

# Gender equality in rural development funding

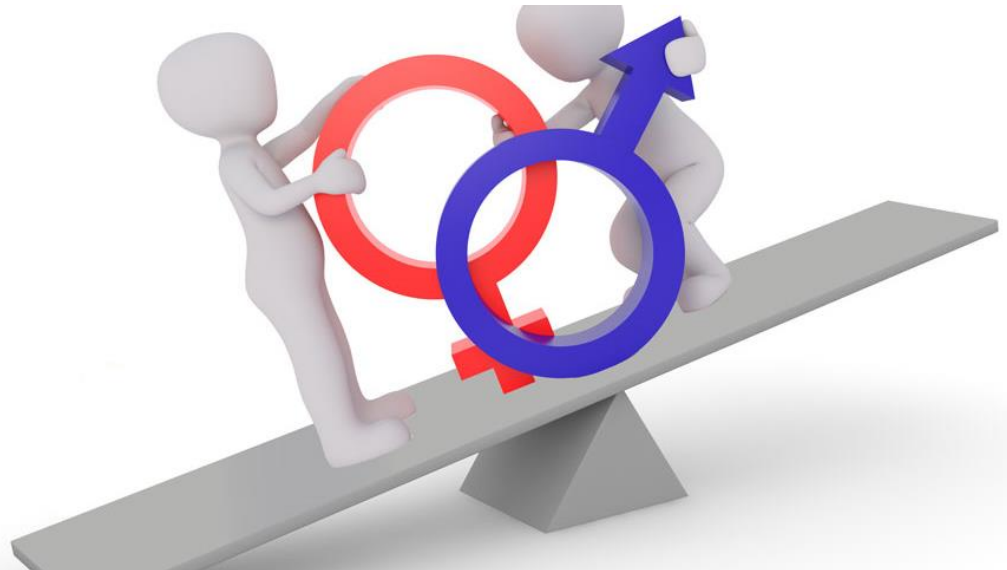
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# Outline

