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of the United Nations

2014 Census of Agriculture

TCP/MAR/3403 – Support to Census of Agriculture

Gender Analysis Report

By

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2014 Census of Agriculture

Gender Analysis Report

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Dr Harry Sangeet JOOSEERY (FAO Consultant)

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ACRONYMS

AMB	Agricultural Marketing Board
CA2014	2014 Census of Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAREI	Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
GDF	Gender Dimensions Framework
HHD	Household Head
HPC	Housing and Population Census
IOM	Island of Mauritius
IOR	Island of Rodrigues
MAIFS	Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
NGPF	National Gender Policy Framework
ROM	Republic of Mauritius
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SM	Statistics Mauritius
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the conduct of the 2014 Census of Agriculture (CA2014) in Mauritius. The CA2014 was conducted after more than 70 years, the previous one being carried out in 1940.

The main objectives of CA2014 were:

- (a) To provide important information on the organizational structure of farms at geographic level for better and informed decision making (e.g. farm size, land use, land tenure, crop area harvested, presence of irrigation, livestock numbers, farm labour as well as the number of holdings with each crop and livestock type);
- (b) To improve estimates on the contribution of agriculture for the economy;
- (c) To provide information on the household sector including subsistence farming which is important for food security; and
- (d) To improve the completeness of existing sampling frame that will be used as the base for sample selection for future agricultural surveys.

Statistics Mauritius received technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations under the TCP Facility “TCP/MAR/3402 - Planning for the Census of Agriculture in Mauritius” and TCP Project “TCP/MAR/3403 - Support to Census of Agriculture” for the conduct and data analysis of the census of agriculture.

The FAO also hired a National Consultant, namely Dr. Harry Sangeet Jooseery to undertake in-depth analysis of the CA2014 data from a gender perspective.

This paper is a “gender” analysis of the CA2014 data. To conduct the analysis, a Gender Dimensions Framework was developed to capture essential gender components of the CA2014, understand women's role as producers at the household level and discern gender issues at all levels of the value chain. Four key factors that shape gender within value chains were identified, namely:

- (i) Practices and participation of women in different agricultural activities;
- (ii) Access to assets, namely credit, land, market and agricultural implements by women;
- (iii) Beliefs and perceptions of both men and women in areas including appropriate economic activities, education and employment opportunities; and
- (iv) Laws, policies and institutions that facilitate and support women’s participation in the agricultural sector.

The analysis points out that the agricultural sector in the Republic of Mauritius (ROM) was basically patriarchal with 61% male dominance, as reflected by the participation of males among household agricultural workers (63% for the Island of Mauritius (IOM) and 53% for the Island of Rodrigues (IOR)).

In ROM, some 40,355 household members worked on the 23,343 household farms. Some 24,622 (61%), were males and 15,733 (39%), were females.

In terms of practices and participation, the CA2014 indicates that, in ROM, 46% of the total workers in the agricultural sector were females (46% for IOM and 43% for IOR).

Of all household agricultural workers, 69% worked on small farms and more than 95% worked on only one farm.

The Gender Gap in the rate of participation of household members working in the agricultural sector was 26% in IOM while that for IOR was distinctly lower (6%).

There were 25,835 workers, representing 39% of total employment in agricultural farms in ROM, who were in paid employment. Among the paid employees of the agricultural sector, 57% were women.

Women's positioning in terms of role and status at an enterprise or holding indicates the extent of empowerment i.e whether a woman farmer is in a decision making position or not. The definition of a farmer as utilized by CA2014 is a "person making the major decisions about the agricultural operation and who has the technical and economic responsibility for agricultural production". In ROM, there were 25,122 household farmers, 72% of whom were males who dominated as decision makers in the Agricultural sector. This tendency was also found in IOM. However, the situation was very much better in IOR where 57% males and 43% females were farmers in decision making roles. In terms of access to credit, land and market, males dominated. Of the 66,450 hectares of land occupied by 23,343 household farms in the ROM, only 5,175 hectares were occupied by female farmers, constituting of only 8% of land owned, leased or rented for agricultural purposes. On average, only 20% of women in ROM had access to agricultural implements.

One of the limitations of the CA2014 is that the collection of data was not explicitly gender sensitive and as a result knowledge, beliefs and perception of agricultural workers from a gender perspective on issues related to environment, ownership, access to resources, constraints and opportunities stemmed from interpretations.

The agricultural sector was perceived to attract low educated elderly males and females as compared to other sectors of the economy. The 2011 Housing and Population Census confirms that there were more people in the age group 45-54 years working in the agricultural sector.

Figures show that there were in general more men employed in the agricultural sector than women in ROM and that the agricultural sector attracted a higher proportion of women in IOR (47%) than in IOM (36%). It is obvious that the agricultural sector was perceived as

an important source of income for women in Rodrigues. The contribution of female-headed household to total income was much greater in IOR (50%) compared to IOM (13%).

At the institutional level, the Government has ratified a series of regional and global conventions, including the Beijing Platform for Action to reiterate its commitment to ensure that Gender issues were taken care of on all developmental agenda.

The Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security (MAIFS) was an important blueprint aiming to “develop Mauritius into an agro-business hub” in the region. While it had important and far-reaching objectives for the agricultural sector, and specifically for “promoting access to agricultural land, agribusiness, good agricultural practices, improving food quality and safety, reducing dependency on import, promoting export, and ensuring food security”, it was unfortunately not gender sensitive.

However, MAIFS developed in 2011 a Gender Policy Statement to operationalize the National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) in relation to the agricultural sector. Unfortunately the Gender Policy has not been fully implemented.

Main impediments for gender mainstreaming in the agricultural sector were related to a lack of understanding on the concepts of gender equality and gender mainstreaming. This was not only among the grassroots, but also among cadres expected to promote the integration of gender in the development agenda. Other factors included the absence of Gender-Based Budgeting and the lack of sex disaggregated data and information reflecting women’s and men’s participation and their changing roles in the chain of agricultural production.

The CA2014 Gender Analysis provides critical information that should enable the development of appropriate and more targeted gender sensitive programme in the agricultural sector. It will thus facilitate enhanced productivity and improved quality of life among agricultural workers, and likewise position Mauritius as a potential “gender sensitive” agro-business hub in the region.

The analysis points towards a male dominated agricultural sector and that there was a gender gap in terms of composition of the household agricultural workers but most importantly in terms of power sharing and decision making in ROM. While the agricultural sector employed more males (55%), there were more females than males in ROM who were in full time paid employment in the sector. Some 58% of the total paid employees in the agricultural sector were women and this indicated that the agricultural sector constituted a very important source of income to women in the country. However profits were almost entirely controlled by men.

There were, however, some variations between the IOM and IOR. In general the Gender Gap was less in IOR than IOM. This could be explained by the differences in the socio-cultural and economic environment of the two islands and a greater tendency towards more subsistence agriculture in the IOR compared to IOM. More in-depth analysis would be required on the issue.

The following are recommended:

- (i) Ensure that data collection and analysis for Agricultural Census in Mauritius is conducted through gender lenses
- (ii) Encourage gender disaggregated data collection in all departments of the agricultural sector
- (iii) Ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all activities of the agricultural sector
- (iv) Ease access of women to credit, land, market and agricultural implements and promote greater ownership of resources among women
- (v) Encourage more women to register as farmers
- (vi) Promote capacity building among women to enable them assume greater responsibilities in the agricultural sector
- (vii) Ensure that women participate in decision making at all levels
- (viii) Enlist participation of gender specialists in promoting capacity building and gender based data collection, research and training in the agricultural sector
- (ix) Promote the implementation of the Gender Policy Statement and accelerate the functioning of the Gender Cell of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
- (x) Introduce Gender Based Budgeting to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to gender based research and data collection.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTEXT

The place of women in agriculture is crucial all over the world. Women are viewed as primary food providers for their families as well as key players in efforts to expand commercial agriculture to grow nations' economies. Aggregate data shows that women comprise about 43% of the agricultural labour force globally and in developing countries. In almost all parts of the world the time women spend on agriculture is substantial; in some countries women dominate entirely the agricultural sector, especially as agricultural field workers. Feminization of agricultural sector is more acute in some parts of the world like the Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in some activities such as growing of vegetables and fruits.

Unfortunately women's role and contribution to agriculture is not recognized in many parts of the world as their contributions are not computed in terms of salary or value added to commodity but are considered very often as normal voluntary contributions of the household wife to the husband's work. Institutional barriers continue to inhibit women's full participation in agriculture in many parts of the world. While women are basically involved in working in the fields, their participation as farmers owning land and resources, or in marketing products is very much limited. Studies have shown that when women are provided with opportunities to become farmers, own land, earn and control income, there is greater likelihood of increase in family welfare and wellbeing. Research conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations shows that if women had the same access to non-land resources as male farmers, they could lift 100-150 million people out of hunger.

The FAO Report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2014 argued in favour of innovation, especially to promote sustainable intensification of production and improvements in rural livelihoods and pointed out that innovation entails considering gender and intergenerational issues. The 2010-11 FAO Report on the State of Food and Agriculture stated that the "gender gap" in agriculture hinders women's productivity and reduces their contributions to the agriculture sector and to the achievement of broader economic and social development goals. The Report emphasized that achieving gender equality and empowering women in agriculture is crucial for agricultural development and food security and calls for improved collection and analysis of baseline sex-disaggregated data to improve the design and effectiveness of agricultural programmes. The Report stressed also the need for Agricultural censuses to collect qualitative and quantitative sex-disaggregated data on ownership of, access to and control over productive resources such as land, water, equipment, inputs, information and credit.

1.2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND MAURITIUS VISION 2030

The new **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) to which Governments around the world, including Mauritius have agreed, postulate for an integrated approach to address poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and environmental issues for the attainment of sustainable

development. While Goals 5 of the SDGs relates specifically to the achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of all women and girls, gender issues cut across all the other SDGs. Targets 1, 2 and 3 of Goal 2 of the SDGs emphasize specifically girls and women issues in the promotion of sustainable agriculture. In line with the SDGs, the **Mauritius Vision 2030**, released in August 2015 envisions to put Mauritius in the league of high income countries by revamping both the manufacturing sector and the agricultural sector, with emphasis on Marine Development and Ocean Industry. The four focus areas of Mauritius Vision 2030 are:

- Unemployment
- Poverty alleviation
- Air access policy
- Sustainable development and innovation.

For the achievement of the Mauritius Vision 2030 and by extension the SDGs, policy makers, political leaders and other development actors require sex-disaggregated empirical data to discern specific gender issues, draw their linkages with development outcomes and propose intervention programmes.

Gender and sex-disaggregated agricultural census data is vital to be used in informed decision-making, policy making and planning of agricultural programmes. This information is crucial to the government, but also to the economic partners involved as well as the civil society. Country specific gendered agricultural data is necessary for evidence-based targeting of agricultural support. Both producers and users of statistics recognise the importance of developing such a database to improve the production of reliable sex-specific agricultural data needed for targeted policy formulation and planning of agricultural and rural development.

1.3 THE CA2014 METHODOLOGY

In March 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the conduct of the 2014 Census of Agriculture (CA2014) in Mauritius. The CA2014 was conducted after more than 70 years, the previous one being carried out in 1940.

Statistics Mauritius conducted CA2014 jointly with the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security in the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues from July to December 2014. A steering committee on the CA2014 was constituted and met regularly to monitor progress of work of all the processes of the census.

1.3.1 Objectives

The main objectives of CA2014 were:

- (i) To provide important information on the organizational structure of farms at geographic level for better and informed decision making (e.g. farm size, land use, land tenure, crop area harvested, presence of irrigation, livestock numbers, farm labour as well as the number of holdings with each crop and livestock type);
- (ii) To improve estimates on the contribution of agriculture for the economy;

- (iii) To provide information on the household sector including subsistence farming which is important for food security; and
- (iv) To improve the completeness of existing sampling frame that will be used as the base of sample selection for future agricultural surveys.

1.3.2 Scope and coverage

The census covered agricultural businesses, agricultural farms and private households engaged in agricultural activities in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues. It, however, excluded

- (i) sugarcane, since most of the data required was available at the Sugar Insurance Fund Board (SIFB);
- (ii) tea since most of the data required was available at NAPRO (ex-Tea Board); and
- (iii) tobacco since nearly all tobacco growers had stopped cultivating tobacco due to the fact that this activity would cease in 2015.

1.3.3 Unit of enquiry

The unit of enquiry was an agricultural production unit (**farm or agricultural holding**) producing primarily for sale. In addition, all agricultural production units producing mainly for own consumption with at least 5 perches of land for garden crops and/or with a minimum number fruit trees in the backyard of private households, were considered as farms. The following thresholds were used:

- (i) Any household cultivating a piece of land, on own account, and for commercial production (at least 5 perches)
- (ii) Any housing unit having a kitchen garden (at least 5 perches)
- (iii) Any housing unit having fruit trees on the premises with a certain cut-off:
 - Breadfruit, lychee, mango (at least 5 trees)
 - Lemon, mandarin, coconut, guava, other citrus, mixed fruit trees (at least 10 trees)
 - Banana, pawpaw (at least 20 trees)
 - Pineapple, lychee, vegetables, fruits-other, crops-other (at least 5 perches)
- (iv) All honey producers
- (v) All deer farms
- (vi) No minimum size for livestock and poultry

1.3.4 Concepts, definitions and classifications

The FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 (WCA2010) provides guidelines for data to be collected in a Census of Agriculture. The concepts, definitions and classifications used in CA2014 follow the recommendations of the WCA2010.

1.3.5 Reference period

The reference period for the collection of information on area harvested and production of crops (vegetables, fruits & flowers), and livestock and poultry sold live or for slaughter was one year (1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014).

1.3.6 Reference date

The reference date for the collection of information on number of persons engaged in the farms was end March 2014 whereas that for the number of livestock and poultry was at 30 June 2014.

1.3.7 Technical Assistance

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations provided technical assistance, under the TCP Facility “TCP/MAR/3402 - Planning for the Census of Agriculture in Mauritius” and TCP Project “TCP/MAR/3403 - Support to Census of Agriculture”, for the design, conduct and data analysis of CA2014.

1.3.8 Data Collection

Data collection for CA2014 was carried out in three phases:

- (i) Phase I: A census (100% enumeration) of all agricultural businesses (113), from July to December 2015.
- (ii) Phase II: A sample survey of 10,339 agricultural farms, from July to September 2015.
- (iii) Phase III: A sample survey of around 8,778 private households, from October to November 2015.

1.4. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

The FAO hired a National Consultant, namely Dr. H. S. Jooseery to undertake in-depth analysis of the CA2014 data from a Gender perspective, most specifically to

- review the data collected in the census through gender lenses
- draft a paper analysing the CA2014 data with a Gender perspective and in the light of other sources
- present a paper at the dissemination workshop
- prepare a short end-of-assignment Report
- carry out any other assignment that FAO may ask

This paper therefore highlights the Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF) utilized for analysing the CA2014 and presents the analysis of the CA2014 data from a gender perspective. The GDF was developed, shared and discussed with members of the Steering Committee for the monitoring of the CA2014 and the Regional Office of FAO before its adoption.

It should be pointed out that the analysis in this paper pertains to 23,343 farms and these exclude farms producing solely sugarcane and/or tea.

