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The female face of agriculture and forestry

Spotlights on developments and empowerment potentials

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Since the reinforced emergence of feminist issues in the 1970s and the subsequent institutionalisation of gender-equality policy the visibility of women has also been increasing in Austrian agriculture and forestry. Not only do women in most cases shoulder the main responsibility for the household and all the latter entails but they are also playing active roles in agriculture, forestry, diversification and many other areas. In this factsheet, the gender-specific conditions and their development in terms of (i) farm labour force, (ii) farm holdership and management, (iii) discrepancies in pension and (iv) agrarian advocacy are analysed for Austria using secondary statistics. Here the situation in Austria is outlined using official statistics, e.g. Farm Structure Surveys from different years, and appropriate international references. Gender-disaggregated data brings to light concrete and tangible aspects of women's involvement in agriculture and forestry. This factsheet looks into the increase in visibility of women in agriculture and forestry in Austria, the challenges they face and the importance of accurate gender-disaggregated data.

Setting the scene: women in agriculture and forestry

Austrian agriculture and forestry is, to a large extent, shaped by women as the female share of the workforce amounts to 39%. In fact, women's work on farms is not only essential for the sector but also for the countryside and society as a whole. The steady decrease in numbers of men in farm management due to off-farm job opportunities has compounded the necessity for women's involvement on the farm.

In Austria, there has been a growing recognition and evaluation of gender-related statistics (cf., FAO, 1999; Pöschl, 2004; Doss, 2013; EC, 2021), in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Empowerment of All Women and Girls (UN, 2015) and the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025) for a gender-equal Europe (EC, 2020). This shift is a critical response to the historical underrepresentation of women's labour in research (Friedland, 1991; Haugen, 1990; Whatmore, 1991) and enables a more nuanced gender specific understanding of work and life in agriculture and forestry. This increased visibility is serving as a catalyst for changes in favour of greater gender equality in this sector.

The gender perspective in Austrian statistics has been integrated based on established indicators, for instance, "farm manager or holder" and "labour force" and "educational level" in the Farm Structure Survey (Statistics Austria, 2013; 2023). Moreover, further secondary statistics, such as Social Insurance Institute (SVS, n.d.), Chamber of Agriculture statistics (n.d.) and lfi (2020), have been utilised to give insights into the empowerment potentials of women in agriculture and forestry. Not only does this raise important questions about how to enhance our understanding of women's roles in Austrian agriculture and forestry but it also provokes thoughts on the actions needed to address the challenges women face.

The remainder of the factsheet[1] starts with a section outlining key aspects of the gender gap in agriculture and forestry. The subsequent section emphasises the importance of empowering and adding value to the role of women by acknowledging their positive impact on inclusive and sustainable development, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The final section elaborates on targeted interventions and research and closes with the key messages.

Identifying the gender gap

Defining the role of women in agriculture and forestry is not as straightforward as it might seem. So far, gender indicators have been based on indicators that are relevant to the lives of both women and men (EIGE, 2023). This section identifies any gender gap by exploring the (i) farm and family labour force, (ii) farm holder and manager positions with a special focus on age groups, farm size, financial performance and educational level, (iii) pension and (iv) agricultural interest groups.

Farm and family labour force

To date agriculture and forestry has statistically proven but also has often been publicly perceived to be male dominated. According to Statistics Austria (2022) the farm labour force declined significantly over the period from 1951-2020, namely by 74%. In 2020, the vast majority, namely 336,015 people or around 80% (2010: 349,593 people or 84%) of the total labour force in agriculture and forestry continued to be family workers. As shown in Figure 1, in the year 2020, women made up 39% of the farm family labour force on farms, compared to 51% in 1951. During this period, the proportion of both female and male family workers steadily decreased. By 2020, the number of male family workers had dropped to only one-third of what it was in 1951, the decline in the number of female family workers was even more marked, namely to 19% of the 1951 figure. Whereas the ratio between women and men in 1951 was 53:47 respectively, it was 39:61 by 2020.