## Introduction

- Context of the study
- Research questions and research approach

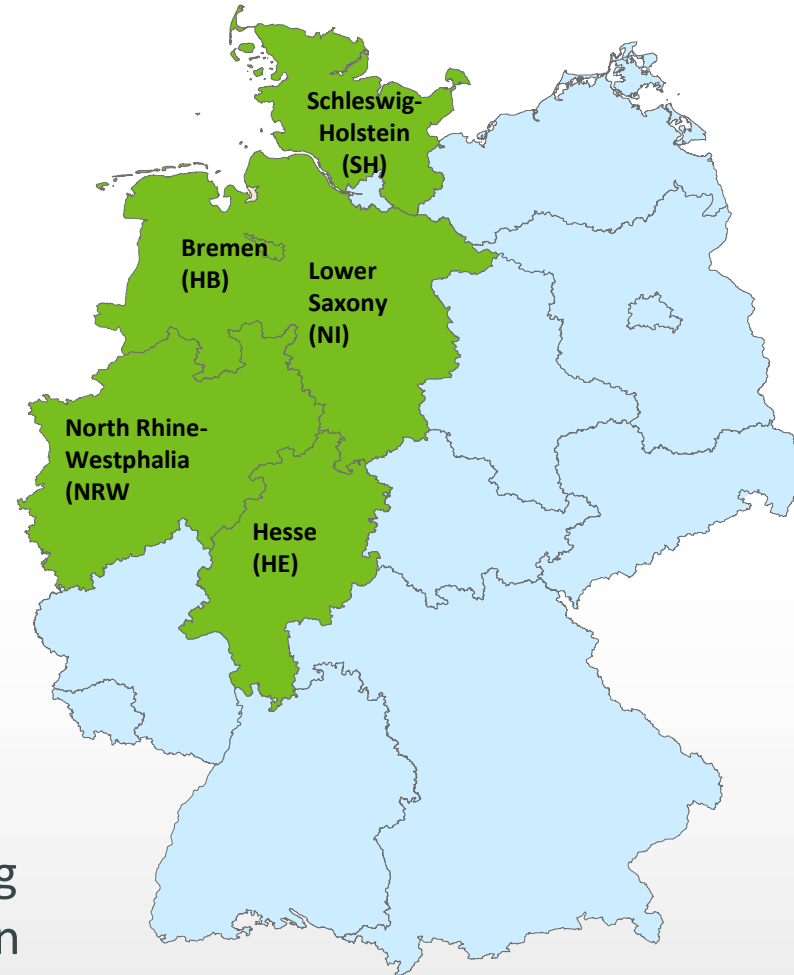
## Results

- Analysis of Rural Development Programmes (2014-2022)
- Agricultural investment support
- First impressions of screening CAP-Strategic plan

## Conclusions

# Introduction – Context of the study

- Considering Gender equality in planning and implementation is an obligation for all EU-policies
- Often it is not done seriously (f. ex. Report Court of Auditors, 2021)
- Project: Evaluation of four German Rural Development Programmes (2007-2013, 2014-2022)
  - How is gender equality considered in planning and implementation?
  - Up-date (in process): Screening of funding documents of the second pillar of German CAP-strategic plan (2023 - 2027)



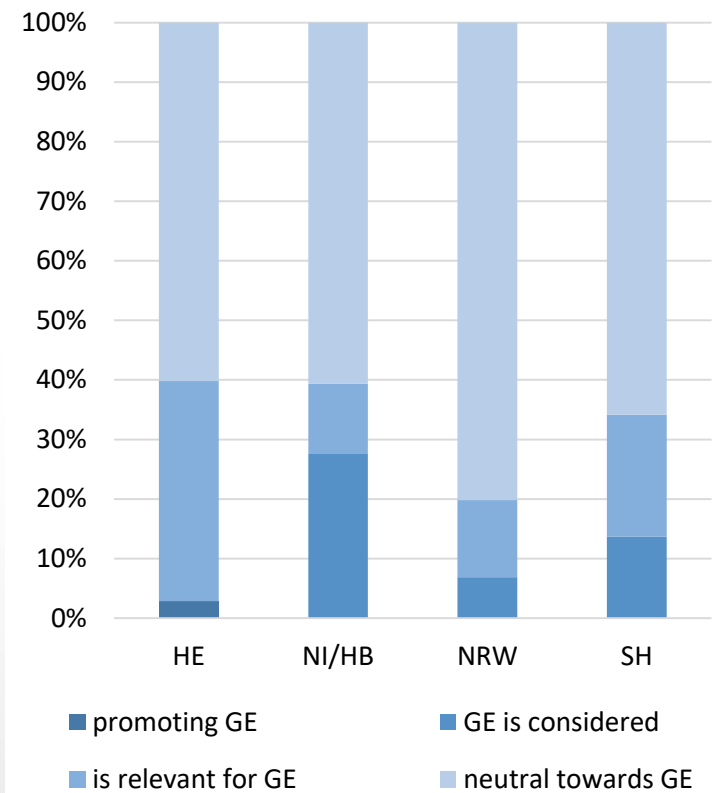
# Introduction - Research questions and approach

| Research questions                                                                                                                      | Research approach                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To what extent is gender mainstreaming put into practice in the design of RDP/CAP-SP?</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screening of programmes and other relevant documents</li><li>• Gender budgeting: Categorizing funding measures according to their relevance for gender equality</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How are women involved in/affected by funding?</li></ul>                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gender disaggregated analysis of funding data</li><li>• Integration of gender-related questions in surveys of different stakeholder groups and case studies</li></ul>     |

# Analysis of four German Rural development programmes 2014-2022 (RDPs)

- Screening of funding documents (RDP, guidelines, etc.)
  - Which funding measures are relevant for gender equality?
  - Are gender aspects considered in the design of these measures?
  - Do measures explicitly target gender equality?
- Most of the budget is targeted towards area-based measures -> neutral to gender equality but paid to farm owners (primarily men)

