

# Women and men in agriculture

## A statistical look at the family labour force

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The results of the latest Farm Structure Survey (1999/2000) show that 13.7 million persons work regularly or permanently in EU-15 agriculture. Of these, 12.2 million are family workers, 38% being women. This share ranges from almost 47% in Portugal to less than 30% in Ireland and Denmark.

In outline, the women family agricultural workers are generally:

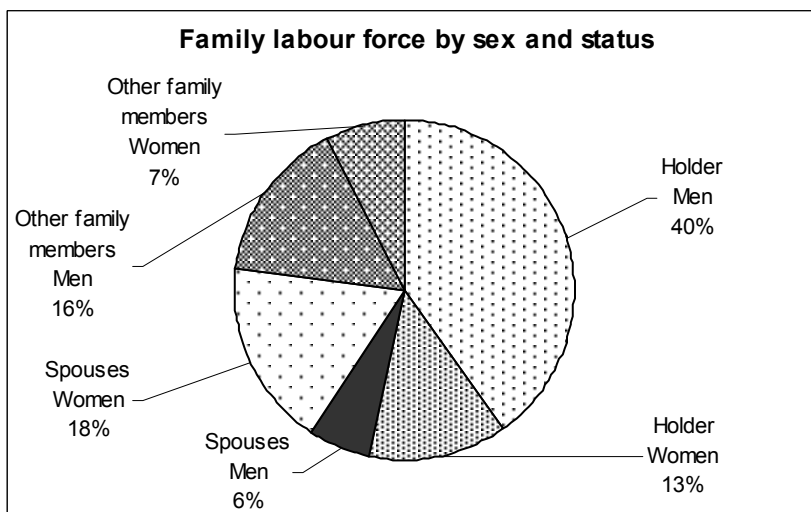
- older than men
- working part-time (86%)
- being the spouse of the holder
- managing small holdings

Women managers rarely have other gainful activity outside the agricultural industry.

### Almost one holder in four is a woman

In the distribution of the family labour force 53% are holders, one quarter are spouses of holders and the remainder are other family members. In terms of annual work unit (AWU) which corrects the effect of part-time working, holders represent more than 60%, spouses around 21% and other family members almost 20%.

Three out of four spouses are women; by contrast, they only represent 24% of holders.



## Statistics in focus

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 4/2003

## Contents

Almost one holder in four is a woman ..... 1

Only one in six family working women is younger than 35 years whilst the proportion of at least 55 is around the 44% ... 3

