



LEARNING ABOUT
5 a.1
INDICATOR

SDG Indicator 5.a.1 - Equal tenure rights for women on agricultural land

Lesson: Introduction to indicator on equal tenure rights for women on agricultural land

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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working for Zero Hunger

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Introduction to indicator on equal tenure right for women on agricultural land

This lesson introduces Indicator 5.a.1 on equal tenure rights for women on agricultural land, its role in the SDG monitoring framework, and especially its relationship with the other Target 5.a Indicator, 5.a.2.

Learning objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- define Target 5.a of Goal 5;
- define Indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, their complementarity and their relationship with Target 5.a;
- articulate the importance of measuring gender-based disparities in land rights;
- interpret the 5.a.1 Indicator, and use results for policy- making and for tracking progress over time.

Goal 5 and its targets

Goal 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 5 is known as the stand-alone gender goal, and refers to countries' commitment to end gender discrimination across the spectrum. It has nine **different targets**, and this course is concerned with the seventh of these:

Target 5.1	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere .
Target 5.2	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
Target 5.3	Eliminate all harmful practices , such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation .
Target 5.4	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family, as nationally appropriate.
Target 5.5	Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

<p>Target 5.6</p>	<p>Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.</p>
<p>Target 5.a</p>	<p>Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p> <p>FAO is the custodian agency for the indicators monitoring target 5.a.</p> <p><i>What do we mean by land ownership?</i></p> <p>A legally recognized right to use and to transfer land. In private property systems, this is a right akin to a freehold tenure. In systems where land is owned by the state, the term land ownership refers to possession of the rights most akin to ownership in a private property system - for instance, long-term leases, occupancy, tenancy or use rights granted by the state, often for several decades, and that are transferrable.</p> <p><i>What do we mean by control over land?</i></p> <p>The ability to make decisions about land.</p> <p>Along with aspects related to land ownership, this may include rights to make decisions about how the land should be used, including which crops should be planted, and rights to benefit financially from the sale of crops.</p>
<p>Target 5.b</p>	<p>Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.</p>
<p>Target 5.c</p>	<p>Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.</p>

Why is Target 5.a important?

Women’s and men’s **equal access to resources** is a **basic human right**.

Discrimination based on sex is prohibited under all the major human rights treaties, which provide for the rights to equality between men and women in the enjoyment of all rights.

The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** includes three articles on gender equality.

Gender equality in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Article 2: prohibits discrimination based on sex.

Article 3: guarantees equality between women and men.

Article 26: enshrines equality before the law, and can be applied to defend women's right to non-discrimination and equality in the legal framework, not only with respect to civil and political rights, but also with regards to economic and social rights.

View full document: www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx

The **Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, known as the bill of rights for women, emphasizes that discrimination against women "violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity".

Non-discrimination and gender equality in the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Article 1 states:

"For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "**discrimination** against women" shall mean **any distinction, exclusion or restriction** made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of **human rights and fundamental freedoms** in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field".

Article 3 states:

"States Parties shall take **in all fields**, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, **all appropriate measures**, including **legislation**, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the **exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms** on a basis of equality with men".

[CEDAW Committee www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx)

The effects of gender inequality

Long-lasting gender inequalities in the **distribution of economic and financial resources** have positioned **women at a disadvantage** relative to men in their ability to participate in, contribute to and benefit from broader processes of development.

While some evidence from different countries and across all regions suggests that women are less productive than men, numerous studies demonstrate that **women farmers, entrepreneurs and**

