

BURKINA FASO FACT SHEET

December 2008

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Key Gender Trends

- In 2008, the three largest agricultural research and higher education agencies in Burkina Faso employed 184 professional staff, of which 22 were female. This female share of 12 percent is low compared to many other African countries.
- Only 7 percent of all PhD-qualified staff employed in 2008 were female, whereas 17 percent of MSc-qualified staff and 50 percent of BSc-qualified staff were female.
- Most of the female professional staff were aged between 31 and 50 years. No clear gender trends were identified in terms of years of service at the respective agencies.
- The share of women in management, including positions as deans of faculties and heads of departments, was 16 percent.
- In 2007, female students accounted for more than 15 percent of the total student population in agricultural sciences, and about a quarter of the students that graduated that year were female.

Shares of Female Professional Agricultural Staff by Agency and Degree

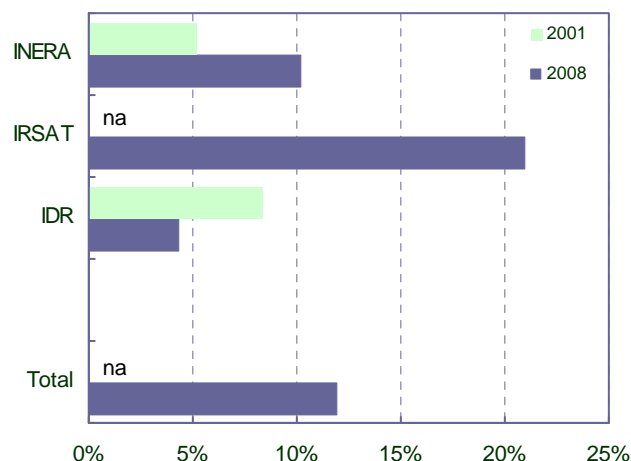
In 2008, Burkina Faso's three largest agricultural research and higher education agencies together employed 184 professional staff, of which 22—or 12 percent—were female. In 2001, these three agencies employed 77 percent of Burkina Faso's agricultural research staff in terms of full-time equivalents. The Applied Sciences and Technology Research Institute (IRSAT) had the highest female share in 2008, but no comparative data were available for 2001. The share of female professional staff employed at the Environment and Agricultural Research Institute (INERA) doubled from 5 percent from 2001 to 10 percent in 2008, whereas the equivalent share at the Rural Development Institute (IDR), the only higher education agency in the sample, fell from 8 to 4 percent over the same timeframe, representing a decline from two female professional staff to only one (Figure 1).

Of the professional staff at agricultural research and higher education agencies, only 7 percent of those with PhD degrees were female, whereas 17 percent of those with MSc degrees, and 50 percent of those with BSc degrees were women (Figure 2). Notably, the share of female professional staff with MSc-level training increased from 7 to 17 percent during the 2001–08 period.

Qualifications of Professional Agricultural Staff by Gender

On average, almost one-third of the female professional agricultural staff employed in 2008 held PhD degrees,

FIGURE 1. Female share of professional agricultural staff by agency, 2001 and 2008



Notes: See page 3 for a list of agency names and categories. Data for IDR in this fact sheet are for late 2007. The 2001 total was estimated using partial 2001 data for IRSAT.

compared with 59 percent of men (Figure 3a). In absolute numbers, seven women held PhD degrees compared with 96 men and 13 women held MSc degrees compared with 64 men, respectively (Figure 3b).

FIGURE 2. Female share of professional agricultural staff by degree, 2008

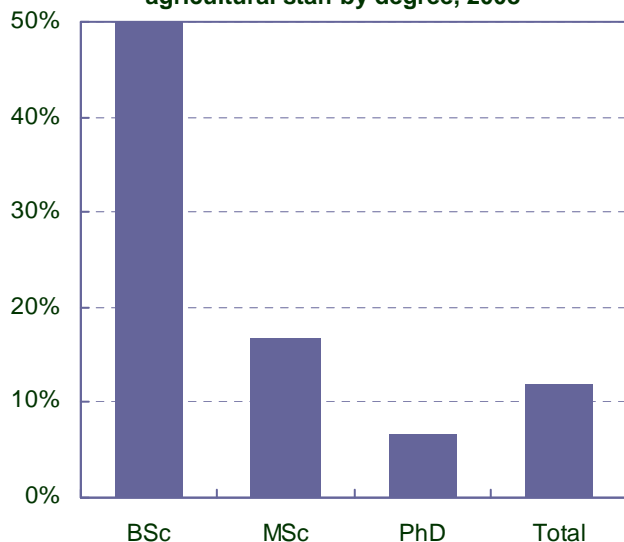


FIGURE 3a. Qualifications of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2008 (shares)

