraph 23 of the Rules stipulates that female breadwinners and single mothers have the right to property and land plot at reorganization of the agricultural organizations. However, the definition of the terms "female breadwinners" and "single mother" in Tajik legislation do not exist, and therefore, the application of this benefit seems problematic.

Public hearings were held in Dushanbe, Kulob, Kurgan-Tube and Khujand. They were organized jointly by the Coalition of Public Associations "From legal equality - to actual equality" with the support of the International Program of OSI, UNIFEM project and the Committee on Women and Family Affairs in June-July 2009. At public hearings they discussed proposals on mechanisms for implementation of the Law "On State Guarantees of equality between men and women and equal opportunities for their realization", including amendments and additions to the land legislation.

The main factors of unequal access of women and men to land are:

- gender stereotypes in society,
- weak gender mainstreaming into policies of agrarian reform,
- the personnel in main land reform institutions are not gender sensitive.

One of the main problems of gender equality in Tajikistan in terms of economic rights is the lack of proper regulation of land use rights, ensuring its tradability and alienability. This lack limits access of men and women to financial and economic resources.

According to Article 304 of the Civil Code, the property acquired by the spouses during the marriage is their joint property, unless the law or contract stipulates the other.

However, in land relations there is no any links between land use right and marriage. If official land user received land use rights during marriage, his/her spouse has no rights to the land, despite the contribution to its improvement. At the disposal of land use rights, in particular at collateral, the spouse does not have influence, and if her spouse dies, she is deprived of the actual rights.

Given the specificity of land relations in Tajikistan, namely the lack of private property for land, the problems of disposal of land use rights and division of property upon divorce or without divorce should be also solved specifically to a certain extent. At solving the disputes, related to the land use, it is necessary to take into account interests of the spouse / who is not official land user.

¹⁴See the monitoring of State program, p.6.

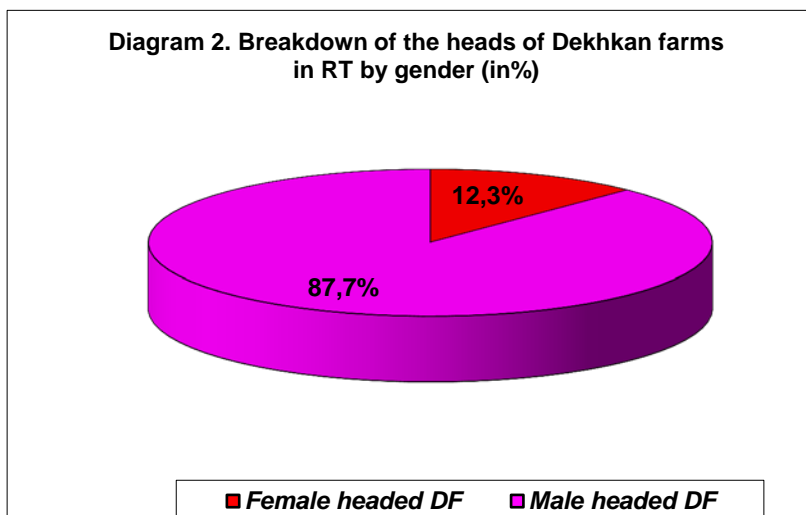
There is no concept of transfer of land use rights in the legislation. The land users will not be able to exercise their rights without adopting appropriate law. In this regard, it is necessary to develop and adopt a new legal regulatory act - Rules on the transfer of land use rights, approved by Resolution of the Government of Tajikistan and defining the concept of such a transfer, actions in the transfer of land use rights, limits and procedures for such actions

3.3. Problem of Dehkan Farms (DF)

Dehkan (farm) - an independent business entity, whose activities as an entrepreneur based on the personal work of one person, the members of one family or group of individuals, and which is based on a plot of land and other property belonging to its members. Dehkan farm can be created in the following ways:

- individual private farm - private farm, work which is based on the enterprise of one person;
- private farm family - private farm, work which is based on the family business, and on the basis of joint property;
- comradesly private farm - private farm, established on the basis of the common ownership, economic activity is determined by the agreement on joint activities¹⁵.

Since 2008 number of Dehkan farms in the Republic of Tajikistan with 30800 units increased to 73,800 in 2013 r.¹⁶ Starting from 2004 up to 2013 the number of women-headed DF increased from 2695 to 5700¹⁷. At the same time, it is interesting to note that the share of women-headed DF during these years declined from 13.9% to 12.3%.¹⁸ (See diagram 2). It is caused, to our mind, by the fact that during the last years many shareholders men separated or split from earlier established collective dehkan farms, and established family and individual DF, headed by men.



