

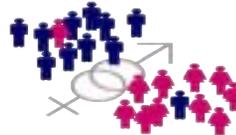
# Gender Related Issues in the Eskişehir basin, Turkey

- %35 of the total rural population is directly related with agricultural activities. %70 of the rural female population is involved in agriculture and livestock feeding.
- Women are mostly involved in hoeing, milking and weeding while men mostly deal with tillage, seeding, fertilising, watering and harvesting.
- Women do not require to access to stakeholder meetings, to credits and to agricultural advisory systems. When it is needed the men do all these. This is mostly due to lower education rates among women.

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.

- Each female farmer has more or less a piece of land by heritage, but this ownership is governed by the husband or elder son of the family.
- There is a slight role shift in winter when relatively libre male farmers help their wife for livestock feeding. In this period females are dealt with domestic affairs.

## Impact of DESIRE workshops



38 men and 2 women stakeholders participated in the 1st DESIRE workshop. 15 Men and 2 women in the 2nd workshop. Some discussions regarding gender inequality in agricultural activities are expected to produce important impact on this issue.



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

*Although traditional Turkish social structure attributes great significance to women, present social structure destroys the position of women*

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.....**

It is difficult to encounter a women success story in the Eskişehir region. Women stand always at secondary position next to their husbands and sons. She is always assistant in all aspects. She deals with domestic affairs (home cleaning, cooking etc.) and agricultural practices of secondary significance. In case of loss of husband, management is generally maintained by elder son. Otherwise the woman joins to a relative and keeps her secondary safe position.

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