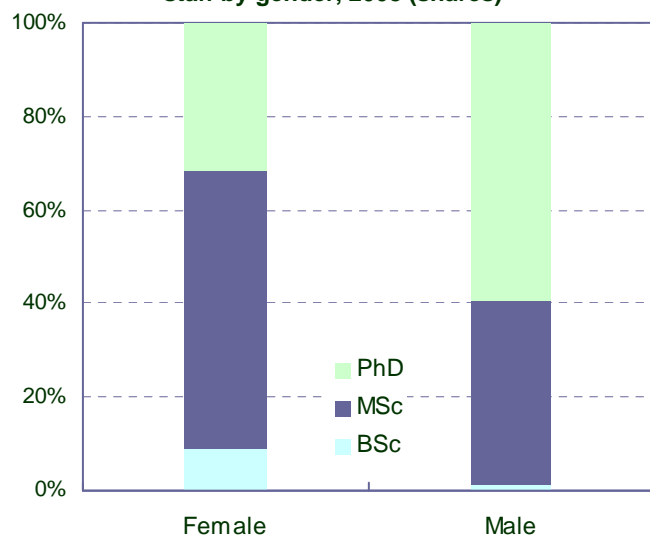
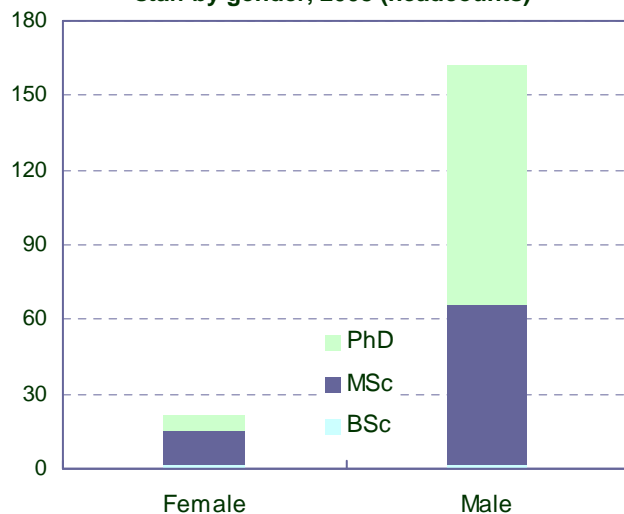


FIGURE 3b. Qualifications of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2008 (headcounts)



Age and Seniority of Professional Agricultural Staff by Gender

In 2008, most of the female professional staff were aged between 31 to 50 years (Figure 4). Only two of the 64 professional staff between 51–60 years were female.

Only one of the seven faculty deans and heads of departments at IDR was female, while three of the total 30 management positions at INERA and IRSAT were held by women. Unsurprisingly, the female share of senior administrative staff was comparatively higher (Figure 5).