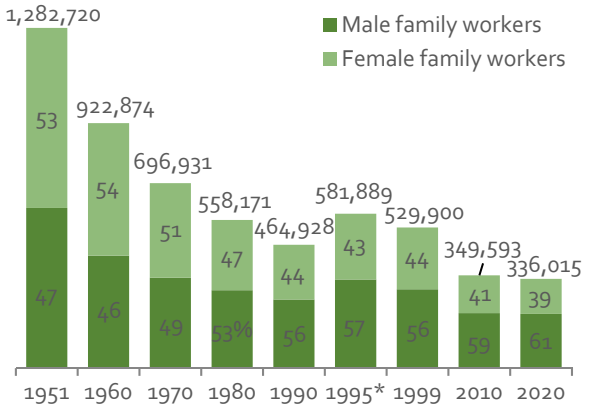

Figure 1. Family farm workers by gender in total in numbers and gender share in % to 2020
*Notes: *Methodological adjustment with EU accession; before and after EU accession*
Source: Statistics Austria (2013, 2022)

The decline in labour force described above is a complex phenomenon that warrants further explanation. When considering the overall economic development since the 1950s, including the demand for labour within and outwith agriculture and forestry, it becomes apparent that this reduction should not be viewed as purely negative. This shift in the labour force has gone hand in hand with increased productivity and a more diversified and inclusive workforce in the economy overall. Indeed, it has a positive influence on productivity growth, farm structure, and the overall growth of farm sizes. Additionally, it allows women to explore other activities and professions, thereby expanding their interests and opportunities (see Kirner et al., 2018). Nevertheless, all in all, as countries have developed, the share of labour force as well as female family labour declines over time, see the US (United States) (USDA, 2023) or EU (Eurostat, 2019). This development is

Box 1: Glossary of terms

The following terms used in this fact-sheet are based on the Farm Structure Survey (Statistics Austria, 2013, 2022).

Labour force covers family and non-family labour force. These are persons from the age of 16 who were employed in agricultural or forestry holdings, either as their main occupation or as a secondary occupation within the twelve months prior to the day of the survey. Furthermore, persons who had reached the retirement age but continued to work for the holding were also included as agricultural laborer in this survey; however, their main occupation is actually recorded as "retired." The following activities were not considered as work for the holding: (i) work for the private household of the owner/operator or the farm manager and their families, and (ii) work for a non-agricultural company owned by the same owner/operator.

Family labour force covers the owner/operator employed in their own holding and the family members and relatives employed (even part-time) in the agricultural and forestry holding.

The **farm holder** is the natural person, on whose account and in whose name the holding is operated and who is legally and financially responsible for the holding. If the holder is a group holding, the data relates to the person considered holder.

The **farm manager** is the natural person responsible for the normal daily financial and production routines of running the holding.

primarily caused by the mechanisation and specialisation of agriculture and forestry.

> *"The female workforce – overall and of the family – declines more steeply than the male workforce."*

Box 2: Farm Structure Survey

This statistical survey collects data on the structure of agricultural and forestry holdings. It includes details about their size, legal status, occupation type and tenure. According to EU legislation, a census is conducted every ten years, with sample surveys at three- or four-year intervals in between. All agricultural and forestry holdings that meet the minimum requirements set by the legislation are obliged to take part in the survey. (Statistics Austria, n.d.) Over time, there have been changes in the methodology applied (Reindl et al., 2016). For instance, the minimum size of holdings considered was 1/2 ha total area in 1951–1970, 1 ha total area in 1970–1990 and 1995- 2020 1 ha utilised agricultural area (except for specialty crops) or 3 ha utilised forestry area, whereas in 2020 it was about 3 ha utilised agricultural area (except for specialty crops) or 3 ha utilised forestry area along with extra criteria for certain types of farming (Reindl et al., 2016; Statistics Austria, 2022). This emphasises the consideration of methodological changes when interpreting data series. Some series also show a clear data cut between "before EU-accession" and "after EU accession," see Figure 1.

Gender characteristics of farm management

The gender disparities can be observed in farm management in Austria by focusing on key aspects such as leadership positions, farm size, age groups, financial performance, and educational level. Analysing these aspects provides insights into the evolving roles of men and women in agriculture and forestry as well as identifies opportunities to promote gender equality.

