



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

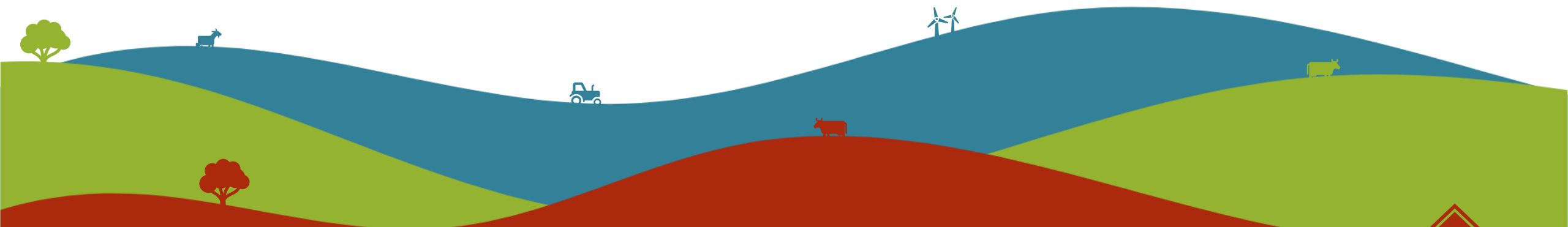


ESCWA Regional Workshop on
Gender Statistics

7 May 2025

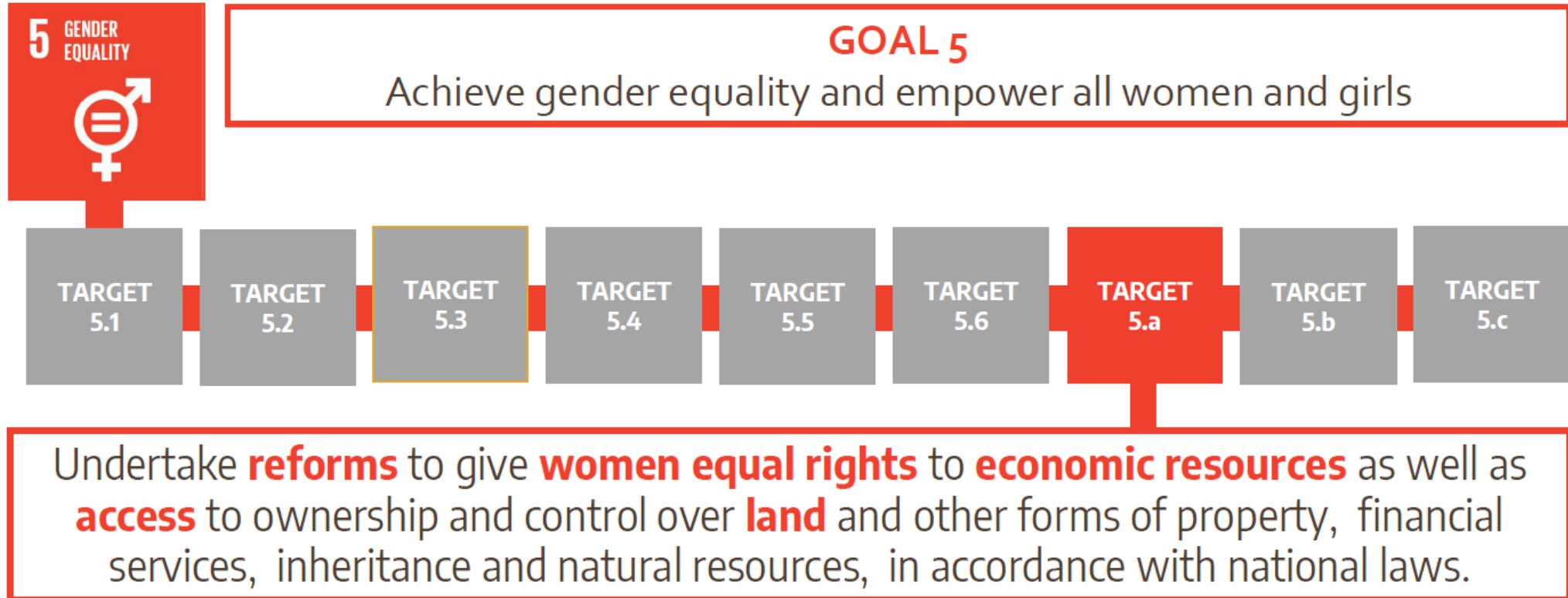
Monitoring and reporting on SDG indicator 5.a.1

