

Gender and international climate policy

An analysis of progress in gender equality at COP21



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security



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1. The gender gap in agriculture and climate change



- 79% of women in least developed countries report agriculture as their primary economic activity
- Lower access to resources, land, inputs and labour
- **Productivity gap**: smaller and less profitable farms, in less profitable sectors
- **Closing the gender gap** will increase yields by 20-30% and raise agricultural outputs by 2.5 – 4 %, reducing hungry by 100-150 million



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- Gender differences exist in vulnerabilities and capacities to deal with climate change impacts
- Household responsibilities for women include childcare, fuelwood and water collection and increased agricultural work responsibilities when men out-migrate
- Women may be less able to adapt because of financial or resource constraints and because they have less access to information and extension services
- Environmental stress causes intensification of women's workloads, as well as decreases in assets of poor households



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- Women are less likely to buy micro-insurance if risk is low-probability, while men are likely to buy more units of insurance (Bangladesh)
- Women's participation in REDD+ decision making is very low (Vietnam)
- Men and women are changing cropping practices in response to climate variability, with different impacts on access to and control of the income from crops, as well as workloads
- Cultural norms related to gender roles may limit the ability of women to respond to or make quick decisions in the face of climate events.
- Differences in interactions with institutions



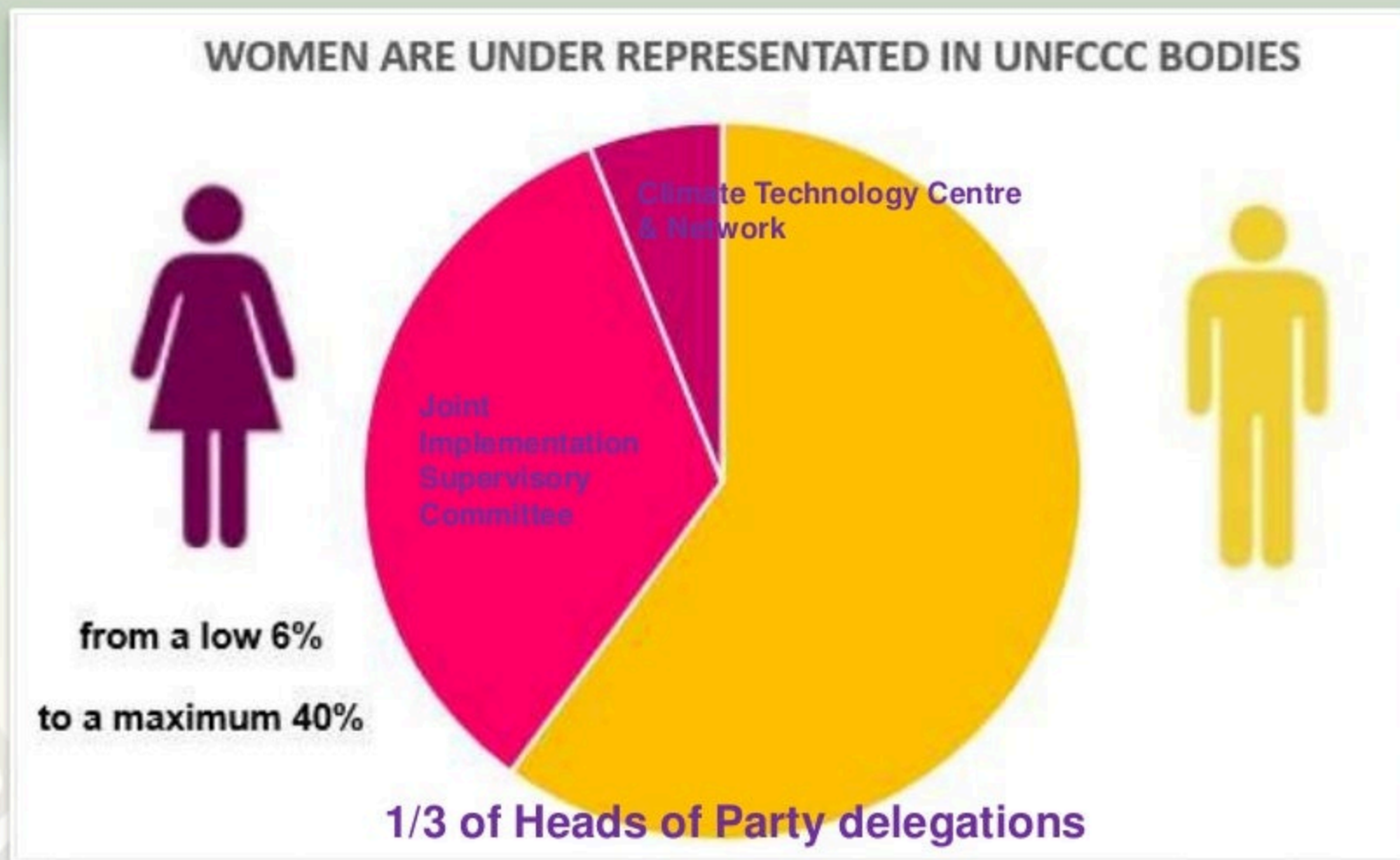
- Without women, the 1.5 C degree global target will be that much more elusive.
- Failure to support women to address climate change may contribute to an increase in global gender inequalities including the global gender gap in agriculture.

