

# Gender related issues in Miaowan Village, Yan River Basin, the Loess Plateau, China

## Site and gender highlights

120 men and 126 women are involved in the particular land uses being examined in the study site. In the 52 households in the area there are 4 women headed households involved in the particular land uses being examined in the study site area.

All women and men are landowners in the study site area. In China, the landowner is a name of family and all members of family have the right of a number of land not for the landowners themselves. No women nor men are renting the land

The task division between man and women in the farming before implementing the new strategies is: plough (m&w), sow (m&w), weeding (m&w), harvest (m&w), cattle-breeding (w mainly), animal herding (w mainly), grass cutting (m&w), tree felling (m), trading products (m&w) other tasks, driving small machine (m) There is no change in roles during special seasons.

Tasks only done by men are: tree felling and driving small machine. This is because it is dangerous in this region. Most women work in the house for cooking and washing if the task are done by the men.

Considering land users (farmers): Normally man have the access to credit, to agricultural advisory systems and to stakeholder meetings.

The stakeholders are landowners of whom 7.69 percent are women and 92.31 percent are men.

The measures they agreed upon to provide a mosaic of integrated land use will increase the possibility for both men and women on local work.

## Impact of land degradation on and without changes in land management.

The perspective without changes in the land use is a kind of custom in this region.

If the land work is not important and less labor work, the men would go out for spare-time work. The household benefits because the income will increase.

## Impact of DESIRE (workshops) on land management

Both men (12) and women (2) did attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop, no female and 12 male in the first workshop. Participants have remained involved in some way,

The new conservation measures that were selected for test implementation on the study sites did change something in the division of labour between the men and women. The conversion from slope cropland into grassland and forestry would decrease the work intensity that the women also can finish the labor work in the whole process. The stable higher yield harvesting on the terrace and check-dam land would make the people cultivate less slope cropland when they compare the benefit and cost



## A Global initiative



## Gender neutral / gender friendly information

The information about new possible land management strategies: how is it made accessible to both men and women, and how is it referring to the existing task division of local men and women?

It is quite difficult to change the character of the existing task division even we use the new land management strategies.

Have the objectives been achieved?

If the income outside is higher enough and the difference of payment between men and women, the impact would be occurred.

Is there indigenous knowledge being integrated new possible land management strategies, if yes, how is it being used? **Yes.** The year-after-year terraced land is an indigenous technology. They build a small flat around the trunk of trees and extend it annually. More and more water would be retained when the tree grows up.

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