1.4.1. The Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF)

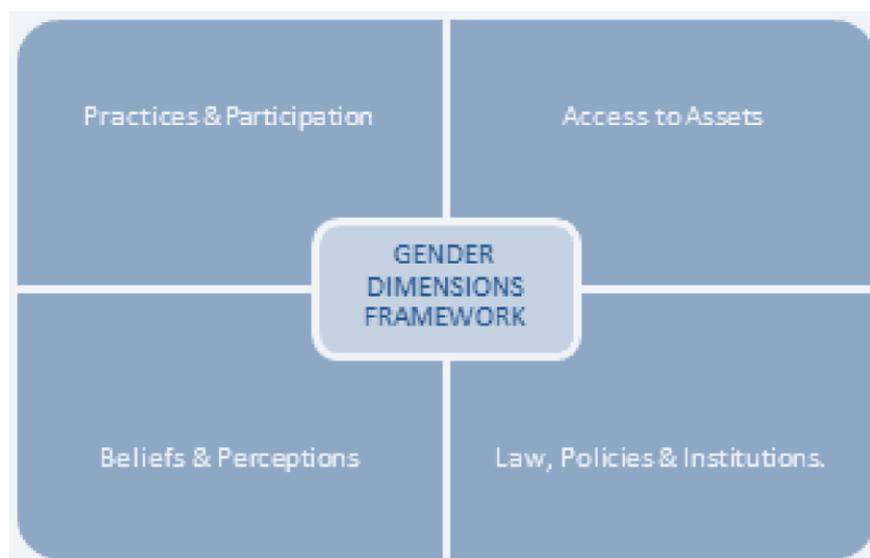
There are a number of different approaches to gender analysis, including the Gender Roles or Harvard Framework, Gender Analysis Matrix and the Social Relations Analysis. The Gender Roles Framework focuses on describing women's and men's roles and their relative access to and control over resources. It analyses the Activity Profile, the Access and Control Profile and Influencing Factors Profile by mapping the work and resources of men and women. In contrast, the Social Relations approach seeks to expose the gendered power relations that perpetuate inequities. This type of analysis moves beyond the household to include the community, market, and state institutions and so involves collecting data at all these levels.

Other gender analysis frameworks include the Moser Framework and Six Domains Gender Analysis Framework, developed by the USAID's Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG). The six domains of Gender Analysis are:

- Access to resources
- Knowledge
- Beliefs and Perceptions
- Practices and Participation
- Legal Rights and Status
- Power
- Time and Space.

All frameworks are developed for a particular purpose and have their own limitations. For the purpose of this report, given its specificity and that data for the CA2014 have already been collected, and that not all data collected are sex-disaggregated, an adaptation of the six domains for Gender Analysis, henceforth called the *Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF)* has been utilized.

Figure 1: Gender Dimensions Framework for Analysis



Whereas many gender frameworks are oriented specifically to understanding women's role as producers at the household level, the GDF is built to identify gender issues at all levels of the value chain. It is an adaptation of the six domains for Gender Analysis that is used by USAID.

The GDF (Figure1) considers four key factors that shape gender within value chains. These factors are briefly described in the sub-sections that follow.

1.4.1.1. Practices and Participation

Gender shapes several aspects of behaviour that affect participation in value chains, including time allocation, mobility, labour decisions, membership of associations and involvement in other collective activities and training. These include, not only current patterns of action, but also the ways in which men and women may engage differently in agricultural activities.

1.4.1.2. Access to Assets

Ownership, control and use of assets are influenced by gender relations. Important assets in an agricultural context include land, information and extension services, and education.

1.4.1.3. Beliefs and Perceptions

Beliefs mediate the behaviour of both genders in areas including appropriate economic activities, employment opportunities and legal rights.

1.4.1.4. Laws, Policies and Institutions

Varying legal rights impact the capacity of each gender to access support services (e.g., finance) or to establish horizontal linkages and therefore to participate in value chain opportunities.

While a substantial number of interpretations can be found in analysing the existing data collected from the three above mentioned factors, information pertaining to laws, policies and institutions are not very apparent from the available data collected at CA2014. Consequently data from other sources like population census and others were utilized to reinforce data interpretations. A set of sample questions were developed under each of the four key factors cited above and these were discussed and agreed with key staff of Statistics Mauritius, representatives of MAIFS and the FAO National Correspondent taking into consideration the data collected from CA2014.

1.5. LIMITATIONS OF CA2014 FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Given that the CA2014 was not conducted using gender lenses, information pertaining to gender had to be extracted through multiple cross tabulations, verifications and interpretations. Some essential socio-economic and demographic characteristics could not be easily traced and consequently impeded on a thorough and profound gender analysis.

The identification of farmers in the Farm Questionnaire, the business license holder in the Business Questionnaire and the household head in the Household Questionnaire were not gender sensitive. On the other hand, other questions pertaining to the name of household

members, employment in the agricultural sector, persons responsible in decision making and others clearly demarcated male and female characteristics which enabled important cross tabulations and effective data analysis. Information on the educational level, age of agricultural workers, and their perception, beliefs and knowledge pertaining to environmental issues, ownership of land, access to resources, constraints and opportunities from a gender perspective have been interpreted by comparing existing data to those from other sources, like the 2011 Housing and Population Censuses (2011 HPC)

The modification of the concept of agricultural holder and sub-holding by FAO in 2010 reflects the realities of farm management practices such as differences in men's and women's managerial and financial control over the production, storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products. It is now recognised that more than one person (husband and wife) could manage a holding as joint holders. Sensitive information on these would have enabled a more in-depth analysis of the insight of male and female role and responsibilities in the agricultural sector. These unfortunately could not be analysed due to lack of available data.

In addition, given that the data collected were still raw, counter-checks have had to be made to verify a few outliers which could be detected only at the analysis stage.

2. GENDER ANALYSIS OF CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2014

2.1 FRAMEWORK

The gender analysis of the CA2014 uses the Gender Dimensions Framework (GDF) explained above and under the four key factors, namely;

- Practices and Participation
- Access to Assets
- Beliefs and Perceptions
- Laws, Policies and Institutions

2.2. PRACTICES AND PARTICIPATION

The number of farms¹ in the Republic of Mauritius (ROM) was estimated at 23,456 (18,350 in the Island of Mauritius (IOM) and 5,106 in the Island of Rodrigues (IOR). These farms, which engaged 69,767 workers, were mostly (78% or 18,350 farms) located in IOM while the remaining ones (22% or 5,106 farms) were found in IOR.

Almost 99% (23,343) of all farms were in the household sector, while the remaining 113 were in the Non-household sector which comprised companies, partnerships, cooperatives and others structured businesses engaged in agricultural activities.

The household sector engaged 66,190 or 95% of farm workers, of which 40,355 (61%) were household members working either as farmers or contributing family worker. The remaining 25,835 workers (39%) were paid employees (Table 1.)

Of the total workers (69,643) in the household and non-household sectors, 54% were males and 46% were females in the Republic of Mauritius. In IOM and IOR, 46% and 43% respectively were female workers.

Some 69% of all household agricultural workers² worked on small farms. Hence the analysis was based essentially on household agricultural workers working on small farms only. While employees and contributing family workers, who were in part-time employment, were mostly females, the farmers were mostly males and in full time employment, as shown in Table 2(a) and (b).

¹ A farm is classified in either household or non-household sector

² A household agricultural worker is either a farmer or a contributing family worker (non-farmer) of a household farm

Table 1: Number of persons engaged in Agriculture (Household Sector) by Status and Sex, July 2013-June 2014, ROM

Employment Status	Male	Female	Both sexes
Household Worker ¹	24,622	15,733	40,355
%	<i>61</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>100</i>
Paid Employee	11,032	14,803	25,835
%	<i>43</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>100</i>
Total	35,654	30,536	66,190
%	<i>54</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>100</i>

¹ *Comprises farmers and contributing family workers*

Table 2a: Number of persons engaged in Agriculture (Household Sector) by Employment Status, Type of Employment and Sex, July 2013-June 2014, IOM

Employment Status	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>
Farmer (Employer/ Own account worker)	9,514	5,256	3,178	1,286	12,692	6,542
Non-Farmer (Contributing family worker)	690	4,163	1,158	5,669	1,848	9,832
Paid employee	2,356	5,816	3,492	9,894	5,848	15,710
Total	12,560	15,235	7,828	16,849	20,388	32,084

Table 2b: Number of persons engaged in Agriculture (Household sector) by Employment Status, Type of Employment and Sex, July 2013-June 2014, IOR

Employment Status	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Part Time</i>
Farmer (Employer/ Own account worker)	2,391	988	1,900	609	4,291	1597
Non-Farmer (Contributing family worker)	164	1,456	388	1,545	552	3,001
Paid employee	146	2,714	56	1,361	202	4,075
Total	2,701	5,158	2,344	3,515	5,045	8,673

Table 3a: Number of persons engaged in Agriculture by Employment Status and Sex (Non-household sector) as at end of March 2014, IOM

Employment status	Male	Female	Both sexes
Employer/Working proprietor	54	9	63
Contributing family worker	20	5	25
Employee	2,225	866	3,091
Total	2,299	880	3,179

Table 3b: Number of persons engaged in Agriculture by Employment Status and Sex (Non-household sector) as at end of March 2014, IOR

Employment status	Male	Female	Both sexes
Employer/Working proprietor	23	135	158
Contributing family worker	1	-	1
Employee	60	55	115
Total	84	190	274

2.2.1. Household Agricultural Workers

Among persons engaged in the Agricultural household sector, 54% or 35,654 were males and 46% or 30,536, females. The gender gap was more pronounced among the household agricultural workers with 61% male and 39% female, while, on the other hand, among paid employees a higher proportion of female (53%) were engaged.

The gender gap varied also between the islands. Thus in the Island of Mauritius, females accounted for 37% of the household agricultural workers as compared to 47% in Rodrigues. (Fig 2)

2.2.2. Gender Gap among Household Agricultural Workers

The agricultural sector was patriarchal in the Republic of Mauritius with 61% male dominance, as reflected by the participation of males among household agricultural workers. Among household agricultural workers, 37% in the Island of Mauritius (IOM) and 47% in the Island of Rodrigues (IOR) were females, as shown in Figure 3. A proportion of 63% male dominance in IOM compared to 53% in IOR, clearly indicates that the Gender Gap was more pronounced in IOM (26%) than in IOR (6%).

Figure 2: Household Agricultural Workers by Sex, July 2013-June 2014, ROM

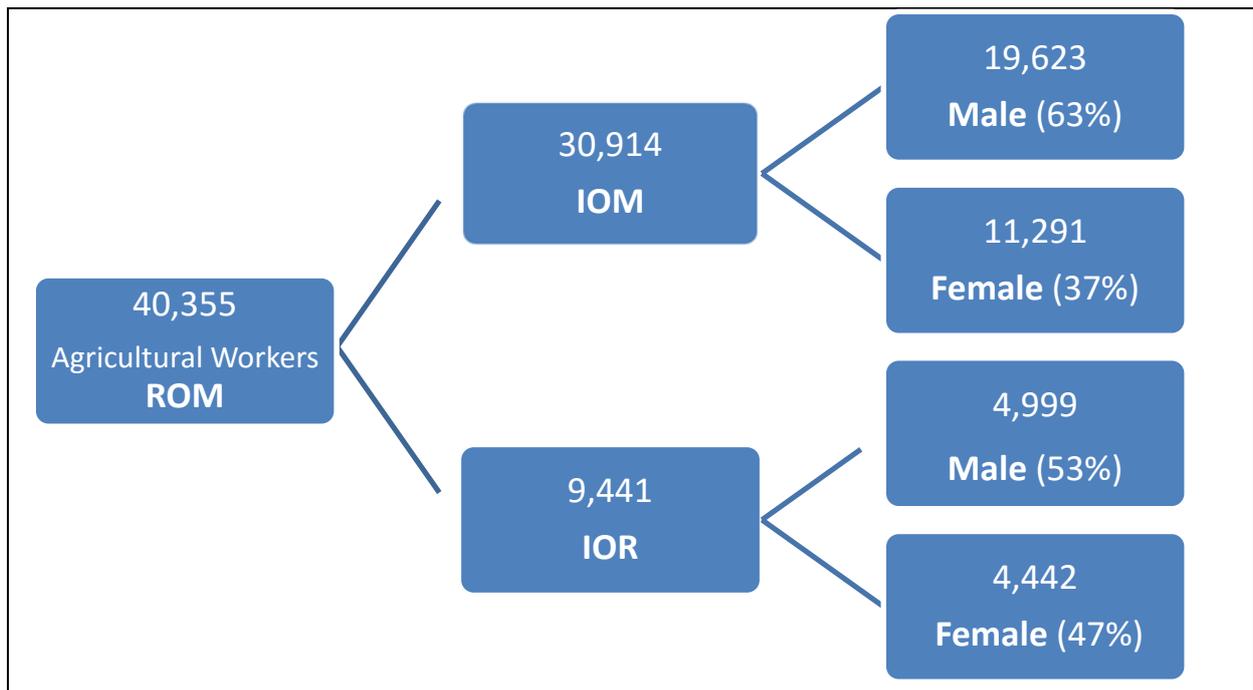
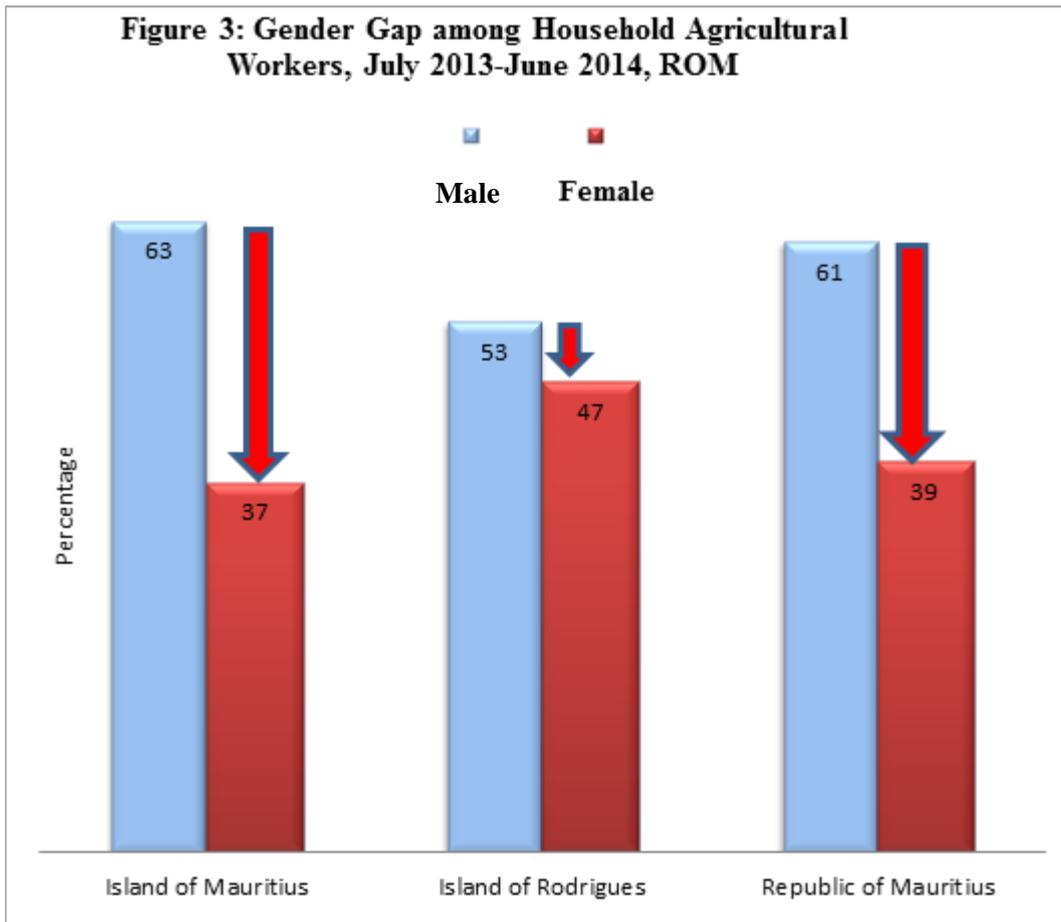


