



*Swedish International
Development Agency
(SIDA)*



Ukrainian-Swedish Project:
*“Capacity Building for
introduction of National Spatial
Data Infrastructure in Ukraine”*



Swedesurvey

REPORT:

“Land reform in Ukraine and equal opportunities for women and men in land ownership”

General

Ukrainian-Swedish Project: “Capacity Building for introduction of National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Ukraine” oriented on improving information support to the state and local power bodies. One of the most important Project activities is the support of land reform in Ukraine. This is the transference of land right to those who work it. The future of the country, economic situation and political authority in the world depends on this issue. The land reform implementation is considered as the first priority task.

One of the Project activities is the public awareness about the spatial data possibilities in land reform solutions. After the adoption of the new Land Code of Ukraine the Project conducted a seminar for the farmers in one of the pilot sites (Kahovka, Kherson oblast). The Project activity in this direction still continues.

While implementing the land reform special attention to general democratic principles should be devoted. Democratisation of land relations within the land reform will allow Ukraine to make one more step towards European and international community which propagates equality principles in internal and external policy. One of the democratization principles is the equal opportunities of women and men in the society, including land ownership. Following equality principles it will create economic equality foundation, which makes the base in the civilised societies.

The Project pays special attention to providing equal opportunities for women and men in land ownership. The problem of unequal opportunities of women and men in land relations can be looked upon from several sides. This is insufficient attention to and understanding of gender aspects, low public awareness in land ownership, lack of legal knowledge, incomplete procedures, drawbacks in education and, finally, mentality. The discussion of these questions and proposals must promote solving the emerged problems, help improving the situation in equal opportunities in land ownership acquisition.

Goals and objectives of the seminar

The main goal of the seminar was to study the problem concerning equal opportunities of women and men in Ukraine in land ownership and to develop proposals oriented on finding solutions.

The main objectives of the seminar:



Speech of the Swedish expert in gender issues
B. Bernstrom in the beginning of the seminar

Earlier the major gender studies were focused on individual aspect which comprised 3 models of women's behavior working in the men's collective (assimilation, contrast and visibility). During the last years the focal point moved towards the social and management area. Today it is important to change the structure of enterprises where women work as well as internal relationships to avoid initial conditions for inequality. Thus, more attention is devoted to the adoption of strategic solutions in gender issues.

The NSDI Project Team Leader A.Uthas, Project Manager A.Dyshlyk and the Head of Training-centre S.Markov focused on the general Project tasks and explained the role and position of gender issues in the Project.

The gender component is the part of Project information activity intended to improve the public awareness about the possibilities of spatial data in practical task solutions. While preparing the seminar three types of activities were defined relating to the gender equality in land ownership in Ukraine: information, legislation and education. For more profound knowledge in these areas the relevant specialists were invited.

To increase the knowledge of seminar participants about the main principles of the gender equality in land ownership, unofficial translation of the report presented on the last working meeting of the international organization FIG: „**Principles for Equitable Gender Inclusion in Land Administration: Fig Guidelines on Women's Access to Land**” (authors **K. KOMJATHY, S.E. NICHOLS (Canada), A.ERICSSON (Sweden)**) was disseminated among the participants before the beginning of the seminar. This report and the set of other materials relating to gender issues (see Appendix 2) were also delivered.

2. Application of information technologies to facilitate the information dissemination about the women's rights on land ownership

The presentation delivered by the Director of Information-Resource Centre of land reform “My land” N.Korchakova was devoted to informing the audience about the land reform in Ukraine and the main problems related to it. Besides, the issues emerged in the information campaign during the land reform were also tackled. And a lot of attention was devoted to the web-site “My land” as well as to other types of information activity that can be applied in supporting land reform: mass-media, printed materials, informational-methodical brochures etc.

7. Problem identification relating to women's and men's inequality in land ownership and discussion of solution proposals

The problem identification was performed in two stages.

Stage 1. In the beginning, during the first day, 10 statements were proposed for discussion (or questions) that were preliminary prepared and disseminated on cards among the group participants. Every participant had to vote (FOR or AGAINST) and justify the answer. List of statements:

1. *Well functioning cadastre system is very important, therefore gender aspect can wait! It impedes the economic growth!*
2. *Actually, I don't really understand the term "gender"! The explanation would really help me!*
3. *Pushing the women's rights to registering their names on the State Act is less important, because it's possible to rely on joint ownership law!*
4. *Men are more interested in real property than women therefore they have more right in part of the property!*
5. *Lack of certificates will not influence female entrepreneurs in the same way as men in receiving the bank loan because women, in general, open small enterprises!*
6. *Layers/notaries in marriage cases require information about the family status and joint rights in such transactions as sale of real property, ownership transition, mortgage of ownership (State Act).*
7. *Problem with the number of female students following the course of land use planning is that the male culture dominates there, and not neutral.*
8. *Only with 50/50 balance among the land managers, gender aspect would be taken into consideration.*
9. *There is no gender aspect, only personal judgments when it comes to division of (privatization) of land on local level.*
10. *The most important measure to reach equal opportunities, to my mind, are...*