Women's ownership or secure rights over agricultural land



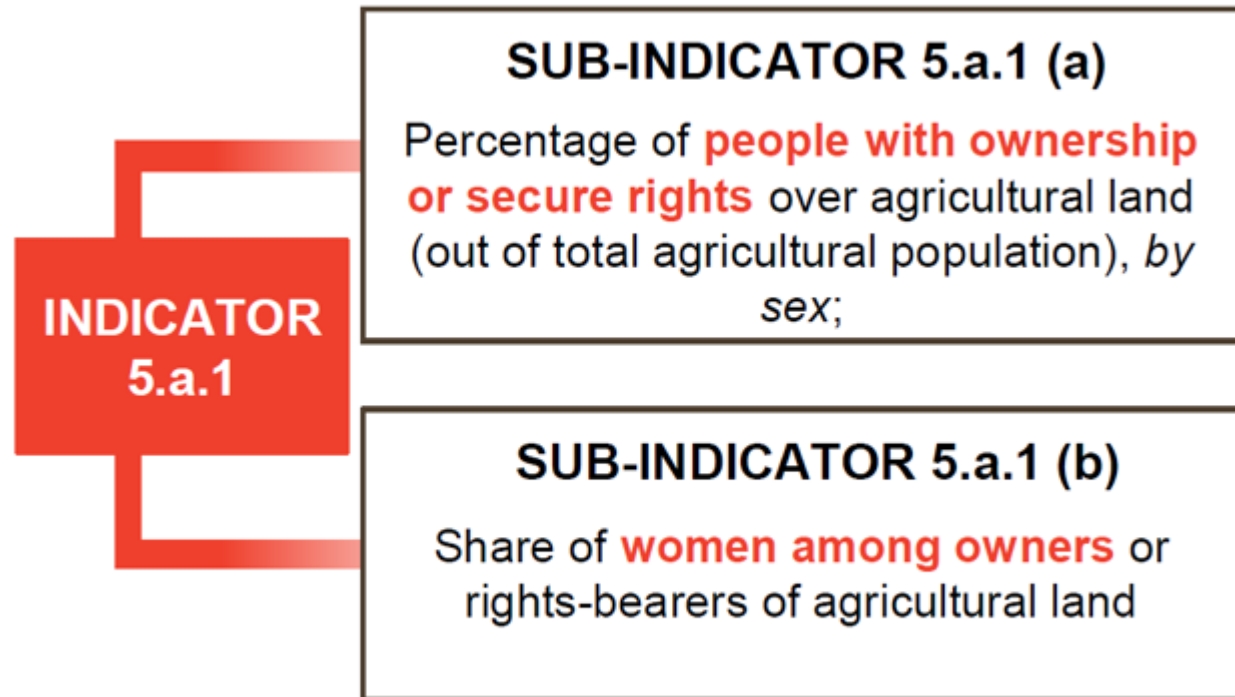


SDGs on Gender Equality in Land Tenure and Governance





SDG 5.a.1: sub-indicators (a) and (b)





Key terms and concepts

AGRICULTURAL LAND

AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD

ADULT AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

DOCUMENTED LAND OWNERSHIP

LAND ALIENATION RIGHTS

Key terms and concepts

The 2020 World Census of Agriculture proposed an **internationally agreed land use classification**, according to which there are **nine basic land use classes** (LU1-LU9) and agricultural land is a subset (LU1-LU5).

