

An analysis of meaning on rural woman's legal status in Agricultural policy of Korea

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Gyung Mee Gim,
Jin Young Lee, Yoon Ji Choi, Kyeong Ha Kang
Rural Development Administration(RDA)
Rep. Of Korea
e-mail : gimgm@rda.go.kr

I. Introduction

- ❑ It has been increased women's farm labor sharing, according to shift of the major crop from rice to horticulture like as vegetables, fruits for the accounts balance, and hunting for non-agricultural income sources of each farm household. From these activities of farm people, women's role in agriculture has been various.
- ❑ Under DDA or FTA, especially agricultural policy has been changed the focus of policy on agricultural competitiveness of each farm, non-agricultural income generating as food processing, in addition, the sustainable agriculture & rural development such as rural tourism, service program development for facilitating leaning by experience on rural life, etc.
- ❑ It means rural women's role has been on the increase in proportion to has been advanced of agricultural economic development.
- ❑ Involving in farming, agricultural business management, food

processing as non-agricultural income generating, green tourism, sustainable rural development, moreover volunteer activities for poor people as old people by living alone, children with their grandparents who lost their parents in unexpected problems, multi cultural family (family in immigrant person), handicapped person, etc., although increasing of labor burden as overviews, their social status is still low compared with husbands. For last several years, rural women have tried to get the right as legal farmer, and this is the final report of that.

A. Objectives

- To corroborate the farmer in the agricultural basic law.
- To show the women's problems from inequality in legal status by land ownership, farming income.
- To suggest some desirable criteria and renewal item for recognition of women's right as legal farmer.
- To report on proceedings of getting gender equal rights as the legal farmer in the agricultural basic law. For the gender equal right, it was focused on importance of rural women organization's role and cooperative network with researcher & police maker & private sector.

B. Methods

- Survey
- To corroborate the legal standard as farmer by gender(2002)
 - farmers : 360persons (180 farm couples)
 - leader farmers : 112persons(56 farm couples)
 - specialist group : 99persons(extension worker, R&D, officer)
- To understand & search the problems of rural women from the legal gender inequality(2004)

- data collection from 175 cases and open interview from 45 persons (60 cases)

● To redefine the standard of legal farmer in the agricultural basic law (2005)

- 47 specialists in field of women's studies, law, agriculture, administration, etc.

□ Panel discussion

● To identify women's right and legal status (2001-2003)

- 11 specialists in field of women's studies, law, labor economy, administration, etc.

● To suggest the improved items of agricultural law and the developed program for rural women's problem solving (2004 - 2007)

- 60 persons in field of women's studies, law, labor economy, the press, economics, administration, NGOs, etc..

□ Open forum & Seminar (2003-2007)

● Public forum: 7 times

* by a number of the National Assembly, by NGOs, by RDA, by the National special committee for agriculture and rural development

● Seminar / Discussion of the national council / Briefing session on gender inequality cases / Meeting within members of administrative branches, researcher, specialists, and NGOs of farmer, especially women farmer's group.

* We tried to do our best in so many times as we can as possible.

II. The Problems of rural woman's legal status

A. Necessary standards according to the definition of a farmer in the agricultural basic law

□ Standard for the definition as a legal farmer

● Cultivating lands in the size of 1,000m² and over

● (or) Making a yearly income of 1 million won (1,000 US\$) and over

from selling farm products under own name (* It was revised in 2008, as 1,200US\$)

- (or) Engaged in farming for more than 90days per year

B. Rural women's problem to fill up the standards of a legal farmer in the law

- Difficulty to reach the standards of a legal farmer

- According to the result of 2002 survey (180 rural women, 56 rural women leaders)

- Land ownership under woman's name as 1,000m² and over: 10.6% (women leader: 36.4%)

- Bank account with agribusiness under woman's name as a yearly income of 1 million won(1,000US\$) and over: 11.1% (women leader: 38.2%)

