

Report of Gender Expert on Focus Group meetings on women's role in use and management of water resources in Turkistan region (Second mission)

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The mission report is made based on results of the missions which took place on 25-26 March 2015. It covered three villages: Karachik, Bugun and Staryi Ikan situated in Turkistan region.

In second mission, conducted three FGMs with women and nine individual discussions with men representing water management organizations and farmers. Totally met 90 people: 89 women and 9 men.

Questions asked:

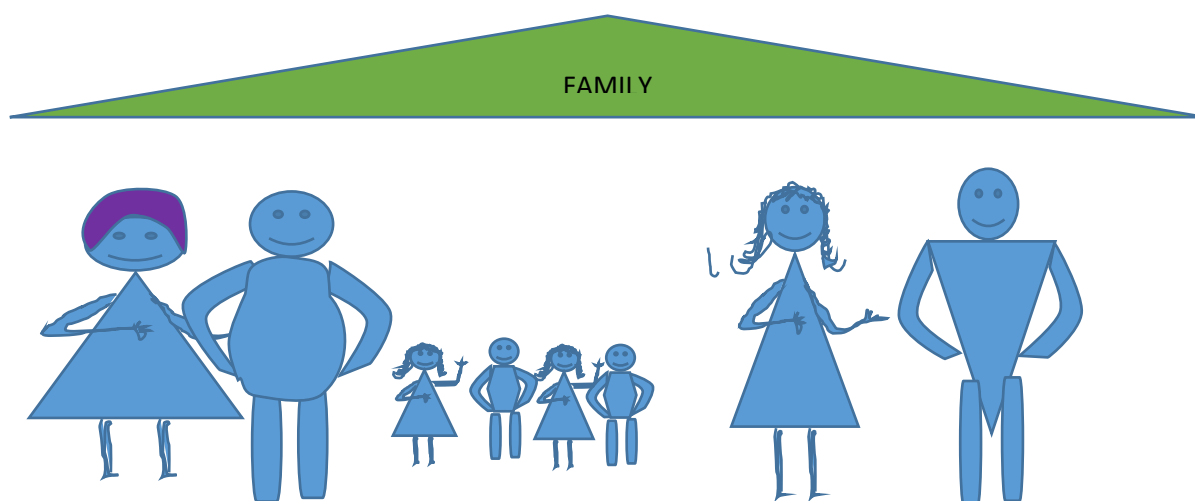
During FGMs: Family composition and responsibilities, use and management of the family land and kitchen garden, water use practices, income generated activities, contribution to the family budget, access to information and credits.

Questions asked on individual discussions: involvement of women in agriculture WRM, contribution of women in family income.

This report will mention difference in answer of men and women focus groups (two FGMs with men were conducted in the first mission)

The main findings of the survey so far:

Family composition: Average number of children in family 3-4, while 10 years ago it was 5-8 children. Family follows the traditional way of live, when the younger son with his family live with parents. The most common family composition is: grandparents, parents and children. Grandparents (to certain age or health condition) keep leading role in the family. Men (grand father, father and sons) make decisions, while women (grand mother, mother and daughters) offer, suggest, insist 😊... Women take cares about children and grandparents, house and kitchen garden, they provide water and milk cows and sheep which live at court. Children used to help at house and the kinder garden.



Family income: Men and women FGs recognized that during the last 10 years the life is improving, more equipment which help them to keep farms and houses, while money are always in deficit.

Most of men work as individual farmers. There are very few farmer associations despite the fact that they have better chance to receive bank credit. Long lasted period of the “wild market”, when dishonest businessmen grew rich on deception of naive and illiterate in doing business people, caused a strong distrust among farmers. Men also work in local authorities, water and land management organizations, at school and police office, in few business enterprises, which also link with agriculture.

Most of women, some participants mentioned that minimum 70% of women, work as housekeepers, kitchen gardeners and full-fledged assistants of their men - crop farmers. It is a traditional way of life respected by participants. Men groups mentioned that the main work of their women – to be a good wife, mother and housewife, an adviser for husband and children, a responsible keeper of the family budget. Participants of women groups absolutely share and support this vision.

