

ACCESS TO LAND IS VITAL IN INFLUENCING ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES AMONG AGRARIAN SOCIETIES, THEREFORE:



01

In the interest of household-level food security, and the sustained and improved wellbeing of the whole family:

- Family heads should provide women with full control over parcels of land that are productive and resilient to climate impacts.
- Women should be involved in decision making, including how to use their produce (e.g., for sale versus for household consumption).
- Traditional authorities and civil society organisations should support dialogue and collaboration between men and women on gender equality, land access and rights, and adaptation.



02

The Ministry of Gender and Social Protection should sensitise communities on women's land rights, and the need for improved land access and tenure security among women and youth.

03

The Ministry of Agriculture, together with NGOs, should promote agricultural intensification by providing financial, logistical, and inputs support, especially for women and youth.

04

NGOs and government agencies should support farmers to develop community-based adaptation programmes (e.g., improved access to water for farming, composting).

05

The media should further knowledge on women's rights and the importance of access to land for women and youth by using community radio talk shows and other platforms.



WHAT ASSAR HAS DONE TO FURTHER THE ADAPTIVE CAPACITIES OF WOMEN IN THE UPPER WEST:

ASSAR Ghana, in collaboration with Nandom Deanery Integrated Rural Development Programme (NANDIRDEP), organised a series of workshops to enhance the adaptive capacities of women self-help group leaders.

The workshops focused on eco-inclusive livelihoods, accessing and using climate information, advocacy, and financial management.

Through these workshops, women-based platforms registered at district assemblies, have been established in both Lawra and Nandom to advocate on issues that affect women.

To access credit and enhance livelihoods, the platforms have been linked with financial institutions.

The women groups are now acting as trainers to empower other groups in the districts.

Lastly, additional resource materials on livelihood options have been made available at the ASSAR-established Climate Advisory Resource Centers.

READ MORE:

Akugre, A.F. 2018. Implications of land tenure rights on farmers' adaptive capacity to climate variability and change in semi-arid north-western Ghana: The case of crop farmers in the Lawra District. MPhil thesis, University of Ghana, Legon, Accra.

ASSAR. 2018. Women, work and adaptive capacity. Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR). <https://bit.ly/2qAWO1K>

DO WOMEN FARMERS HAVE A FAIR SHARE OF LAND FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE ADAPTATION?

In Ghana's semi-arid Upper West Region climate change is threatening household food security with less dependable rainfall, extreme temperatures, and more frequent severe droughts. In this area, women farmers contribute about 80% of household food needs, yet their decisions, land access and land tenure security are constrained by patriarchal customs and institutions.

These constraints can undermine the abilities of women – and their households – to effectively and efficiently adapt to both climatic and non-climatic stressors.



The five-year ASSAR project (Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions, 2014-2018) uses insights from multi-scale, interdisciplinary work to inform and transform climate adaptation policy and practice in ways that promote the long-term wellbeing of the most vulnerable and those with the least agency.

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WHAT HAS ASSAR'S RESEARCH SHOWN?

01

Most women farmers only have access to small parcels of land, which limits their productive capacity and income levels.

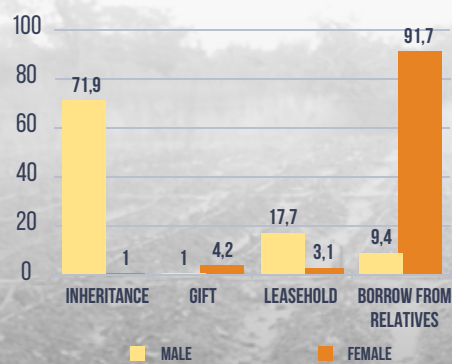
SIZE OF FARMLAND IN ACRES



02

Most women farmers acquire land through insecure or unsustainable means (such as borrowing from relatives), which prevents them from adopting innovative adaptation practices.

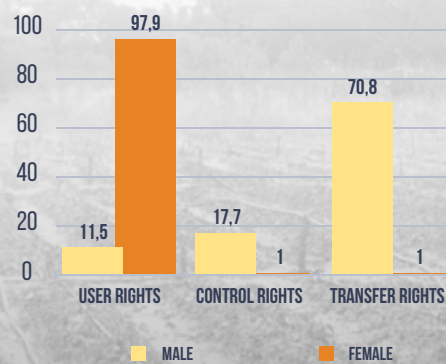
MODE OF FARMLAND ACQUISITION



03

Most women farmers lack control over the lands they cultivate, which makes them unable to implement long-term adaptation measures.

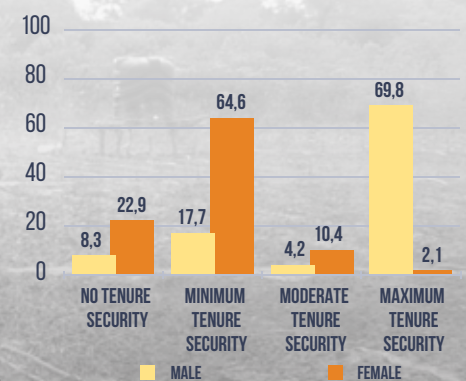
TYPES OF FARMLAND TENURE RIGHTS



04

When asked, only about 1% of women farmers reported having full claims to their farmland. Most felt that their land could be taken away from them at any time.

PERCEIVED LEVEL OF FARMLAND TENURE SECURITY



05

Farmland tenure security is not only influenced by gender. For example, older farmers were about four times more likely than younger farmers to have tenure security. The youth are therefore less likely to implement innovative adaptation strategies, and may also be more likely to migrate.

06

Not all farms have access to extension services and interventions from civil society groups. As a result, the adaptive capacities of isolated farmers are seldom supported.

07

Young girls in the Upper West Region are not eligible to inherit family land because of the perception that they will leave their parents' homes and establish new families in their husbands' homes.

It is also believed that when women are allowed to own land, they will control too many assets in their homes and will therefore lose respect for their husbands.

STORY 01

After Anna's father died, and her brothers inherited the family land, she moved in with her husband in Nandom. They grew food for the family, but could not afford to buy basic household items. With few livelihood options available, Anna longed for access to land to grow cash crops.



When her husband died and his family took their land back, Anna was left struggling to feed and educate her children.

STORY 02

Pogpullah, an educated young woman from Lawra, migrated to the city where she completed her tertiary education. She is now a teacher and the operator of a private business. Although traditional norms prevent her from inheriting land, Pogpullah's livelihoods enable her to meet her basic needs, minimise her risks, and help support her family back in Lawra.