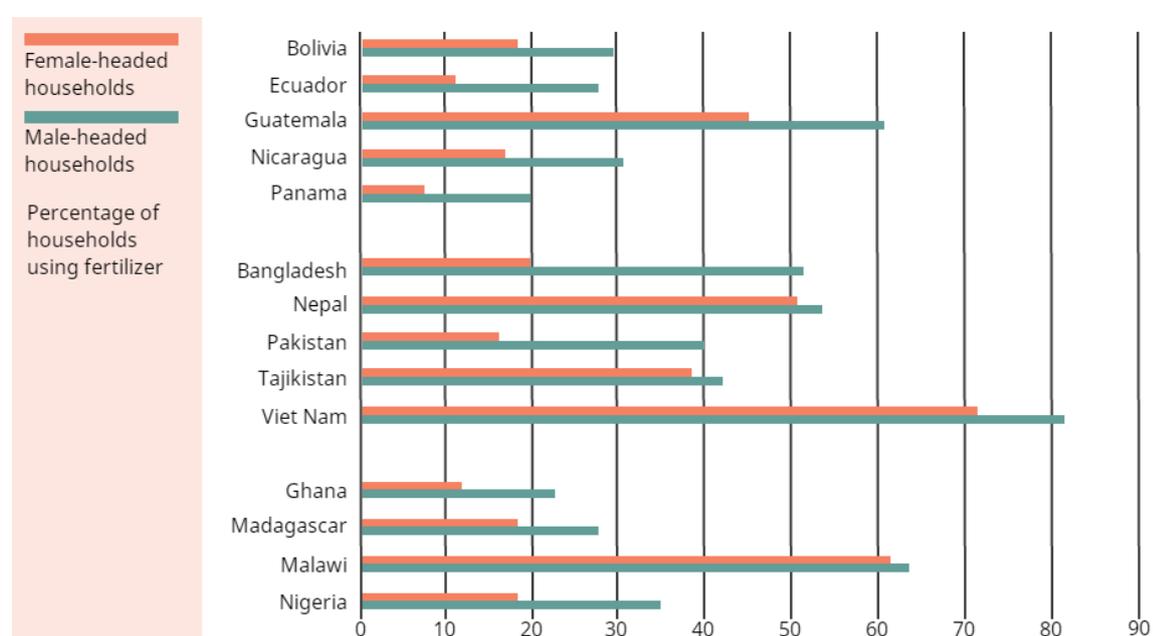
workers are as productive as men when given access to the same productive resources and services as men.

Unequal access to productive resources and services

Evidence shows that women do not in fact receive equal access to productive resources and services.

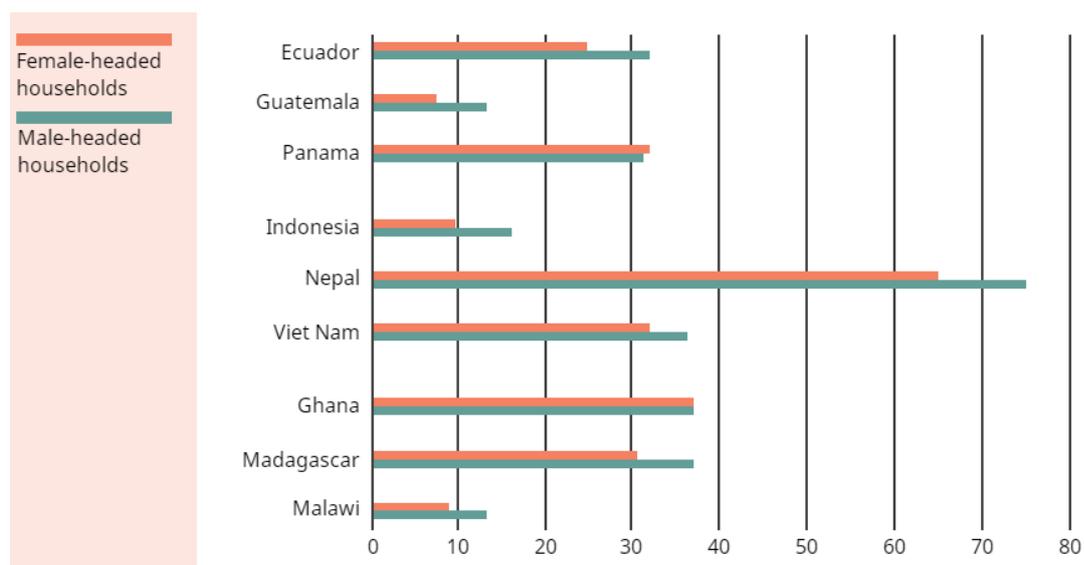
Access to new agricultural technology, such as **fertilizer** and pest control, is crucial in maintaining and improving agricultural productivity. Gender gaps exist for a wide range of these technologies.