Figure 3: Gender Gap among Household Agricultural Workers, July 2013-June 2014, ROM



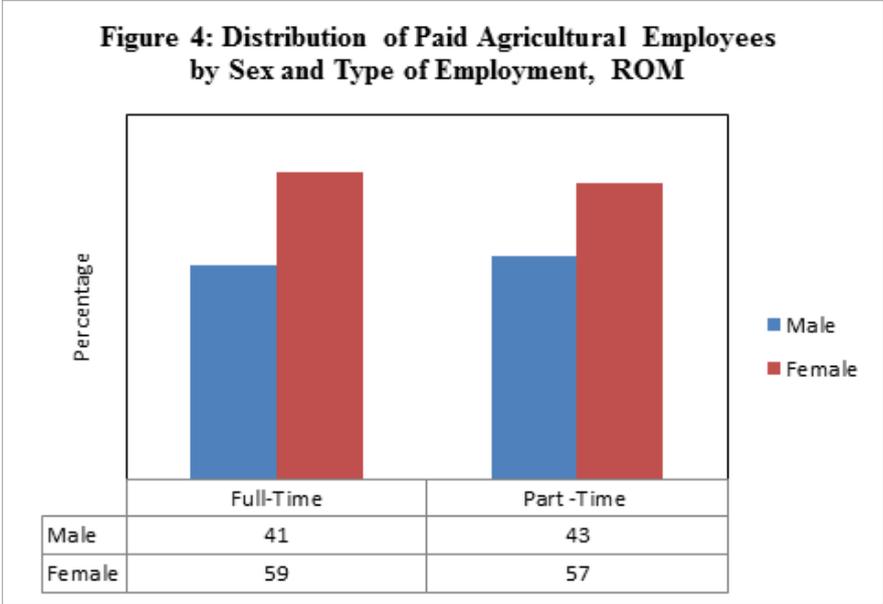
2.2.3. Paid employees in the Household sector

2.2.3.1. Number

There were 25,835 paid employees, including expatriates, in the agricultural household sector in the Republic of Mauritius and this represented 39% of total employment in that sector. Among these paid employees, 57% were women as shown in Table 1a.

2.2.3.2. Type of Employment

Among the total 25,835 paid agricultural employees in the household sector in the Republic of Mauritius, 19,785 (77%) were in part-time employment and the remaining ones (23%) were in full- time employment as shown in Figure 4. Women represented 57% among the part-timers and 59% among the full-timers.



Out of the paid agricultural employees, 73% and 95% were on a part-time basis in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues respectively as depicted in Figure 5.

While in IOM, there more females engaged as household workers in the Agricultural sector, the situation was different in IOR where there were more males than females.

Analysing the type of employment of the paid employees from a gender perspective reveals that, while in IOM nearly 60% of the full-time employees were women, the estimate in IOR was as low as 28%. The trend was the same for part-time paid employees with a proportion of 63% for IOM against around 33% for IOR.

On the other hand, among farmers, the gender gap was much better (narrower) in IOR than in IOM. Out of the total farmers in IOM, only 23% were women as compared to 43% in IOR. Detailed analysis of women as farmers and in decision making position is found at Section 2.1.6.

Figure 5: Distribution of Paid Agricultural Employees by Type of Employment, ROM

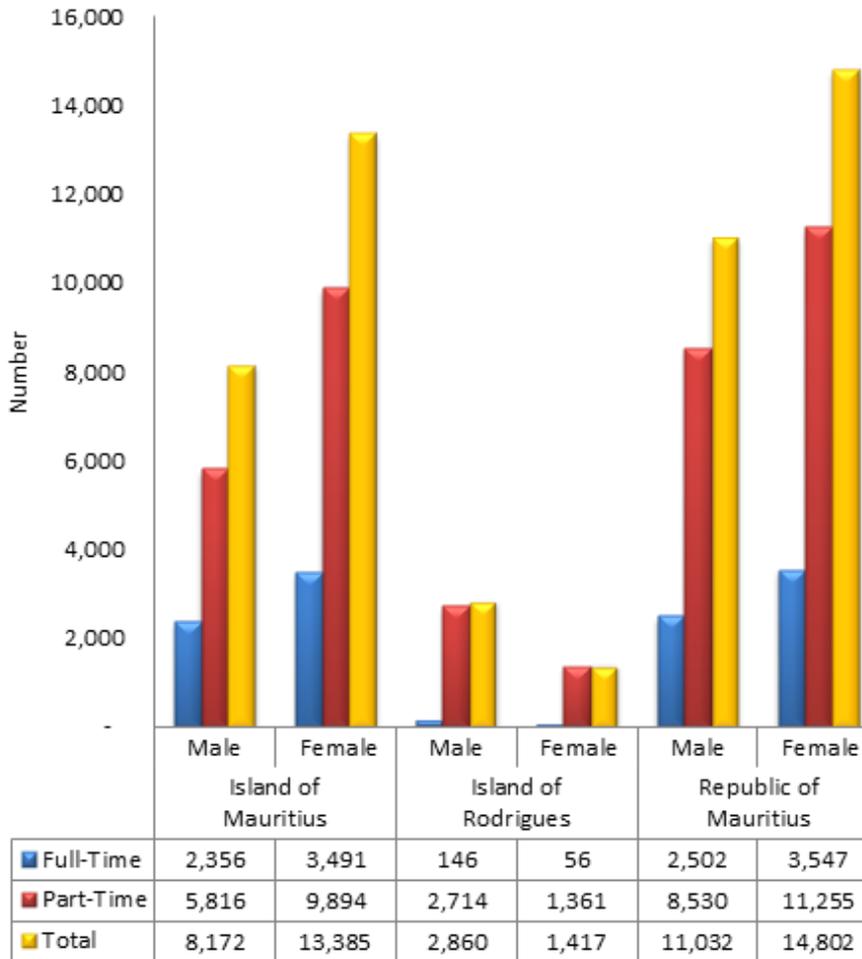
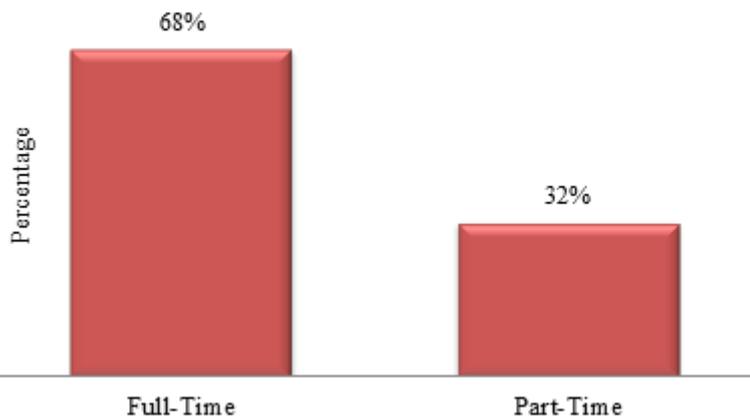


Figure 6: Percentage Distribution of Farmers by Type of Employment, ROM



2.2.4. Farms by Size and Gender

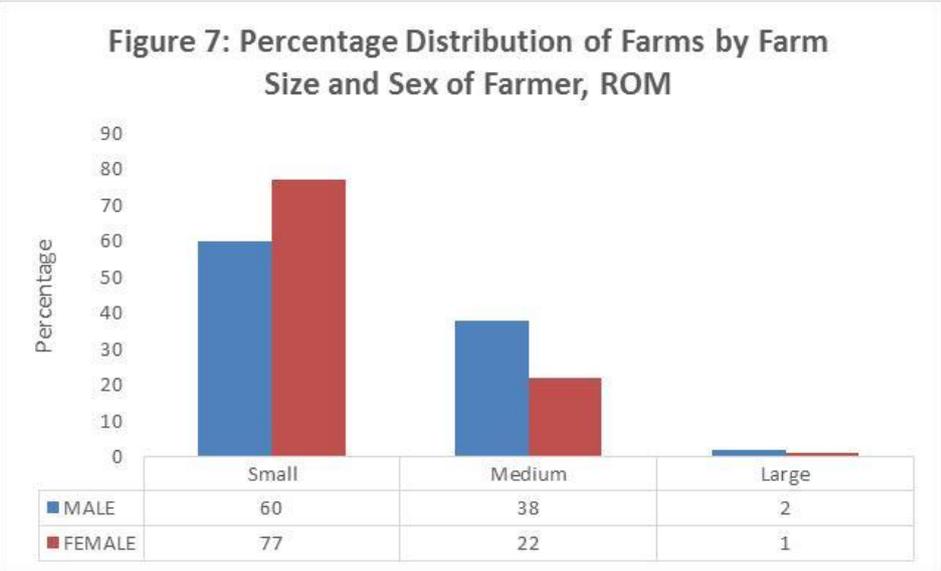
There is no standard criteria to demarcate the size of a farm. While the size of crops production farms is determined by space or area, others like livestock farms is determined by the number of heads of each livestock type. For the purpose of the census, a farm for crops production was considered ‘small’ when its area was less than 0.5 arpent; ‘medium’ when area was between 0.5 and less than 10 arpents; ‘large’ it was more 10 arpents and above. A farm for cattle was considered ‘small’ when it had at most 10 heads; ‘medium’ when it had between 11 and 19 heads; and ‘large’ when it had 20 heads and above.

Table 4: Distribution of Farms by Number of Farmers in Operation, ROM

	Island of Mauritius		Island of Rodrigues		Republic of Mauritius	
	<i>1 farmer</i>	<i>2 farmers or more</i>	<i>1 farmer</i>	<i>2 farmers or more</i>	<i>1 farmer</i>	<i>2 farmers or more</i>
Number of farms	17,067	1,193	4,239	844	21,306	2,037
%	93.5	6.5	83.4	16.6	91.3	8.7

In the Republic of Mauritius, reflecting both the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, most of the household farms were small. Out of 23,343 household farms in the Republic of Mauritius, 15,136 (65%) were small. Some 77% of female farmers worked in these small farms, 22% in medium farms and 1% in large farms. Women tended to work in small-size farms both in the Islands of Rodrigues and Mauritius, as shown in Figure 7. More men worked in medium and large farms.

Out of the 23,343 farms in the Republic of Mauritius, 91% were headed by 1 farmer and only



a few had 2 or more farmers, with the same tendency in both the Islands of Rodrigues and Mauritius (Table 4). Of the total of 40,355 household workers, 95% worked on only one farm. Those who worked on different farms were mostly men.

2.2.5. Types of Agricultural Activity by Gender

Given that the CA2014 did not cover independently activities like nurseries, forestry, aquaculture, subsistence fishing and agro-processing, the gender analysis of agricultural activities had been restricted to farming type: “Crop only”, “Livestock & Poultry only” and “Mixed Farming”. Of the total of 40,355 household workers, 30,914 were from the IOM and 9,441 were from the IOR. In the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, around 37% and 47% of the total household workers in the respective islands were females. There were more males than females working in all the three types of farming, viz, Crop only, Livestock and Poultry only, and Mixed Farming, as shown in Tables 5a, 5b and 5c.

Table 5a: Distribution of Household workers of Household Farms by Farming Type and Sex, ROM

Farming type	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Crop only	4,322	69	1,972	31	6,294	100
Livestock and Poultry only	1,160	58	844	42	2,004	100
Mixed Farming	19,140	60	12,917	40	32,057	100

Table 5b: Distribution of Household workers of Household Farms by Farming Type and Sex, IOM

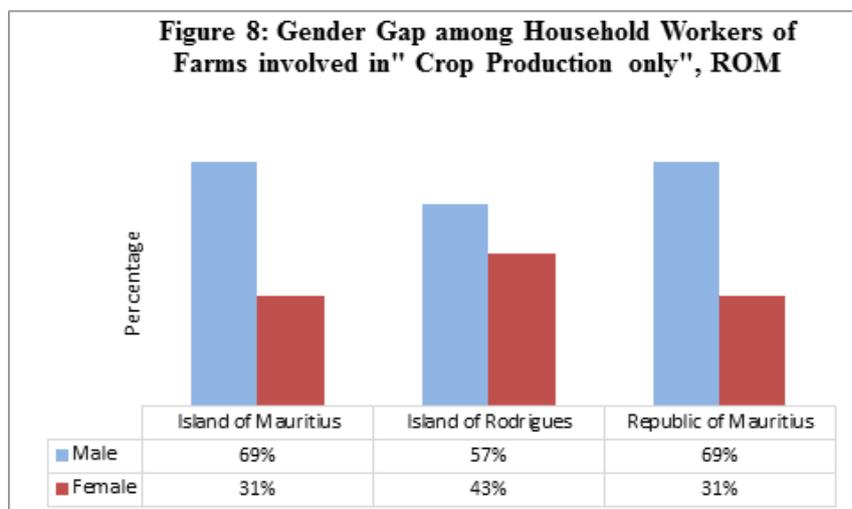
Farming type	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Crop only	4,139	69	1,836	31	5,975	100
Livestock and Poultry only	1,140	58	835	42	1,975	100
Mixed Farming	14,344	62	8,620	38	22,964	100

Table 5c: Distribution of Household workers of Household Farms by Farming Type and Sex, IOR

Farming type	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Crop only	183	57	136	43	319	100
Livestock and Poultry only	20	69	9	31	29	100
Mixed Farming	4,796	53	4,297	47	9,093	100

2.2.5.1. “Crops Only” Activities

In the Republic of Mauritius, 69% of household workers involved in “Crop Only” activities



were males, as shown in Figure 8. While there was a predominance of males over females in both islands for this type of activity, it is noticed that the Gender Gap in the IOR was less than in IOM.

Household farmers in the Republic of Mauritius were mostly involved in the production of crops

only (vegetables, fruits and flowers). With the exception of production of flowers in the Island of Rodrigues, all crops were produced mainly by men, with a narrower gender gap in Rodrigues.

2.2.5.2. Livestock & Poultry Activities

Livestock and poultry household workers in the Republic of Mauritius were also predominantly men. Most of them were involved in the production of poultry, goats, pigs and cattle and in general the gender gap was not very pronounced, as shown the Figure 9a. The gender gap was wider among household workers involved in the rearing of bee, sheep and cattle in the Republic of Mauritius.

In general, there was a wider gender gap among livestock farmers in IOM than in IOR as shown in the Figures 9(b) and 9(c).

In IOM, male household workers predominated in all activities and gender gap was widest for those rearing deer (all were males) and narrowest (10%) for those rearing “goats” as well as those rearing “poultry local”.

Male household workers in IOR predominated in all activities except among those producing pigs, where female accounted for more than half (54%) of them in this activity. Noted also was the prevalence of gender parity (Gender Gap = 0) among these workers in two activities, namely “Rearing of Deer” and “Poultry Broiler”. On the other hand, the widest gender gap (38%) was observed in “Bee Keeping”.