Participants of men and women FGs agree that the most appropriate jobs for women are in social sphere: education and medicine. Vacancies is those organizations very demanded, but limited. They also say that women are good to work in service field: coffee, beauty salons, bakery, shops. With respect, they mentioned women who work in offices of local authorities and water management organizations as a deputy head and different specialists. One women was mentioned a leader of a farm, but then a men in the individual interview mentioned that she is a nominal leader, the real one is her son.

Discussion of non-agricultural sources of income was conducted in women FGs, but mentioned activities are also linked to agriculture: selling of milk, eggs, meat, dry fruits, home-made pickled vegetables, etc. accordingly those income is very dependent on irrigation water from Bugun reservoir and underground water sources.

Still open question: Non-agricultural sources of income for men? How dependent are these alternative sources of income on water? which water source?

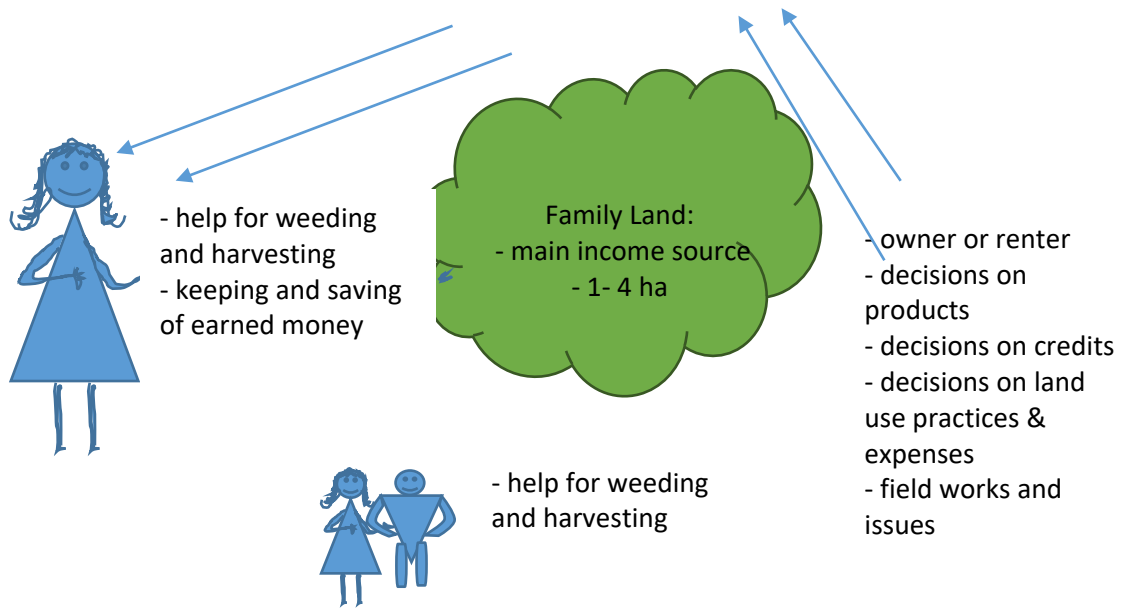
The issue of women contribution in the family income happened to be a very sensitive. It was asked on six FGMs (two with men, three with women and one mixed) and on 6 individual interviews in all three villages. It was always quite challenging to receive people’s estimations even in percentage. Participants mentioned figures from 0% to 100%. Implementation of the housework and assistance in farming is not estimated in financial terms. While, small farming activities of men of working women seems to be also underestimated. Living in small rural communities where all people know each other, in non-supportive and even difficult for the income generation environment, people are either aggressively show-off (if all people around know about their problems), or closed in order not to show their weak/pain sides. I believe, that this survey do not need exact figure of women contribution in the family income otherwise, it demands a separate and joint survey of specific experts.

A separate but very hot topic mentioned by participants– the youth unemployment. Educated young people have no job.