2. How can national and global climate frameworks address gender issues?



- Climate change policies need to take into account gender differences, roles and capacities, particularly in relation to agriculture
- We know women are active agents of change in developing responses to climate change
- Women's participation in climate change policy is low

We are far from gender parity in climate institutions



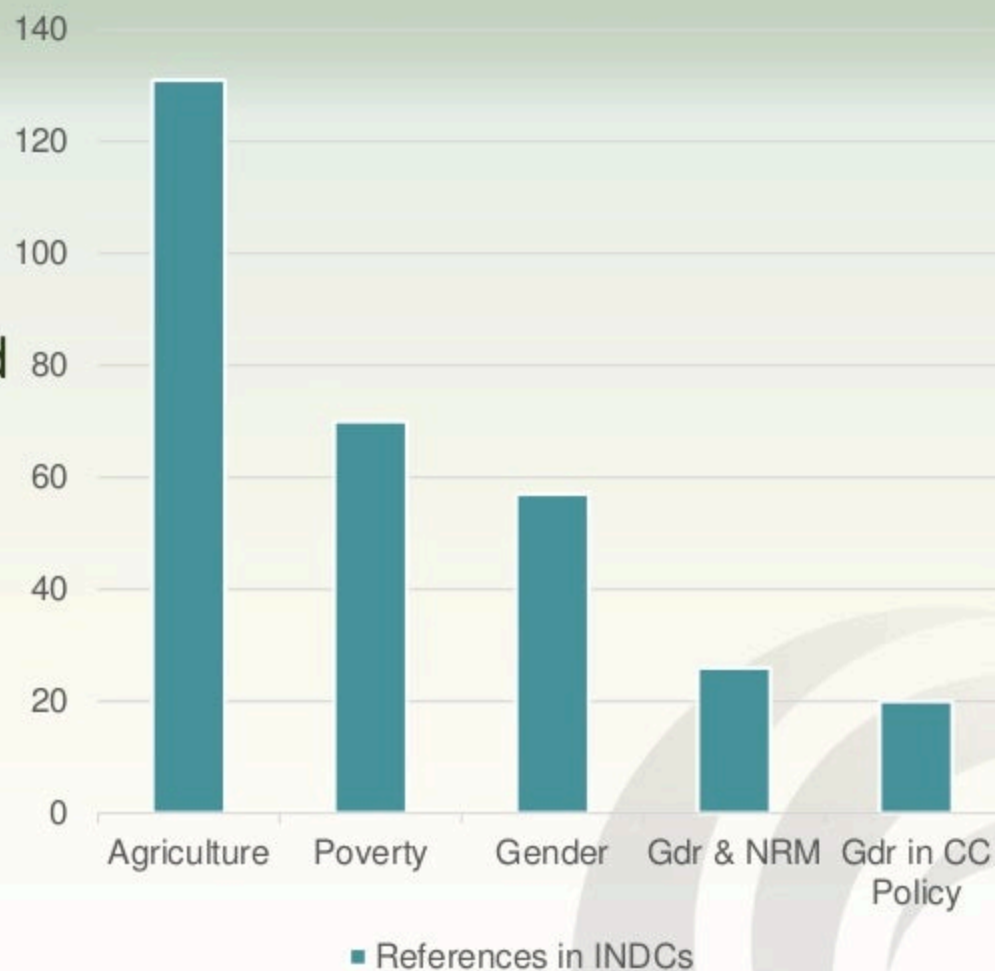
Women's participation in climate change related decision-making is low

Gender in the UNFCCC

UNFCCC policy

- 50 decisions of the UNFCCC support the recognition and integration of gender considerations
- Paris Agreement: actions should take into account gender equality and women's empowerment
- It calls for gender-responsive actions in capacity building

References in INDCs



What's missing?

- Women are considered “vulnerable victims”, need to support resilience – majority of INDC references
- Lack of recognition of women’s knowledge and innovation or their role in addressing climate change
- Where is the monitoring and evaluation for real change?
- Alignment with global gender policy: Gender equality, human rights, active role of women
- Need to get beyond focus on numerical representation



Opportunities for input and advocacy

- REDD+
- Green Climate Fund
- Clean Development Mechanism
- Global Environment Facility
- Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)
- NEPAD Development Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (NEPAD-CAADP)
- June 2016 workshop of the Lima Work Programme on Gender;
- Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice next May (SBSTA 44)

Thank you



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