Fertilizer use by female and male-headed households



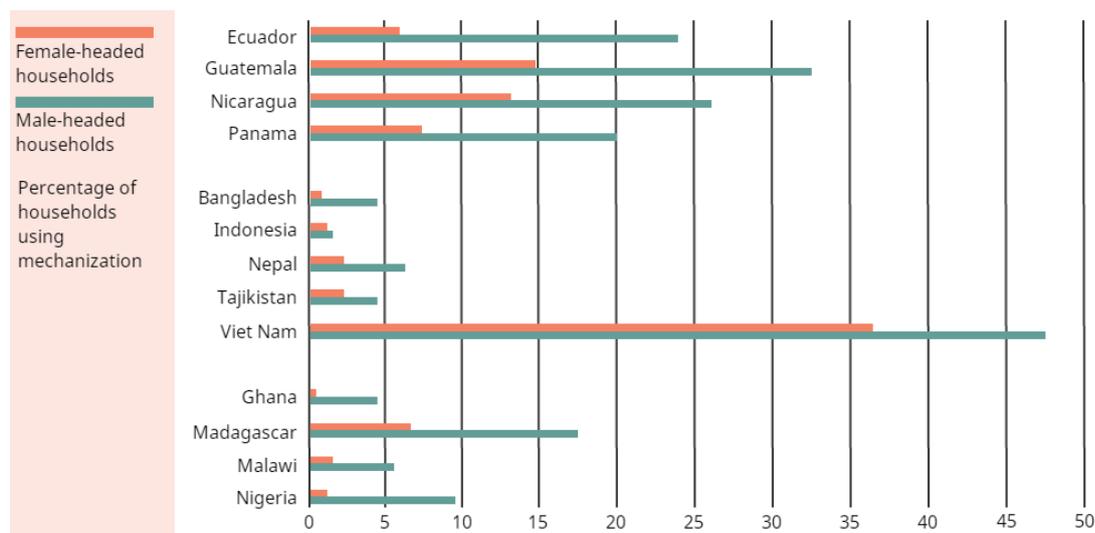
Financial services such as savings, credit and insurance offer the chance to improve agricultural output, food security and economic vitality at household, community and national levels.

Credit use by female and male-headed households in rural areas



The share of farmers using **mechanical equipment** and tools is quite low in all countries, but it is significantly lower for farmers in female-headed households, sometimes by a very wide margin.

Mechanical equipment use by female and male-headed households in rural areas



Key development outcomes created by gender equality

Greater gender equality in the distribution of economic resources contributes to **economic efficiency** and has positive **multiplier effects** on the achievement of a range of other key development outcomes:

↳ Poverty reduction

Greater gender equality in asset ownership contributes to poverty reduction through **increased productivity** and stronger **participation in income-generating activities**. For example, in Ghana, evidence found that higher tenure security for women reduces productivity losses.

↳ Food security

The available evidence shows that greater gender equality in asset ownership is associated with stronger food security. For instance, in Nepal, mothers who own land are **less likely** to have **malnourished children**.

↳ Increased welfare (of women, households, communities and countries)

Greater gender equality in asset ownership contributes to increased welfare. For example, it has been shown that mothers' ownership of assets is related to:

- increased **educational attainment** of daughters (in Ethiopia), and of sons (in Indonesia), and
- better **health outcomes** for girls (in Bangladesh).

How can we measure progress under Target 5.a?

Since the scope of Target 5.a is broad and overarching, it is important to break it down and define indicators that address different parts of the target. There are two indicators which are used to monitor achievements under Target 5.a, and both focus on equal rights to land ownership and/or control over land.

*But **why** is it a good idea to **focus on land** rather than other aspects?*

Land is a key **economic resource**, which is inextricably **linked** to access to, use of and control over **other economic and productive resources**.