2.2.5.3. “Mixed Farming” Activities

Almost all household farms in the Republic of Mauritius practised mixed farming activities. Of the total of 40,355 household workers, 32,057 (79%) were working on farms involved in mixed farming. Of the total household workers working on the latter farms in the Republic of Mauritius, 40% were women. Comparing this indicator between the two islands, it was observed there was a higher proportion (47%) of women in IOR who were engaged in mixed farming in contrast to 38% in IOM. This is shown in Tables 5a, 5b and 5c above.

Figure 9a: Gender Gap among Household Workers of Farms involved in "Livestock and Poultry Production only", ROM

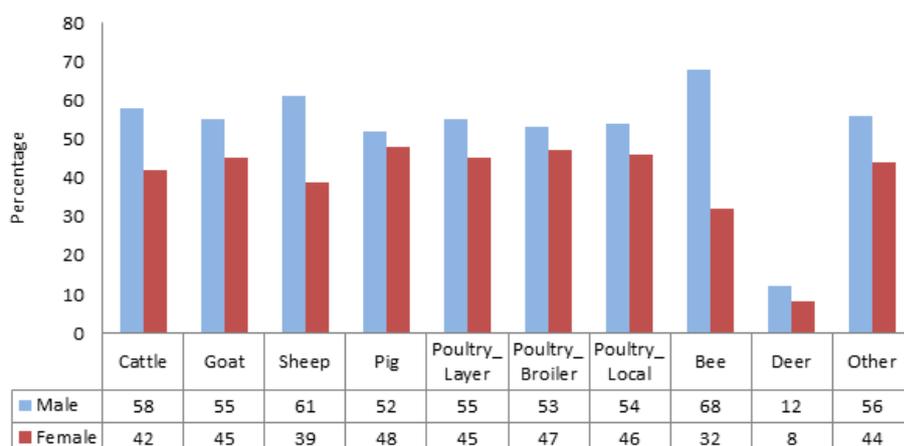


Figure 9b: Gender Gap among Household Workers of Farms involved in "Livestock and Poultry Production only", IOM

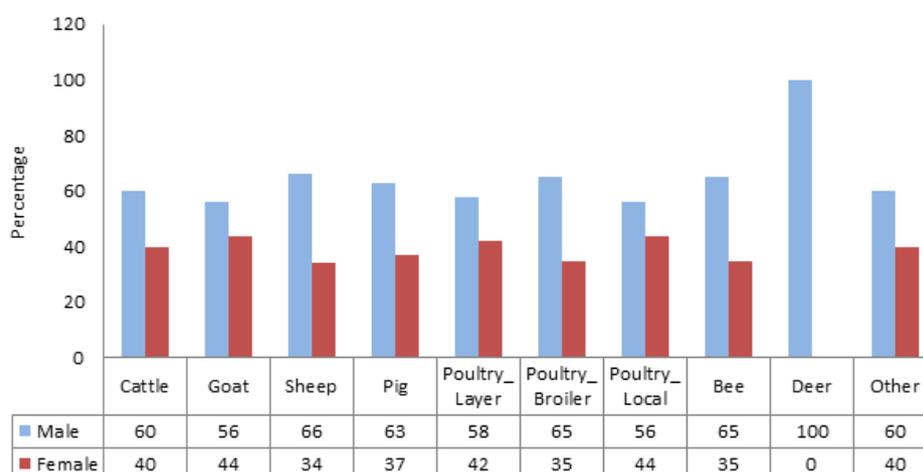
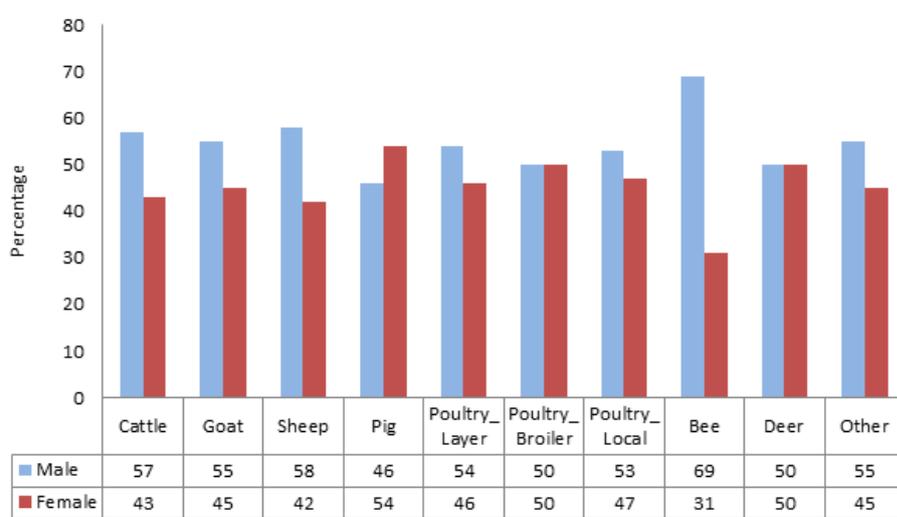


Figure 9c: Gender Gap among Household Workers of Farms involved in "Livestock and Poultry Production only", IOR

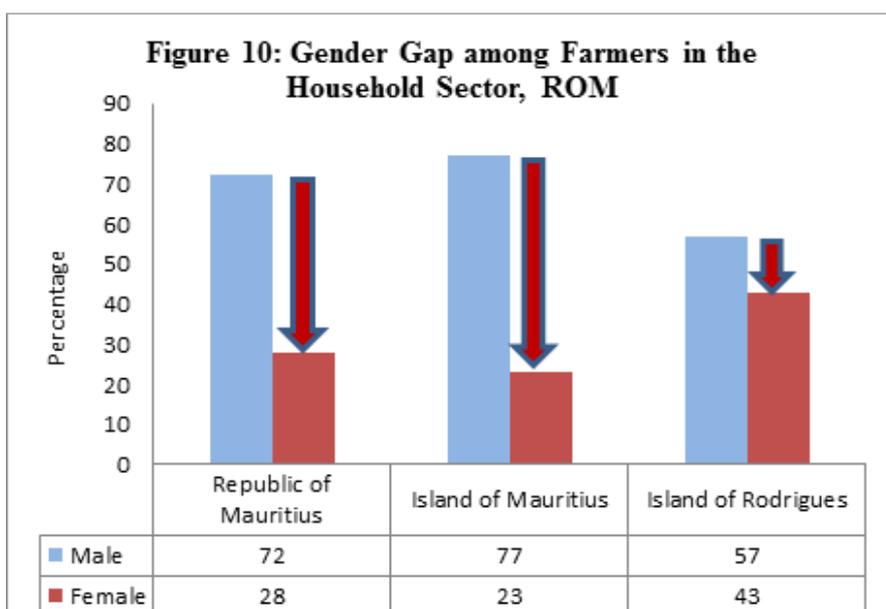


2.2.6. Women as Decision Makers

For the purpose of CA2014 a farmer is defined as “a person making the major decisions about the agricultural operations... and who has the technical and economic responsibility for agricultural production”. Women’s positioning in terms of role and status at an enterprise or a holding indicates the extent of empowerment, since she is in a decision making position. Unfortunately data on joint decision making in the agricultural sector was not available from the census.

2.2.6.1. Women as Farmers

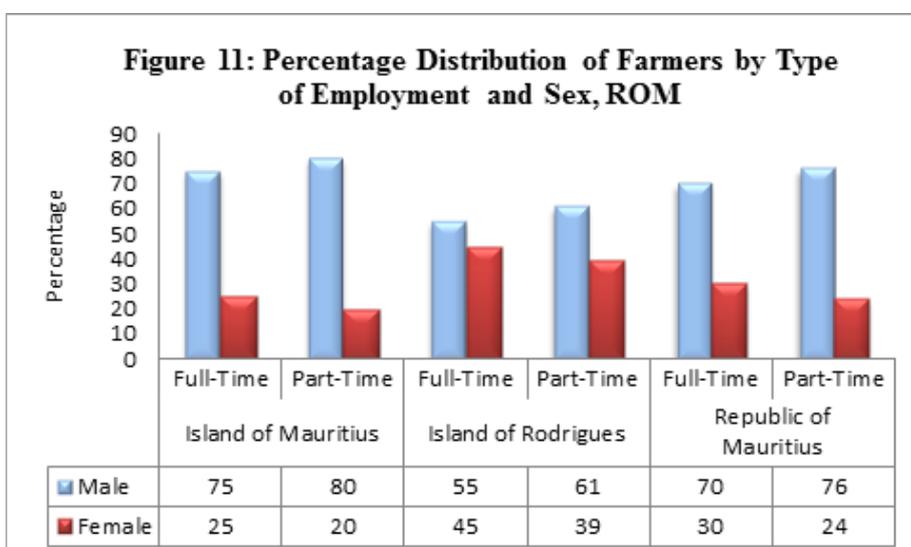
An analysis on the engagement of women as farmers revealed that in the Republic of Mauritius



around one out of every four farmers was a woman, indicating a serious gender gap for the decision role in the agricultural sector.

In the Republic of Mauritius, there were 25,122 household farmers, 72% of whom were males (18,149) and 28% (6,973) were females.

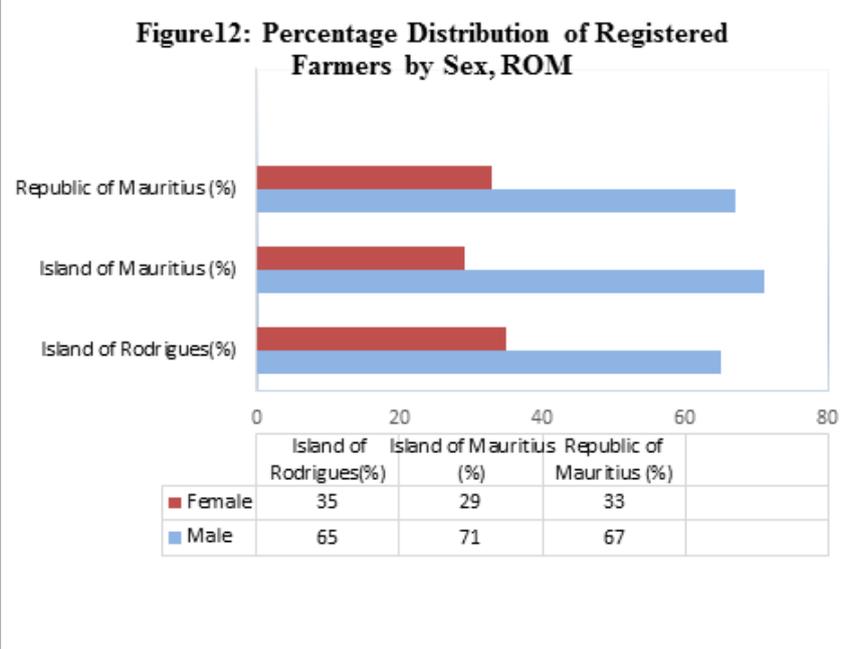
In the IOM, 77% of farmers were males and 23% were females. Data analysis revealed that in IOM, males dominated as decision makers in the agricultural sector. However, the situation was very much better in IOR with 57% males and 43% females as farmers and in decision making roles (Figure 10).



The gender gap among farmers was 54% in IOM compared to only 14% in IOR. This indicated that a woman in IOR was more likely to be in decision making position in the agricultural sector than one in IOM.

As explained earlier, male farmers in the Republic of Mauritius, were working more as part-timers rather than on a full-time basis. The same trend prevailed in both IOM and IOR (Figure 11).

In the agricultural sector, around half of the farmers participated in formal decision-making bodies such as welfare and cooperative societies, and/or agricultural associations. Out of 25,122 farmers in the Republic of Mauritius, 12,489 were registered with these agricultural organisations, of which 2,272 were female farmers, representing 18% of the registered farmers and 9% of total farmers (Table 6). The percentage of female farmers registered with agricultural organizations in IOR was much higher (43%) than that of IOM (13%).



The census thus revealed that men were the key decision makers on agricultural production, despite the fact that most of them were part-time farmers. Also a higher proportion of women farmers in IOR compared to IOM, participated in formal discussions organised by decision making bodies.

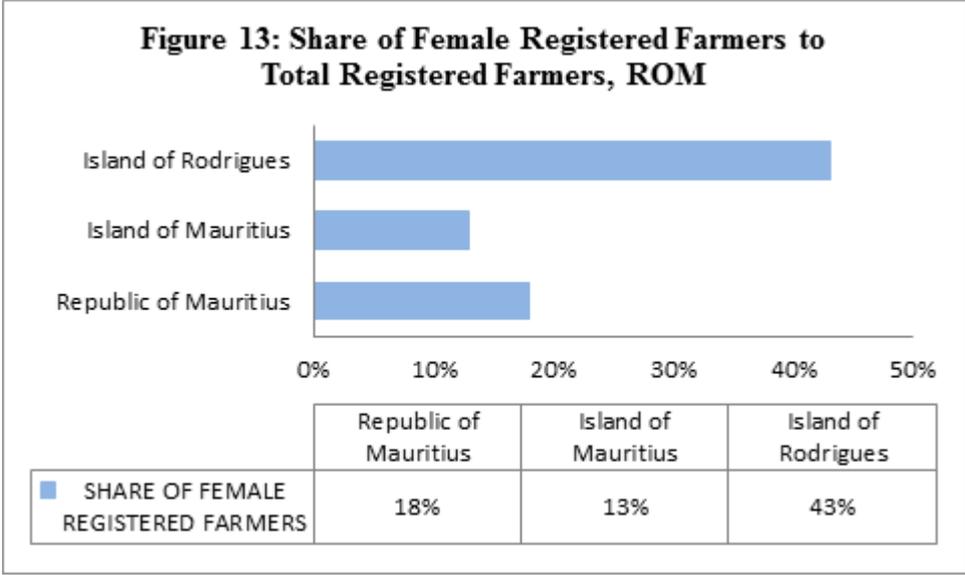
In the Republic of Mauritius, around one third of the women farmers were registered with formal decision-making bodies in the agricultural sector. This showed that 2 out of every 3 female farmers were not registered and thus did not participate in formal decision making process organised by agricultural organisations.

Table 6: Number of Registered Farmers, July 2013-June 2014, ROM

	Island of Mauritius			Island of Rodrigues			Republic of Mauritius		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of Registered Farmers	8,991	1,335	10,326	1,226	937	2,163	10,217	2,272	12,489
% Registered	87	13	100	57	43	100	82	18	100

Of the total registered farmers (12,489) in the Republic of Mauritius, only 18% were females (Table 6). The gender gap was much wider in IOM with only 13% of registered farmers being

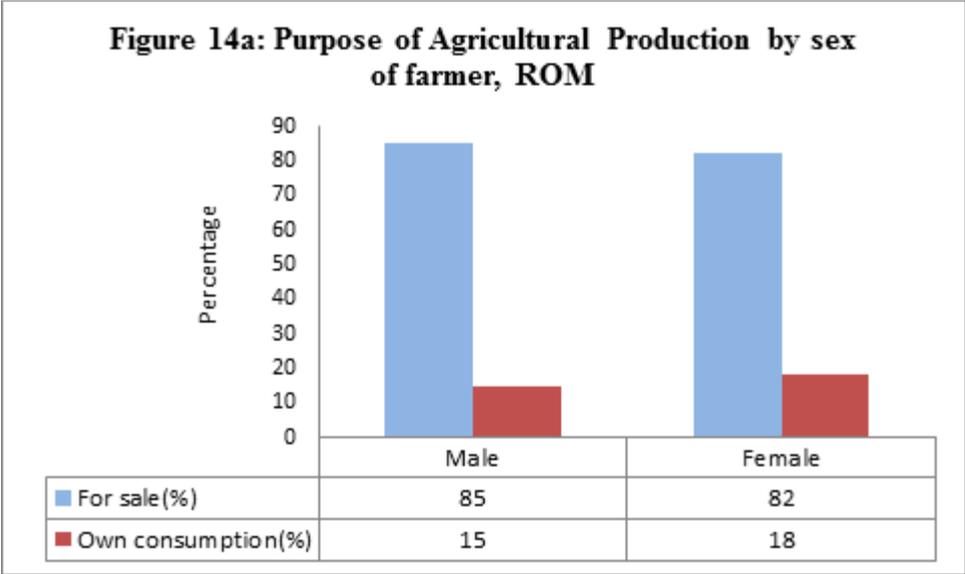
female as compared to 43% in IOR. Around 35% of female farmers were registered in the IOR against 29% in IOM, as shown in Figure 12.

