

Is South Asian Agriculture is Feminizing?

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October 12–15, 2021

Cultivating Equality

Advancing Gender Research
in Agriculture and Food Systems

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Gender

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Background

- Feminization of agriculture is more than women's participation in agriculture
- Labor vs. managerial or mix of both? Conceptually treated these two as distinctive processes for review purpose
- Are these processes universal?
- How does feminization of agriculture shape the labor dynamics and decision-making process in agriculture?



Objective and Research Questions

- To document the state of knowledge on labor and managerial feminization especially in wheat-based systems in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan.
 - Are women working more in agriculture?
 - What are women doing?
 - Which women do this?
 - Who decides on what (in agriculture)?



Method

- “wheat” plus ...
 - “feminization” + “agriculture” + “rural” + “South Asia + India / Pakistan / Bangladesh / Nepal” (country)
 - “decision-making” + “agency” + “farming” + “agriculture” + “country”
 - “gender” + “women” + “caste” + “country”
 - “gender” + “women” + “participation” + “agriculture” + “country”
 - “gender” + “women” + “participation” + “agriculture” + “empowerment” + “country”
 - “labour” + “gender division of labour” + “country”
 - “labour” + “country”
 - “decision-making” + “country”
 - “assets” + “country”
 - “land” + land ownership + land tenure + “country”



Findings



Labor Feminization

- Agricultural LFPR:
 - Male ↓ Female ↑
- Women's agricultural wage labor increased from 3 to 11% between 2000 and 2015
- Women fulfill men's role, but paid less
- Increasingly involved in non-crop production – livestock, poultry, fisheries
- Religious, economic, cultural differences



Labor Feminization

- Agricultural LFPR:
 - Male ↓ Female ↓
- Caste plays an active role in women's labor participation: Women of all castes – involved in paid agricultural work
- Women's work is mainly in the manual jobs, mechanization has limited their work in the field
- Regional, social, economic differences

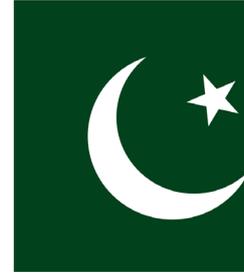


Findings



Labor Feminization

- Agricultural LFPR:
 - Male ↓ Female ↑
- Women earn about 26% less per day than men
- Women conduct most crop production and post-harvesting work, including ploughing – a big normative change
- Daughters-in-law in extended households experience the heaviest labor burdens with low decision-making power



Labor Feminization

- Women work more than men in agriculture
- Though the GDL varies across the country, it is important in defining a sense of masculinity or femininity with local GDLs often followed strictly
- Mechanization negatively impacts women's bargaining power in the wage/labor negotiation



Findings

Are women taking control over agricultural innovation processes in South Asia?



Conclusions

- ✓ Labor feminization across SA is increasing
 - ✓ Considerable changes in relation to 'who does what' and 'who decides'
- ✓ Are women taking control over agricultural innovation processes?
 - ✓ Not sure, maybe too early to claim?
- ✓ Provides an opportunities for researchers, policy makers, rural advisory services and development partners to do things differently
- ✓ More research is needed to help policymakers develop effective strategies for gender-equitable agricultural development.
- ✓ More needs to be done to support women in realizing their aspirations for empowerment.





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