➔ It is a key input for **agricultural production**.

➔ It can be used as **collateral to access financial resources**, extension services or to join producer organizations.

➔ It can **generate income directly**, if rented or sold.

Ownership of and/or control over land is critical for poverty reduction, food security, inclusiveness and overall sustainable development objectives in **both rural and urban** settings.

Why are land tenure rights important for women?

Secure **ownership and control over land** has a strong **empowering effect** on women. It:

Guarantees their **economic security** and reduces their vulnerability to **poverty**.

Reduces their **reliance on male partners** and relatives.

Increases their bargaining **power within the household**.

Improves **access to extension services** and **credit**.

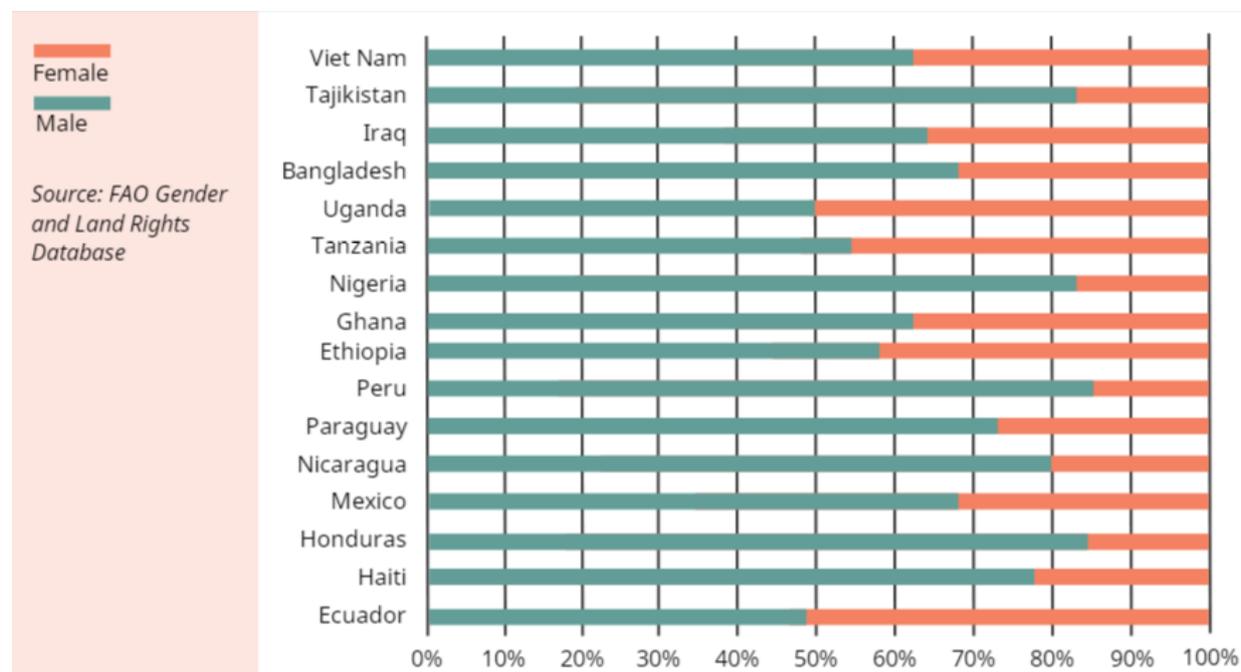
Encourages women to **undertake or expand business** investments.

Encourages women to **join producer organizations** (in rural areas).

A scarcity of statistics

Despite the clear benefits of gender equality in land ownership and control, **deep gender inequalities persist** across all regions. Unfortunately, when it comes to ownership or tenure security over agricultural land, **statistics are very scarce**. That's why **monitoring Target 5.a** is so **important**. There are only 16 countries for which we have **data on agricultural land ownership**, but since these did not use a **standardized methodology**, the data cannot be considered definitive. Even so, they show that **women are less likely to own agricultural land** than men.