Leading position: farm holder and/or manager

When it comes to the farm manager (or holder) position, women are still underrepresented in Austria, as shown in Figure 2. The majority of farms are still held by men, namely almost two thirds in the year 2020, compared to 77% in the year 1951. Consequently, the management of farms is still the man's affair. But women in such positions are on the rise. From 1951 to 2020, the proportion of female farm holders rose by 6 percentage points from 23% to 29% (26% in 1995). Since 1995, the number of female managers developed similarly, it increased by 7 percentage points reaching 35% in 2020 (27% in 1995). Traditionally, men have been more likely than women to hold farm management positions in the EU (Eurostat, 2019) and the US (USDA, 2023). This also reflects the farm holder situation (Eurostat, 2019; IFAD, 2022).

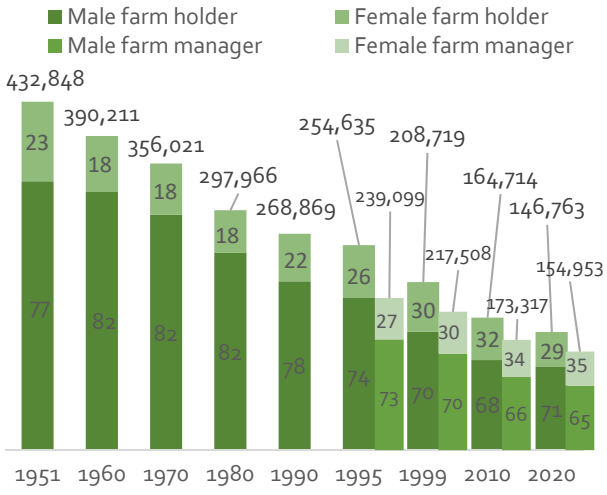

Figure 2. Farm holders and managers by gender in total numbers and gender share in % to 2020
Note: Farmer holders are in the Austrian statistics since 1951, whereas the farm manager has been recorded since 1995 when Austria joined the EU.
Source: Statistics Austria (2013, 2022)

However, here it should not be forgotten that, while statistically speaking more men than

women hold managerial posts, in most cases women's involvement in their capacity as partner is not negligible. This notwithstanding, gender roles and the division of labour in farm management remain largely traditional, with only slight differences observed between male- and female-led farms (Griesbacher, 2015; Oedl-Wieser and Wiesinger, 2010). Furthermore, gender-specific socialisation, the existence of prejudice and glass ceilings and the predominance of patrilineal inheritance contribute to the underrepresentation of women in management positions (see Rossier and Wyss, 2007).

> *"Despite the historical gender gap in farm holding and management, the increasing share of women holding and managing farms indicates a shift towards greater gender equality in agriculture and forestry."*

Farm size

Austria is a country of small structured farms although there is a trend towards larger farms. The data of the Farm Structure Survey 2020 (Statistics Austria, 2022) shows that farm size also plays a role in gender disparities. On average, male farm managers operate larger agricultural land holdings compared to female farm managers. In 2020, a male-owned farm cultivated an average Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) of 18.8 ha, while female-managed farms averaged 12.5 ha. Over the years, the differences varied in magnitude but generally speaking on average women cultivate one third less area. (BAB, 2023). All in all, smaller farms are more likely to be managed by women.

These results are reflected in studies in Europe (European Union 2019), Latin America (Deere and León, 2003) and Africa (FAO, 1997; Tigist and Avel, 2020) showing that male controlled land holdings are generally larger than female-controlled ones. Furthermore, land title and tenure tend to be vested in men, either by legal condition or by socio-cultural norms. Land reform and resettlement have tended to reinforce this bias against tenure for women. Land shortage is common among women. Women farm smaller and more dispersed plots than men and are less likely to hold title, secure tenure, or have the same rights to use, improve, or dispose of land (World Bank, 2008).

> *"The bigger the farms are, the fewer women are managers."*

Age groups

Figure 3 reveals a persistent gender age gap in farm management, with male farm managers consistently outnumbering their female counterparts across all age groups and years analysed. Notably, number of women in management roles increases with age. The highest proportion of female farm managers is found among those over 55 years old. Additionally, when comparing the same age groups across different years, fluctuations in the distribution of men and women are evident. This indicates that women are more likely to assume management roles as they gain experience and age, while the proportion of male managers tends to decrease with age. Moreover, social and pension laws also play an important role (Oedl-Wieser and Wiesinger, 2010).