- Difficulty to prove the fact of attending to their own farm's work for more than 90days per year as the standards of the law

- According to the result of 2002 survey (180 rural women, 56 rural women leaders)

- 93.3% of them(women leader: 96.4%) engaged in farming at their own farm(land titling under their husband's name) for 204days in a year (women leader: 221days in a year)

- But almost of them have no any proof of their work time recording as farm laborer

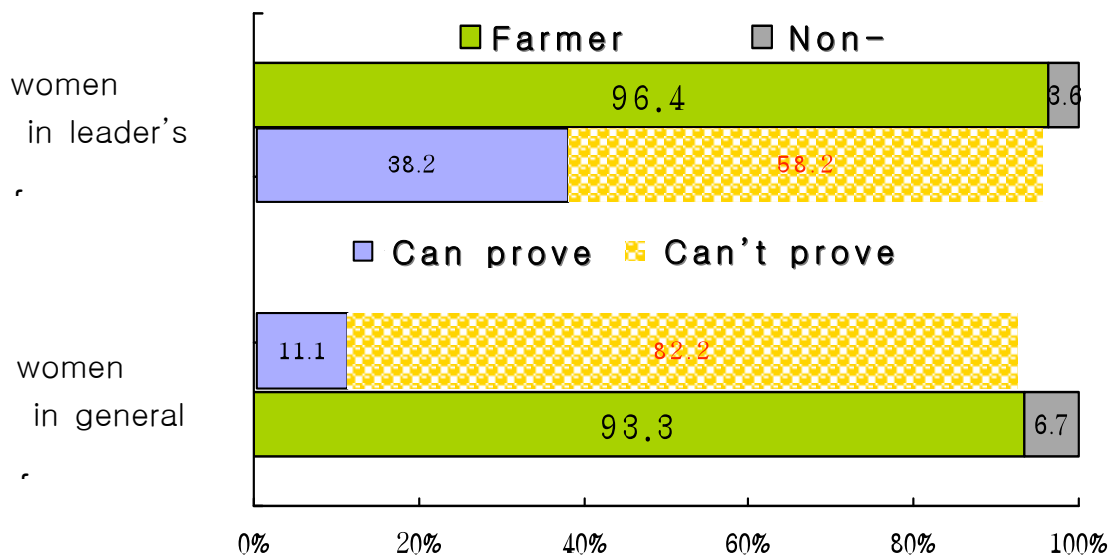
- And It was missing the item in the agricultural basic law as follows;

- 1) Who can issue the certificate as the legal farmer
- 2) How / where a person can be issued the certificate
- 3) What's the documents to prove the farm laborer

- Therefore

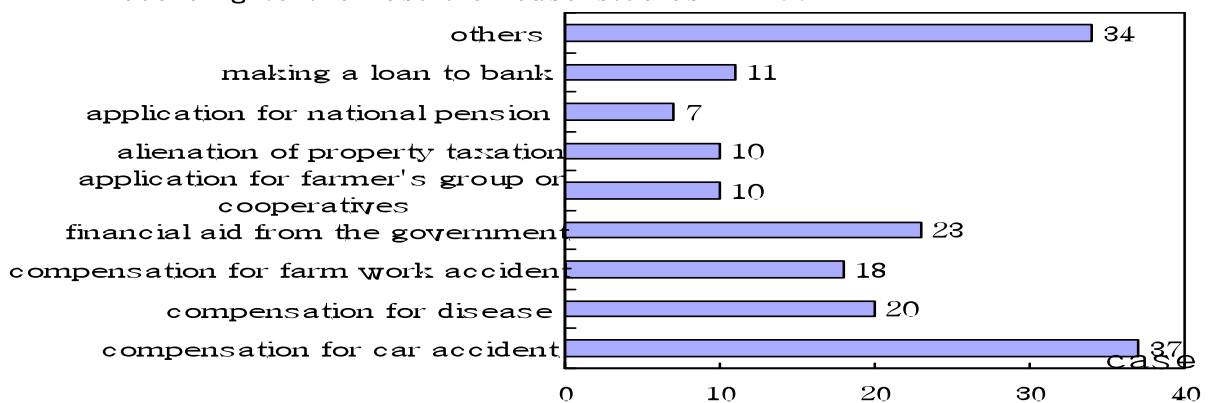
If a woman hope to be recognized as a legal farmer without any land ownership or agribusiness bank account under her name, by only her work time in farming, she has no way to be a legal farmer.