Data on agricultural land ownership



Current inequality in land-holding

The data on **female agricultural holders** are more readily available than those on ownership and rights over agricultural land, and suggest a similar level of inequality.

Agricultural **census data** disseminated through the [FAO Gender and Land Rights Database](http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/) www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/ and the [World Programme for the Census of Agriculture](http://www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wcarounds/en/) www.fao.org/world-census-agriculture/wcarounds/en/ reveal that the share of **agricultural holders** who are **women** is **significantly less** than the share of holders who are men, in **all countries for which information is available**.

What is an agricultural holding?

An agricultural holding is an **economic unit of agricultural production under single management** comprising all livestock kept and all land used wholly or partly for agricultural production purposes, without regard to title, legal form or size. The holding's land may consist of **one or more parcels**, located in one or more separate areas, or in one or more territorial or administrative divisions, provided the parcels share the same production means, such as labour, farm buildings, machinery or draught animals.

What is an agricultural holder?

An agricultural holder is defined as the civil person, group of civil persons or juridical person **who makes the major decisions regarding the resource use**, and exercises **management control** over the agricultural holding operation. The agricultural holder has **technical and economical responsibility for the holding**, and may undertake all responsibilities directly, or delegate responsibilities related to day-to-day work management to a hired manager.

The two Target 5.a indicators

As mentioned before, progress under Target 5.a is monitored through **two land indicators** that focus on ownership and/or control over land. While the first one focuses on agricultural land related statistics, the second is a legal indicator.

Indicator 5.a.1 - The focus of the current course

This indicator is divided into **2 sub-indicators**:

- ➡ Percentage of **people with ownership or tenure rights** over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), **by sex**.
- ➡ Share of **women among owners or rights-bearers** of agricultural land.

It is an **output indicator**, in that it **examines the actual situation in a given country** in terms of women and men's land rights and tenure security, with a focus on agricultural land.

Indicator 5.a.2

Percentage of countries where the **legal framework** (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.

This is a **process indicator**, in that it **monitors reforms in the legal and policy framework**¹ that promote women's land rights

*How are the two indicators **used together**?*

Relationship between Indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2

Data collected under Indicator **5.a.1** form the **basis for assessing** whether there is a need for any **adjustment to the countries' legal framework** designed to guarantee women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control, particularly as it pertains to supporting women's ownership and/or control of agricultural land.

The type of adjustments required to the countries' legal framework on women's equal rights to land should be **determined using** the **evidence** provided by **statistical data**. It is also possible that **no adjustments** to the **legal framework** are **needed**. For example, a low prevalence of women's land ownership may be due to their low level of legal literacy. Therefore, a more appropriate intervention would be to target improvements to women's legal literacy.

The **analysis of the legal framework**, through Indicator **5.a.2**, helps to **identify causes and bottlenecks of gender disparities** in control over land, thereby **aiding the interpretation of the data** collected under Indicator 5.a.1.

¹ **Legal and policy framework** - The constitution, draft policy, policy, primary legislation and secondary legislation. The legal and policy framework includes customary legal systems where these have been recognized by statutory law.

The two 5.a.1 sub-indicators

Indicator 5.a.1 is divided into two sub-indicators, **a** and **b**.

Sub indicator a	Sub indicator b
Percentage of people with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex .	Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land.