Certain constraints by regions, the most number of female headed DF are in Khatlob region – 15.2%. In Soghg region this indicator makes 8.3%, in RRS – 11%, in GBAO – 1.5%. Among RRS, the most number of female headed DF is recorded in Tajikabad district – 31.6%, Hissar district – 21.7%, Tursun-Zade – 18%, Shahrinaw – 13.9% and in Vakhdat – 13.2%. The least number of female headed DF is recorded in Jirgital district – 0.5%, Rahst district – 2.7%, Nurabad and Rogun districts – 3.2%.¹⁹

By the results of the surveys, conducted by PF “Panorama”, female headed DF:

- Have less number of shareholders¹⁹: do not exceed 10 people than 20 - in mail-headed DF
- The members of DF are more women, than men
- In average have less area of land (total land area in averages makes 10 hectares in female-headed DF and 38 hectares in mail-headed DF)²⁰;

¹⁵ Law of the RT “On dehkan farms”.2002. www.mmk.tj

¹⁶ Abdulloev M. Gender aspects in agriculture.- www.stat.tj

¹⁷ The same.

¹⁸ See: State statistical committee, RT/ Gender indicators in dekhkan farms. Dushanbe, 2009, p.52-60

¹⁹ See: State Statistical Committee, RT. Gender indicators in DF. Dushanbe, 2009, p.60.

²⁰ DF shareholders - owners of the land as per certificate, Presidential Lands.

²⁰ See: PF «Panorama», Report on the findings of survey. DF in gender dimension. Dushanbe. 2005. The Survey was conducted in 12 districts of three regions: Soghd, Khatlon and RRS. Total number of interviewed heads of DF

- irrigated land in average is in 2.8 times larger in male-headed DF than in female-headed DF (see Table 4)²¹.

Table 4.

Average size of DF land in Matchi district, (haa) – on the example of 43 cotton cropping farms, with breakdown by gender

	Head of DF		Average size of land
	male	In average	
Total area of the land	female	In average	15,1
	male	In average	38,3
Of which irrigated land	female	In average	12,6
	male	In average	35,6

The main barriers and obstacles to sustainable development of DF are the following:

- Lack of financial resources and limited access to credit
- No supply with equipment, existing equipment and machinery is dilapidated
- Water deficit and other irrigation problems
- Futurist debt of the farms
- The problem of supply with fertilizers / pesticides
- Lack of seeds and their low quality
- Low knowledge and awareness of heads of farms

The status of rural women and gender relations in the country directly affect the profile of female-headed of DF, then male profile:

- Among female-heads of DF, the largest group is in the age from 41 to 55 years
- Women are less educated than men
- As for specialty, those women became heads of the farm, who have extensive land experience with in agriculture and have higher education
- As for marital status, the female -heads of DF refer to the following social groups:
 - a. Widows, they most often become HH head
 - b. Women, whose husbands work in civil service or in the city.
 - c. Women, whose husbands are not able to work, by the state of health.
 - d. Women, whose husbands left for labor migration outside Tajikistan.²²

Female-headed DF compared to male-headed DF work better in many cases. Official statistics record higher performance indicators of female-headed DF in terms of yield of raw cotton, potatoes, grapes, etc. However, female-headed DF face additional difficulties and problems related to access to credit, agricultural and other equipment of machinery, its repair, availability of specialists, etc, compared to male-headed DF.

Female-headed DF less often use the services of commercial banks, compared to men. A significant portion of such DF try to go without credits, since they have a number of barriers for getting credit. According to women, for getting credit from bank it is required to submit a package of documents, but most importantly - collateral for loan. Credit is not given without collateral. Collateral can be property and valuables. In practice, a woman has nothing to put as collateral, because often the owner of the house where she lives with her children, is father in law, husband or eldest son. Jewelry, if any, can not serve as collateral, because the value of collateral is much higher.

Access to credit is essential condition for farm development. The findings of survey on credits impact assessment show that micro-financial services help to increase the income of agricultural enterprises and rural entrepreneurs and promotes employment opportunities of population. All this is possible due to the stable and expanded production through increased raw base and new technologies:

- Viability of enterprises becomes more stable after receiving credit for production, and using own savings, savings of relatives and friends
- The production process is improved, because it is possible to get more sources of funding by obtaining credits. In its turn, it stabilizes production process and improves the strategic business planning.

are 288. 28 in-depth interviews were conducted with the representatives of district land committee, commercial banks, agro service, Microcredit organizations and family members.

²¹ The same

²² See: PF «Panorama, Report on findings of the Survey. DF in gender dimension. Dushanbe. 2005.