Around 80% of women family workers work part-time ..... 4

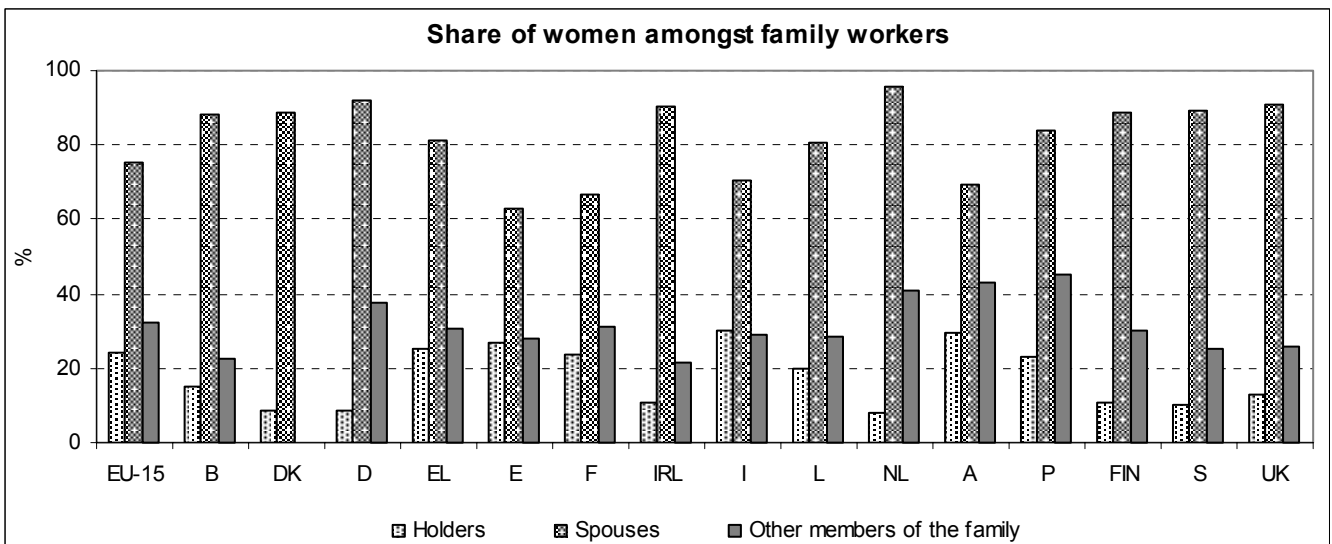
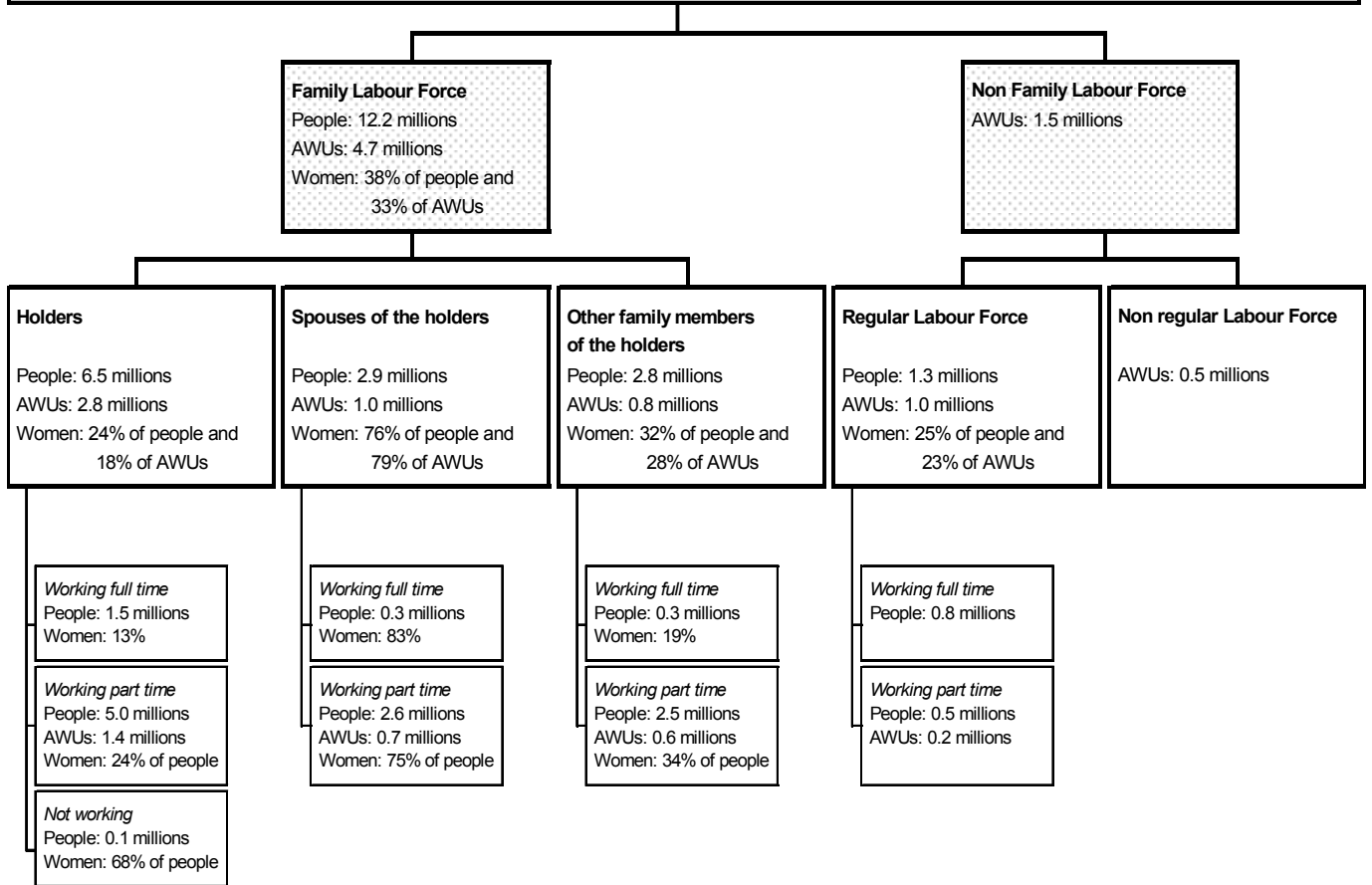
Women as managers in non-group holdings ..... 5

