



## WEBINAR

**Women and land access rights in North Africa**

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# Women and Land Access Rights in Sudan

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# INTRODUCTION

- Women enjoy limited rights to get access to land in most African countries
- Women rights under customary system vary from place to another
- between patrilineal and matrilineal societies. with women generally having greater land rights under matrilineal systems.

# Land tenure systems in Sudan

- Despite of modernization, Sudan remains rural in economic and cultural outlooks.
- Land in Sudan constitute the central issue to all rural communities .
- There are two land tenure systems in Sudan ; Customary and statutory .

# Cont.

- **Customary land tenure** is characterized by its largely unwritten nature, is based on local practices and norms, and is flexible, negotiable and location specific. Customary systems are usually managed by land or village chief, traditional rulers or elders. These systems are not static, but continually evolving as a result of diverse socio-economic changes, cultural interaction and political processes.
- **State systems of land tenure** are usually based on written laws and regulations, on acts of centralized or decentralized government agencies and on judicial decision. The principles underlying such systems derive from citizenship, nation-building and constitutional rights. Land rights are allocated and confirmed through the issuance of titles or other forms of ownership registration.

# Women Land Access rights

- Women's access to land is influenced by several inter-related factors, from the social and cultural, to the economic, legal and political, and from the household level to the international level.
- Addressing social norms and links between social beliefs and gender equality in multiple socio-economic and political dimensions is an important entry point for understanding gender aspects.
- **The most remarkable access of women to land is through participation in Agriculture**

# Women and Agriculture

- Woman is the main worker in agricultural production in rural areas of Sudan.
- women's participation in agriculture production amounts to 87% in the traditional sector . Their participation drops to 10% in the modern mechanized agricultural sector where traditional female.
- IN Western Sudan, while they cultivate land belonging to their husband or other male family members, women cannot themselves own land dure to customary system.
- in Northen state, women farmers mainly cultivate in Basins and irrigated farms which constitutes 3.8% of all cultivated lands. The northern region has the lowest rate of female participation in economic activities (1.5%).

# Key challenges of women access to land in Sudan

- **Political, policy challenges.**
  - Sudan has neither adopted policy and legal reforms to promote gender equality on land.
- **Women access to land and economic challenges**
  - few have land ownership rights, and thus lack the collateral needed for credit and for membership in cooperatives, and extension services.
  - Privately-owned lands are usually registered in the name of the head of household
- **Challenges of socio-cultural aspects and patriarchal system**
  - Due to patriarchal lineage, and most major decisions are taken by men. Women usually do not participate in decision-making.
  - limited participation in customary land management institutions
  - A married woman may gain access to land (subjected to change)
  - Unmarried get access through father and exposed to victimization by brothers



# War and women access to land

- Less participation of women in decision making have been changed because of the war. Women have been the main decision makers at family and work level due to absence of family head.
- Women face risks of sexual violence are high for girls and young women mainly when farming, fetching water, collecting wood outside the camps, and due to armed groups and militias.
- Conflicts between pastoralist and farmers are also, triggered by women farmers complaining about the livestock destruction of their cultivated lands
- Women are still often mentioned as victims rather than active partners and contributors to prevention of conflict

# Conclusion and recommendations

- Initiatives on development of land resources are ineffective if women are viewed as victims and not as active agents of change in their society.
- when women do not own land, their participation in cultivation is quite meager - particularly in schemes based on tenancy distribution.
- general social acceptance of women's work will increase their participation in economic activity.
- **Recommendations:**
  - The ranks of policy makers concerning land access and use, should include many women.
  - Women's organizations should act as pressure groups to lobby for changes
  - Women must be given all the needed encouragement to obtain access to training, capital and facilities.

***Thank you for***

***Attendance***

***Interaction***

***Participation &***

***Comments***