

Gender Related Issues in the Karapınar region, Konya, Turkey

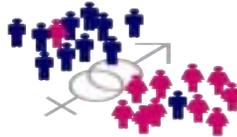
%20 women and %80 men are employed in the various land use types in the Karapınar site.
 •Women are mostly involved in hoeing and weeding while men deal with tillage, seeding, fertilising, watering and harvesting.
 •Women do not require to access to stakeholder meetings, to credits and to agricultural advisory systems.

Land degradation invariably affects all inhabitants (women and men) in the same way: soil erosion, desertification, decrease in income rates, migration to big cities. Migration deeply degrades all members of families and causes conflicts among them.

Land use change towards irrigated cropping in the last 20 years did not result in garden agriculture. Instead massive mechanization occurred and as a result share of women power decreased considerably.

Impact of DESIRE workshops

25 men and 4 women stakeholders participated in the 1st DESIRE workshop. 22 men and no women participated in the 2nd workshop. 2 Some discussions regarding gender inequality in agricultural activities are expected to produce important impact on this issue.



DESIRE intended a gender-balanced project team and more sensitive stakeholder groups towards gender issues.

Turkish traditional social structure attributes great significance to women and gender equality

Gender neutral / gender friendly information about new land management strategies:

For The DESIRE workshops and other activities we used personnel communications with individual farmers, farmer leaders and heads of local agriculture NGO and unions. The invited farmers generally approved the existing task division so that more mechanised works such as tillage and seeding undertaken by men and more time-consuming and easy jobs (hoeing etc.) by women. It seems that limited time for discussion on gender issues did not produce significant impact on existing practices.



Local gender success story.....

A half of Women of Karapınar district are particularly related with carpet knitting and production of delicious yogurt and cheese from milk. The carpet they produce are of so tight loops that they are wanted and payed very high prices all over the country. Discoverers of the famous Karapınar yogurt are also hardworking Karapınar women.

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