

Gender related issues in the Ribeira Seca Basin, Cape Verde

Site and Gender highlights_ Task division between men and women, in land management



| Task | Gender | Reasons |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Seed harvesting | Women | Soft work |
| Seed treatment | Women | Soft work |
| Seed conservation | Men and Women | Soft work |
| Field cleaning | Men and Women (heads of household) | Soft work |
| Opening holes for sowing | Men and Women (heads of household) | Hard work |
| Sowing | Women | Soft work |
| weeding | Men and Women (heads of household) | Hard work |
| Cutting maize flowers | Men | |
| Harvesting beans | Women | Hard work |
| Harvesting maize | Men and Women (heads of household) | Hard work |
| Harvesting maize residues | Men and Women (heads of household) | Hard work |
| Threshing corn | Women | Soft work |
| Threshing beans | Men and Women (heads of household) | Hard work |
| Nursery (trees) | Women | Soft work |
| Transport of trees on the fields | Women | Soft work |
| Opening holes for planting | Men | Hard work |
| Planting | Men and Women | Soft work |
| Fodder harvesting (in the forest conservation) | Women | Soft work |
| Fodder harvesting | Men and Women | Soft work |
| Harvesting fuel wood | Women | Hard work |
| Construction of hydraulic infrastructures | | |
| Transport of materials (sand, gravel, stone) | Women | Soft work |
| Opening holes, Construction | Men | Hard work , Technical work |
| Irrigated agriculture | | |
| Preparation of the field (Bridges) | Men | Hard work |
| Nursery | Women and men | Soft work |
| Planting | Women and Men | Soft work |
| Irrigation | Men | Hard work |
| Sanitary and phytosanitary activities | Men | Dangerous work |
| Harvesting | Men (root crops) if not, men and women | Hard work |
| Book-keeping | Men and Women (heads of household) | Soft work |
| Selling of products | Women | Soft work |

In general, the more physical work such as weeding, opening holes, and land preparation for vegetable are performed by men. In contrast, tasks like nursery, plant transportation during afforestation campaigns, transportation of construction materials (sand, gravel, water) during construction of hydraulic works, collection and selling of agricultural products are spots reserved for women.

In the rainy season, all activities in rural areas resume in fieldwork, where men clean the fields (June-July) and, with the first significant rains, they open the holes while women bring seeds to the earth. In early August, men start weeding activities while women prepare the meals for men. The harvesting of cereals and beans is women's task.

Regarding access to credit, technical advice and meetings with partners, men are better off, being able to secure more loans than women. In meetings, which provide technical advice and discussion opportunities with other partners, men are also favored because most women stay home to take care of the house (collect firewood and water, prepare the meals), children and livestock. However, for women heads of households (i.e. widows, divorced, etc.), participation in meetings is easier, but still have fairly limited access to credit.

In dry seasons, some men go to the cities to look for work, while others work in their region in the construction of rural engineering infrastructure (dikes, benches, calderas, etc.). Women also participate in this type of work, but assuming the least tough tasks such as transportation of construction materials (sand, water, gravel, etc.). For families that own irrigated land, the tasks are distributed as follows: The men prepare the land, plant the crops and irrigate de fields, while women manage tasks related to the nurseries (seedbed preparation, planting , watering, weeding). Transplantation is ensured by both women and men, but, once done, irrigation is for men because it is a rather complex and difficult activity. The harvesting of irrigated agricultural products is done by both men and women. However, the harvest of tubers is reserved for men. The selling of products, if made locally, is a men's job but, if the products are sold at the markets, then, the transport and sale are done by women. In both cases, the men manages profits.

