



# Women Participation in Commercial Seed Producers Group in Timor-Leste

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## Abstract

Recognising the role of women in commercial seed production, their participation was examined in commercial seed producers groups established by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Timor-Leste. From the assessment of 58 commercial seed producers groups, results revealed that women participation in membership was 36%, while in leadership positions such as Chief, Vice Chief, Secretary and Treasurer were 16%, 14%, 21% and 81%, respectively. Results suggest that although women participation in Treasurer position was highly satisfactory, more efforts are required in future from MAF extension workers to educate men to cooperate as well as encourage women to come forward to take more participation of women in membership as well as other key leadership positions - such as Chief, Vice Chief and Secretary - in the groups.

## II. Methods

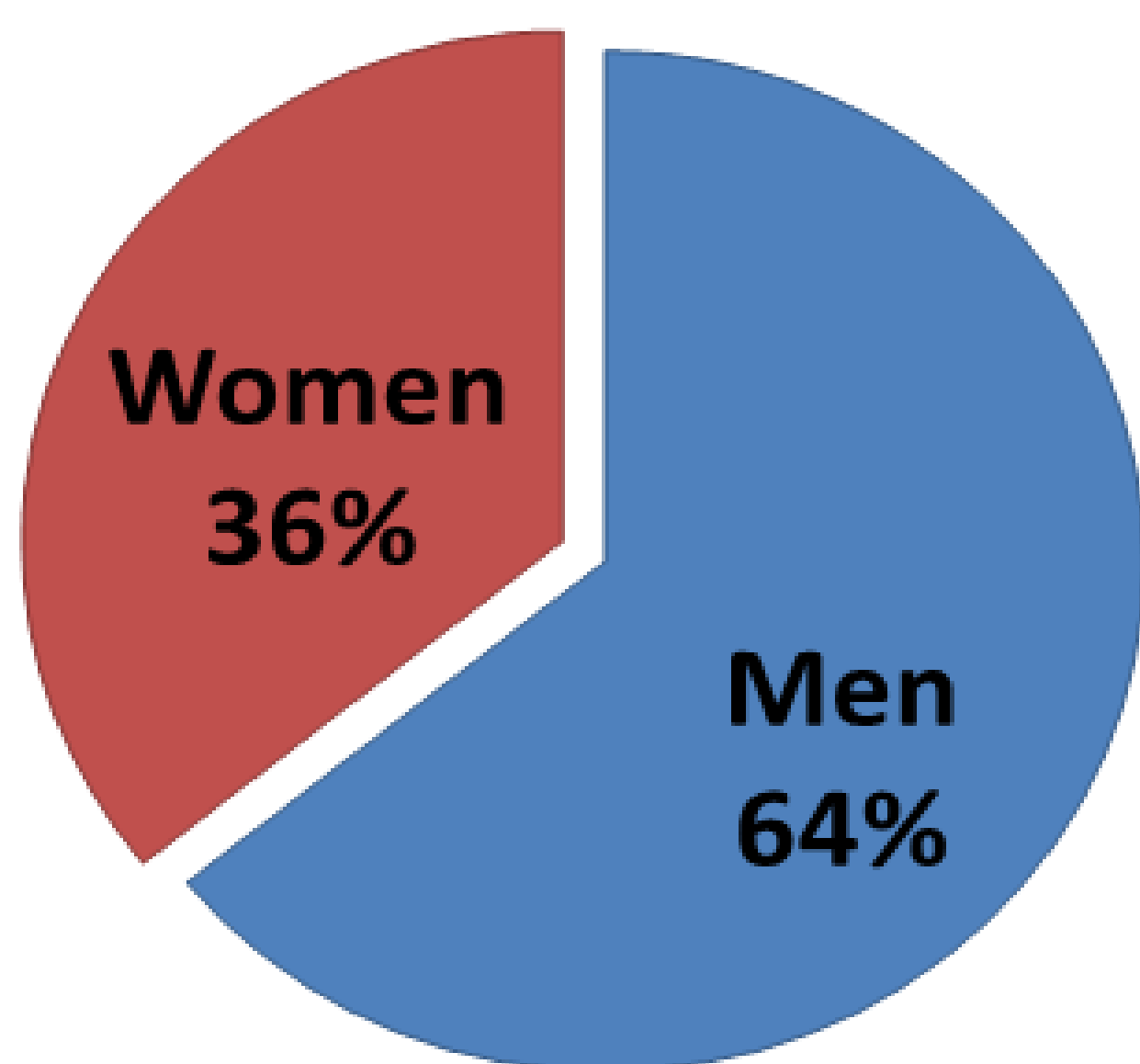


Gender disaggregated data of men and women collected from MAF Community Seed Coordinators from all municipalities including a Special Region Oecusse regarding membership, and leadership positions such as Chief, Vice Chief, Secretary and Treasurer from 58 CSPs in 2015 and analysed.