Family land: Size of the family land can diverse from one – to hundreds ha. Average size of the land per family of participants of FGDs is from 1-4 ha. Some why the ownership on the land is different: it is mostly rented in Karachik village, which is closer to the biggest local market - Turkestan rayon center (10 km), and it is mostly the ownership of the men in Staryi Ikan and Bugun villages, which are 20 and 22 km from this center.

The main agriculture products: cotton, wheat, melons, potato, tomato, onion, corn. Men manage the family land, make decisions on what to plant, what inputs to buy, to take or not credit. Women и children help men with weeding, harvesting. Women of the village, which is closer to the market, sell the produce on the market.

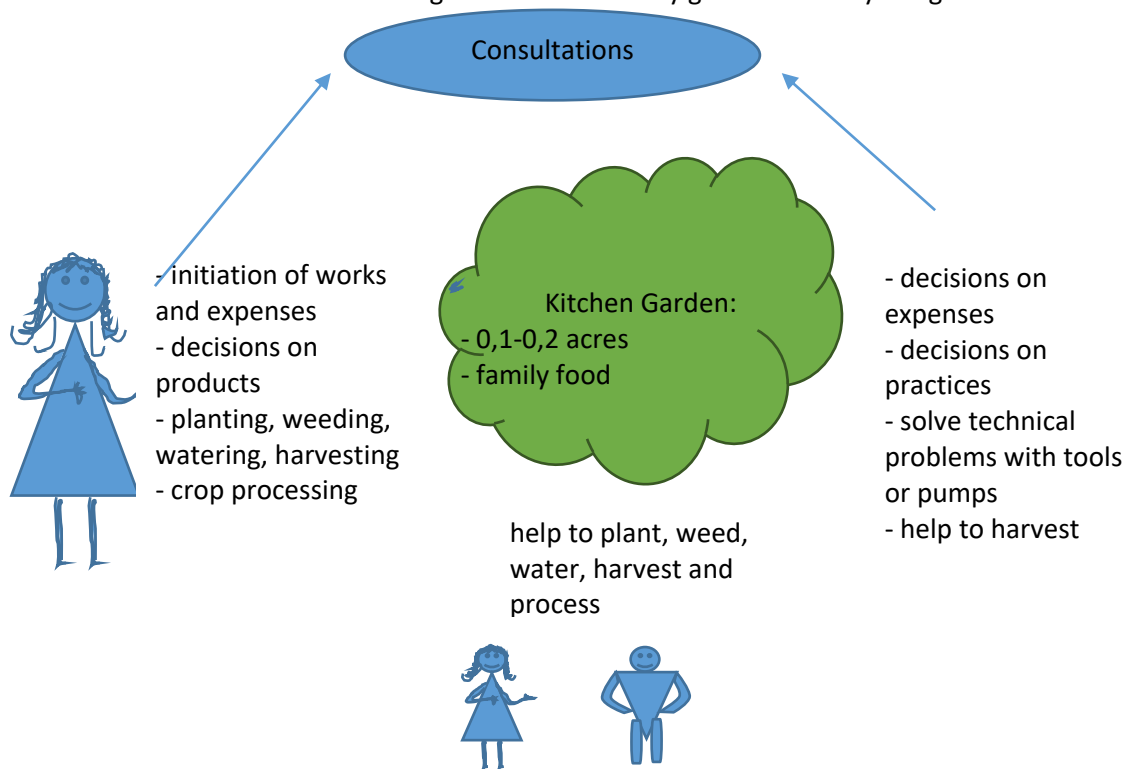
Women in two other villages says that men sell the produce to wholesalers. Earned money are mostly under women control, but the last word in financial decisions are made by men.



Kitchen garden: Kitchen garden is one more (after children, parents and house) responsibility of women. Average size of the kitchen garden in family is 10-20 acres. Main products: tomato, cucumbers, eggplant, potato, carrot, parsley. Irrigation water is mostly taking from the irrigation ditch, when it has no water, it is pumping from draw-wells on the yard by electric pumpers. Perhaps, electric pumpers are the only new technologies used in kitchen garden, all other practices are from the Soviet Times, no one of participants mentioned use of water saving technologies.

