RISK BURDENS & RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
A CASE STUDY OF 3 AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES IN INDIA

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Alternative Futures

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FOCUS OF THE PROJECT

Agro-climatic Zones
- Arid
- Flood-prone
- Coastal

Policy
Evidence-based Policy Research

Gender Lens

Practice
Primary data collected

Resources
Gender budgets on adaptation
**Assumptions**

Climate change is already impacting agriculture in India and this will worsen.

Almost all of agriculture is carried out in ecologically fragile regions.

Adaptation interventions will also affect men and women differently.

Women farmers are hit first and worst by climate change but do not have the resources, knowledge & authority to adapt.

Adaptive capacities and vulnerabilities to climate change are gender differentiated – IPCC

Climate action plans and programmes remain gender-blind.
MORE WOMEN FACE CLIMATE UNCERTAINTIES WITH LESSER RESOURCES
’FEMINISATION’ OF AGRICULTURE LABOUR

Proportion of women farm labourers outnumber proportion of men farm labour. This proportion is growing.

2011: Nearly half of the women working are farm labour and casual work is on the rise.
**Gender-based Ownership of Agriculture Land**

**Share of Number of Operational Land Holdings (Individual)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Size of Land</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Difference (Male - Female)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Share of Area of Operational Holdings (Individual)**

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<tr>
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<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>6</td>
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RESEARCH FINDINGS
WOMEN’S WORK BURDEN IS MORE
25 ORGANIC, 25 CONVENTIONAL FARMERS

Five Villages, Arid Zone
Adaptive Farming – More work for women flood/drought/cyclone-prone farms

Adaptive agriculture - more labour-intensive activities
Rotational and/or relay cropping, agro-forestry, livestock management, fish farming, year-round vegetables, etc.
MORE WORK BUT MORE INCOME
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

150 Women Farmers in three Agro-climatic Zones in three States
Proportion of Income for Organic and Conventional Women Farmers

Women doing organic farming earn more than conventional farm women (sample of 150 women)
MEN DOMINATE DECISION-MAKING BUT LESS IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Organic Farming (75 farmers): Gender based roles in decision making for 14 Agricultural Activities

- Male Domination: 45%
- Female Domination: 17%
- No Domination: 38%

Conventional farming (75 farmers): Gender based roles in decision Making for 14 Agricultural Activities

- Male Domination: 53%
- Female Domination: 19%
- No Domination: 28%
Gender Budgets, Adaptive Programmes

Adaptation to Climate Change under GB Statement in the Hills of Uttarakhand 2012-13 (%)
RECOMMENDATIONS

Recognition of women as ‘farmers’ and different from male farmers

Ownership & controlling rights - will mean larger decision-making roles

R& D on labour and drudgery reduction

State budgets proportional to workers in the sector
Thank you