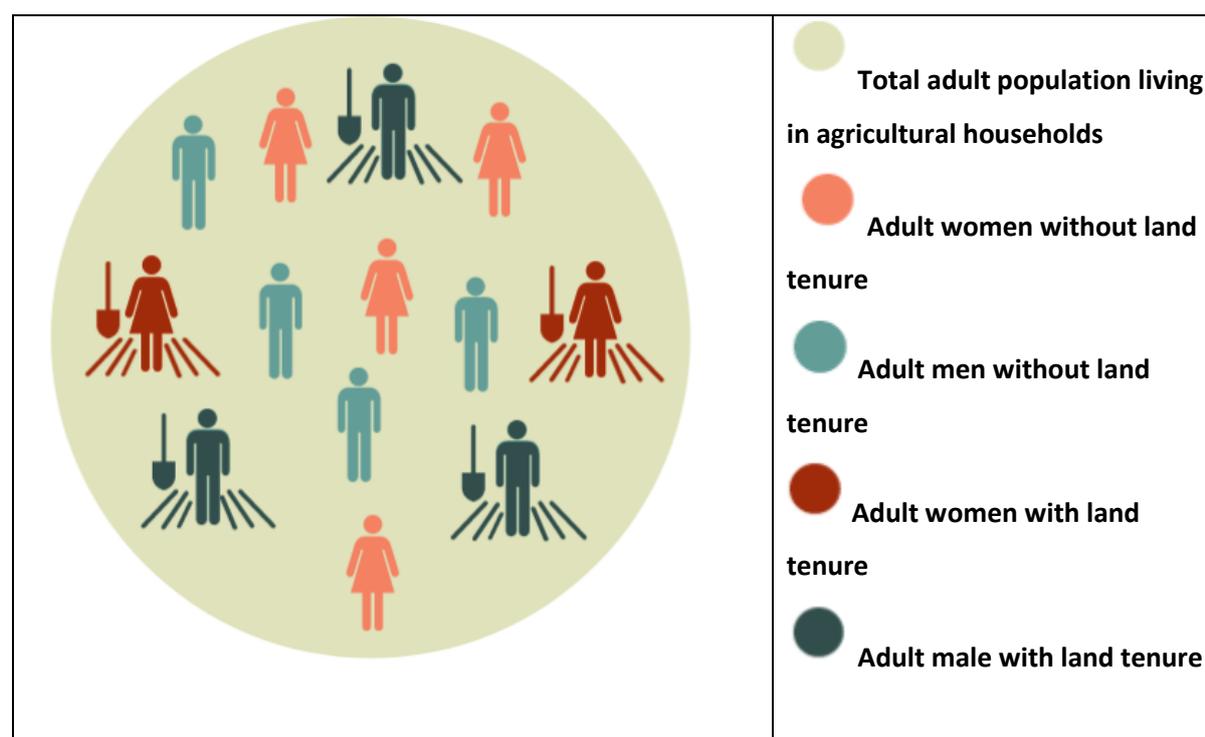
Let's look at the **data we will need**, and how we can use them to **calculate the sub-indicators**.



Definitions of the terms used will be discussed in more detail in Lesson 2 "Definitions" of this course.

The necessary data

The two sub-indicators are **based on the same data**, but they monitor ownership and agricultural land tenure rights from two different angles.



The **data necessary to calculate both** sub-indicators are:

- The **number of adult individuals** with **ownership or tenure rights** over agricultural land, **by sex**.
- The **total adult population living in agricultural households**, **by sex**.

Sub-indicator a

This is a **prevalence measure** of how **prevalent ownership or tenure rights** over agricultural land is in the **population of individuals living in agricultural households** (both male and female).

Since it is **disaggregated by sex**, by analysing the two proportions together, it is possible to assess the discrepancy between women's and men's ownership and rights over agricultural land.

The indicator is **reported as two proportions**:

$$\frac{\text{Number of men with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land}}{\text{Total male population living in agricultural households}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Number of women with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land}}{\text{Total female population living in agricultural households}}$$

Example analysis for sub-indicator a

28% Total population living in agricultural households **28%**

This means that **in the population of males living in agricultural households**, 38 men out of 100 have ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land.

18% Female population living in agricultural households

This means that **in the population of females living in agricultural households**, 18 women out of 100 have ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land.

38% Male population living in agricultural households

This means that **in the total agricultural population** (both men and women living in agricultural households), 28 individuals out of 100 have ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land.

So, how can we interpret this data?

We can conclude that, in this country, men are more than twice as likely to own or have tenure right over agricultural land.