Gender equality (GE) in RDP screening of financial plans



Source: own figure, financial plans

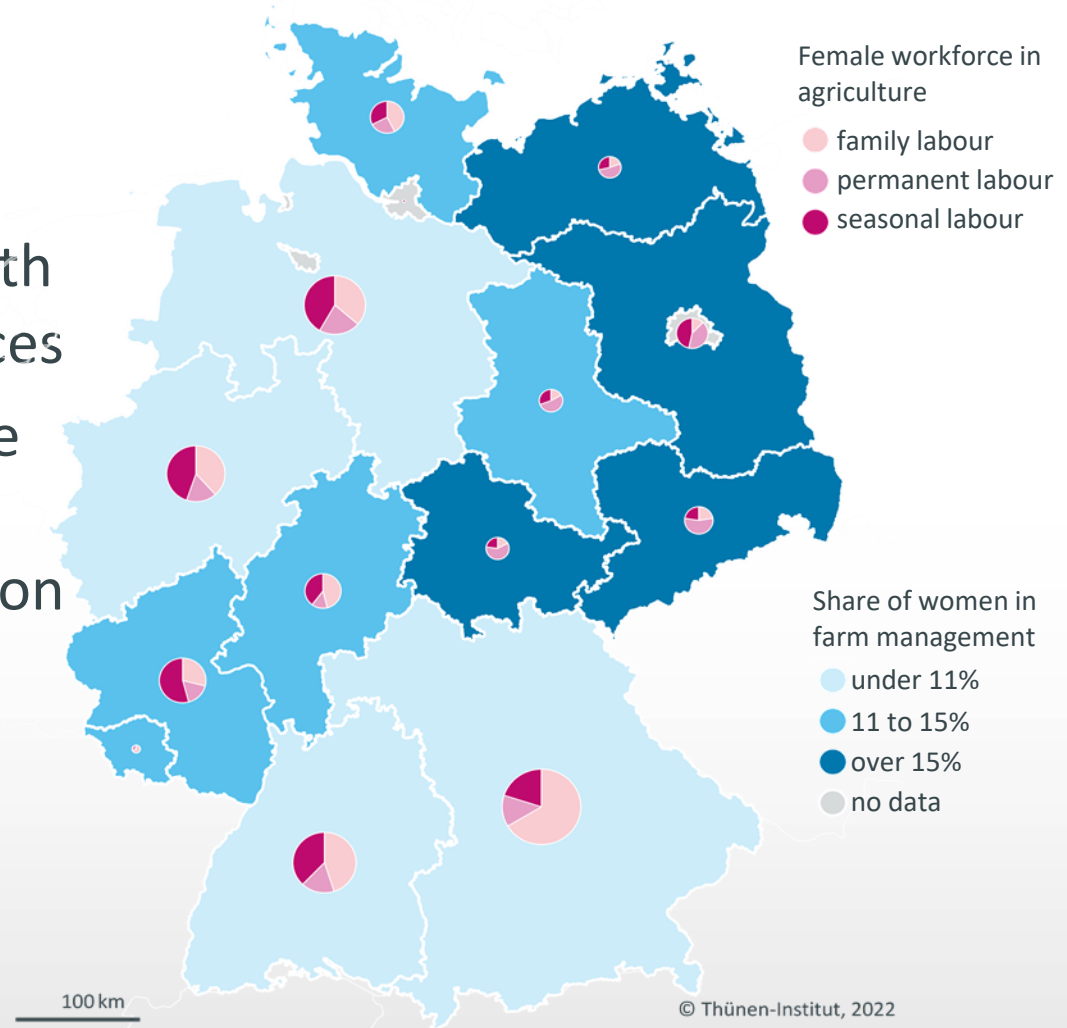
# RDP-Measures where Gender Equality is considered to a certain extent

- LEADER:
  - appropriate participation of men and women vs. quota
  - consider GE in project selection
- Village renewal, basic services, rural tourism:
  - In some RDP GE is mentioned in selection criteria
- Training
  - Contents with high relevance for women on farms (e.g. farm office management)
  - Women-only trainings on technical/production aspects
  - Offering child care during training sessions as selection criterion

# A relevant measure where Gender Equality is not considered

## Agricultural investment support (AIS)

- Agriculture is a sector with obvious gender differences
- A substantial share of the budget is allocated to support for investments on farms
- Are there differences in uptake between female and male led farms?