LU1	LAND UNDER TEMPORARY CROPS	ARABLE LAND	CROPLAND	AGRICULTURAL LAND	LAND USED FOR AGRICULTURE		
LU2	LAND UNDER TEMPORARY MEADOWS AND PASTURES						
LU3	LAND TEMPORARILY FALLOW						
LU4	LAND UNDER PERMANENT CROPS						
LU5	LAND UNDER PERMANENT MEADOWS AND PASTURES						
LU6	LAND UNDER FARM BUILDING AND FARMYARDS						
LU7	FOREST AND OTHER WOODED LAND						
LU8	AREA USED FOR AQUACULTURE						
LU9	OTHER AREA NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED						

The definition of agricultural land for **indicator 5.a.1** is taken from this [framework](#), thus it focuses on **the first 5 classes**.

An exception can be made for farmyards, if they are considered to have an important role on the household economy and food security

Key terms and concepts

Why focus on agricultural land?

- Agricultural land is a key input in developing countries, where poverty reduction and development strategies are necessarily based on the agricultural sector.
- Simply monitoring 'any land' would not provide useful recommendations for policy design.
- Control over agricultural land enable women to be less reliant on the male partners and give them access to a variety of services and development opportunities.



Key terms and concepts

A household is
agricultural if:

It has operated land for agricultural purposes or held/tended livestock over the past 12 months, regardless of the final purpose

Why such a long
reference period?

Agricultural work is irregular and seasonal. There is a risk of excluding households engaged in agriculture if we adopt a short reference period and data are collected off season

Why 'regardless of
the final purpose'?

agricultural work is sometimes practiced only or mainly for own consumption, therefore with little or no cash income, and so may not be perceived as an economic activity *strictu sensu*.

Why not HHs
involved in forestry,
logging, fishing?

Engagement in forestry and logging and fishing and aquaculture is not considered because the focus of the indicator is on agricultural land

Adult Agricultural Population: Population of adult individuals living in agricultural households



Key terms and concepts

Documented Land Ownership is a legally recognised right to acquire, to use and to transfer land through formal documentation. In private property systems, this is akin to a freehold tenure.

Land Alienation Rights

- The right to sell land
- The right to bequeath land

Operationally, an individual is an owner of agricultural land if **at least one of the three above proxy conditions is verified.**