Figure 3. Number of farm managers by age group to 2020
Source: Statistics Austria (2013, 2022)

In the European context, it is noteworthy that 42% of women working in agriculture and forestry are over 65 years old, compared to only 29% of the men. The gender age gap in farming, therefore, may widen in the coming years (European Commission, 2021).

> *"The proportion of female managers tends to increase with the age, whereas the share of male managers tends to decrease."*

Box 3: ZAMm course – for more professional engagement in agricultural and regional committees

The certificate course "ZAMm Professional Representation Work in Rural Areas" aims to address the gender imbalance in the agricultural sector through specialised training for female farmers. The course covers various topics such as personal skills, agribusiness, agricultural policy, leadership skills, and public relations. It consists of five two-day modules with 80 teaching units. Graduates have the option to participate in a study trip to the European institutions in Brussels. Since its inception in 2011, 43 courses have been conducted in all provinces except Vienna, with a total of 528 graduates. For further information see www.lfi.at/zam.

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Differences in the financial performance

Yet, even with female farmers expending extra effort (worldwide, women work more hours per year than men), they significantly lag behind their male counterparts when it comes to per-farm revenues from agriculture and forestry. Agricultural Accounting Data from BAB (2023) reveals that in 2016, on average, female-managed farms had per-farm revenues of 24% lower than those managed by men, and this gap increased to 46% by 2021. This discrepancy mainly stems from the fact that female farmers typically cultivate smaller and less intensive farms, often with fewer animals per hectare. On average, female-run farms produce 20 to 30% less than farms operated by men. Further studies conducted by Fremstad and Paul (2020) and Fisher et al. (2022) highlight that farm operations in the US are among the most gender-unequal occupations in the US. The reasons for this disparity, as assumed by the FAO, are not related to women's aptitude for agriculture and forestry but rather to the presence of gender-specific obstacles (Duckett, n.d.). Addressing these challenges is essential to creating a more equitable, thriving, and resilient agricultural and forestry sector that ensures equal economic outcomes for female farmers.

> *"It is more likely that female-managed farms have lower per-farm revenues than those managed by men."*

Educational level

According to Statistics Austria (2022), the analysis of farm managers' professional training categorised by gender reveals some interesting findings. Among male managers, 32% reported having the highest level of training as a "skilled worker qualification," while this proportion was slightly lower at 26% for female managers. Additionally, 9% of men and approximately 7% of women held the position of "master craftsmen" in the agricultural and forestry sector. Regarding formal education, 5% of male farm managers and 3% of female farm managers had graduated from an agricultural secondary school. The percentage of graduates from institutions such as the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life

Sciences was 1.8% for male managers and 1.2% for female managers. Interestingly, while 52% of male farm managers relied exclusively on practical experience as their training for farm management, in the case of women the percentage (63%) was higher. Nevertheless, male farm managers tend to take advantage of opportunities for further education more frequently than their female counterparts. Here the male quota is 66%.
Upon examining the educational backgrounds of farm managers, it becomes evident that male managers tend to have higher levels of agricultural education and training compared to their female counter-parts. They often possess more extensive and advanced qualifications in the field. Equally, the World Bank (2008) highlights that women in parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East tend to have lower levels of formal education. Globally, women, active in agriculture and forestry, face challenges in accessing education and training opportunities.

> *"More male farm managers have a higher quality agricultural education than their female counterparts."*