- Access to a larger capital increases the variety of resources for production, technology, products and volume of production. The enterprise can grow, by reducing the risk and price, increasing production and income.²³

4. The main conclusions

1. Having reviewed the performance of the Republic of Tajikistan of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women on the 56th session, the members of the CEDAW Committee under article 14 "Rural Women " in paragraph 29 noted as positive " the adoption of the Agrarian Reform Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2012-2020. It is important, as majority of women in the member state lives in rural areas, but the state has no measures to combat poverty and discrimination against women in rural areas. It is also important to ensure access to justice, education, health, housing, employment in the formal sector, development of skills and professional training, obtaining and use of land, as well as their participation in decision-making processes at the local level".²⁴

2. Overall, Tajikistan experiences unequal access of men and women to resources (to property, land, credit, etc.). In particular, lack of access to land puts rural women into strong dependence on men in their families, shrinks the potential of women contribution to agrarian growth and increases their vulnerability to poverty.

3. Gender disparity is also expressed in the development of human capacity, unequal access of men and women to basic social benefits, including education, health, etc.

4. Realization of planned activities under state gender policy has not changed, and could not change the situation of unequal access of women and men to resources and control over these resources (property, land, etc.). Without property and initial capital, women are not able to start up business and take credit, etc.

5. Expanding women's access to land and advancing the status of women-heads of DF, their contribution to the solution of vital problems in the family, have certain impact on changing position of women in households and communities. But these changes are not sustainable enough, they are weakly expressed. Woman's voice is still low in the process of decision-making in the household and in the community.

6. The findings of the conducted studies and the work of State Land Committee RT²⁵ on monitoring the implementation of the section of State Program "Access of rural women to land" show that gender mainstreaming into reorganization of agrarian enterprises and proper institutional mechanisms can influence the overcoming of gender disparity. The activity of UN Women District Extension Centers, based on Committees for Women and Family Affairs can serve as an example of raising awareness of women on land reform, legal literacy, gender mainstreaming to ensure equal access to land²⁶.

5. Recommendations

To the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan:

1. To develop and implement specific measures to combat female poverty, including adoption of effective measures to ensure access of rural women to justice, education, housing, employment in the formal sector, the development of skills and professional training, obtaining and use of land in accordance with their specific needs;

2. In order to support women's entrepreneurship and farming it is required to solve first and foremost, a number of problems in the sphere of agriculture, which are caused by the following factors, including:

- Poor irrigation conditions of land,
- Low awareness of DF on culture of land use and farming practices
- High interest rates on the financial and credit services and lack of long-term soft crediting
- Weak infrastructure: lack of agricultural machinery and equipment, high cost of fuel and lubricants, fertilizers and pesticides,
- Lack of agro-processing enterprises,
- Poor system of supply of quality seed materials and livestock,
- Lack of adaptation measures to climate change.

²³ Surveys were conducted in 2005 and 2008 under GTZ project «Support to microfinancing in rural area of Tajikistan» (the implementation period December 2004 -2011). The total number of interviewed entrepreneurs was 138 in Soghd and Khatlon regions.

²⁴ CEDAW Committee. Final comments to combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Tajikistan.- 18 October 2013.

²⁵ Currently: Agency for Land management, geodesy and mapping at the Government of RT.

²⁶ See: PF «Panorama». Dehkan farms in gender dimension. Dushanbe, 2005.

3. There is a need to adopt special measures to create equal opportunities for men and women, and this should be reflected in policy measures for business development in general.
4. The responsible authorities need to ensure appropriate monitoring of the implementation of these strategies and programs and make appropriate management decisions. This will significantly strengthen and expand opportunities for women and their active role in the socio-economic life of the country and will greatly enhance the development of entrepreneurship in rural areas.
5. Gender mainstreaming into improving land legislation and enforcement of land laws and reforming agriculture.
6. It is very important to mainstream gender-sensitive approaches during developing programs and projects on land reform. Such approach will include the process of evaluation of any planned activity in terms of its impact on women and men, including during development of the general concept, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities, etc.

To Local Governments:

1. To ensure equal participation of rural women in decision-making processes at the community level²⁷.
2. Capacity building and gender awareness of personnel, working in profile agencies and primarily in local governments, land committees, etc²⁸.
3. Involvement of women into decision-making processes on the basis of gender balance and mandatory inclusion of women into district commissions on farm restructuring, land distribution, the working groups on the development of regional strategies and action plans, etc.

To Public associations jointly with the Committee on Women and Family Affairs:

1. To continue lobbying proposals by the results of public hearings on improving legislation on land in order to ensure equal access of women to land, within:
 - to include prescription into the Civil and Family Codes of RT on possibility to dispose land use rights,
 - to include rules on inheritance of land use rights and its specify into the civil law. This measure will allow heiresses (spouses, daughters, mothers) of the died land user to get their share in land use right or get appropriate compensation,
2. To initiate awareness campaigns on explanation of the testamentary rights of land users among land users, and among notary officers.
3. To conduct information and training programs on women's role in land reform for women-farmers and women-leaders in rural area.

²⁷ CEDAW Committee. Final comments to combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Tajikistan.- 18 October 2013

²⁸ Second alternative report of public associations of Tajikistan on CEDAW. –Dushanbe, 2012. – p .64-65.

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