Key terms and concepts

5.a.1 looks beyond ownership

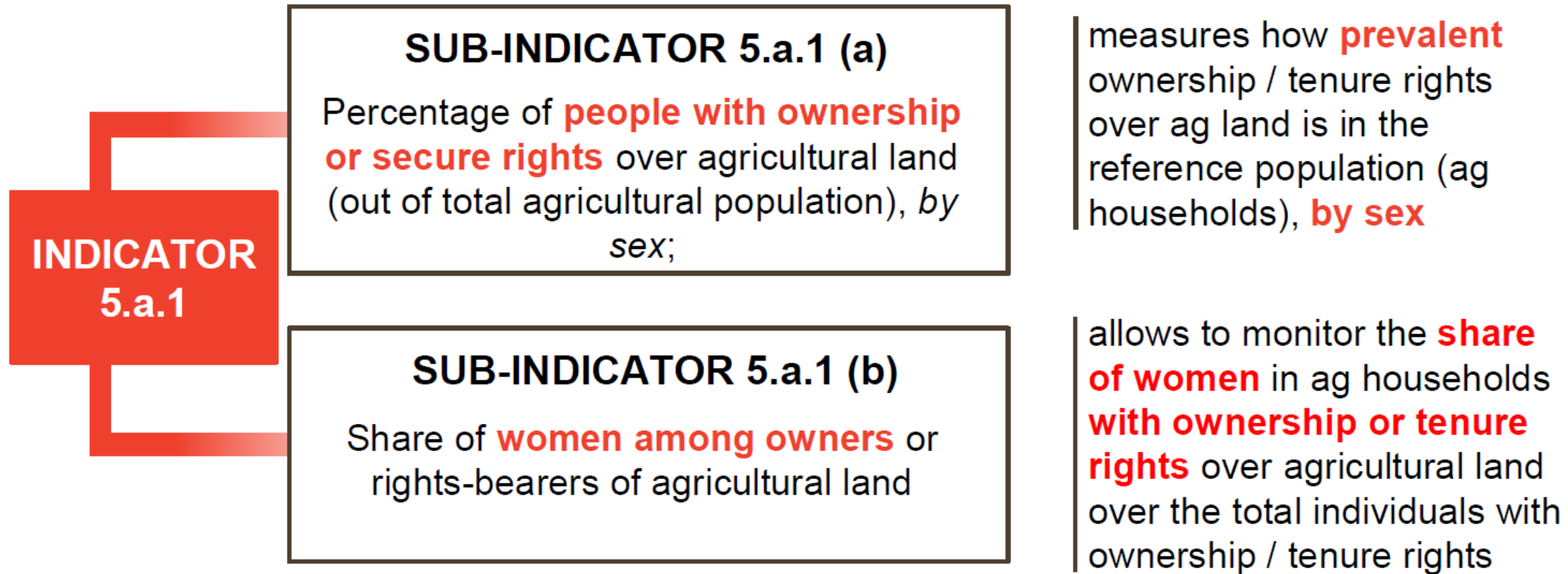
- In contexts where it is more appropriate to use the broader term **land tenure rights** and to refer to a **long list of 'legally recognized documents'**:
 - ✓ Title deed
 - ✓ Certificate of occupancy or land certificate
 - ✓ Legally recognised purchase agreement
 - ✓ Certificate of hereditary acquisition
 - ✓ Certificate issued for adverse possession or prescription

- ✓ Certificate of customary tenure
- ✓ perpetual/long term lease or rental agreements