- 82% of women farmer can't have any supporting evidence as the legal farmer

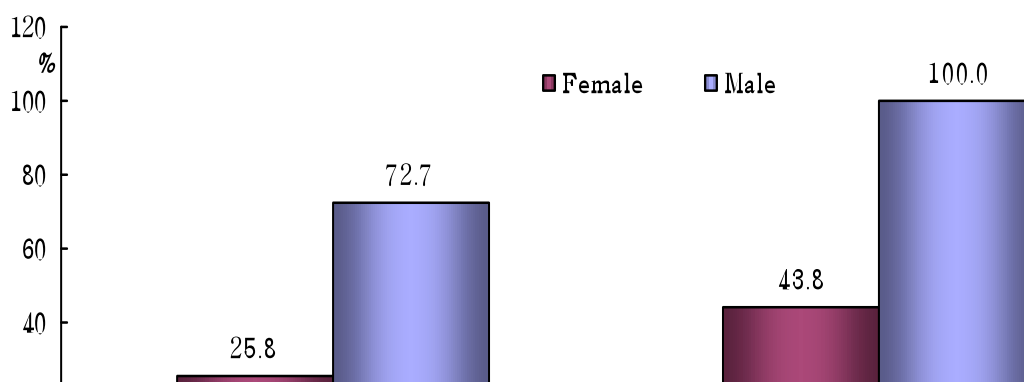


C. Inequality problems from exception of legal farmer

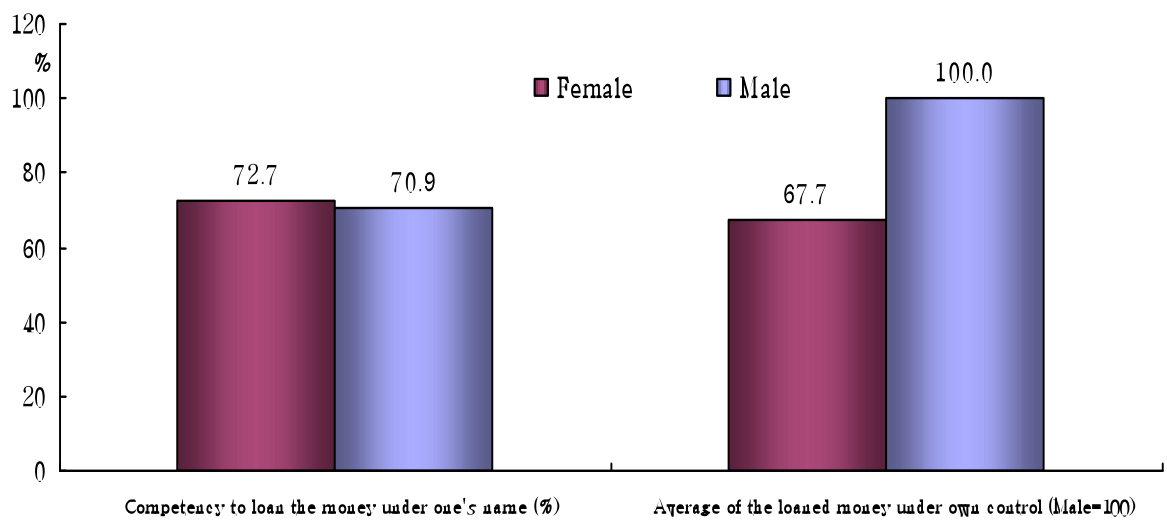
- According to the result of case studies in 2004