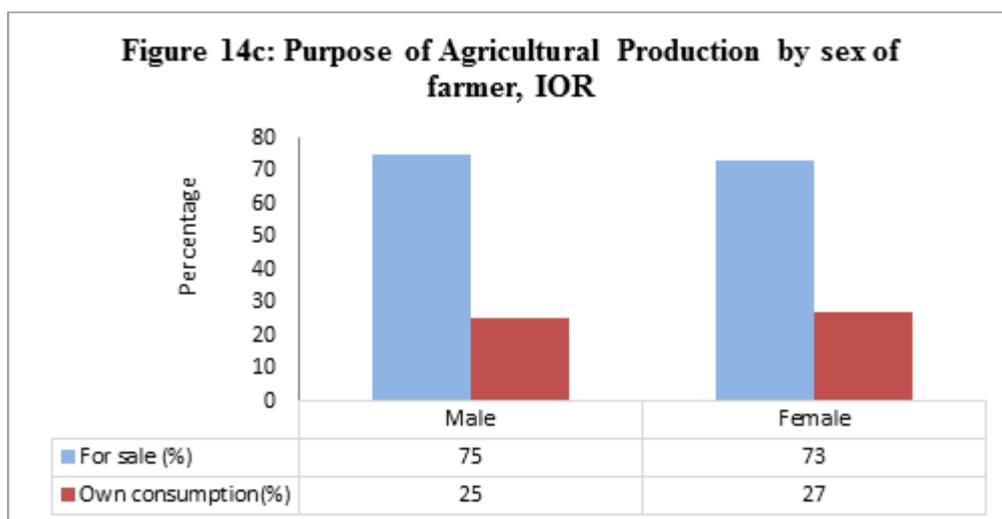
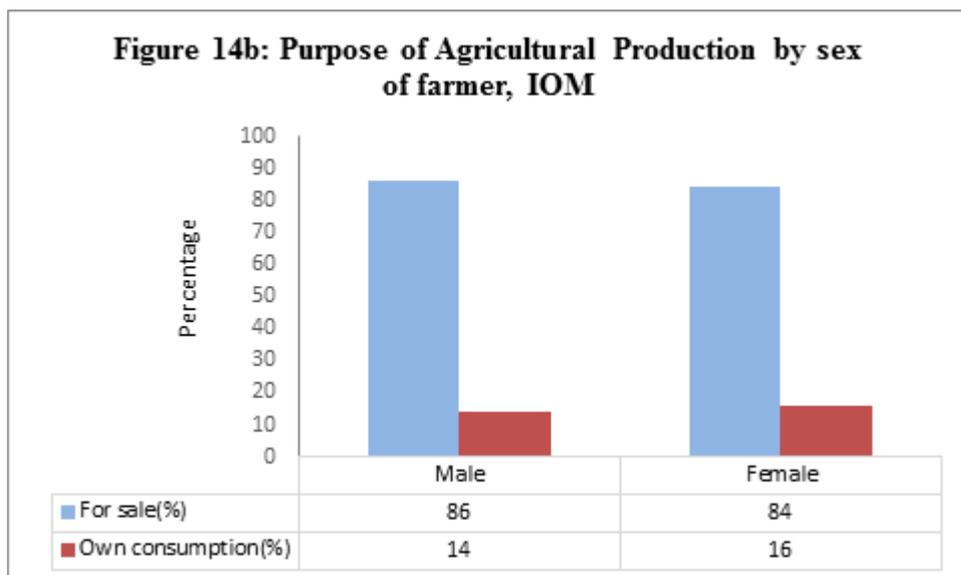


2.2.6.2. Purpose of Production of Farmers by Gender

Both male and female farmers produced agricultural goods mainly for sale in both the Islands of Rodrigues and Mauritius (Figures 14a, 14b and 14c).

The percentage of total product that was produced for own consumption was more than double in IOR (26%) compared to IOM (12%), indicating that farmers in IOR were more likely to produce for subsistence. In general, 3 out of every 4 male farmers produced for sales rather than for own consumption. This tendency was also reflected among female farmers.





2.2.6.3. Extent of decision making power and income contribution of Female Household Heads working on household farms

A farmer is described as a person taking major decision in a farm. In the Republic of Mauritius, out of the total number of heads of households (20,715) in the agricultural household sector, 89% were farmers.

Table 7: Distribution of head of households (HHD) and Farmers in decision making position by Gender, July 2013-June 2014, ROM

	Male			Female			Both Sexes		
	HHD	Farmers	%	HHD	Farmers	%	HHD	Farmers	%
IOM	15,656	14,194	90.7	2,604	2,247	86.3	18,260	16,441	90.0
IOR	3,942	3,197	81.1	1,141	1,077	94.4	5,083	4,274	84.1
ROM	19,598	17,391	88.7	3,745	3,324	88.8	23,343	20,715	88.7

Of these farmers, 16% (3,324) were females and thus participated in the decision making process.

Among the female heads of households 89% were farmers and thus were involved on the decision making process. This proportion varied between the two islands; 86% for IOM against 94% in IOR. (Table 7).

In the Republic of Mauritius, some 20,715 households heads were also farmers. Out of these farmers around 36% were deriving at least half of their total income from agricultural activities. However, island wise the proportions were 37% and 31% for IOM and IOR respectively (Table 8).

Further analysis by gender revealed that, 46% of female farmers (as against 34% male farmers) who were also head of households derived at least half of their income from agricultural activities in the Republic of Mauritius. The gender gap for this indicator was much wider for IOR where the proportion among female farmers was more than two-fold that of male farmers. (52% against 24%).

Table 8: Household Heads deriving at least 50% of Income from Agriculture by Sex, July 2013-June 2014, ROM

	Farmers among Male HHD	<i>% deriving at least half of their income from agriculture</i>	Farmers among Female HHD	<i>% deriving at least half of their income from agriculture</i>	Farmers among HHD	<i>% deriving at least half of their income from agriculture</i>
IOM	14,194	36.2	2,247	42.8	16,441	37.1
IOR	3,197	24.4	1,077	52.1	4,274	31.4
ROM	17,391	34.0	3,324	45.8	20,715	35.9

2.3 ACCESS TO ASSETS

This section analyses the ability of the agricultural worker to use the necessary resources to be fully active and productive. It analyses the agricultural household workers working in the household sector in terms of access to credit, land, agricultural implements, markets and impeding constraints.

2.3.1 Access to Credit

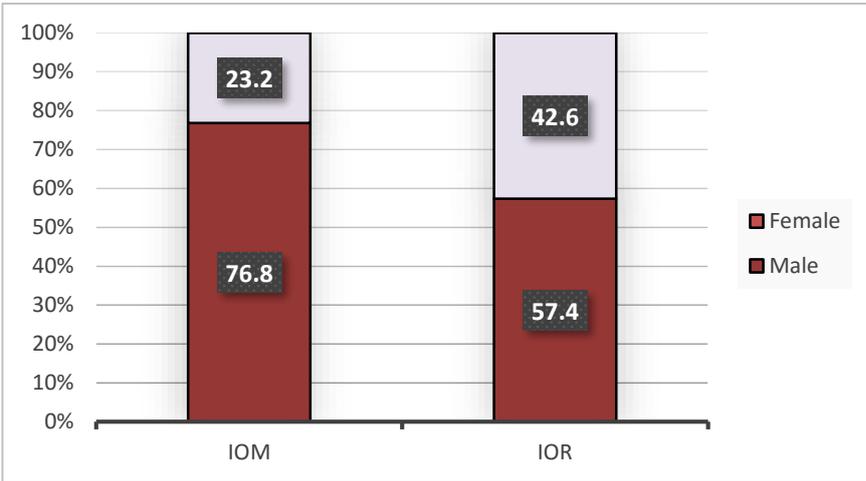
Accessibility to credit here had been measured by analysing the distribution of farmers with outstanding loans. In the Republic of Mauritius, 75% of males had outstanding loans against

25% females. It is inferred thereon that more male farmers had access to credit than females. Female farmers in IOR tended to have more access to credit than in IOM (Table 9).

Table 9: Distribution of Farmers (household sector) with outstanding loan by Sex, July 2013-June 2014

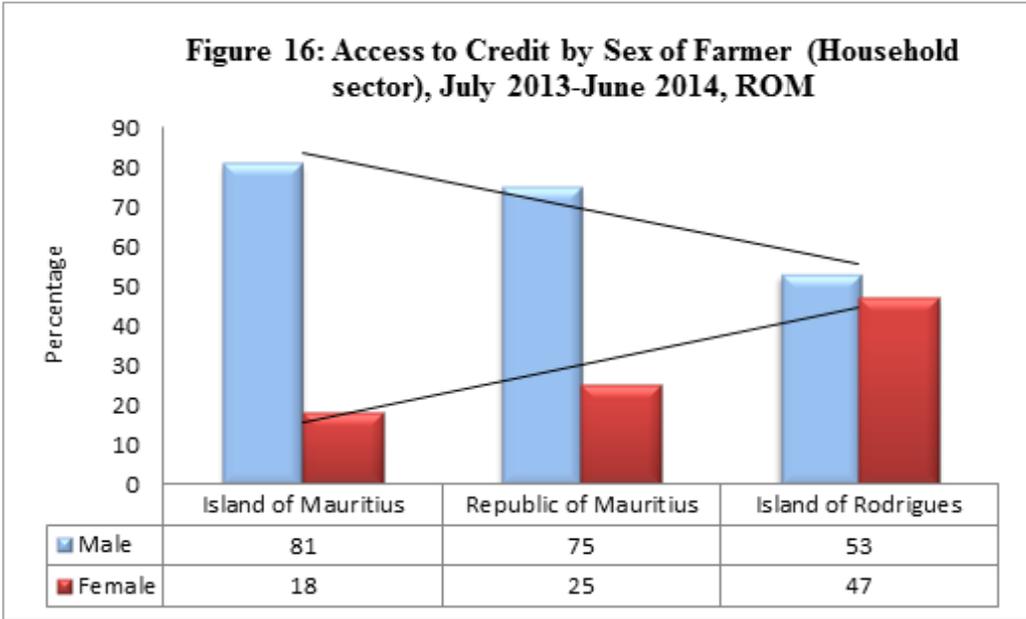
Sex	Island of Mauritius	%	Island of Rodrigues	%	Republic of Mauritius	%
Male	1,431	76.8	269	57.4	1,700	72.9
Female	432	23.2	200	42.6	632	27.1
Both sexes	1,863	100.0	469	100.0	2,332	100.0

Figure 15: Percentage Distribution of famers (Household sector) with outstanding loan by Sex, July 2013-June 2014, IOM and IOR



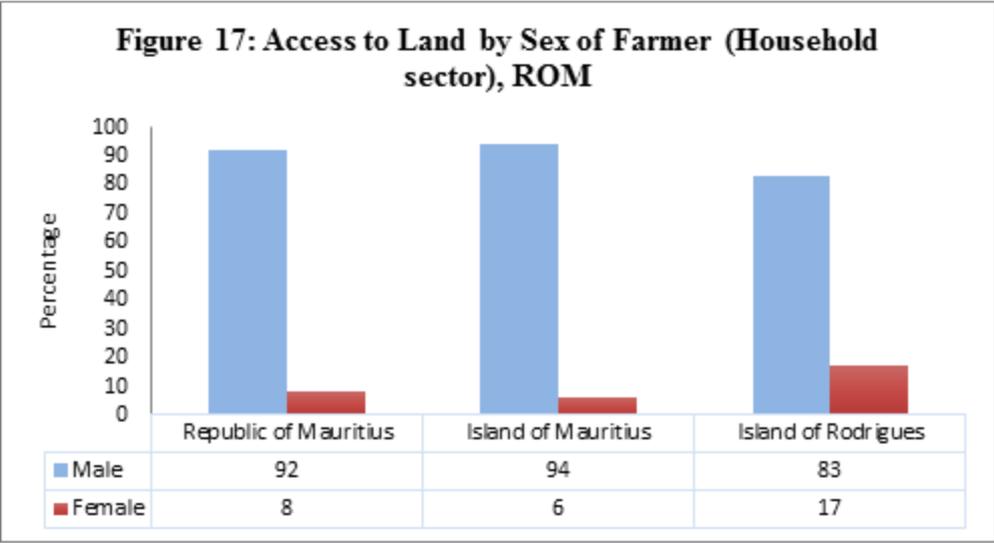
In terms of Gender Gap, it was more pronounced in IOM than in the IOR, as shown in Figure 16. Around 47% of women farmers had access to credit in IOR against around 18% in OM.

Figure 16: Access to Credit by Sex of Farmer (Household sector), July 2013-June 2014, ROM



2.3.2 Access to Land

Women had limited access to land in the Republic of Mauritius. Almost all agricultural lands in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues were owned, rented or leased by male farmers. Of the 66,450 hectares of land occupied by the 23,343 household farms in the Republic of Mauritius, only 5,175 hectares (8%) were occupied by females. While this proportion worked out to 6% for the IOM, land occupied by female farmers in IOR was estimated at 17%, indicating that female farmers in IOR had greater access to land as compared to those in IOM. (Figure 17)



2.3.3. Access to Agricultural Implements

On the whole, male farmers owned and used more agricultural implements than their female counterparts. Males dominated in the use of mechanization, irrigation system, fertilizers and improved seeds on their farms both in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

As shown in Figure 18a, agricultural implements were mostly (80%) owned by male farmers in the course of their work as compared to female farmers.

It is worth noting that the gender gap in terms of access to implements in IOR was much less than that in IOM. On average, 40% of women in IOR had access to agricultural implements against only 15% in IOM, as shown in Figures 18b and 18c.