FIGURE 4. Age of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2008

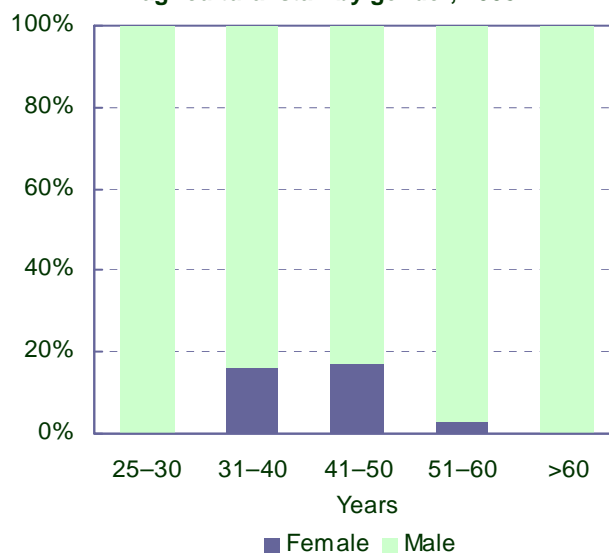
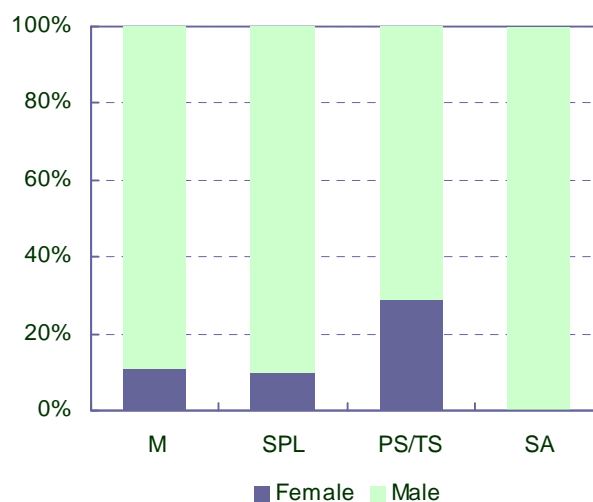
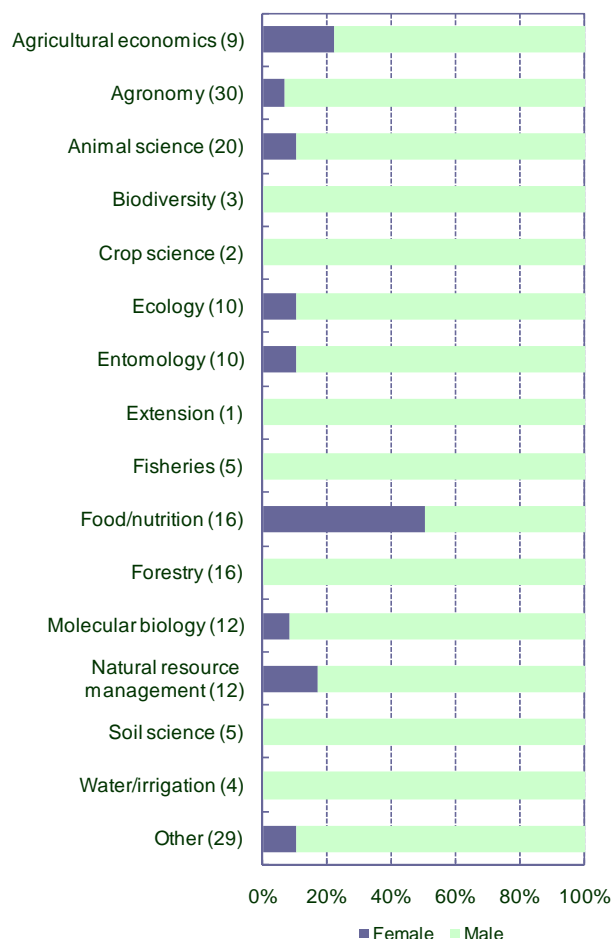


FIGURE 5. Seniority of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2008



Note: M indicates management and includes directors, deans, and department heads; SPL includes scientists, (assistant) professors, and (senior) lecturers not in management positions; PS/TS indicates professional and technical support staff; and SA indicates senior administrative staff.

FIGURE 6. Discipline-mix of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2008



Note: The number of staff within each category is shown in parentheses.

Discipline Mix and Years of Service of Professional Agricultural Staff by Gender

Half of the 16 professional staff trained in food and nutrition science were female. In addition, a relatively high share of women was trained in agricultural economics. In contrast, none of the professional staff trained in biodiversity, crop science, extension, fisheries, forestry, soil science, or water and irrigation management was female (Figure 6).