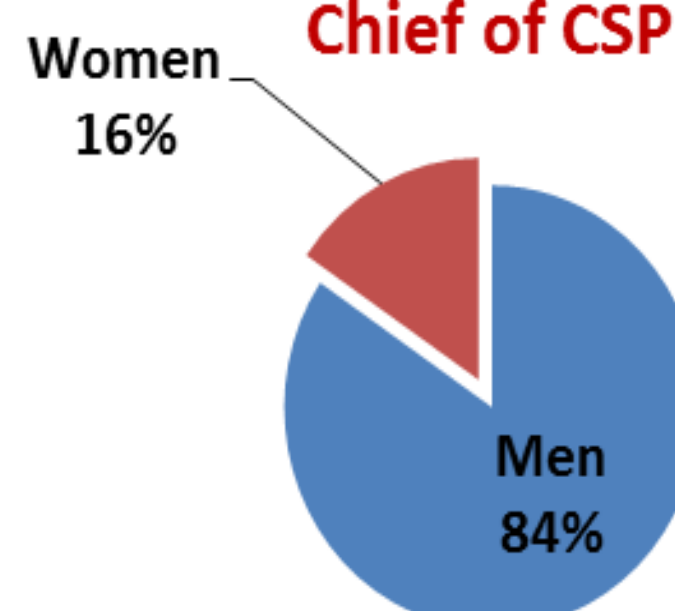
## III. Results

Data from 58 Commercial Seed Producers who were active in seed production in 2015 revealed that 36% of members in Commercial Seed Producers are women. Likewise, women participation in key leadership positions such as Chief, Vice Chief, Secretary and Treasurer were 16%, 14%, 21%, and 81%, respectively.

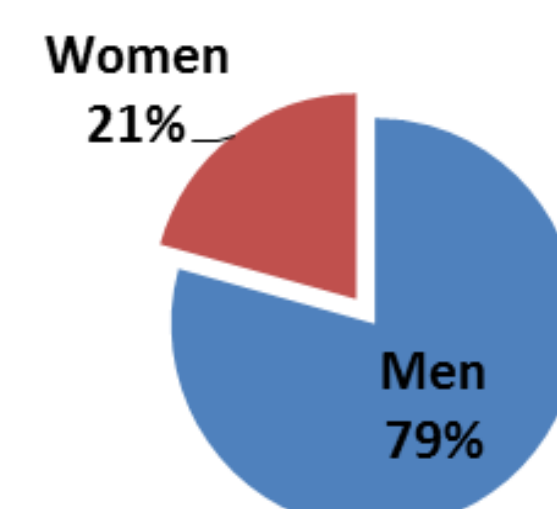
### Membership in CSP



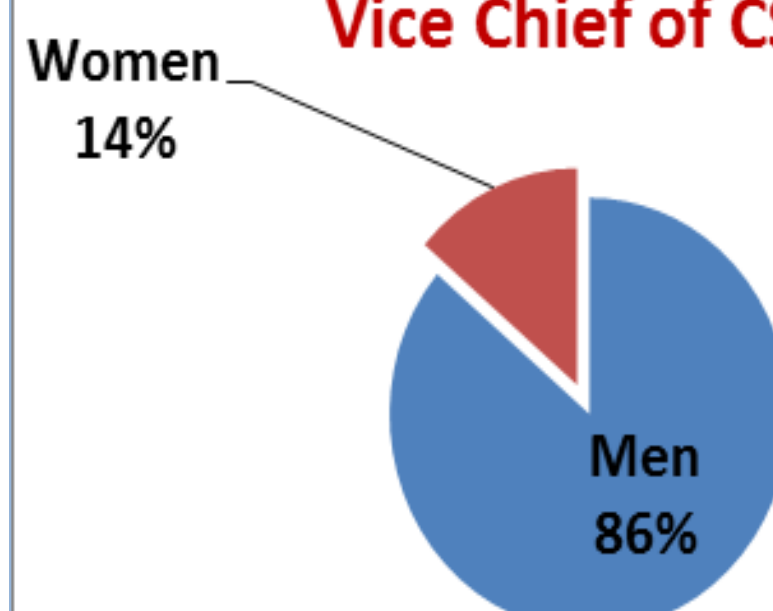
### Chief of CSP



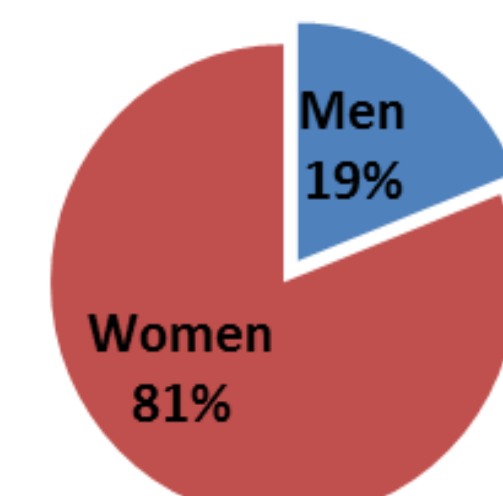
### Secretary of CSP



### Vice Chief of CSP



### Treasurer of CSP



## IV. Discussion



Women participation in commercial seed producers as members has exceeded the MAF target of including women at least 30% in farmers groups and associations. However, participation of women in key leadership positions such as Chief, Vice Chief and Secretary has still been very poor. In these positions, men dominate the seats. Although women have lower literacy and numeracy skills, they have been trusted by the CSPs men and women members as a Treasurer in more than 80% of the Commercial Seed Producers. More efforts are required in future from MAF extension workers to educate men to cooperate as well as encourage women to come forward to take more leadership positions such as Chief, Vice Chief and Secretary. In doing so, can increase quality participation of women in commercial seed producers groups.