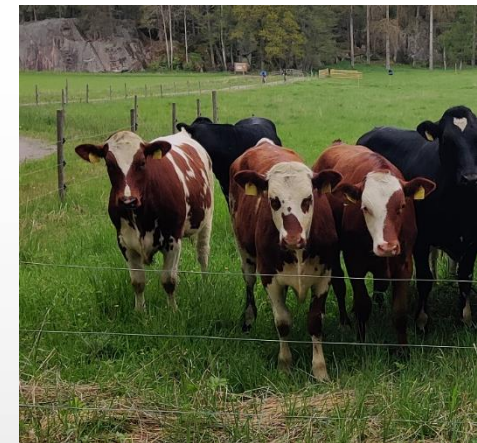


# Agricultural investment support - Design

- Objective: improve competitiveness, sustainability, animal and environmental friendly production on farms
- Funding for investments in agricultural holdings
- Subsidy varies between 15 up to 40% of costs of investment
- Minimum investment: 20,000 Euro
- Additional subsidy for young farmers of 10 %
- Mainly investment in animal husbandry (mainly cattle, but also pigs and poultry)



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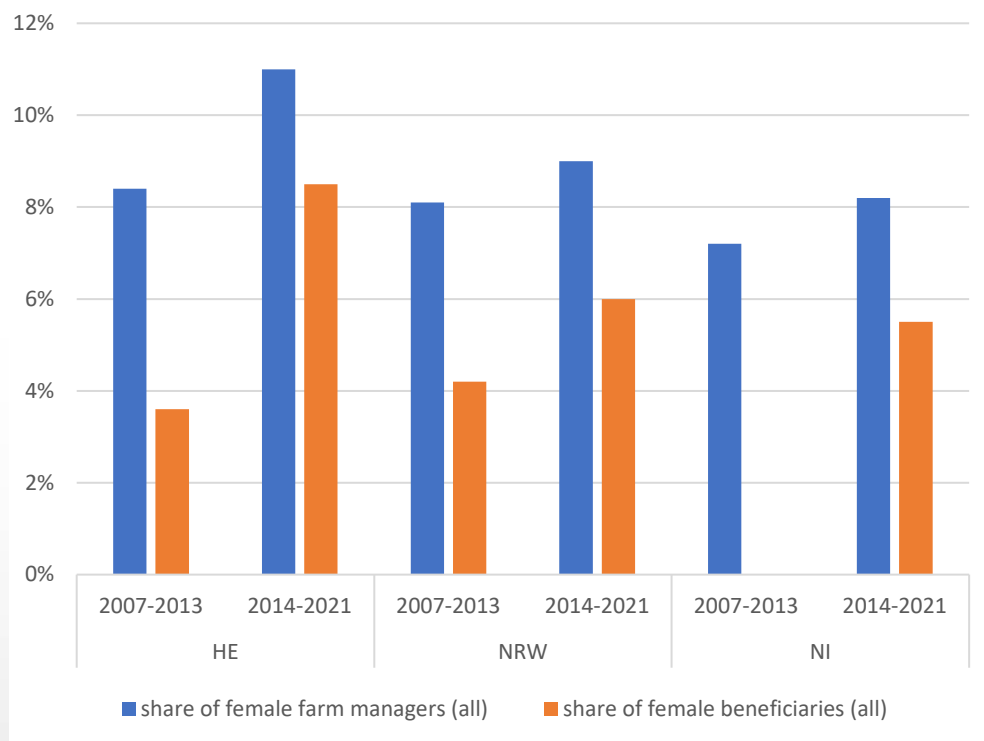


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# Agricultural investment support – Share of women

- Share of women among farm managers and beneficiaries of agricultural investment support