No clear relationship was observed between the proportion of female professional staff and their years of service at either the government or higher education agencies (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7. Years of service of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2008

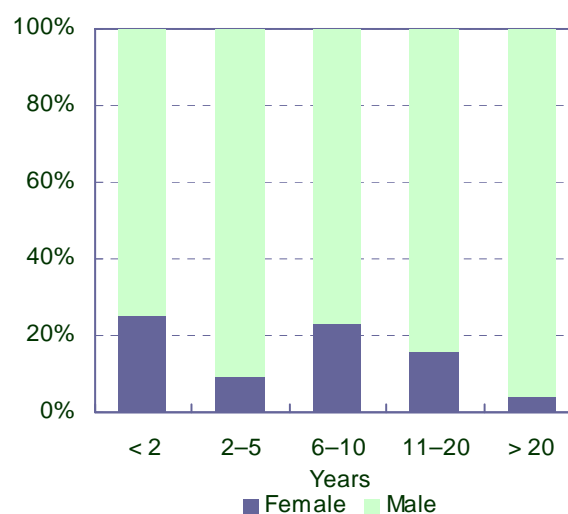


TABLE 1. Departures and promotions of professional agricultural staff by gender, 2005–07, and as a share of female and male professional staff employed in 2008

Status	Number of staff, 2005–07		Share of 2008 staff totals	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Departures	0	2	0%	1%
Promotions	3	16	14%	10%

Departures and Promotions of Professional Agricultural Staff by Gender

For the sample agencies as a whole, no woman and two men departed during the 2005–07 period, and three women and 16 men were promoted (Table 1). For the purpose of comparison, numbers of departing staff represented 0 and only 1 percent of the female and male staff employed in 2008, respectively, and numbers of promoted staff represented 14 and 10 percent of female and male staff employed in 2008, respectively.

The data in this fact sheet are derived from the following government and higher education agencies:

Two government agencies

INERA Environment and Agricultural Research Institute
 IRSAT Applied Sciences and Technology Research Institute

One higher education agency

IDR Rural Development Institute

For further information on the organization of agricultural research in Burkina Faso, see http://www.asti.cgiar.org/pdf/BURKINAFASO_CB21.pdf.

TABLE 2. Professional agricultural staff completing training, by gender, 2005–07, and as a share of female and male professional staff employed in 2008

Level of Training	Number of staff, 2005–07		Share of 2008 staff totals	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
BSc	na	na	na	na
MSc	0	2	0%	3%
PhD	6	7	40%	14%

Note: na indicates that data were not available.

Training by Gender

Close to half the female professional staff in our sample who were employed in agricultural research at the government and higher education agencies in 2008 obtained PhD degrees between 2005 and 2007, but none obtained an MSc degree during this timeframe (Table 2).

About ASTI

The Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative compiles, processes, analyzes, and reports data on institutional developments, investments, and human resources in agricultural R&D in developing countries. The ASTI initiative is managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and involves collaborative alliances with many national and regional R&D agencies, as well as international institutions. The initiative, which is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with additional support from IFPRI, is widely recognized as the most authoritative source of information on the support for and structure of agricultural R&D worldwide. To know more about the ASTI initiative visit www.asti.cgiar.org.

About AWARD

The African Women in African Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) program, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is implemented by the Gender & Diversity (G&D) program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Competitive two-year fellowships focused on building capacity in science, mentoring, and leadership are offered to high-performing female African scientists at one of three critical career junctures: completion of a BSc, MSc, or PhD degree. To know more visit www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE



IFPRI HEADQUARTERS

2033 K Street, N.W • Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA
Telephone: +1 (202) 862-5600 • Skype: ifprihomeoffice
Fax +1 (202) 467-4439 • E-mail: ifpri@cgiar.org
www.ifpri.org

IFPRI-ROME

International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) Division
Nienke Beintema, Head, Agricultural and Science Technology (ASTI) initiative
c/o ESA, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla • 00153 Rome, Italy
Telephone: +39 (06) 570-53192 / 570-56334 • Email: asti@cgiar.org
Fax: +39 (06) 570-55522 • Skype: [ifpriromeoffice](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/voice/ifpriromeoffice) • www.asti.cgiar.org

IFPRI was established in 1975. IFPRI is one of 15 agricultural research centers that receives its principal funding from governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations, most of which are members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (www.cgiar.org).

This fact sheet was prepared by Nienke Beintema and Federica Di Marcantonio.

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