some land or livestock, as shown by the 2001 population census. While 88 per cent of households own their house, only in 6 per cent does a woman have partial or full ownership of the house. Similarly, women own some of the land in only 11 per cent of the households and some livestock in only 7 per cent.

A survey conducted in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in 1999 showed that 52 per cent of men owned a house/real estate or a share of it, compared to only 8 per cent of women. Also, 24 per cent of men owned some land, compared to only 5 per cent of women. Among women entitled to inherit property, only 20 per cent obtained their complete share of inheritance and an additional 12 per cent obtained just a part of their share.

Although both inheritance and state programmes of land distribution and titling are becoming more egalitarian in Latin America, the gender asset gap is still significant and it is due to four factors: male preference in inheritance; male privilege in marriage; male bias in both community and state programmes of land distribution; and male bias in the land market. In Peru, looking at the distribution of ownership of titled land parcels reveals that women represent 13 per cent of landowners, with an additional 13 per cent joint ownership.

While these case studies point to gender inequality in land ownership, data on individual ownership of land have yet to be systematically collected.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the focus in previous rounds of agricultural censuses has been on the “agricultural holder”, defined as the “person who makes the major decisions regarding resource use, and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation”. Such a definition does not allow for multiple decision makers (for example, a couple) or more than one owner of the land. The situation of distinct areas owned and managed separately by the wife and husband – relevant for some African countries, for example – cannot be accounted for either. The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 recognizes that “the agricultural holder concept is often difficult to apply because of a gender bias in reporting of data”, and for the 2010 census round “the concept of agricultural holder has been modified to recognize that the agricultural holder could be a group of persons – for example, a husband and wife”.

3. Participation in intrahousehold decision-making on spending

A significant proportion of married women in the less developed regions have no say on how their own cash earnings are spent

Women’s lower control over household resources is further indicated by their limited participation in intrahousehold decision-making on spending. The proportion of married women aged 15–49 not involved in decision-making on how their own earnings are spent is particularly high in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa and in Asia (figure 8.8 and Statistical Annex). In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of women with no say in how their own cash income is spent is greatest in Malawi (34 per cent) followed by Democratic Republic of the Congo (28 per cent), Liberia (23 per cent), Rwanda (22 per cent) and United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia (21 per cent). In Asia, higher proportions were observed in India (18 per cent), Nepal (14 per cent), Bangladesh (13 per cent) and Turkey (11 per cent).

This lack of decision-making power is more often associated with the poorest wealth quintiles (figure 8.9). Large disparities between the poorest and wealthiest quintiles are observed for Democratic

\[\text{Source: Viet Nam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and others, Results of Nation-wide Survey on the Family in Viet Nam 2006: Key Findings (2008).}\

\[\text{Figure 8.7}\
\text{Distribution of property titles by sex of the owner and urban/ rural areas, Viet Nam, 2006}\
\]

\[\text{Per cent}\
\text{Men and women and men}\
\text{Men}\
\text{Women and men}\
\text{Women}\
\text{Men}\
\text{Women}\
\text{Men and women}\
\text{Urban}\
\text{Rural}\
\text{Urban}\
\text{Rural}\
\text{House and residential land}\
\text{Farm and forest land}\
\]

\[\text{According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the focus in previous rounds of agricultural censuses has been on the “agricultural holder”, defined as the “person who makes the major decisions regarding resource use, and exercises management control over the agricultural holding operation”. Such a definition does not allow for multiple decision makers (for example, a couple) or more than one owner of the land. The situation of distinct areas owned and managed separately by the wife and husband — relevant for some African countries, for example — cannot be accounted for either. The World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2010 recognizes that “the agricultural holder concept is often difficult to apply because of a gender bias in reporting of data”, and for the 2010 census round “the concept of agricultural holder has been modified to recognize that the agricultural holder could be a group of persons — for example, a husband and wife”.}\

\[\text{21 Nepal Central Bureau of Statistics, 2003.}\
\text{22 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2002.}\
\text{23 Deere and Leon, 2003.}\
\text{24 Ibid.}\
\text{25 FAO, 2005, para. 3.36.}\
\text{26 FAO, 2005, para. 2.29.}\
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