Gender-pension gap

Financial stability, which serves as an overall indicator of well-being, also hides the inequalities in access to financial resources and the economic situation of women and men. An analysis of gender gaps in financial terms reveals that women are generally at a disadvantage compared to men, with few exceptions. The gender pay gap, as an unadjusted indicator, provides an overall picture of the differences between men and women in terms of pensions and encompasses a broader concept beyond "equal pay for work of equal value." Differences in the average characteristics of male and female work activities on a farm contribute to a portion of the disparity in pensions. However, when interpreting the following numbers, it is advisable to consider that the focus here is on the farmer's pension. There may be diverse sources of pensions originating from non-agricultural income. It is, therefore, important to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the total pension receive.
Female farmers tend to earn less on average than men, resulting in lower pensions. The gap between women's and men's pensions for farmers in Austria is reminiscent of the gap in per-farm revenues. According to data from the Social Insurance Institute (SVS, n.d.), the pension gap for self-employed workers in agriculture and forestry, measured by the average annual pension received, stands at 40%, while the gender per-farm revenue gap is 43%. This means that from 2019 to 2021 on average women in Austria received EUR 536 less pension than men per month. The progress in closing the pension gap has been exceedingly slow (see Figure 4).

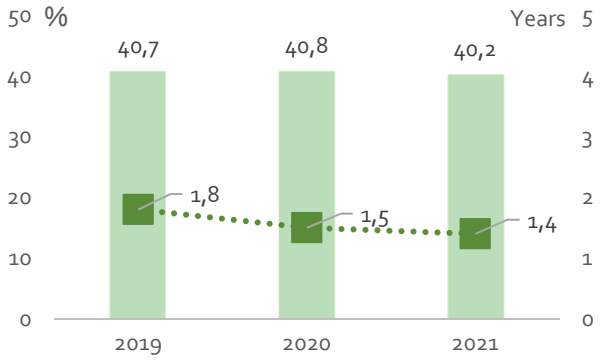

Figure 4. Pension (in %) and retirement age (in years) gap by gender to 2021
Note: based on data from the Social Security for Farmers
Source: SVS (n.d.)

The Austrian pension scheme still specifies different retirement ages based on gender, with women retiring at a lower age than men. Women, who are on social security of self-employed workers in agriculture and forestry, retire at an average age of 59.3 years, while men continue working until around 60.9 years. Over the past three years, the retirement age gap has gradually decreased from 1.8 years in 2019, through 1.5 in 2020 to 1.4 years in 2021 (SVS, n.d.). However, reflection is needed on the significance of these figures, including the total pension received and if they encompass other pension schemes. While women currently benefit in the pension system, adjustments to men's retirement age are beginning to take effect, indicating progress towards equity. Austria's high share of part-time farming and early retirement options for farmers also impact the current gender-biased pension system.

These disparities are further compounded by women's responsibilities for household maintenance being unpaid family labour neither earning income nor contributing to a pension. Care work, such as cooking, cleaning, child care, and elder-care, often falls disproportionately on women. This often results in, a higher risk of women retiring into poverty compared to their male counterparts (UN, 2020).

> *"Women in agriculture and forestry earn less on average than men, which also leads to a gender pension gap."*

Female representation in agricultural interest groups

Austrian female farmers have actively engaged in agricultural politics and representing women's issues in the field of politics. The focus is on examining gender relations in leading and representation positions and committees within the Chamber of Agriculture.

In Austria, there are nine Chambers of Agriculture, one for each province. These chambers have a consistent structure, including local farmers' committees, district farmers' chambers, and headquarters in Vienna and each provincial capital city. In 2023, all Presidents of the nine Austrian Chambers of Agriculture are male. However, among the 13 Vice-Presidents, eight are women, representing various regions. When examining the administrative structure, all nine chamber offices are led by men. Out of 87 specialist departments, only 16 have female department heads. At the district level, only two out of 56 chambers are led by women (Chamber of Agriculture, undated). However, the General Assemblies of the provincial Chambers, the representation of women varies, as depicted in Figure 5. On average, the proportion of women in the General Assembly is only 23%. Burgenland leads with a female chamber councillor representation of 34%, followed by Upper Austria (31%) and Vienna (30%). Carinthia (20%), Lower Austria (25%), and Salzburg (29%) fall in the middle range. Vorarlberg has the lowest representation with only 11% female chamber councillors, while Styria and Tyrol have 17% each. Overall, the current gender ratio in agricultural bodies does not adequately reflect the status of female farmers in Austria, as they remain significantly under-represented.