Other gainful activity of managers ..... 6

Managers according to farm type ..... 6



## Agricultural Labour Force (FSS)



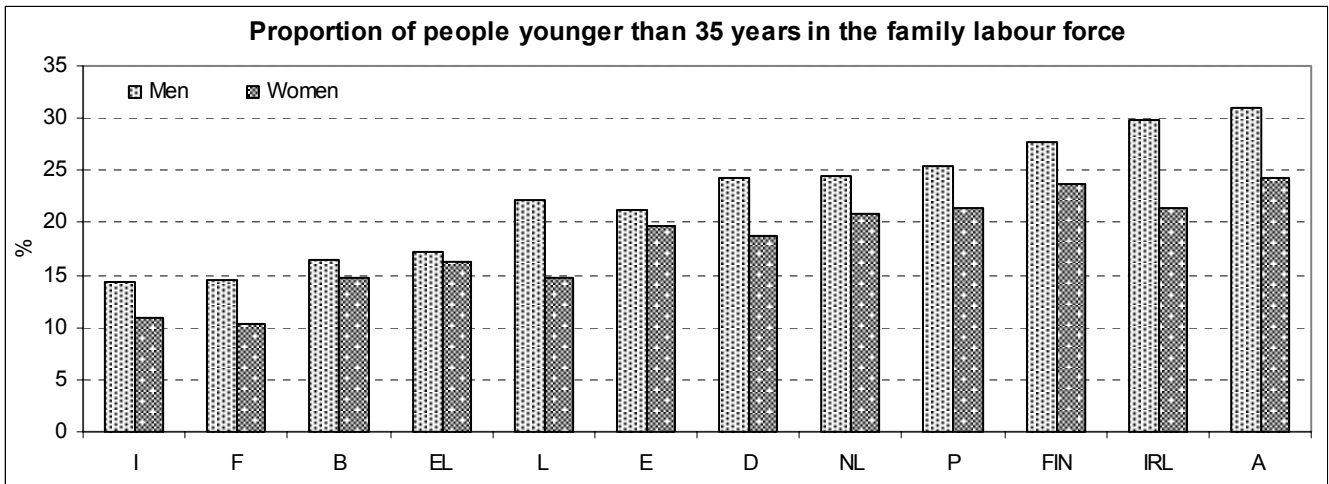
By country the share of women as holders ranges from more than 25% in Italy, Austria, Spain and Greece to less than 10% in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

**Only one in six family working women is younger than 35 years  
whilst the proportion of at least 55 is around the 44%**

The degree of ageing within family labour force in agriculture is very high. Approximately a quarter of the total labour force is over the usual age of retirement (65 years old) while the share of young people (<35 years old) is around 18%. Although this is true for both genders, the main difference between them appears in the two extreme age groups, especially in the first one: young women in the female population only attain 16% whilst this

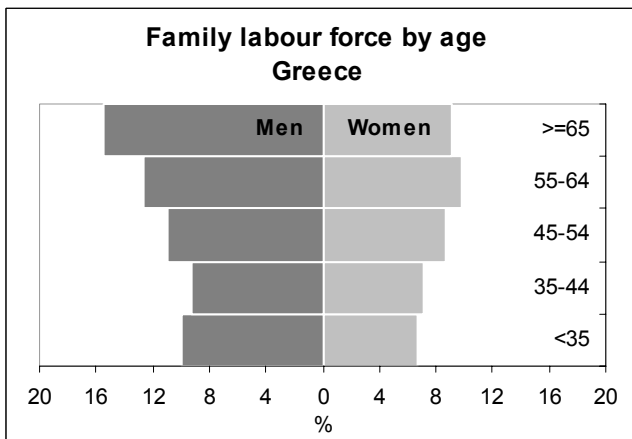
proportion almost reaches 20% in the male population.