Private property
systems

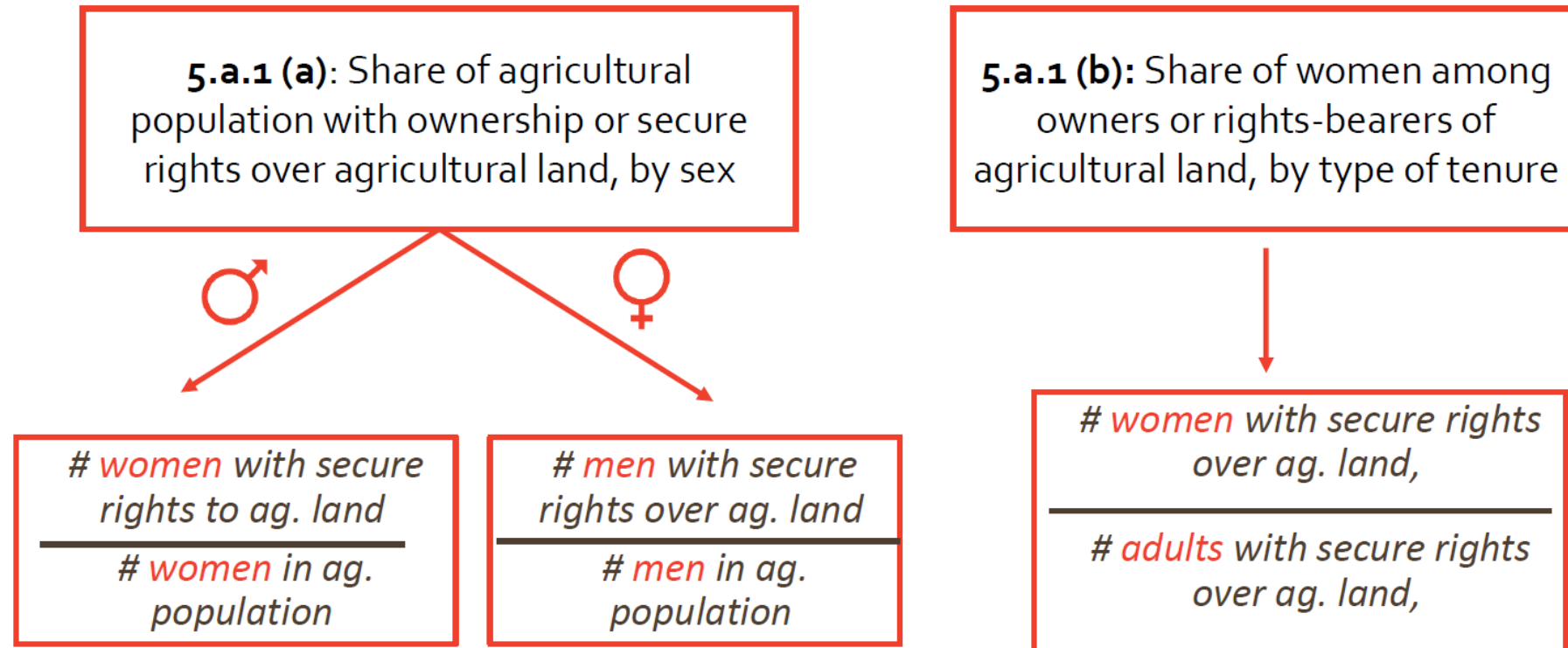


SDG 5.a.1: sub-indicators (a) and (b)