- Women were clearly underrepresented among beneficiaries in funding period 2007 – 2013
- Underrepresentation still continues in funding period 2014 -2022
- share of women has increased slightly over time

Source: own figure, destatis (2016, 2010), Moser et al. (2016), project data base (several years)

# Agricultural investment support – Farm size

## Under-representation of women due to differences in farm size?

| % share of female farm managers in farms | Schleswig-Holstein | Lower Saxony | North Rhine-Westphalia | Hesse | Germany |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------|---------|
| under 10 ha UAA*                         | n. p.              | 14 %         | 11 %                   | 13 %  | 15 %    |
| from 10 - 50 ha                          | 14 %               | 11 %         | 11 %                   | 14 %  | 11 %    |
| from 50 - 100 ha                         | 5 %                | 5 %          | 6 %                    | 9 %   | 6 %     |
| from 100 - 200 ha                        | 5 %                | 5 %          | n. p.                  | n. p. | 7 %     |

Destatis (2021) Arbeitskräfte und Berufsbildung der Betriebsleiter/Geschäftsführer Landwirtschaftszählung 2020: Fachserie 3 Reihe 2.1.8. Wiesbaden

\*Utilised Agricultural Area

n. p. = Not published due to data confidentiality reason

# Agricultural investment support - Investment strategies

## Is investment behaviour different?

- Women are attributed to be partly more cautious in their investment behavior  
(OECD 2021, Lehmann et al. 2020)
- Comparing the size of supported investments, it cannot be confirmed that women are more reluctant/cautious concerning investments

|                       |                             | HE   |        | NI   |        | NRW  |        |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
|                       |                             | male | female | male | female | male | female |
| single farm           | no of projects              | 183  | 17     | 414  | 24     | 645  | 45     |
|                       | average investment in tsd € | 384  | 365    | 549  | 626    | 448  | 380    |
| civil law partnership | no of projects              | 120  | 16     | 99   | 12     | 212  | 9      |
|                       | average investment in tsd € | 672  | 776    | 659  | 706    | 520  | 734    |

Source: own figure, Project data base

- limited validity of comparisons due to small absolute numbers of female beneficiaries

# Agricultural investment support - funding conditions

## Funding conditions that might disadvantage female farm managers

- Minimum acreage of 8 ha UAA to be eligible
  - in Germany more than 1/3 of female farm managers farm less than 10 ha UAA
- Formal vocational training in agriculture often necessary
  - But: More than 50 % of female farm managers have no formal training in agriculture (some BL accept practical training and reflect this issue, but not explicitly for women)
- Top-up for young farmers (young in the sense of age) under 41 years
  - But: female biographies are different from male biographies (e.g. starting a farm business when children are elder)
- The wife of a farm owner cannot be applicant, except for diversification

# First impressions of GAP-SP screening

## Specific objective H includes GE

*„to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry;” (Art 6, Reg.(EU) 2021/2115)*

## But ...

- still a break/rupture between SWOT and strategy
- Need for improving gender equality is identified and given high priority
- Only LEADER and two small sub-measures in one federal state are supposed to contribute to GE

# First impressions of GAP-SP screening

**German federal states are responsible for implementing funding measures for rural development**

**Screening of their funding guidelines and project selection criteria:**

- LEADER: Demand for balanced composition of LAG boards has increased (more federal states with quotas or clearly expressed requirements)
- Village development planning: one federal state clearly stating the need for balanced participation in the steering group
- Agricultural investment support: one federal state favouring women in the selection criteria (for applications with same quality)

# Conclusions

- Presence of women follows, to a great extent, traditional role models
  - Underrepresentation in investment measures and decision-making bodies
  - strong presence in office management and pedagogic training courses and in LAG management
- Only little changes can be observed over time
  - Funding programmes reproduce structural inequalities, if they do not explicitly implement procedures and requirements to avoid that
  - Mentioning “Gender equality” in one specific objective does not lead to taking gender mainstreaming seriously in planning and implementation of rural development funding

# Questions or Comments?

## For further information

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