The comparison between the two extreme age groups shows that in Spain, Italy, Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal the proportion of women of at least 65 years is greater than that of women younger than 35.



In the Southern European countries the proportion of people aged 55 years or more surpasses 40% (in Portugal, Greece and Italy around half of the population is in this age group). In the remaining countries this share is also high – more than 30% –

and in all of them (except for Finland) this proportion is greater than that for people aged less than 35. In Finland young people represent around 26% of the working population and less than a quarter are ages 55 and over.

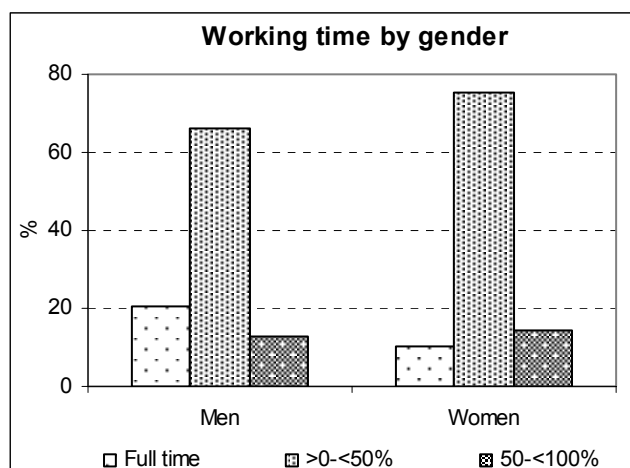


## Around 80% of women family workers work part-time

Part-time work has a considerable importance in agricultural activity. In the whole EU the percentage of family labour force working less than full-time is more than 80%.

This kind of work is specially common in the Southern European countries: in Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal more than the 85% of the family working population work part-time.

This feature is linked with the high degree of ageing of the family working population, especially women, and the large proportion of small holdings in these countries.

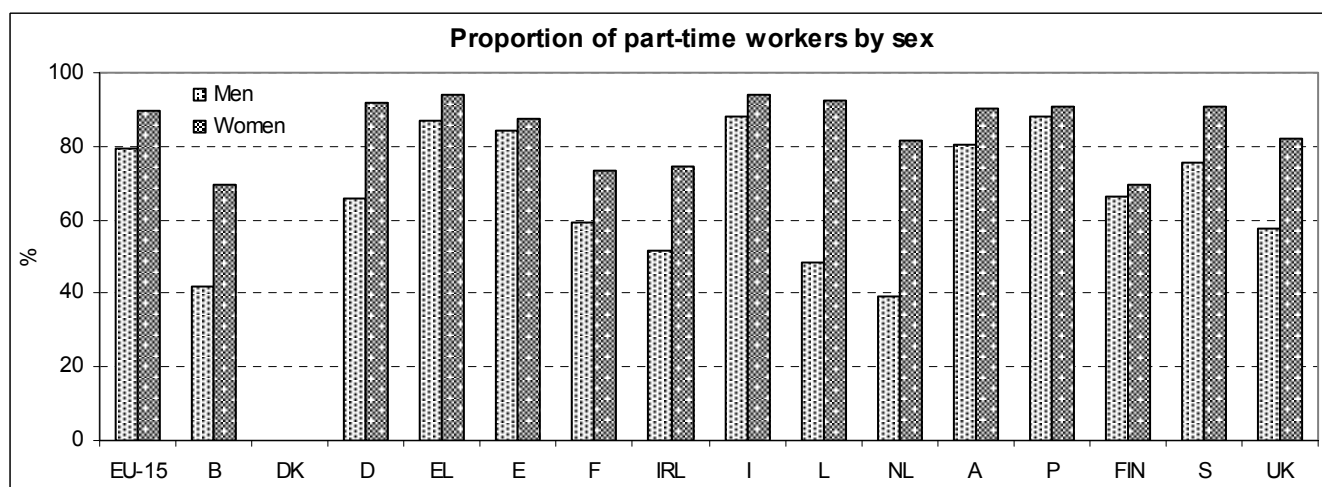


Even though for both genders part-time work has a certain importance, the ratio of Annual Work Units (AWU) by person clearly shows that this type of work plays a significantly more important role for women than for men family workers.

