

Gender related issues in the Secano Interior, Chile

Mediterranean region of central Chile.



Roles of farm women assumed in the study area, have traditionally been an integral part of their gender identity.

Women appear to be successful in managing their roles and contributing to their families. The following role descriptions are based on personal interviews.

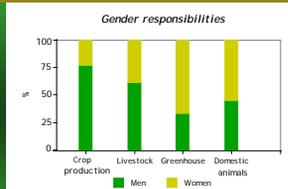


From the total population of the area of study, the 30% of the women are involved in farm work. They have many complex roles. Like most rural farm women, they often have a major impact in the family system.

Women actually working on the land from the total population

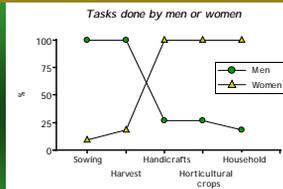


Tasks divided between man and women



a)

Fig. a) Tasks and responsibilities of farm family.
Fig. b) Gender roles in agricultural production.



b)

Men perform hard labor job in winter months, allowing household tasks and taking care children to the to women.



- ▶ The results shows that women have to assume different roles compared to men, who perform hard labor job in the land (Fig. a and b).
- ▶ Men does not commonly participate in the household tasks.
- ▶ 1st Desire Workshop: 20 men, 6 women, 2nd Desire Workshop: 15 men , 7 women
- ▶ Only 18% of all women are headed household, in that case they rent land and go halves with the costs and the profits. In this case, they can decide to use conservation tillage.
- ▶ The 30% of all man work between 1 and 3 months per year outside of their property.

Successful History

Miguel Montecinos (65) and Labrina Fuentes (62) are married and live at Ninhue. They are involved in Sustainable land management (SLM Technology) and are one of the families that Desire Project in Chile has as an example of farm family. For many years this marriage realized traditional tillage, but the last 10 years they changed to conservation tillage, incorporating new crop rotations, orchard, greenhouse and a new scheme to market their products. Both are very active in participate at "Farming day" trying to involve to their neighbors in SLM Technologies, the photographs aside show them like expositors. They are one of the examples that we are taking in how to incorporate conservation tillage to new farmers. Since we selected them in Desire Project and include them at DESIRE workshop, they facilitate us their experience and participate in questionnaires giving us their point of view about farmer agriculture.



Conclusions

- ▶ As a result of the questionnaire we can see that new generations are migrating to the cities looking for new opportunities.
- ▶ Farmers which perform conservation agriculture for more than 5 years has a strong conviction to continue, they have high yield and less work on the sowing and taking time to realize other activities on the land. These farmers have a larger knowledge about erosion and believe in the opportunity to mitigate soil degradation on their lands.
- ▶ The 55% of the families which perform conservation tillage the first two years finished due to the difficult to work on land with high slopes and a bad coordination between all the farmers in the use of conservation tillage machine in a short period for sowing wheat, which is the principal crop in this area. From this people, a big part of them would return to conservation tillage if the conditions would be better.
- ▶ The information about new land management strategies is well accepted in this farmers, but only the 45% continue with SLM technologies after 10 years.



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