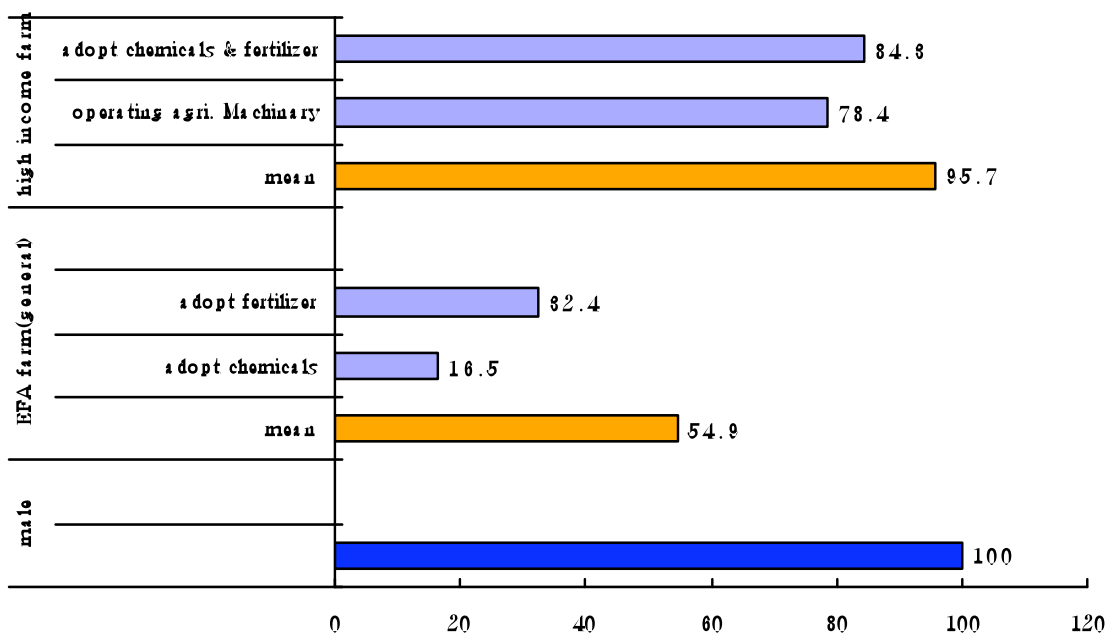
- Access to credit of women in general farm(2002)



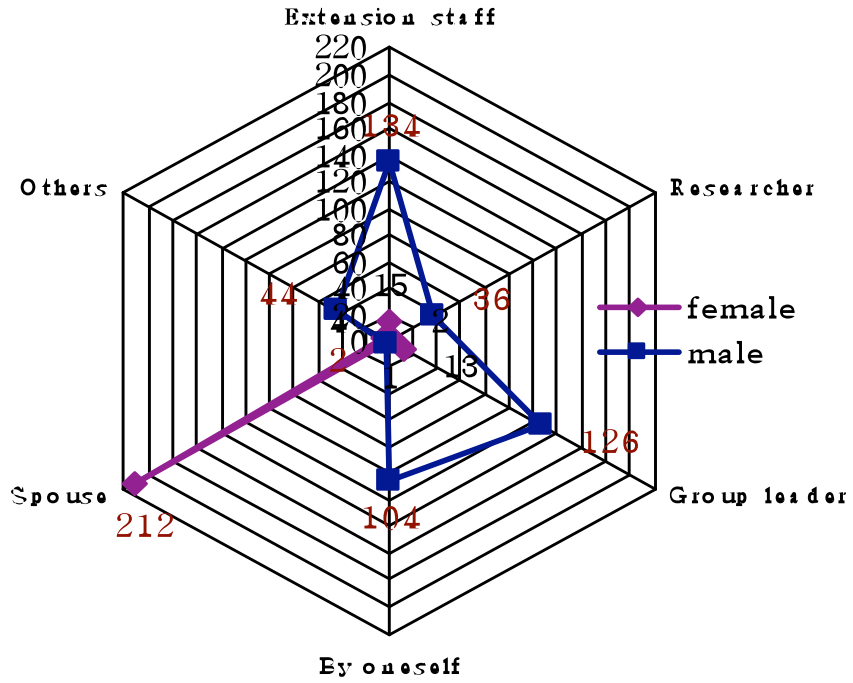
□ Access to credit of women in leader's farm (2002)