Figure 18a: Access to Agricultural Implements by Sex of Farmer, ROM

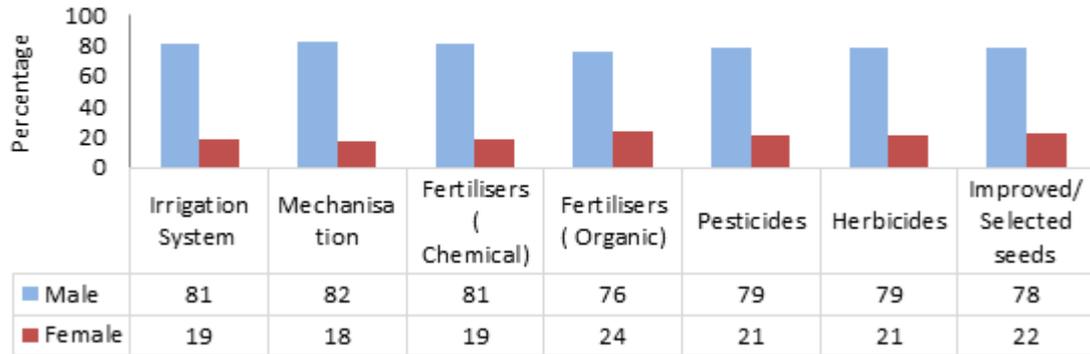


Figure 18b: Access to Agricultural Implements by Sex of Farmer, IOM

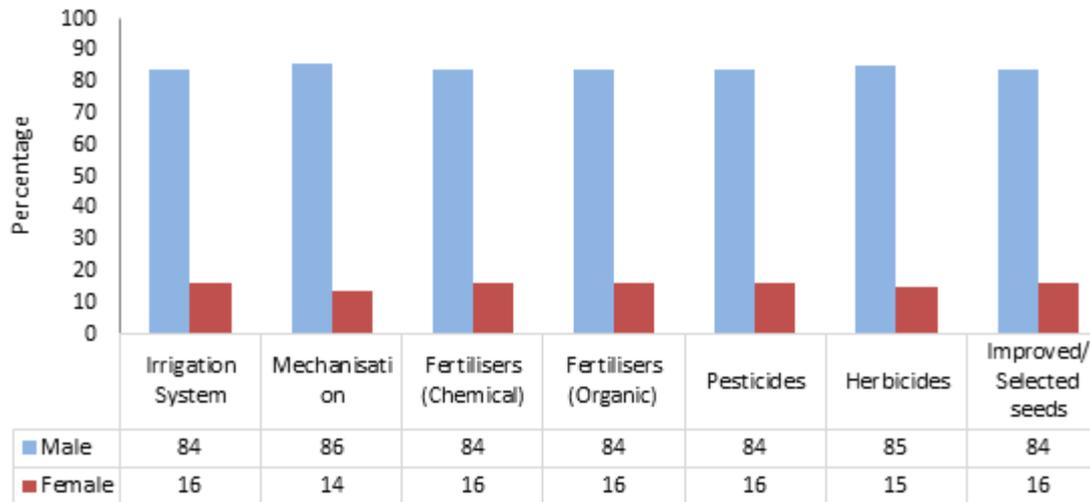
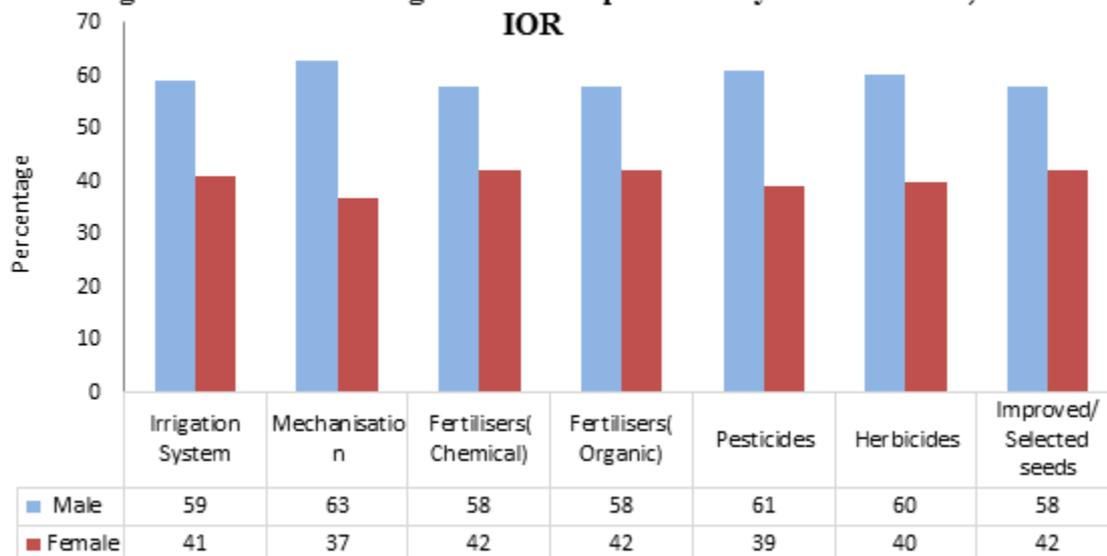


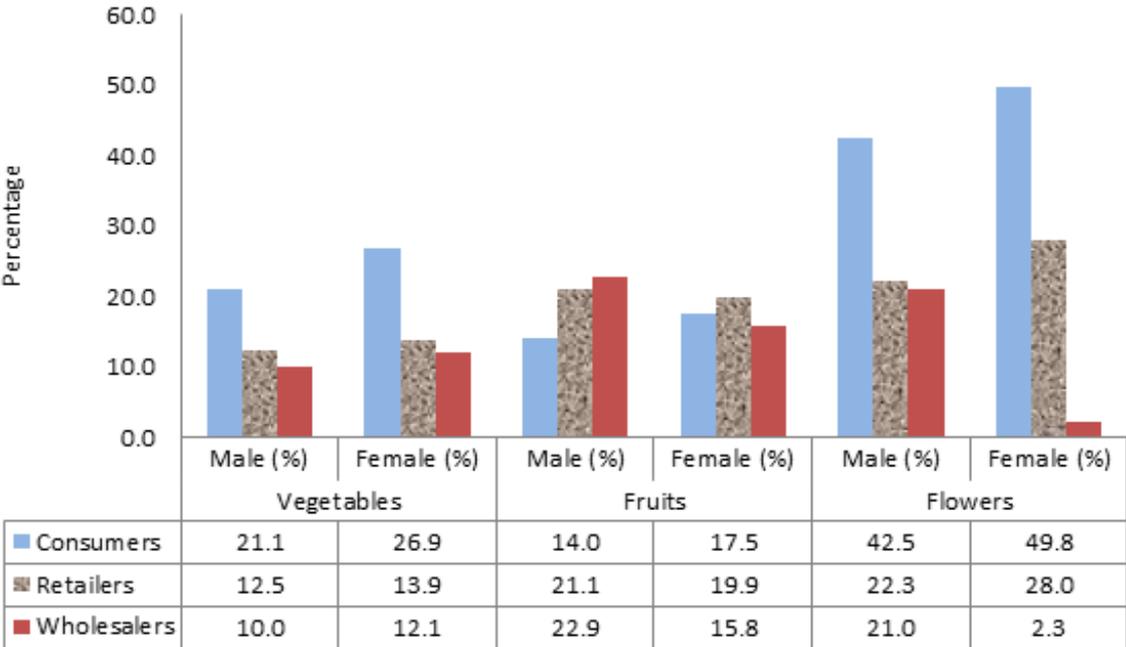
Figure 18c: Access to Agricultural Implements by Sex of Farmer, IOR



2.3.4. Access to Markets

Almost all agricultural products were sold on the local market, with exception of 3% of Fruits and Flowers and 5% of mostly cattle, goat and sheep that were exported in the Island of Mauritius and the Island of Rodrigues respectively. It is to be noted that 25% of the products in IOR were produced for own consumption, as compared to only 6% in IOM.

Figure 19a: Access to Market by Crop Type and Sex of Farmer, IOM



As shown in Figures 19a, 19b, 20a and 20b there was no substantial gender gap in marketing of crops and livestock and poultry in the Island of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

There are few variations that are worthwhile underlining:

- There was a tendency for female farmers to market their products directly to consumers in both Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- Almost all women farmers (93%) in IOM produced poultry for their own consumption thus having limited access to market. The small proportion of women farmers in the IOM who sold their poultry did so to wholesalers. In IOR, more than half (53%) of the female farmers produced poultry for their own consumption and the rest were sold directly to consumers.
- Most of the vegetables produced by farmers were sold in auction markets in IOM where there was also a marked presence of women. Some 46% of vegetables produced by female farmers were sold in auction markets, as compared to 55% for male farmers. In IOR the Auction Market was almost inexistent.
- Sheep and goats were sold mostly to consumers by both male and female farmers in the IOM. However, in IOR, the sale of cattle, goats and sheep was mostly to wholesalers and retailers and very little to consumers. The sale of pigs in IOM was mostly to

wholesalers, while in IOR, it was mostly to consumers. There was almost no gender disparity in access to these markets in both islands.

- While female farmers preferred to sell the honey they produced to the wholesalers in IOM, in IOR they preferred to sell it to consumers.
- Access of flowers to wholesalers was limited to female farmers in both islands, and this could indicate a not-so-well developed wholesale market for flowers.

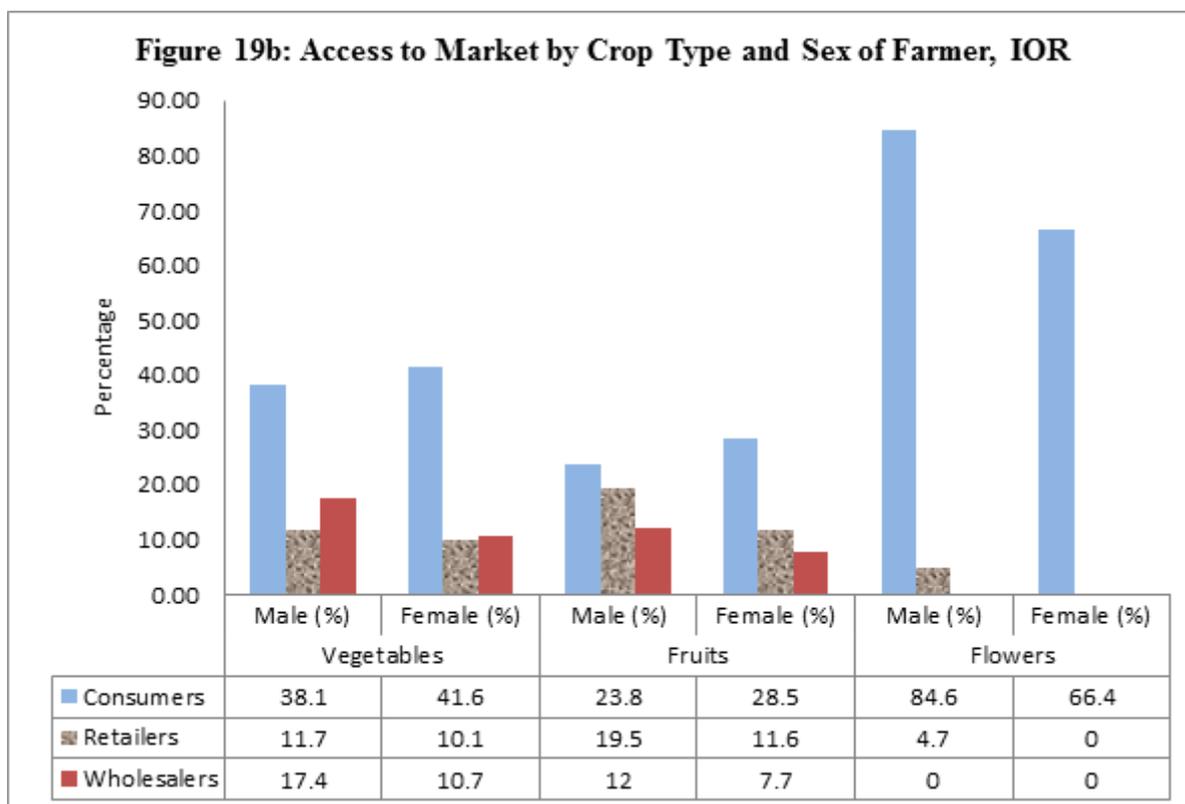


Figure 20a: Access to Market for Livestock and Poultry by Sex of Farmer, IOM

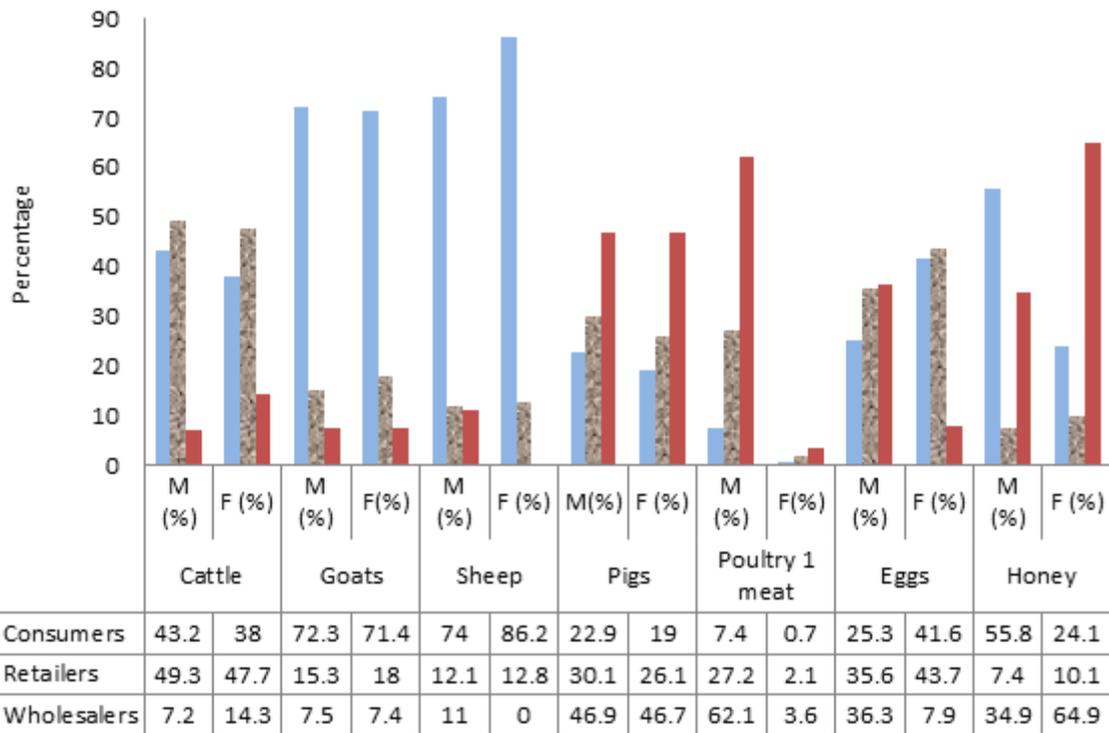
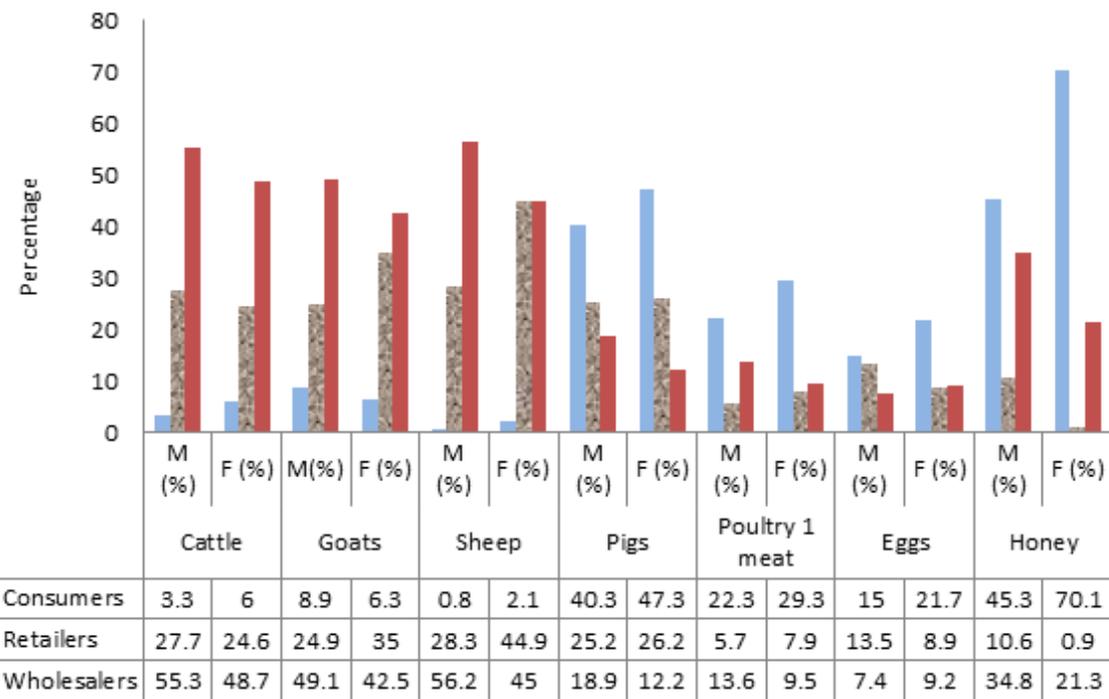


Figure 20b: Access to Market for Livestock and Poultry by Sex of Farmer, IOR



2.3.5. Constraints encountered by Women Farmers

While pests, diseases, unavailability of water supply and natural disasters hit both male and female farmers equally, females in general were more affected by these constraints than males in the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

In the IOR female farmers were constrained about seven times more than those in IOM in terms of pests, diseases, unavailability of water and natural disasters, amongst others. In IOM, besides pests/diseases and natural disaster, female farmers suffered additionally more from thefts, unavailability of fodder and land as reflected in Tables 10a and 10b.

