

## Gender related issues in Boteti, Botswana Study site

### Land use and gender statistics:

Fifty-one and 49 percent of Boteti's population is made up of females and males, respectively. In Mopipi (one of the study villages) the ratio is approximately 60 females to 40 males. Nearly 55% and 45% of households in Boteti are headed by women and men, respectively. Men and women have equal access to arable land, and both men and women are involved in arable farming (see Plate 3). Indeed, every land user is entitled to a plot for crop production free of cost. Livestock rearing (the main economic activity/land use in Boteti) is a predominantly male vocation.

### Gender division of labour:

Men and boys are responsible for herding cattle and tilling arable fields with oxen- or donkey-drawn ploughs. Women and girls are responsible for sowing and weeding arable fields as well as harvesting crops. Transporting of arable produce on donkey carts is done by men and boys. Fetching of firewood was traditionally a female duty, but with increasing distance to collection points and the increasing use of donkey carts and motor vehicles more men and boys are now involved in firewood collection. For instance, in Mokoboxane village, 52% of firewood collectors were men and boys in July 2009.

### Access:

In Boteti, both men and women have equal access to agricultural **advice**. Both men (18 in 1<sup>st</sup> and 11 in 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop) and women (16 in 1<sup>st</sup> and 7 in 2<sup>nd</sup>) have been actively involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> DESIRE stakeholder workshops.

## DESIRE WOCAT workshop attended by both men and women

### GENERATED IMPACT OF FUELWOOD DEPLETION IN BOTETI

Boteti land users have selected biogas production and use as an alternative to fuel wood energy.

Firewood has become scarce in areas close to settlements and women and girls have to walk long distances to collect. At further distances, men and boys use donkey carts and motor vehicles to collect firewood.

The switch to biogas will therefore ease the burden of firewood collection for women and girls and release donkey carts for other essential errands.

Biogas is a relatively clean **energy source** and should therefore have positive health effects on women and girls who are responsible for preparing family meals.

### General remark on gender policy

The project strategy is also to improve the gender neutral approach in environmental research.



## A Global initiative



## Gender neutral / gender friendly information

- Biogas production information is gender neutral, and both male and female headed households can be involved in the implementation of the strategy, resources permitting.
- Financial constraints have delayed the implementation of the strategy (the land users are poor and cannot afford capital cost of setting up biogas plants).

## Boteti: Local gender success story.....

•Despite general male domination of the local (livestock) economy, women occupy key positions in the Boteti villages involved in the DESIRE project. For instance, the Chairperson of the Village Development Committee (VDC) in Rakops is a lady. In Mopipi village, the Secretary to the VDC there is a woman. Again in Mopipi the Secretary to a Village Trust charged with community-based management of communal rangelands is a lady. It is the latter who volunteered to host the pilot biogas plant.

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