□ The agricultural technology level of women

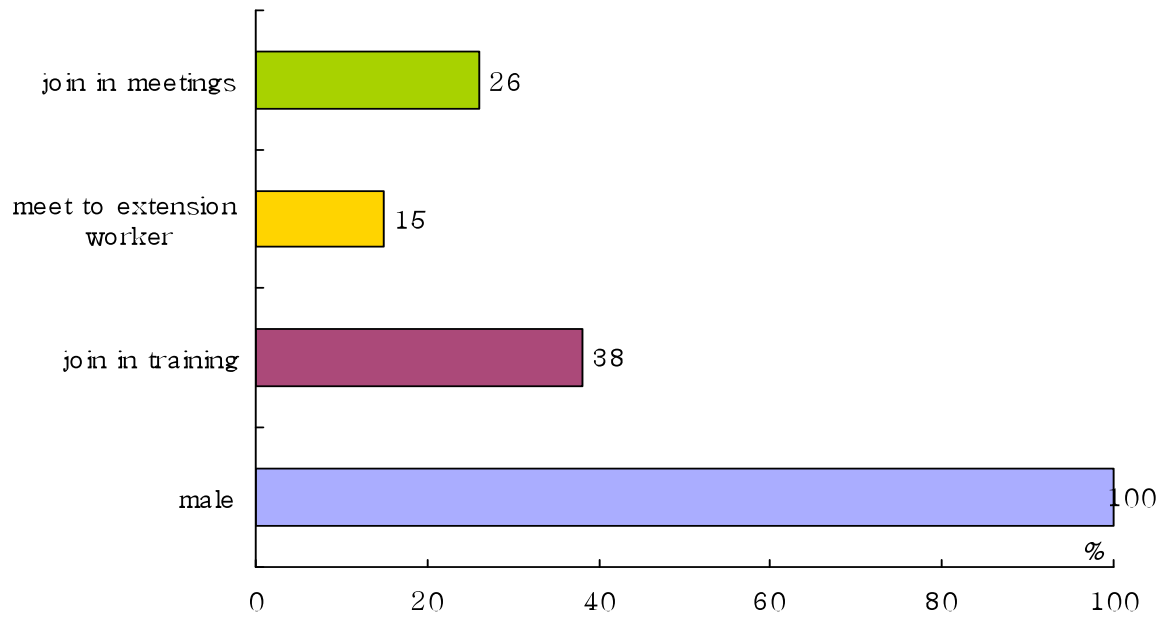


□ Chance to touch on information of women farmer

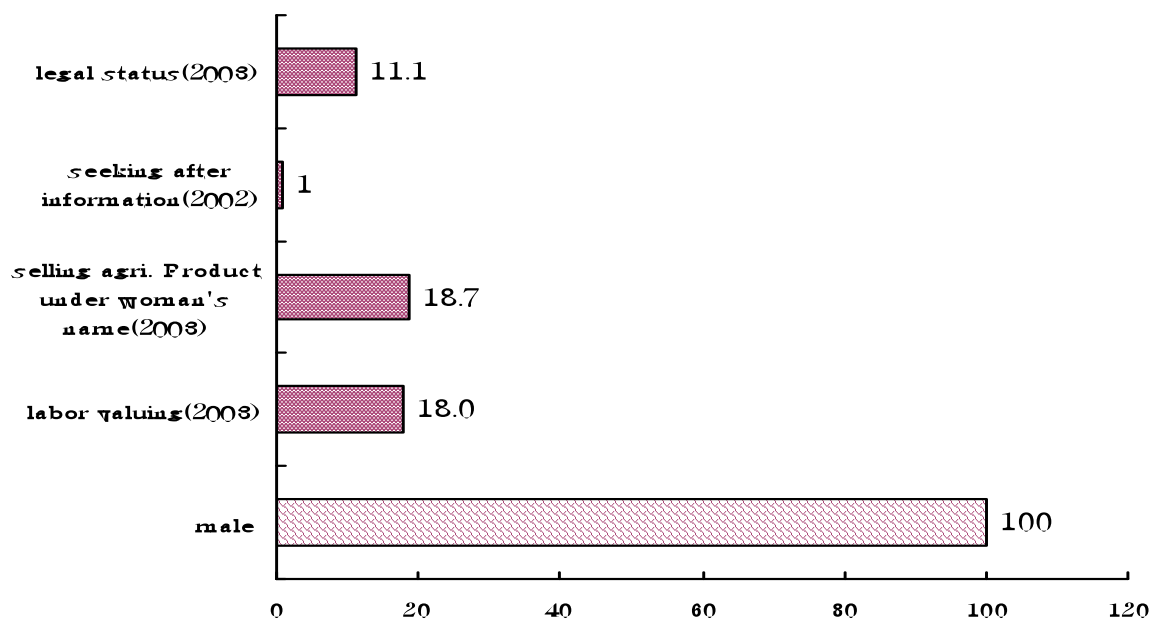


※ The information source on EFT by gender

□ Chance to join in training of women compared with their husbands



□ Rural women's social status (summary)



D. An important case to notify and serve as a momentum the rural women is also professional farmer

□ In 2003, a woman who was reappointed as a teacher in elementary school, had tried to be recognized her career of attending to farming as a farmer for 18years.

- Because the career is affected in salary class.
- But her career of farming was rejected by the relevant government office while a man's career of farming was approved as a legal farmer.
- The only one reason of being rejected her career as above was, that the title of farmland was her husband's name. (She had no any farmland ownership)

□ Declaration of rural woman's right as a legal farmer

● She proposed a civil appeal to the National human's equal right committee attached with the results of the 2002 Survey and the 2004 Case studies.

● All of rural women's NGOs and specialists of this study were cheered her voice as a woman farmer.

● In 2007, the foundation to be recognized a person who engaged in farming without farmland ownership or agribusiness bank account under one's name, was renewed. And in 2008, the government is preparing to notify the way to be recognized a person, without farmland and bank

agricultural organization.

B. Dissemination of this successful experience

- Reproduction of further farmer
- Young people as graduate from university is very important new generation of future agriculture.

- Generally they also are engaged in their parent's farm without titling of farmland or agribusiness bank account like as their mother.

- It should be needed to allured them to engage in farming as a professional job

- Facilitation to install the local basis for rural women
- Through these seminar, open forum, discussion, most of rural women were educated well to aware the gender equality in everything of society involving in agriculture and rural development.

- During the agricultural law was renewal, in 7 local governmental area, New regulation have been installed by local rural women NGOs. And now in 4 local area, the new regulation for rural women are preparing to install by local government.

- It taught us a lesson that cooperation and networking is very important thing to solve rural women's problem.

IV. Conclusion & Suggestions

- It should be needed the further study about more advanced program for rural women as follows; economic compensation of women ' s unpaid work under accident from car, farm work, volunteer activities and other activities of rural development and study, etc..
- It is also needed the stable support system for rural women by national or local government.
- It will be needed to expand the cooperative research and networking between researcher, administrative officer, NGOs

(especially rural women's group), and other specialists for rural women's problem solving.



Thank you for Your
attention