Women arrange all works in the garden, decide on products and make crop processing. Most of garden works are doing by women and children, men can help if they have time. Men help ingathering.

The produce is used for family food in villages Staryi Ikan and Bugun, which more far from the Turkestan rayon center. In the village Karachik, which is closer to the market, women mentioned that they have extra products and sell them on the market. Men help to bring the harvest and seller to the market and take them back home in the evening. The earned money go to the family budget.



Access to markets:

The main local market is the Turkestan rayon center. It is situated 10 km from Karashik, 20 km from the Saryi Ikan and 22 from Bugun village.

The agricultural products produced by farmers in Karashik, such as vegetables, fruits, meat, milk and dairy products, extra harvest from kitchen garden, as well as dry fruits, jams and salinity are used to sell by women in the Turkestan rayon center, to neighbors and any interested buyers. Participants of FGMs in Saryi Ikan and Bugun stated that their men sell harvest to wholesalers, the harvest from kitchen garden is traditionally processed in jam, salinity and dry fruits and is used for family needs.

Non-agricultural water use:

Only 10% of houses in Karachik village and even less in other villages have in house water supply, but all have water in the yard. Estimated volume of water needed by family per day, without calculation of water for livestock, is 20-25 liters. Water bringing is mostly the responsibility of women and children. Men can help if they have time.

Water quality is unknown, it is hard and salty. Participants do not know where this information can be found.

For drinking purposes the water is taking from deep water wells (300 meters deep) or from aqueduct, or buy (approx. 10 litres = 0,16 USD). In Saryi Ikan participants mentioned also springs. But the quality of this water is also unknown. During last 10 years, the deepness of wells is not changed.

Agricultural water use:

No water saving technologies. Incentives exist, but participants do not know about them in details. Only men are involved and make decisions related the technologies to use in fields. More detailed description of agriculture water use is provided in reports of water experts.

Access to information: Information about new technologies women receive from each other, TV, newspapers, magazines, internet. Some business companies interested to sell their products, arrange free seminars. For example, one company, which sells water filters, provides information and can test some water characteristics.

Open question: How do men access information on new technologies, or recommended water management practices?

Access to credit: availability and accessibility of credit for both men and women and at what cost (interest, collateral, etc)? Who makes credit decisions?

Discussion of the credit issue was very interesting. Consumer credit with income rate 23-28% are available but expensive. Specific credit for farmers with income rate 7% exist but available only to farmers who have more then 300 ha of land. Participants in all focus groups indicated, that credit decisions are making through discussion, but the last word belong to men.

Stakeholders: Gender composition of those groups? Who decides on activities? (If women influence decisions/activities of those groups?)

Relations between groups of stakeholders to be identified through stakeholder mapping exercise.

Participants underlined the following stakeholders:

Stakeholders	Gender composition (men/women)	Women's positions	If women influence decisions on water use and management?
The Aral-Syrdarya Basin Inspection	23 Men	Accountant	-

which is the main water control and planning organization	3 women		
Local authorities for land management only	18 Men 4 women	deputy akim HR specialist inspector of the land committee Social worker	+ - - -
The South-Kazakhstan Water Management Organization (UgVodkhoz) which operates the Turkestan Main Canal (TMC) and regulates water inflow and outflow of Bugun reservoir	800 Men 26 women	Economist, Engineer - hydro technologist Accountant	- + -
22 water users cooperatives are the main water management bodies	88 Men 13 women	Accountant	-
2397 farms (land users)	No of men and women is unknown	Men manage work of farms, women work on fields	+ -
A fish farm situated on Bugun reservoir	5 Men 1 women	Accountant, cleaning leady	-
A bottling company selling bottled underground water	8 Men 2 women	Accountant, cleaning leady	-
One cotton processing factory	5 Men 2 women	Accountant, cleaning leady	-

Demanded workshops

It should be mentioned that this part of the discussion was quite difficult for discussion. It took some time for participants to understand and start react. Finally, the participants underlined the following needs for capacity building:

- Greenhouse organization and keeping
- Available and effective technologies to process meet, milk, fruits and vegetables and arrange their post-harvest saving (dry fruits)
- Soil quality: characteristics and opportunities to decrease salinity
- Science of farming: when, what and how to seed? Soil preparation and planting. Insemination.
- Water saving technologies, drip irrigation
- New agriculture cultures relevant to local conditions.
- Science of doing business: business planning, budgeting, cost benefit-analysis

Table 1. Consolidated table of answers made during the second mission

	Bugun village (upstream) 30 km to the big nearest market in Turt Kol	Staryi Ikan (middle) 22 km to the big nearest market in Turkestan	Karachik village (tail-end) 9 km to the big nearest market in Turkestan
	23 participants of FGM Interview with 4	33 participants of FGM Interview with 2 men	25 participants of FGM Interview with 2 men
Family	Average: 3-4 children per family. 10 years ago it was 5-6 children in each family. Family composition is traditional: Grand parents, parents, children. Decision making is also in traditional: men make decisions, women offer, suggest ideas. Family budget is under women control, decisions are made by men. All home work on women's shoulders. Children used to help.	Average: 3-4 children per family. 10 years ago it was 6-8 children in each family. Family composition is traditional: Grand parents, parents, children. Decision making is also traditional: men (grand father and father) make decisions. Women (grand mother and mother) offer, suggest. All home on women's shoulders. Children used to help.	From 2-8. Average: 3-4 children per family. 10 years ago it was 5-6 children in each family. Family composition is traditional when last son stay live with parents: Grand parents, parents, children. Decision making is also traditional: men (grand father and father) make decisions. Women (grand mother and mother) offer, suggest, insist 😊... Grandparents, children, home, kitchen garden and watering and milking cows and sheep are fully on women's shoulders. Children used to help.
Family land	The land is mostly owned by men. The average size of land per family 3-5 ha. The main problem – water in watering season. Men manage the family land, make decisions on what to plant, what inputs to buy. Women и children help men to harvest. The produce is sold to wholesalers. Family budget can be under men or women control. Financial decisions are made together.	The land is mostly owned by men. The average size of land per family 1-4 ha. The main problem – water in watering season. Products: cotton, wheat, melons, potato, tomato, onion, corn Men manage the family land, make decisions on what to plant, what inputs to buy. Women и children help men to harvest. The produce is sold to wholesalers. Family budget is mostly under men control. the last word in financial decisions also belong to men.	The land is mostly rented. The average size of land per family 1,5-4 ha. The main problem – water in watering season. Men manage the family land, make decisions on what to plant, what inputs to buy, to take or not credit. Women и children help men with weeding, harvesting. Mostly women sell the produce. Family budget is mostly under women control, but the last word in financial decisions are belong to men.

Kitchen garden	<p>Average size of kitchen garden 10-15 acres. Irrigation water for garden is taken from canal (арык), rare it is pumping from the well.</p> <p>Garden products: tomato, cucumbers, баклажаны, potato, морковь, зелень.</p> <p>Decisions on garden products and expenses are taken by women in consultation with men.</p> <p>Organization of work in the garden is doing by women. Garden harvest is taken mostly by women and children. Then women proceed the garden products.</p> <p>All garden products are used for family purposes.</p>	<p>Average size of kitchen garden 15-20 acres. Irrigation water is pumping from the well.</p> <p>Garden products: tomato, cucumbers, перец. Болгарский.</p> <p>Decisions on garden products and expenses are taken by women in consultation with men.</p> <p>Organization of work in the garden is doing by women. All family (women, children and men) work in the garden. All garden products are used for family purposes.</p> <p>Men help ingathering. Women proceed the garden yield.</p> <p>Irrigation water for garden is taken from колодцы с использованием насосов</p>	<p>Average size of kitchen garden 15-25 acres. Irrigation water is pumping from the draw-well.</p> <p>Decisions on garden practices, expenses and products are taken together by men and women. Most part of the work in the garden is taken by women and children. Men help ingathering and bring extra part to the market. Women proceed some part of the products for home needs and rest sell on the nearest market (10 km from the village).</p>
agricultural water use	<p>No water saving technologies. Incentives exist, but participants do not know about them. Only men are involved and make decisions related the technologies to use in fields.</p>	<p>No water saving technologies, Incentives exist, but participants do not know about them in details. Only men are involved and make decisions related the technologies to use in fields.</p>	
Non-agricultural water use	<p>Water mostly at yard во дворе from water wells, very few houses have water at home. Water for home purposes is approx. 25-30 liters. Mostly, water is bringing by women and children. Water quality is unknown. For drinking purposes the water is taking from deep water well, aqueduct .</p> <p>Selling of milk products, meat, canned vegetables, sprouts</p>	<p>Water from wells in the yard. Water quality is unknown, hard and salty. For drinking purposes the water is taking from deep water well, aqueduct or from springs, or from buy 1 liter – 3 tg.</p> <p>Water for home purposes is approx. 20-25 liters per person per day.</p> <p>Selling of milk products, meat, canned vegetables, sprouts</p>	<p>Only 10% of houses have in house water supply. Other houses have the water in the yard. Appr. 12-13 liters per person per day is needed.</p> <p>If family has cattle, they need 200 liters.</p> <p>Water bringing is mostly the business of women and children. Men can help if they have time.</p> <p>Drinking water is mostly taken from deep wells/ boreholes (300 meters deep). During last 10 years, the deepness of wells is not changed.</p>