Table 10a: Main constraints of farmers (household sector) by gender, July 2013-June 2014, IOM

Main Constraint	Male (%)	Female (%)
Pests/ diseases	71.9	60.4
Natural disaster	45.5	36.4
Theft	36.2	28.3
Availability of water	28.7	20.1
Price of inputs (feeds, seeds, fertilizers/pesticides, drugs/vaccines, mechanisation etc)	22.9	25.5
Availability of labour	20.8	11.3
Availability of fodder	11.0	27.9
Marketing	12.0	10.9
Availability of land	11.4	12.4
Quality of inputs (seeds, fertilizers/pesticides etc.)	9.3	5.7
Availability of agricultural equipment/machinery	8.5	5.0

Table10b: Main constraints of farmers (household sector) by gender July 2013-June 2014, IOR

Main Constraint	Male (%)	Female (%)
Pests/diseases	90.0	86.5
Availability of water	69.2	72.2
Natural disaster	66.1	60.5
Price of inputs (feeds, seeds, fertilizers/pesticides, mechanisation etc.)	25.7	24.5
Marketing	20.8	18.0
Theft	16.7	19.3
Availability of labour	12.3	15.1
Availability of fodder	13.5	9.6
Availability of land	12.6	10.2
Availability of agricultural equipment/machinery	12.8	8.7
Quality of inputs (seeds, etc.)	7.9	8.7

In terms of access to land, as pointed above and confirmed by data in Tables 10a and 10b, female farmers had more difficulty in IOM than in IOR. However, female farmers in IOR had more difficulty in accessing to market for their product than those in IOM.

With a few exceptions between the Island of Rodrigues and Mauritius such as the availability of water and the problem of theft, women and men in both islands faced similar constraints, but in varied degree and extent as shown in Figures 21a, 21b, 22a and 22b.

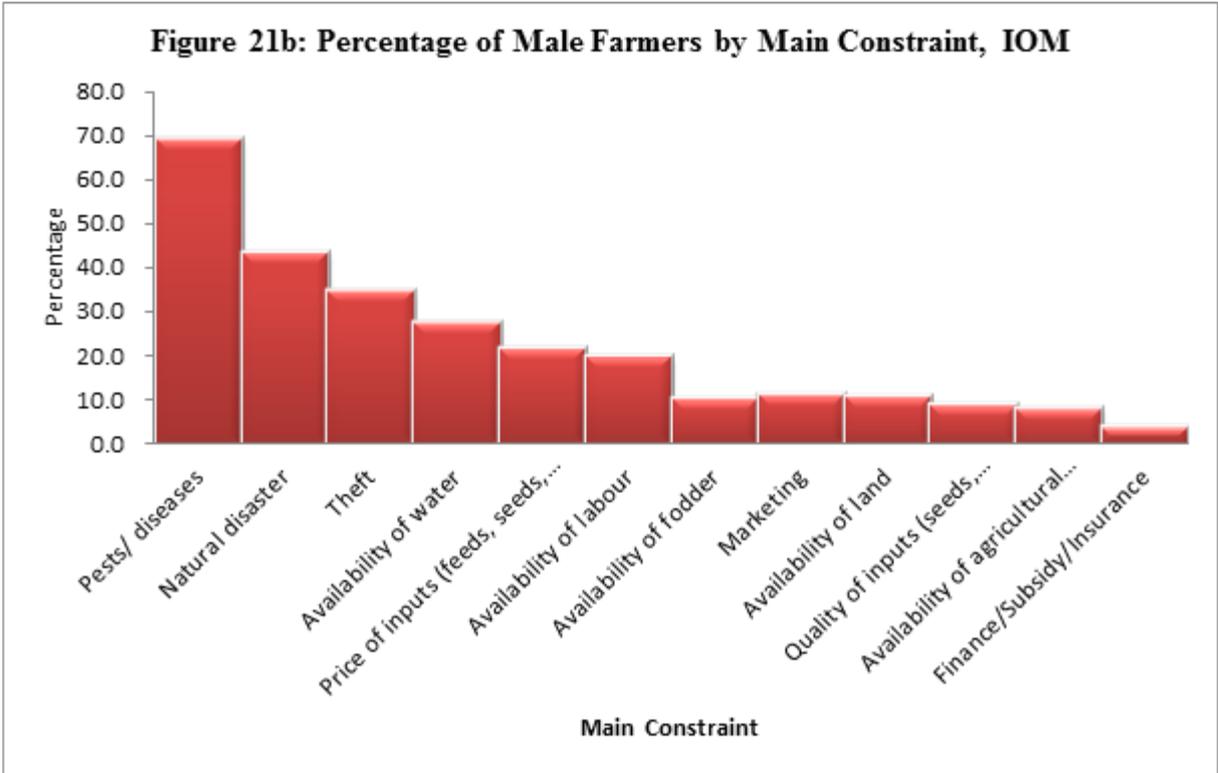
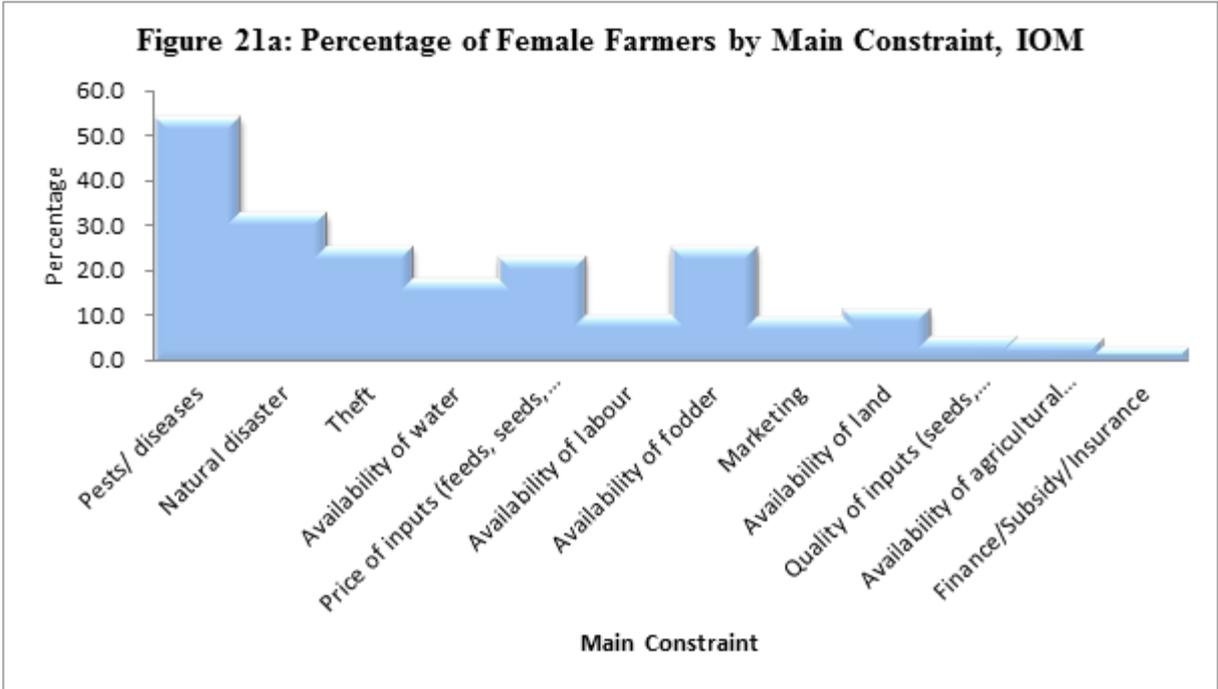


Figure 22a: Percentage of Female Farmers by Main Constraint, IOR

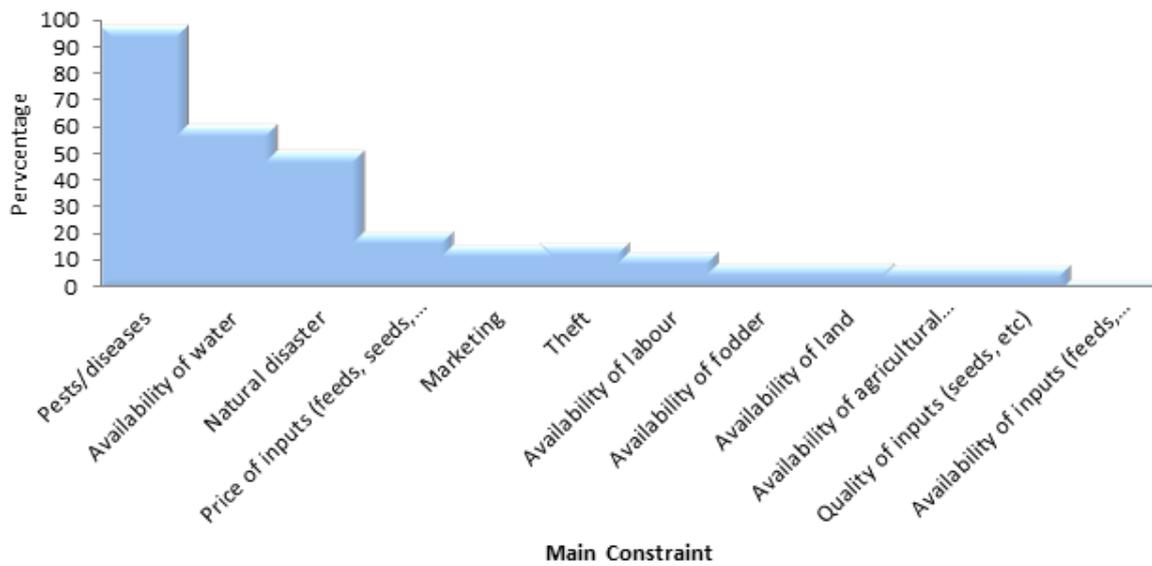
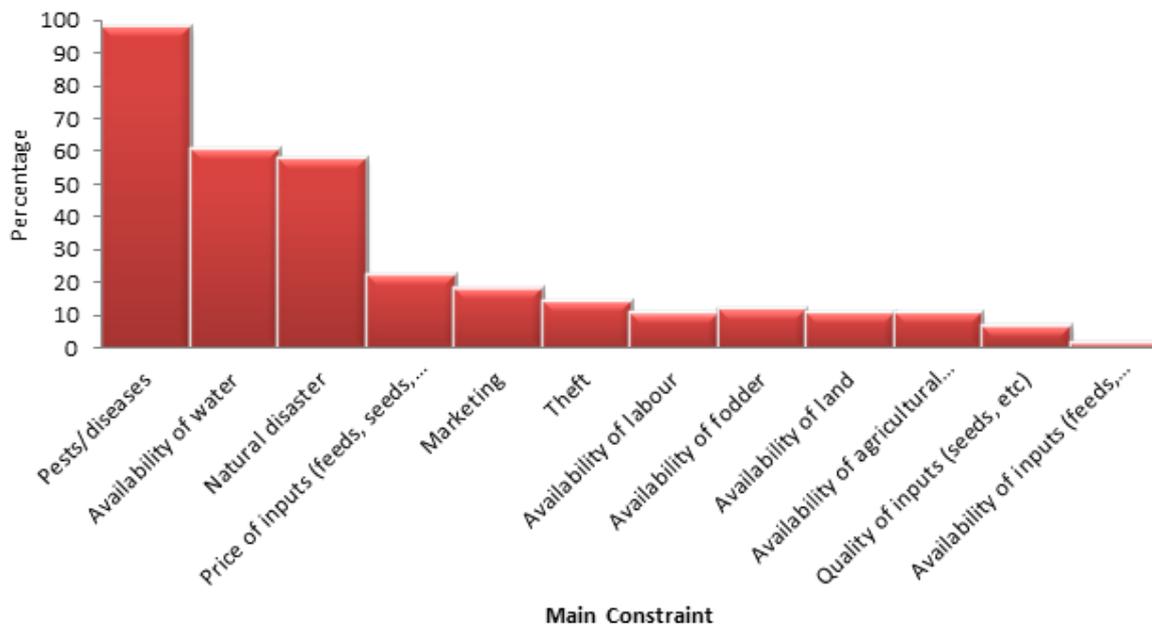


Figure 22b: Percentage of Male Farmers by Main Constraint, IOR



2.4 BELIEFS AND PERCEPTIONS

This section refers to the types of knowledge that men and women in the agricultural sector possess, the beliefs that shape gender identities and behaviour, and the different perceptions that guide agricultural workers in understanding of their lives as a producer and care provider.

Though the contribution of agriculture to the economy has been declining over the past decade as a result of important diversification of the economy, the agricultural sector still remains an important pillar and new challenges have emerged to make the sector more productive and sustainable. Understanding, beliefs and perceptions of agricultural workers on the structure and practices in agriculture is an important step in formulating laws and policies to enhance productivity in the sector.

One of the limitations of the CA2014 is that the collection of data was not explicitly gender sensitive and as a result knowledge, beliefs and perception of agricultural workers from a gender perspective on issues related to environment, ownership, access to resources, constraints and opportunities stemmed from interpretations.

The Manufacturing and Tourist sectors are attracting more labour resulting in a declining supply of labour to the agricultural sector. The perceptions of the general work conditions in the agricultural sector need to be further documented.

