

F2F SDC A&FS/Gender network

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AND ENVIRONMENT

How does agrarian policy shape
gender roles in family farming?

Structure of the presentation

1 Question
3 Arguments
1 Illustration
Conclusions

1 Question

Are female farmers discriminated against?



Source: <http://www.aargauerzeitung.ch/wirtschaft/frauen-leisten-entscheidenden-beitrag-fuer-schweizer-landwirtschaft-125402152>; last accessed: 01.06.2014

1 Question

Are female farmers discriminated against?



Source: <http://www.landfrauen.ch/de/aktuell/post-2011-juli/editorial-cb/print.html>

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Three main fields of discrimination:

1. Property (inheritance laws)
2. Social security
3. Formal education

1 Question

Are female farmers discriminated against?

Characterisation of female farmers by the Swiss Farmer's Union:

- Close to nature
- Entrepreneurial
- Rooted in their region

1st Argument

Gender equality politics have not been successful in eliminating discrimination against women in the Swiss farming sector.

The lack of adequate tools for improving the situation of female farmers and of achieving more gender equality in the agricultural sector is a result of a Western notion of gender roles.

2nd Argument

Farming couples – and female farmers in particular – have to negotiate the tension between traditional gender models and increasing expectations of being entrepreneurial and increasing their economic independence.

Illustration



Berta: „I was always an equal partner to my husband, but I never got my own salary. I never had my own money. When I needed 100 Francs for purchases, my husband would say: ‚Again? I just gave you some!‘“

Source: Beruf Bäuerin. 2014

Illustration



Sandra: „I am an entrepreneur, a SME–woman in the agricultural sector. I made my own career. I earn my own money, that is very important to me. Apart from this I do the accounting for the farm. But I am a farmer, too: to me, that is an attitude.“

Source: Beruf Bäuerin. 2014

3rd Argument

The reduction of agricultural revenues forces the female farmers more and more to go for an individual participation in the market, while they keep assuming some kind of “cushion”-function on the farm.

Conclusion

To increase the choices of the members engaged in family farming:
We need to understand the functions of the agricultural production system and develop adequate tools to promote gender equality.



Source: http://www.pflegerhof.com/bio_kraeuteranbau_samen_bis_endprodukt-de.html