The average AWU by person in EU-15 reaches 0.42 for men and 0.33 for women. In all the Member States, without exception, this rate is greater for men.

Almost 90% of women work part-time - and three-quarters work less than half time - whilst this proportion is below 80% for men. In countries such as Luxembourg and the Netherlands women working part-time make up more than a half of total part-time workers.

		Annual work units per person															
		I	E	A	EL	S	P	D	FIN	UK	DK	F	IRL	L	B	NL	EU-15
Men		0.33	0.35	0.33	0.39	0.48	0.43	0.52	0.54	0.60	0.62	0.59	0.69	0.75	0.71	0.78	<b>0.42</b>
Women		0.25	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.32	0.42	0.34	0.50	0.42	0.46	0.51	0.52	0.52	0.58	0.56	<b>0.33</b>
Both		0.30	0.33	0.33	0.36	0.42	0.43	0.46	0.53	0.54	0.56	0.56	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.71	<b>0.38</b>



## Women as managers in non-group holdings

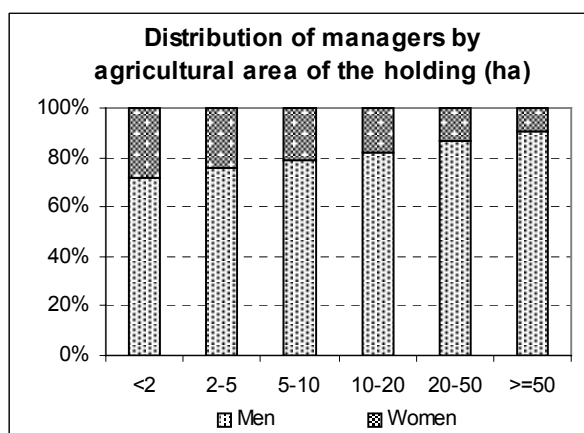
Approximately one into four managers of non-group holdings is a woman.

In countries such as Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Austria and Portugal the proportion of holdings managed by a woman surpasses 20%, while in Denmark, Ireland, Netherlands and Sweden this figure is below 10%.

### Size of holding

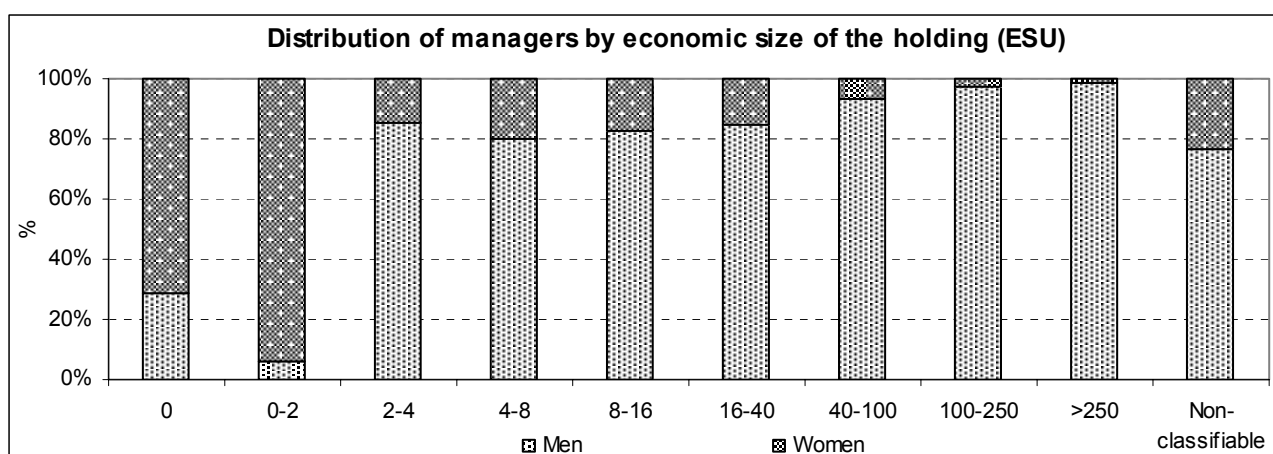
In all Member States, without exception, the average size of the holding, both physical and economic, is smaller for women than for men:

- Approximately 70% of women managers are in holdings whose UAA is less than 5 ha, this proportion being around 55% for men. In contrast, women appear as managers in less than 10% of the holdings with at least 50 ha. In countries such as Greece and Italy the UAA by holding is below 5 ha.
- More than 70% of holdings with an ESU=0 and more than 90% with a size between 0-2 ESU are managed by women, but they manage less than 5% of holdings which size is greater than 40 ESU.



		% holding managers	SGM by holding	UAA by holding
B	Women	15	30	15
	Men	85	57	24
DK	Women	8	32	28
	Men	92	64	47
D	Both		40	36
EL	Women	24	4	3
	Men	76	7	5
E	Women	21	7	13
	Men	79	13	22
F	Women	23	26	25
	Men	77	43	40
IRL	Women	10	11	23
	Men	90	22	32
I	Women	28	5	4
	Men	72	10	7
L	Women	12	16	21
	Men	88	39	49
NL	Women	8	67	17
	Men	92	90	20
A	Women	31	9	11
	Men	69	12	19
P	Women	23	4	6
	Men	77	7	10
FIN	Women	10	19	18
	Men	90	23	28
S	Women	10	13	21
	Men	90	28	40
UK	Women	15	20	33
	Men	85	53	76

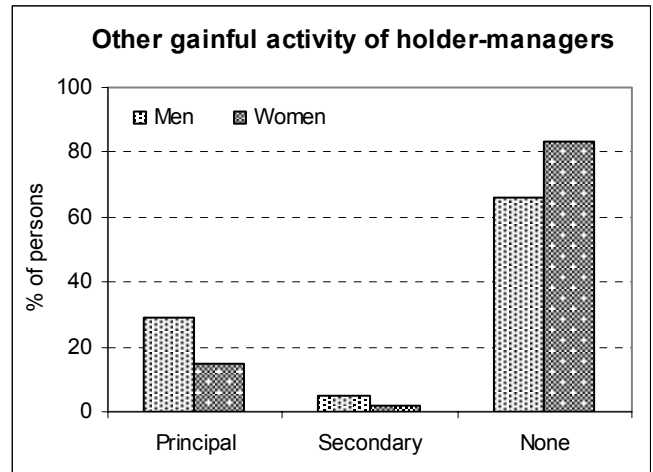
Across Member States, the proportion of holdings of small economic size managed by women is especially high in Portugal, Italy, Austria, Greece and Spain, where the SGM by holding is below 10 ESUs.



## Other gainful activity of managers

Three out of ten holder-managers have another gainful activity outside the agricultural holding. Nevertheless if the manager is a woman this share is much lower: 17%.

