



## *Background*

Substantial progress toward achieving MDG 1 and other international development goals depends heavily on improving agricultural development and enhancing food society. Improving agricultural development and food security, in turn, requires an understanding of the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in developing country agriculture, along with priority investment in women farmers and rural producers.

Over the past two years, gender and women's empowerment have steadily received increased attention in the context of agricultural development. Yet the discourse has been uneven, and there is still no established agreement for translating this dialogue and policy statements into productive and sustained action on the ground. Sustained efforts are needed to ensure that benefits generated by the heightened attention paid to food security issues are captured by women and that women's role and responsibilities in producing, marketing and preparing food need to be central elements of operational activities.

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