Female Farmers’ Work
Both On and Off the Farm
in Austria

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  – Statistically proven
  – On farm
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  – Farm diversification
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Data and methods

• Literature review
• Official statistics
• **Survey of female farmers**
  – Study area: Austria
  – Online survey
  – Agricultural population 115,615 farms
  – 2,200 questionnaires

• **Descriptive analysis**
What is what?

What is a female farmer?

Mother
Partner
Wife

Manager
Off farm worker

Worker

Engaged in community activities
The QED’s

2010

• The management of 58,547 farms (34%) was in women's hands.

• Women constituted 41% of the farm family labour force on farms.

• 40% of the total farm labour force (the family and non-family) were women.

Source: Statistik Austria.
Work on farm

Work off farm

• The proportion of women who work off-farm has increased by 15 percentage points over the past 10 years.

• The main motivation of female farmers for off-farm work is to be financially independent.

• Female farmers are more employed on the farm than their partner.

• In 42% of respondents, the female farmers and the partners are equally employed.

• Over the last decades, many female farmers have started new activities on their farm.

• 2016 52% of female farmers surveyed had a secondary activity (2006 36%).

• Women are active in farm diversification activities.

Honorary appointments play an important part in the lives of the agricultural population.

Perceived needs in order to achieve a better engagement of female farmers in community activities: 40% (more time), 32% (more support from society), 29% (no support) and 14% (more support by the family).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female farmers 2016 n = 2.200</th>
<th>Female farmers 2006 n = 1.127</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentages correspond to respondents</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female farmers 2016</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female farmers 2006</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>42</td>
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</tbody>
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Reflections

- Female farmers in Austria
  - Active participants in all aspects of agricultural work and more
  - Effective interest group

- Further research
  - Lack of statistical data
  - Teams of people
  - Solidarity networks
  - Policy actions
‘So, my friend, there is no employment specifically for the woman, just because she is a woman, nor even for the man just because he is a man. Gifts are distributed evenly among the sexes.’ (Plato)