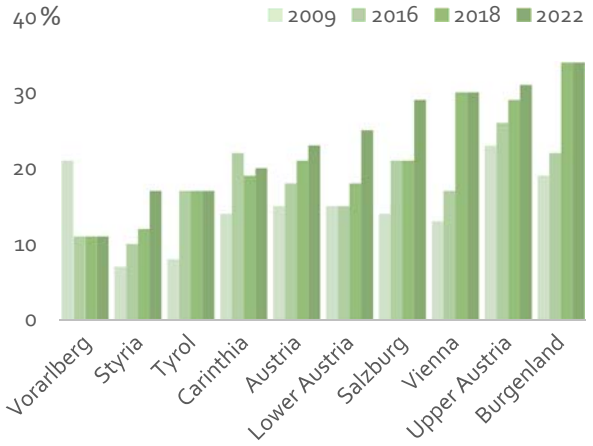

Figure 5 Share of women (in %) in the General Assembly of the provinces to 2022
Source: Ifi (2020), Wolf (mail conversation, Chamber of Agriculture, Vienna, 2 May 2023)

> *"There is a significant difference in the proportion of female chamber representatives. Women are less likely to be found in representation positions."*

Driving inclusive and sustainable development through empowering women

The results presented above highlight the importance of addressing gender inequalities. It is crucial to recognise and acknowledge the significant role played by women in the sector, which extends beyond the statistics provided. The result of making women more visible in agriculture and forestry highlights their contribution to SDGs. In fact, broaching the subject of gender inequality touches on a number of the SDGs as follows.

Inclusive practices closely align with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. Furthermore, they also encompass SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals due to the need for balanced representation of agricultural interest groups and the under-representation of women in these organisations. This under-representation indicates a gender imbalance in decision-making processes, emphasising the importance of greater inclusion of women in governance structures relevant to agriculture and forestry.

Moreover, it is also important to recognise that women's contributions to the remaining SDGs should not be underestimated. While there may be potential trade-offs between certain goals, it is important to highlight that women also make significant contributions to SDGs that were not addressed above. Expanding the scope of statistics and analysis to encompass these additional SDGs will emphasise the multifaceted role of women in agriculture and forestry in promoting sustainable development across various sectors and goals.

In summary, in order to achieve inclusive agriculture and forestry, it is imperative to provide equal opportunities for women in terms of ownership, management positions, educational level, resource access, and fair remuneration. Policies and interventions that promote gender equality, empower women, and bridge existing gaps are pivotal in realising the vision of an inclusive and sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Enhancing understanding and addressing challenges

Recognising and supporting the pivotal roles of women is crucial in order to harness their full potential as agents of change, contributing to a sustainable development in agriculture and forestry. In this context, the availability of accurate gender-disaggregated data is essential. Such data is instrumental in comprehending and addressing the realities and challenges faced by women in agriculture and forestry. By identifying specific hurdles and gaps, policymakers and organisations can develop targeted interventions and formulate policies that foster gender equality and empower women in agriculture and forestry.

To enhance the understanding of women's roles and effectively address the inequalities and challenges they face, the following points should form the basis for further research:

- The comparability and visibility of gender-disaggregated data: Focusing on gender-specific data collection and analysis sheds light on inconsistencies in indicators across different statistics and areas of investigation. This leads to a more comprehensive understanding of gender dynamics in Austria. It is important to analyse data collected from a gender perspective. Doing so provides insights not only into the inconsistencies in the indicators depending on the statistics and area of investigation but also into data gaps and limitations. Furthermore, it is crucial to disseminate publications that reach a wide audience and ensure that the numbers penetrate the realms of stakeholders, policymakers, and administrators in order to drive meaningful change.
- More triangulation of quantitative and qualitative research: The combination of primary and secondary quantitative statistics, along with qualitative research data (interviews or case studies), can lead to a more comprehensive and meaningful analysis of the situation of women in agriculture and forestry. Furthermore, correlating the period of data collection between the Farm Structure Survey and the Survey of Female Farmers in Austria (Mayr et al., 2016) would enhance the quality of information. It is also worth considering conducting the female farmers study simultaneously with other countries (Dehoff and Rossen, 2021; Davier et al., 2023; Piper et al., 2023). Potentially, this would lead to the identification of any needs, requirements and possible discrimination experienced by women. This, in turn, can contribute to the development of more targeted measures and policies to advance gender equality in this sector.
- Additional research: Further systematic literature review papers would increase the visibility of women's issues in agriculture and forestry. These reviews can capture the diverse experiences and contributions of women in different agricultural contexts, identify key actors, and uncover new research topics. Research themes stemming from this factsheet could include investigating the drivers behind