Figures showed that there were in general more men employed in the agricultural sector than women in the Republic of Mauritius, and that the agricultural sector attracted a higher proportion of women in the IOR (47%) than in the IOM (36%) as shown in Table 1. It is therefore deduced that the agricultural sector in IOR was perceived as a more important source of income for women as compared to IOM. The contribution of female headed household to total income was much greater in IOR (50%) than in IOM (13%). Women's greater dependence on the agricultural sector in IOR could be explained by lesser opportunities for women in other sectors as compared to IOM. However, in IOR, the agricultural workers were mostly part-timers.

In terms of access to resources, men were perceived to dominate. Indeed men have greater ownership to land and access to credit than women. In terms of use of irrigation system, and mechanization in farms, women constituted 18% of the total in the Republic of Mauritius, and this reflects the general situation in both the Islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Farmers generally perceive the agricultural sector as having an important impact on the economy. Farmers are considered as good environmental stewards promoting environmentally friendly techniques of production and are more inclined to avoid chemicals. Noise, odour, and other environmental issues associated with farming are generally minimal.

The agricultural sector is perceived to attract less educated elderly males and females as compared to other sectors of the economy. The 2011 Housing and Population Census showed that there were more people in the age group 45-54 years, as shown in Table 11, who worked in the agricultural sector. Those below 24 years of age constituted only 3% of the total workforce of the agricultural sector in the Republic of Mauritius, and this tendency was the same in both the Islands of Rodrigues and Mauritius. The Housing and Population Census in 2011 showed that in Rodrigues, a higher percentage of women (60%) worked in the agricultural sector compared to men (40%).

Table 11: Distribution of agricultural workers by age group, 2011 HPC, ROM

	Age group (in years)							
	All age groups	16 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 & over
Republic of Mauritius:								
Both sexes	31,262	243	851	3,818	7,088	10,977	6,718	1,567
Male	22,233	207	668	2,786	5,329	8,180	4,136	927
Female	9,029	36	183	1,032	1,759	2,797	2,582	640
Island of Mauritius:								
Both sexes	28,185	163	663	3,186	6,470	10,284	6,253	1,166
Male	20,999	148	567	2,556	5,123	7,940	3,952	713
Female	7,186	15	96	630	1,347	2,344	2,301	453
Island of Rodrigues:								
Both sexes	3,077	80	188	632	618	693	465	401
Male	1,234	59	101	230	206	240	184	214
Female	1,843	21	87	402	412	453	281	187

In terms of education, the 2011 Housing and Population Census confirmed that workers of the agricultural sector had low educational background. In fact, 66% of total workforce in the agricultural sector had reached at most primary level in the Republic of Mauritius (Figure 23a), and this reflects the same tendency in the two Islands, though the level of education of agricultural workers in the Island of Rodrigues was lower than in the Island of Mauritius, as shown in Figures 23b and 23c.

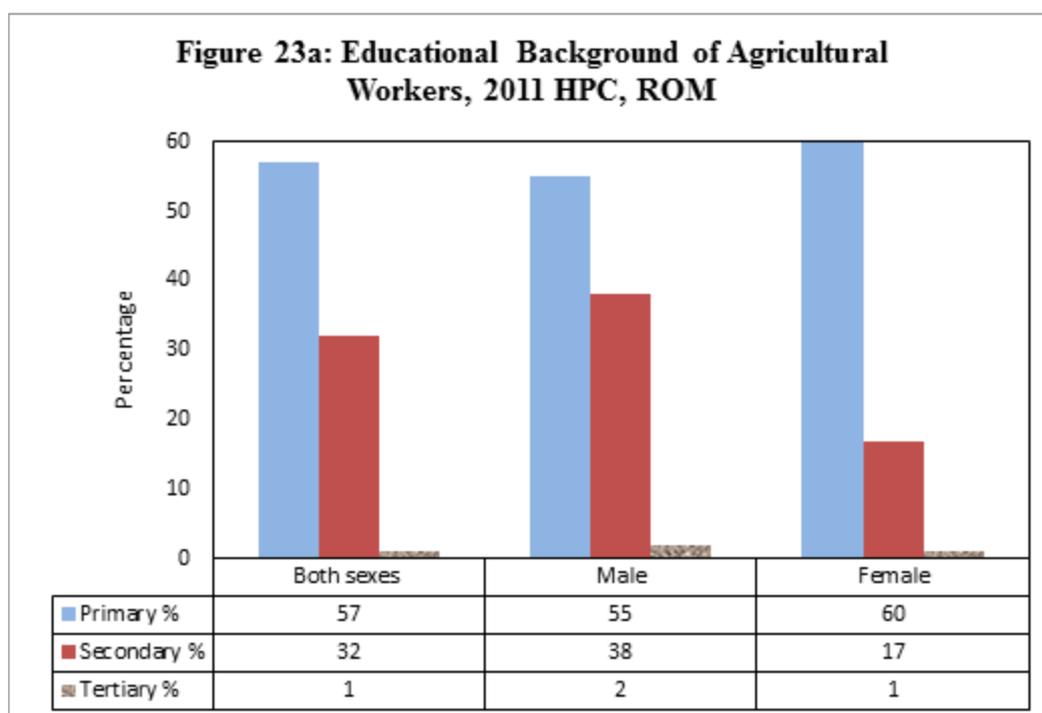


Figure 23b: Educational Background of Agricultural Workers, 2011 HPC, IOM

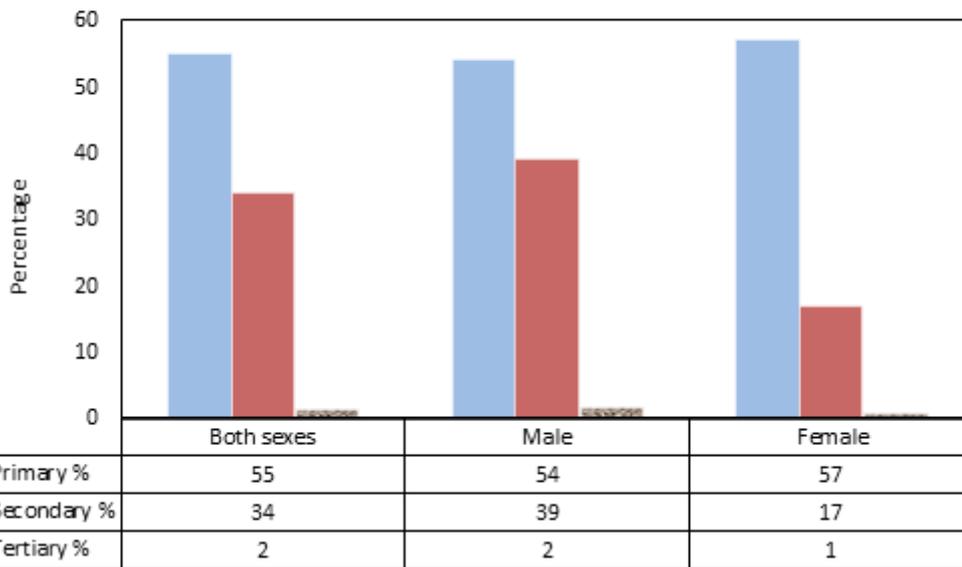
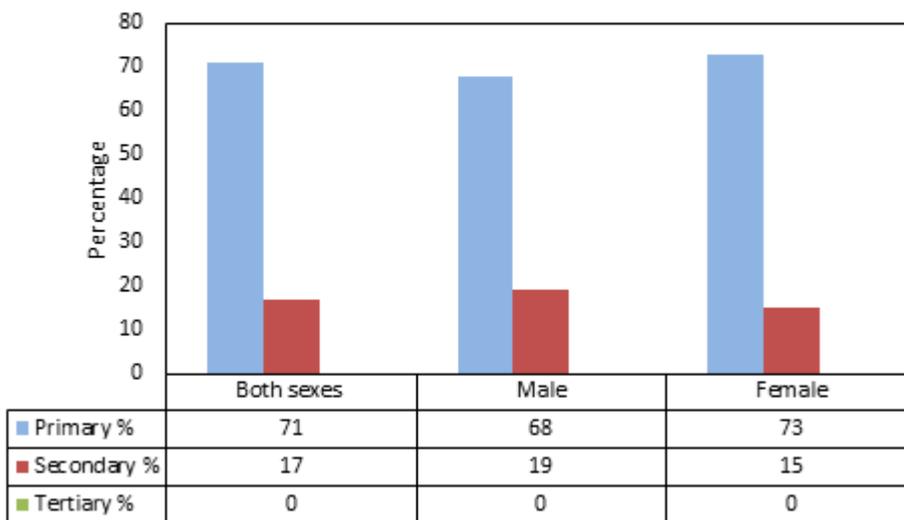


Figure 23c: Educational Background of Agricultural Workers, 2011 HPC, IOR



Almost all the agricultural workers in Rodrigues had mostly primary level education, while in Mauritius a substantial number had attained secondary level education. Thus an analysis of the level of education attained by agricultural workers showed that only 17% of these workers in Rodrigues had secondary education, against 34% in IOM. There were more males with secondary education in the agricultural sector in IOM than in IOR. This could indicate that males with secondary education in IOR have greater tendency to leave the agricultural sector than in IOM.

2.5 LAWS, POLICIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is governed by more than 70 laws and Regulations that are geared towards continuous improvement of the agricultural sector and ensuring that the sector remains one of the most important income-earning sector. These laws are not explicitly gender sensitive. The Equal Opportunity Act which was passed in 2008 in Parliament guarantees equal opportunity to all irrespective of gender. The Civil Code provides for a system of legal community of goods, and joint ownership is determined by the matrimonial regime chosen by the spouses at marriage.

The Government has ratified a series of regional and global conventions, including the Beijing Platform for Action to reiterate its commitment to ensure that Gender issues are taken care of on all developmental agenda. The Beijing Declaration states, in Article 35, that signatory states are: *“determined to ensure women’s equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls, including through the enhancement of their capacities to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources [...]”*³.

The Strategic Plan⁴ of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is an important blueprint aiming to *“develop the Mauritius into an agro-business hub”* in the region. While it has important and far-reaching objectives for the agricultural sector, and specifically for *“promoting access to agricultural land, agribusiness, good agricultural practice, improving food quality and safety, reducing dependency on import, promoting export, and ensuring food security”*, it is unfortunately not gender sensitive.

To correct the situation and mainstream gender into all agricultural activities of the country, the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security developed in 2011 a Gender Policy Statement to operationalize the **National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF)** in relation to the agriculture sector. Specifically the Gender Policy Statement⁵ aims to *“provide the basis for a concise analysis to identify gender gaps, challenges and opportunities for successful gender mainstreaming; to serve as a platform for action to address gender gaps in the area of agro-industry and food security by mainstreaming gender into its programmes and activities; and to serve as a framework for collaboration between the various stakeholders in these gender mainstreaming efforts”*.

³ Beijing Platform For Action, 1995, UN Fourth Conference on Women, China

⁴ Strategic Options on Crop and Livestock Sector (2007-2015), Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, 2007

⁵ Sectoral Gender Policy Statement for the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, 2011

The Gender Policy of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security rightly questions the following:

“What has been done to ensure that these international commitments have been translated into the ministry’s policies, strategies and plans? Do these policies, strategies and plans ensure that women have unhindered access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes? What are the impediments that exist and how are these addressed in laws or policies or strategies?”

A set of actions had been proposed and a Gender Cell had been instituted at MAIFS to promote gender mainstreaming in all agricultural activities and essentially in the areas of service delivery, capacity building, work environment and of advocacy and lobby for gender equality. A Gender Focal Point had been appointed to help coordinate and mainstream gender in all activities of MAIFS. At a meeting held with Officials of the Ministry and the Gender Focal Point, on 14 October 2015, it was observed that the institutionalization of gender mainstreaming at MAIFS had not yet been fully operationalized. It had set up 27 Agricultural Women Clubs which aimed at training women on techniques of production. Women were also offered marketing facilities through the Agro Processing Resource Centre. It is claimed fallaciously that the laws on agriculture were not discriminatory and “hence there is no gender discrimination in agriculture”.

Main impediments for gender mainstreaming in the agricultural sector are related to a lack of understanding on the concepts of gender equality and gender mainstreaming not only among the grassroots but also among cadres expected to promote the integration of gender in the development agenda; the absence of Gender-Based Budgeting and the lack of sex disaggregated data and information reflecting women’s and men’s participation and their changing roles in the chain of agricultural production.

The Gender Analysis of the CA2014 provides important baseline information and data on the situation of women and their participation in the agricultural sector. Further studies and researches are required to capture more subtle socio-cultural intricacies and gender sensitiveness in the agricultural sector. This will enable more focused gender sensitive activities, so important to enhance productivity in the agricultural sector.

3. CONCLUSION

The CA2014 Gender Analysis provides critical information that should enable the development of appropriate and more targeted gender sensitive programme in the agricultural sector, thus facilitating enhanced productivity and improved quality of life among agricultural workers, and likewise positioning Mauritius as a potential “gender sensitive” agro-business hub in the region.

The analysis points towards a male dominated agricultural sector where gender gaps exist in the composition of the household agricultural workers but most importantly in terms of power sharing and decision making. While the agricultural sector employed more males (55%), there were more females than males in the Republic of Mauritius who were in full-time paid employment in the sector. Among women household employees, 57% were in paid employment, indicating that the agricultural sector constituted a very important source of income to women in the Republic of Mauritius. However profits were almost entirely controlled by men, as 72% of farmers (those who are decision makers), were males. Only 25% of women had access to credit. Only 8% of agricultural land was occupied by females. Some 20% of women had access to agricultural implements. While men were mostly in part-time employment in the agricultural sector and yet they still exercised control over resources and profits in the sector.

There were however, some variations between the Islands. Women in IOR had better access to credit, land and agricultural implements than women in IOM. In general the gender gap in terms of access to productive resources was less in IOR than in IOM.

At the institutional level, despite existence of non-discriminating laws like the Equal Opportunity Act of 2008, and the Sex Discrimination Act of 2002 not much has been undertaken to ensure greater gender balance in the workforce and in decision making instances in the agricultural sector. While existing laws need to be revised to make them gender sensitive, a gender mainstreaming strategy for the agricultural sector is desirable.

Data collection by the agricultural census had not been undertaken through gender lenses and this has inhibited a deeper analysis of some of the variables. For example a deeper analysis on the size of farms, plots and location of land and extent of access to productive resources, types of loans etc. by gender would have provided better understanding the extent of the gender gaps.

Nonetheless, very valuable information on the gender composition of the household agricultural workers, the power sharing intricacies among them, the access of men and women to assets in the agricultural sector and also the differences in gender gaps that exist between the Island of Rodrigues and the Island of Mauritius had been extracted through various cross tabulations and analysis. Recourse to other sources had also been necessary to supplement information that were all together not collected in the CA2014.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) Ensure that data collection and analysis for Agricultural Census in Mauritius is conducted through gender lenses
- (ii) Encourage gender disaggregated data collection in all departments of the agricultural sector
- (iii) Ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all activities of the agricultural sector
- (iv) Ease access of women to credit, land, market and agricultural implements and promote greater ownership of resources among women
- (v) Encourage more women to register as farmers
- (vi) Promote capacity building among women to enable them assume greater responsibilities in the agricultural sector
- (vii) Ensure that women participate in decision making at all levels
- (viii) Enlist participation of gender specialists in promoting capacity building and gender based data collection, research and training in the agricultural sector
- (ix) Promote the implementation of the Gender Policy Statement and accelerate the functioning of the Gender Cell of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
- (x) Introduce Gender Based Budgeting to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to gender based research and data collection.

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