Sub-indicator b

This sub-indicator measures the **proportion** of individuals **who have ownership or tenure rights** over agricultural land, and **are women**. This is reported as:

$$\frac{\text{Number of women with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land}}{\text{Total people with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land}}$$

Examples

Ownership or land tenure rights

Women - 33% Men - 67%

It means that out of 100 individuals in the agricultural population who own land or have land tenure rights, **33 are women**, and the remaining **67 are men**.

If the data collected are as below, **what is the proportion of women** who have ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land, out of the **total female population living in agricultural households?**

	Male	Female	Total
Adult individuals with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land	100	10	110
Total population living in agricultural households	200	100	300

It is 100%

Using the same data, **what is the proportion of men** who have ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land, out of the **total male population living in agricultural households?**

	Male	Female	Total
Adult individuals with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land	100	10	110
Total population living in agricultural households	200	100	300

It is 50 %

If the data collected is as below, **what is the proportion of women** who have ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land, out of the **total population of people with ownership or tenure rights?**

Male	Female	Total
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Adult individuals with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land	100	10	110
Total population living in agricultural households	200	100	300

It is 9 %

Reporting on and using the results of Indicator 5.a.1

The reporting process for Indicator 5.a.1 is summarized in this diagram

Plan data collection

At country level, the national agencies tasked with monitoring indicator 5.a.1 will:

- **Identify the appropriate survey vehicle** for collecting the required data. This will be addressed in more detail in Lesson 3 of this course.
- **Adapt the standard protocol** (set of questions) to country specificities (with support of FAO).

Data collection

The national agencies tasked with monitoring. Indicator 5.a.1 will

Organize data collection

Compute indicator

The national agencies tasked with monitoring. Indicator 5.a.1 will

Compute indicator: once the data are collected and cleaned, the variables will be used to generate the sub-indicators 5.a.1a and 5.a.1b, following the computation rules provided in Lesson 4 of this course.

The indicator will be **used at two levels:**

National	Global
<p>Possible temporary special measures</p> <p>Sex disaggregated data on land ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land will help clarify the situation of women’s legal security in relation to agricultural land. This data should form the basis for the adoption, revision or discontinuation of temporary</p>	<p>National agency shares data</p> <p>National agencies are expected to share with the Custodian Agency (FAO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the data;

special measures². The **National Statistics Office** should **collaborate** with the **overseeing body** tasked with the monitoring of special measures to determine whether to prolong or discontinue their use, or adjust them to better target the disparities on the ground.

- the **metadata** - how the data was collected, including the questionnaire used, sampling procedure etc.

Policy-making process

It is essential that **national policy-making process** acknowledges and integrates both:

- the **data collected** regarding land ownership and tenure rights over agricultural land;
- the **use of temporary special measures**.

Custodian agency reports on indicator

Each year, the **Custodian Agency (FAO)** will compile the data provided by countries into a **report**, which they will disseminate.

The global report will be accompanied by a narrative describing:

- **How many countries** reported on Indicator 5.a.1.
- The **status of the countries** on this indicator.
- **Regional aggregation** of data.
- **Trends** (only after several years of data have been collected of FAO).

Summary

- Goal 5 is the standalone **gender goal**. Target 5.a is one of the goal's **nine targets**, that aims to give women equal rights to economic resources, including ownership and control over land.
- This target is important for a number of reasons: because equal access to resources is a **basic human right**, because evidence shows that **women do not receive equal access** to resources and services, and because when women are given the same level of access, **women are equally productive**.
- Ensuring gender equality in access to economic resources would have **positive effects** on poverty reduction, food security and increasing welfare.

² **Temporary special measures** - Innovative measures included in national legal frameworks to enable *de facto* gender parity.

- Land is a key economic resource and **agricultural land** is used as a **focus** of Target 5.a.
- Gender disaggregated **statistics** for land ownership are **scarce**, and to date no standardized methodology has been used.
- Indicator 5.a.1 is composed of **two sub indicators**. To calculate these, data is needed on: the number of adult individuals with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land, by sex, and the total adult population living in agricultural households, by sex.
- The process for reporting on Indicator 5.a.1 involves planning data collection, collecting data and computing the indicator, after which data can be used at both national and global levels.