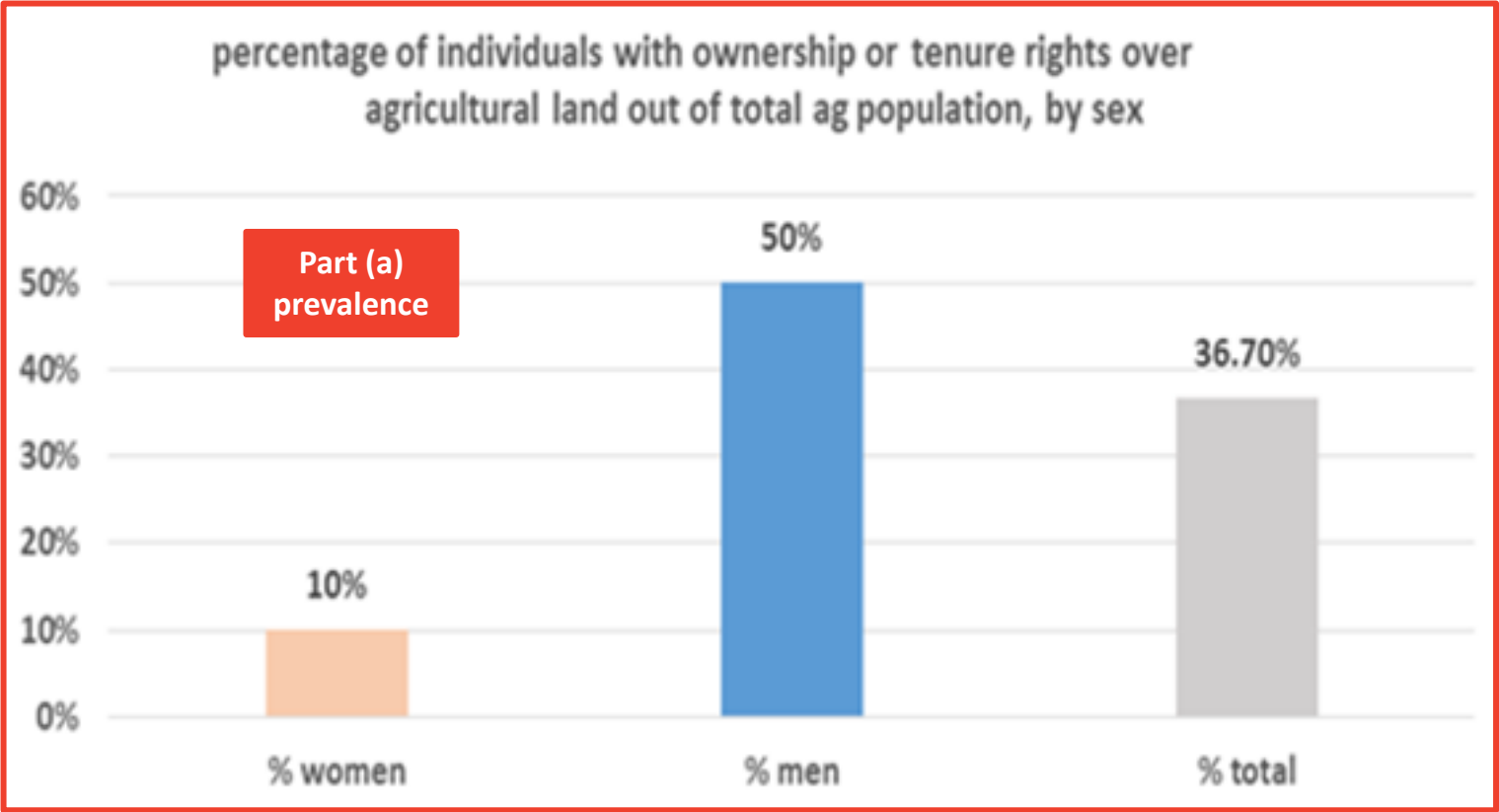


SDG 5.a.1: sub-indicator formulas



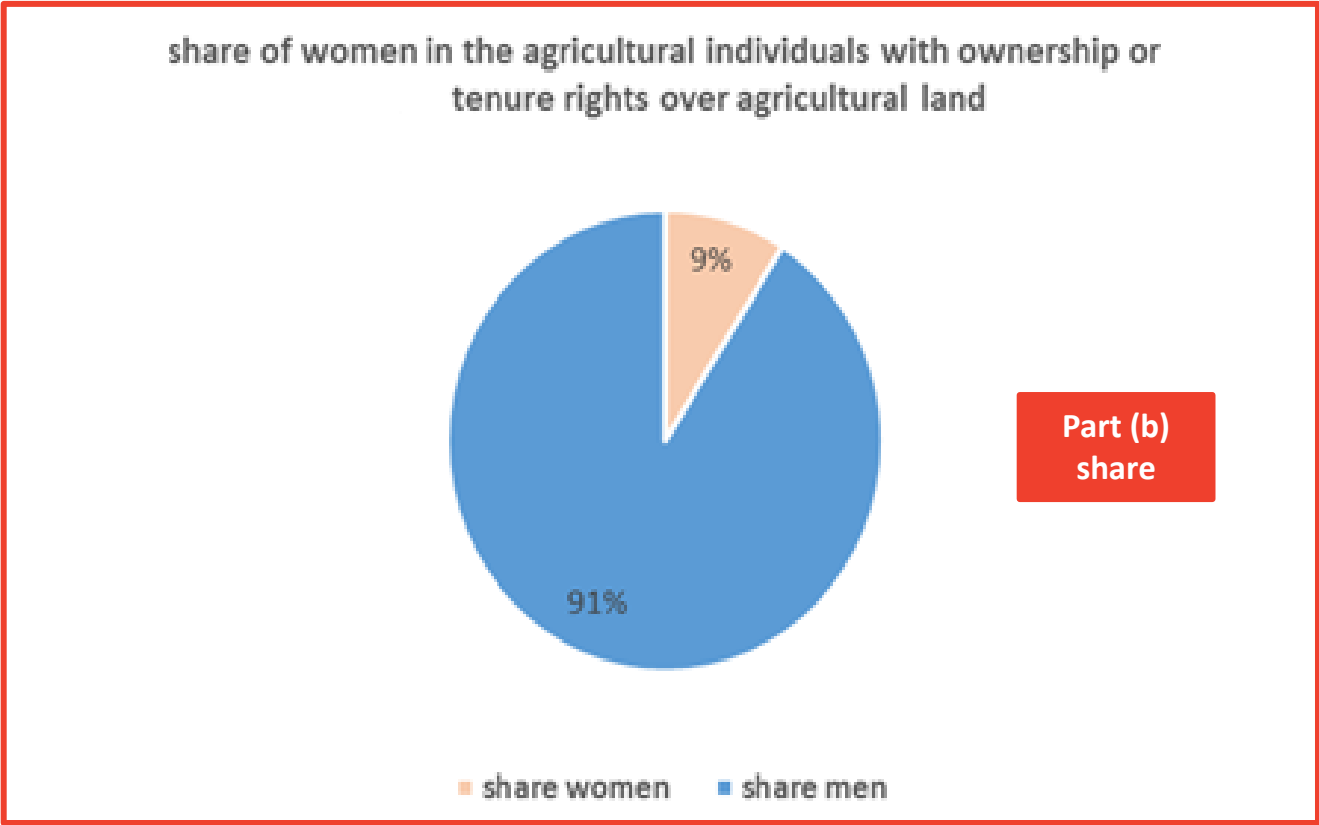
Sub-indicators of 5.a.1: numerical example

