



FIG Working Week 2024

19-24 May

Accra, Ghana

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Measure Gender Gaps in Land Ownership Access in Colombia Using the Utilization of Administrative Records

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Introduction:

1). The inequality in land ownership, influenced by historical and cultural gender disparities, exacerbates challenges for rural women. These disparities are evident across social strata, races, ethnicities, ages, and locations. Gender biases limit women's access to and control of land due to their restricted autonomy and participation in the economic and social structure. Practices and policies have favored men's land tenure, especially in rural areas.

2). To promote women's land rights in line with the 2030 Agenda, gender-disaggregated statistical information is essential. Despite efforts with the Multipurpose Cadaster policy, a baseline for tracking land ownership by gender is lacking.

- Distribution of Land Ownership in Colombia between Men and Women.
- Characteristics of Land According to the Gender of Property Owners in Colombia.
- Sociodemographic Characteristics of Women and Men Landowners in Rural Colombia.





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Methods (methodological approach):

1). Measuring gender gaps in land ownership is challenging due to limited data, particularly the absence of gender information in traditional cadaster databases. Alternative data sources were explored to provide a comprehensive view of land tenure.

2). This innovative methodology created gender-disaggregated indicators from cadastral data, revealing rural property inequalities between men and women for the first time. The process involved integrating various databases, detailed below:

- National Cadaster data.
- Statistical Population Base Registry (SPBR).
- National Population and Housing Census (NPHC).
- Deterministic Integration for Records with Identification.
- Probabilistic Gender Prediction by Name.
- Estimation of Indicators.





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Results (Rural Property Distribution between Men and Women):

- 63.7% of sole-owned properties are titled to men, with 36.3% owned by women nationwide. However, in 18 out of 32 departments, women's ownership falls below this average.
- Women's ownership is particularly low in departments like Vaupés, Bolívar, Guainía, and Caquetá, where it doesn't exceed 30%.
- Vaupés exhibits the widest gender gap, with only 21.5% of properties owned by women.
- This disparity limits women's decision-making power regarding land and livelihoods. Atlántico department shows the highest female ownership at 45.7%, though no department achieves gender parity.





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Results (Rural Property Distribution between Men and Women):

- In 47.4% of rural properties in the country, ownership is shared (co-ownership). In six out of the 32 departments of Colombia, shared ownership predominates above the national average (47.4%).
- In Vaupés, Chocó, and Putumayo, over 75% of properties are owned by sole owners, meaning these are the departments where fewer individuals are involved in the legal ownership of properties, indicating greater challenges for women to access land.
- Regarding shared co-ownership between men and women, significant progress is evident in the departments of Boyacá, Cundinamarca, and Santander where percentages above 90% of this type of arrangement are present.
- Departments belonging to the former national territories, such as Vaupés, Guainía, Putumayo, Vichada, Guaviare, Arauca, and Amazonas, represent less than 73% of shared co-ownership between men and women.





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Results (Characteristics of Land Holdings by Men and Women):

- Average Area of Land Holdings Based on Gender of Owners:
- The distribution of land among the population primarily consists of smaller plots, with micro-sized properties accounting for 64.5% of all plots. In contrast, medium-sized properties are concentrated in the hands of only 10.2% of owners, likely due to their better profitability resulting from a larger exploitable area.
- Gender differences play a role: women tend to participate more in smaller plots, while their representation in medium and large-sized properties decreases significantly.
- Scope:
 - Sole Owner.
 - Co-property.





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Results (Characteristics of Land Holdings by Men and Women):

- Economic purpose on Land based on gender of owners:
- Involves classifying properties based on their primary activity. This classification considers whether a property generates income in rural areas through activities like agriculture, livestock farming, or commercial and industrial use. Residential properties are designated for housing, while other categories include educational, religious, public, recreational, cultural, mining, institutional, forestry, and lot uses.
- This classification helps measure differences in land utilization between men and women, highlighting gaps in individual or co-owned properties.
- Scope:
 - Sole Owner.
 - Co-property.





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Conclusions

This document contributes in various ways:

- 1). Firstly, it is a methodological contribution. Through the presented exercise, the importance of administrative records and their intensive use to make visible inequalities, which were not measurable in official statistics before, has been determined.
- 2). In this line, and particularly, advances in available methodologies were utilized in machine learning algorithms for predicting the gender variable. This approach can be applied to other administrative records lacking this basic variable for gender-focused analyses.
- 3). Within the framework of measuring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.a.1, the indicators on land ownership quality and access in Colombia reveal various situations of inequality between men and women in two ways (shown in the next slide).



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Conclusions:

- 1). The distribution of land ownership in rural areas shows that women are the minority of landowners, although they constitute more than half of the total population.
- 2). Gender gaps in land ownership access widen when measuring the quality of these properties in terms of area and economic purpose. Women predominantly own smaller properties with different non-productive uses.
- 3). Only 36.3% of rural properties with a sole owner belong to women. The remaining 63.7% are owned by men.
- 4). Rural properties owned solely by women are smaller, with 75.1% being micro-plots of less than 3 hectares.
- 5). Properties owned solely by women in rural areas are allocated to residential use in 24.4% of cases, reducing the possibility of exploitation for agricultural purposes.





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