Women farmers make up 60% of employed women in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Yet, fewer women than men in Africa own or have secure rights to the land they cultivate.

A 2010-11 study of 10 African countries found that on average:

- 12% of women owned agricultural land individually.
- 39% of women owned land either solely or jointly.
- 31% of men owned agricultural land individually.
- 48% of men owned land either solely or jointly.

From this data, it is evident that on average, men control a higher proportion of land than women.

In Niger:
- 9% by women
- 62% by men
- 29% jointly share of land owned

In Uganda:
- 18% by women
- 34% by men
- 48% jointly share of land owned

In Tanzania:
- 16% by women
- 44% by men
- 39% jointly share of land owned

Nearly 80% of land in Africa is held under customary tenure, governed by practices and rules that often discriminate against women in inheritance, access, and control over land.

For sources, visit www.landesa.org/resources/wlr-africa

Women's Land: Closing the Gender Gap in Sub-Saharan Africa

Part 1
In Sub-Saharan Africa:

- **All 48 Countries** include some gender equality guarantees in their national constitutions.
- **46 Countries** have ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- **34 Countries** have ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Yet, women’s land rights are specifically protected under the law in **20 Countries**.

Land under customary tenure is exempt from gender equitable inheritance laws in **15 Countries**.

Women are explicitly entitled to co-ownership of land through marriage in **5 Countries**.

**WOMEN’S LAND: CLOSING THE GENDER GAP IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**FOR SOURCES, VISIT WWW.LANDESA.ORG/RESOURCES/WLR-AFRICA**
Women are routinely marginalized in land governance, even where laws call for their inclusion in decision-making.

In Ethiopia, Land Administration Committees, which are responsible for field-based land registration and certification, require inclusion of at least one female member.

Under Tanzanian law, at least 25% of the seats in village councils must be held by women.

In Uganda, the 1998 Land Law Reform guaranteed minimum representation for women in key decision-making institutions on land and natural resources.

However, quorum rules do not account for gender, making it possible to conduct meetings without women councilors in attendance.

However, women make up just 4% of chairpersons of District Land Boards.

However, because social norms often dictate that women should remain at home to care for their families, women’s participation is quite low.
The Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights is building a network through its Visiting Professionals Program, to facilitate collaboration between women's land rights experts throughout the region and across the world.

The Kilimanjaro Initiative has mobilized rural women and advocates, culminating in an iconic climb up Africa's highest peak by women from more than 20 countries to demand equal land rights. The African Union formally endorsed their grassroots-fed Charter of Demands to actualize women’s land rights in Africa.

The Deliver for Good campaign is building a movement to fuel concrete action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including a focus on the importance of land rights for women, at the global and country levels.

To learn more, please visit landesa.org/womensland.

To learn more and join the campaign, please visit deliverforgood.org.

For sources, visit www.landesa.org/resources/wlr-africa