	male	female	total
Adult individuals in ag population (in ag HHs) with ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land	100	10	110
Adult individuals in agricultural population (in ag HHs)	200	100	300



Sub-indicators of 5.a.1: numerical example

	male	female	total
Adult individuals in ag population (in ag HHs) with ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land	100	10	110
Adult individuals in agricultural population (in ag HHs)	200	100	300





Steps to collect data and compile SDG 5.a.1

Vehicle

- Identify the data collection vehicle
- Agricultural Survey, Agricultural Census
- Household Survey, identifying agricultural households

Respondents

- Identify the respondent and data collection strategy
- Who to collection information from
- How many persons to collect information about

Questions

- Determine questions on secure agriculture tenure rights
- Documented of ownership (with name)
- Proxy conditions to ownership



Step 1: Data collection tools

Agricultural surveys

- They already focus on the population of interest (ie., ag households)
- Questions on land tenure are normally included into ag surveys, therefore entry point is already available.

National Household Surveys (LSMS, DHS, HBS, MICS)

- Flexible in scope and conducted regularly by countries



Step 2: Select respondents and data collection strategy

One proxy respondent

Normally the most knowledgeable household member, is interviewed to collect information on all the household members



Self-respondent approach applied to all members

Each adult member of the household is interviewed on his/her ownership/tenure rights over agricultural land



Self respondent approach applied to one member

One randomly selected adult household member is interviewed on his/her ownership /tenure rights over agricultural land





Step 3: pose the (proxy) questions to determine if the person has secure agriculture tenure rights (1/2)

<i>Proxy</i>	<i>The proxy indicates:</i>	<i>land rights if any of the following holds</i>
LEGALLY RECOGNIZED DOCUMENT	availability of a legally recognized document	name on a document that testifies tenure rights
RIGHT TO SELL	ability of an individual to permanently transfer asset in return for cash or in-kind benefits.	the right to sell the land
RIGHT TO BEQUEATH	ability of an individual to pass on the asset to another person(s) after his or her death, by written will, oral will or intestate succession	the right to bequeath the land/designate heirs



Minimum set of data required for 5.a.1 (1/2)

Purpose	Data Item
AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS	Whether the household has operated land for agricultural purposes and/or raised livestock over the past 12 months regardless of final purpose of production
	Whether operating land or raising livestock was done only as wage labour
ADULT AGRICULTURAL POPULATION, BY SEX	Sex of members of agricultural households
	Age of members of agricultural households



Minimum set of data required for 5.a.1 (2/2)