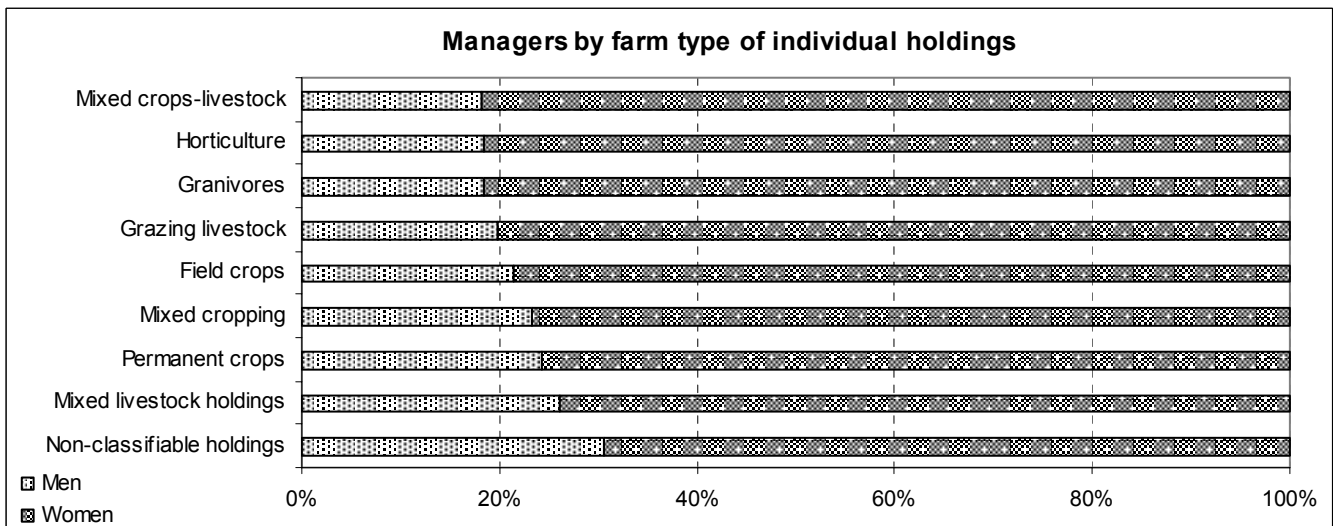
If we only consider managers whose main activity is another gainful activity, the proportion is almost twice for men than for women. Only in Denmark and Sweden is this proportion significantly greater for women, and in both cases more than half of women holder-managers have an another main gainful activity. In contrast, in Spain and Portugal the difference between men and women is greater than 18 percentage points. This fact underlines the point that part-time work does not imply necessarily that people are working outside the holding.



## Managers according to farm type

The farm type is based on the share of each production (wheat, dairy cows, vineyards...) in the activity, measured by the standard gross margin (see page 7).

For analytical purposes, holdings are distributed into 17 main farm types, which are grouped by gross margin at different levels. The 17 main farm types can be grouped into 9 'overall' farm types.



Women appear as managers in all types of specialised holdings, but their presence varies considerably. Only in mixed livestock and non-classifiable holdings is the proportion of women as managers greater than one in four.

Looking at the distribution of holdings by farm type, field crops, permanent cropping or grazing livestock that account for more than three quarters of the holdings, but in only the 17% is the manager a woman.

## SOME DEFINITIONS FROM THE FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY

### **Holders and managers**

The holder of the holding is that natural person, group of natural persons or the legal person on whose account and in whose name the holding is operated and who is legally and economically responsible for the holding.

The manager of the holding is the natural person or persons responsible for the normal daily financial and production routines of running the holding concerned. The manager is generally, but not always, the same person as the holder who is a natural person.

### **Family labour force**

This covers holder's being a natural person, the spouses of the holder and other members of the holder's family working on the holding.

### **Spouses of the holder**

Spouses having performed agricultural work on the holding during the 12 months period prior to the survey are included. The total number of spouses is not surveyed.

### **Non-family labour force regularly employed**

Non-members of the holder's family, who worked on the holding in every week of the 12 months prior to the survey (apart from holidays, sick leave, etc).

### **Non-family labour force employed on a non-regular basis**

People who are not part of the holder's family. There is no information on the number of people.

### **Total labour force**

This includes family labour force and non-family labour force regular and non-regular employed.

### **Other gainful activity**

A gainful activity provides remuneration to the holder for an activity other than one related to agricultural work.

### **Annual Work Units (AWUs)**

An annual work unit corresponds to the work performed by a person undertaking full-time agricultural work for the holding.

### **Full-time workers**

This means the minimum hours required by the national provisions governing contracts of employment. If these do not indicate the number of annual hours then 1800 hours is to be taken as the minimum figure (225 working days of 8 hours per day).

### **Utilised agricultural area (UAA)**

Total area taken up by arable land, permanent pasture and meadow, land used for permanent crops and kitchen gardens.

### **Standard Gross Margin (SGM)**

For each crop or animal production, a standard gross margin is calculated as the difference between the standard value of the production and the standard amount of certain specific costs (mainly proportional specific costs).

### **Economic size**

For each production the area (or number of livestock) is multiplied by the product's SGM local coefficient. The estimated figures are added to obtain the economic size of the holding. It is expressed in European size units (ESUs), each equivalent to €1200. The relative importance of the SGMs of the various productions makes it possible to classify holdings by type of farming.

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