Access to information	Information on technologies from mothers to children. New info people receive from each other, TV, newspapers, magazines, internet.	Information about new technologies people receive from each other, TV, newspapers, magazines, internet. Business company for selling purposes conduct seminars on use of...	Information about new technologies people receive from each other. One business company which sells water filters, tests some water characteristics... No info about the water quality
Access to markets	Nearest market is (22 km). No one from respondents or their families sells products on market. Harvest processing (salinity and fruits dry) by traditional methods only for family needs	Nearest market is in Turkestan (20 km from the Staryi Ikan). Noone from respondents or their families sells products on market. Harvest processing (salinity and fruits dry) by traditional methods only for family needs	Nearest market in Turkestan rayon center (10 km from the Karashik). Mostly women (housekeepers) sells agricultural products: milk, vegetables, fruits, meat. Harvest processing (salinity and fruits dry) by traditional methods only for family needs
Access to credit	Credits are available, but high interest rate: 23-28 потребительский, 7% для сх, но крупным фермерам, более 300 га. Земли. Credit decisions are taken together.	Credits are available, but interest rate is unknown. Credit decisions are taken together, but the last word – take men.	Credits are available, but expensive – 28% of income rate. Credit decisions are taken together, but the last word – take men.
Who use and control agriculture WRM	Livestock and crop farmers, Private actors: two saunas, enterprise for the production of drinking water, fish company, cafes, Forest enterprise Local authority (Akimat) Operator of the Arys-Turkestan channel (Ontustic Sushar) has agreements with water users cooperatives (one cooperative on one water distribution channel) water users cooperatives, which agrees the price for their service with the Antimonopoly Committee, distribute the water among farmers (on advanced payment approach) farmers have state act for land rent during	Only livestock and crop farmers Local authority (Akimat), Akimat specialist on agriculture consults on crop rotation and control it Rural water cooperatives on 22 water distribution channels district hydraulics (участковый гидротехник)	crop farmers, family gardens Agrofirm Turan for the cultivation and processing of cotton Local authority (Akimat), Rural water cooperative (1)

	49 years fish company operation is based on the license which limits the fish catching operation of the sauna and water enterprises is regulated by the state license		
Demanded workshops	Обработка почвы, посадка, Время, когда, как и что сеять? Greenhouse organization Drip irrigation, Soil quality – how to decrease salinity?	Greenhouse organization Technologies to dry fruits, Technologies to save fruits, vegetables and grape Technologies to proceed and save meat and milk products	New agriculture cultures Technologies to dry fruits and vegetables, Irrigation saving technologies Technologies and standards of meet, milk, fruits and vegetables processing and saving Greenhouse keeping Insemination Financial calculations, cost-benefit analysis Development of business plans