women's presence in agriculture and forestry, examining the specific challenges they face in resource access, education, and farm management across different Austrian regions. Additionally, exploring how women-managed farms affect their access to financing, technology, and market opportunities, as well as studying the impact of gender composition in farm labor on productivity and overall farm performance, would complement the above. Moreover, understanding the gender wage gap and identifying the barriers and opportunities for women in obtaining leadership positions and decision-making roles in agricultural organisations requires further research. Lastly, it is important to assess the distinct contributions of women in agriculture and forestry compared to men towards achieving the SDGs.

- Development of a policy paper: The promotion of a participatory approach in developing a policy paper involves engaging stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, including women farmers, agricultural organisations, research institutions, and government agencies. By fostering collaboration and exchange, this approach ensures the inclusion of various perspectives and areas of expertise. Recognising the value of women's knowledge and experiences, this participatory process empowers them and enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of the policy paper. By creating a sense of ownership and shared responsibility, the policy paper can become a catalyst for transformative change and the advancement of gender equality in farming and rural development.

Box 4: The situation of female farmers in Austria

In order to get insights in their work and living conditions Austrian female farmers were surveyed every 10 years since 1976[2]. The Austrian Association of Female Farmers, formerly known as the Working Group for Rural Women, is the driving force behind this initiative.

The female farmers survey in 2016 (Mayr et al., 2016) collected a comprehensive dataset encompassing various aspects, such as the daily life on the farm, household situations, personal circumstances, volunteer work, specific information and training programs, as well as details about the farm, the farmer, and their partner. Crucial topics including the perception of agriculture, self-assessment of media portrayal, and the future of farming are also explored. On that, the Austrian Association of Female Farmers (ARGE Österreichische Bäuerinnen, n.d.) has prepared a policy paper.

Key messages

1

Enhancing the visibility of women's contributions in agriculture and forestry requires utilising gender-disaggregated statistics and information. Recognising and acknowledging the work and achievements of women in this sector is crucial for their full inclusion and societal recognition. While progress has been made, residual inequalities continue to pose challenges, necessitating on-going efforts to address the structural barriers that perpetuate gender disparities.

2

For female farmers these inequalities are evident in the lower levels of education, less access to resources and less political influence compared to the male. This leads to disadvantages for instance in the ability and skills required to effectively manage the farms, make decisions, and play a representative role in agricultural organisations. Traditional gender roles are still limiting women's opportunities and decision-making powers.

3

In Austria, there are various initiatives and programs aiming to empower women in agriculture and forestry, promote their skills and knowledge, and increase their participation in decision-making processes. These strive to reduce gen-der inequalities and ensure equal opportunities and rights for female farmers.

4

Stakeholders, policymakers, and administrators should actively utilise and validate the research done to ensure that women's roles are accurately acknowledged, fostering a more inclusive and gender equitable sector.

[1] *This factsheet is an outcome of the BAB project "Mapping Gender – analysis and graphical presentation of gender-disaggregated data in the field of agriculture and rural areas" and a follow-up work on the factsheets "Women in the Austrian Agriculture" (Oedl-Wieser et al., 2012).*

[2] *The surveys conducted every ten years have seen various changes in methodologies, sample selection, and scope. Until 2006, agricultural farms formed the survey population, but in 2016, it shifted to the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS). Initially targeting young and senior female farmers in 1976, 1986, 1996, and 2006, the 2016 survey introduced a focus on active female farmers, excluding those not yet taking over a farm (young female farmers) or those already retired (senior female farmers). The 2016 survey also marked the first online survey, with 2,432 female farmers participating, including both young and senior farmers, and 2,200 active female farmers specifically. Notably, the survey size increased over the years, with approximately 1,000 female farmers surveyed in 1976 and 1986, 1,043 in 1996, and 1,166 in 2016.For more details see Mayr et al. (2016, p. 111).*

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