Purpose	Data Item
SELF-REPORTED OWNERSHIP	Whether or not the individual owns or holds secure rights to any agricultural land
LEGALLY DOCUMENTED OWNERSHIP	(Proxy 1) Whether or not any of the land owned or held by the individual has a legally recognized document that allows protecting his/her ownership/secure rights over the land
	<i>(If yes to Proxy 1)</i> Whether or not the individual is listed as an owner or holder on any of the legally recognized documents, either alone or jointly with someone else
RIGHT TO SELL	(Proxy 2) Whether or not the individual has the right to sell any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else
RIGHT TO BEQUEATH	(Proxy 3) Whether or not the individual has the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else



(Self) Reported Ownership/Possession of Agricultural Land

- Self-reported ownership or possession is relatively less reliable than documented ownership.
- In cases when data on formal documentation and alienation rights is scarce, reported ownership could still be a temporarily useful alternative
- However, estimates computed based mainly on reported ownership weakens the international comparability of estimates across countries.
- Highly recommended that the survey questionnaire be modified in a manner that both documented ownership and alienation rights are included



Data Collection Strategies

Suggested frequency for data collection

- As ownership or tenure rights tend to remain stable in the short term, a **3-5 years frequency** is **sufficient to capture and evaluate change**. A higher frequency would be more costly, and is not needed.

Customization

Ensure **comparability** of results across countries

It is fundamental to strictly comply with the indicator's protocol – i.e., cover all the required data items and collect data through the appropriate means and from the correct respondents.

Adapt to the characteristics and needs of the **specific context**

- In many cases, a literal **translation** is not the best one. Particular care should be put in translating the concepts of tenure rights, right to sell and bequeath.
- The list of legally recognized **titles and certificates** that protect use rights over land is highly country specific. Often certificates have a specific name in each country, therefore it is important to map the proposed list to the documents used in the country. In some cases a document is specific to the country, therefore it has to be added to the list.



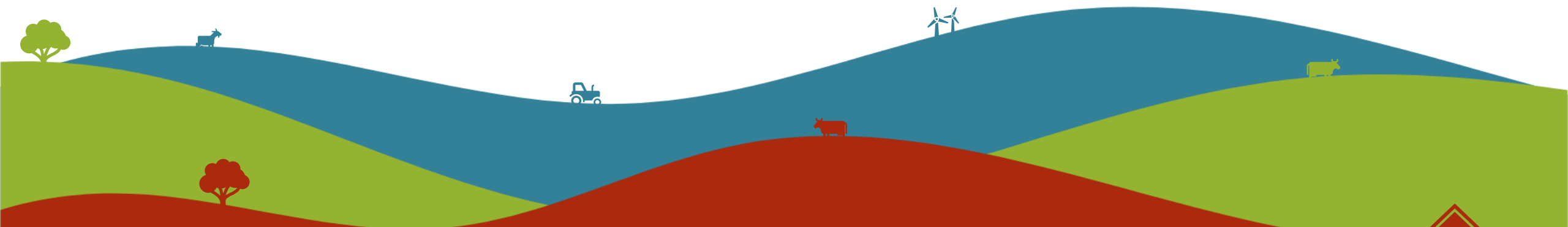
Resources

- [5.a.1 Women ownership of agricultural land | SDG Indicators Data Portal](#)
- [SDG 5.a.1 metadata](#)
- [Measuring SDG Indicator 5.a.1 Background Paper](#)
- [FAO e-learning course SDG 5.a.1](#)
- [Virtual Seminar on Producing Proxy Estimates for SDG Indicator 5.a.1 using EHCVM surveys](#)
- [Virtual Seminars on Producing Proxy Estimates for SDG Indicator 5.a.1 using Demographic and Health Surveys](#)



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Thank you!



Contacts:

FAO Regional Statistician
SDG 5.a.1 Focal Point

Mr. Firas Yassin
Ms. Veronica Boero

Ms. Yonca Gurbuzer
Mr. Dorian Navarro
Ms. Tania Sharma

Firas.Yassin@fao.org
Veronica.Boero@fao.org

Yonca.Gurbuzer@fao.org
DorianKalamvrezos.Navarro@fao.org
Tania.Sharma@fao.org



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations