



## FACT SHEET INDONESIA

# Women in Agriculture, Environment and Rural Production



### KEY FACTS

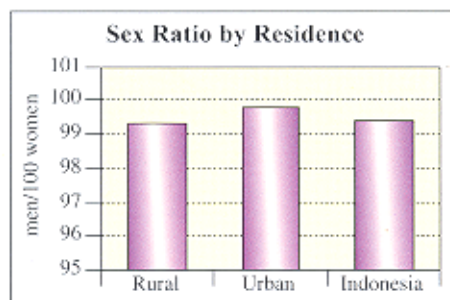
- ◆ The population of Indonesia is 50 percent female.
- ◆ The female literacy rate is 82 percent.
- ◆ Women's labour force participation rate is 39 percent.
- ◆ 61 percent of rural women are engaged in the agriculture sector.
- ◆ The population growth rate has declined to 1.26 percent due to a successful family planning policy.
- ◆ 60 percent of migrants are women who work as domestic servants.
- ◆ Women do 75 percent of the farm work in rice production.
- ◆ Women have active roles in livestock production, forestry and the environment, but their input needs are poorly addressed.
- ◆ Women contribute considerably to household income through farm and non-farm activities.
- ◆ The impact of the 1997 economic crisis affected women and children the most severely.
- ◆ Women's work is becoming harder due to environmental degradation.

### GENERAL PROFILE

#### Population

Indonesia's population of 222 611 000 qualifies it as the fourth most populous country in the world. Indonesia is one of the few countries whose female population has consistently outnumbered the male population due to war and the higher mortality rate of males. Gradually the gap has narrowed to the 2003 sex ratio of 50/50 (ESCAP, 2004).

Indonesia is an island country with more than 13 600 islands. Eighty percent of the population lives on the islands of Java and Sumatra (FAO, 1999a). In 2000, 46 percent of the population lived in cities, compared to 22 percent in 1980 (UN ESA, 2002, 2004). Nearly 300 ethnic groups live in Indonesia; the majority are of Malay origin. Eighty-five percent of the population is Muslim; other religions are Christian, Hindu and Buddhist (Indonesian Embassy).



Source: ESCAP, 1998.

The rate of population growth has declined from 2.04 percent in 1980 to a projected 1.26 percent in 2005 (UN ESA, 2002). Much of this change is due to successful family planning efforts. The fertility rate in 2004 was 2.3 percent. The population is young; 29 percent is under 15 years of age, 66 percent is of working age (15-64 years) and 5 percent is 65 years or older. Life expectancy is 65 years for men and 69 years for women (ESCAP, 2004). In 1999, female-headed households were 18 percent of the total households (Oey-Gardiner).

#### Education

The educational system consists of six primary years, three secondary years and

three senior-secondary years of education. The government encourages human resource development through a nine-year compulsory education programme, provision of universal free primary education and absence of gender disparity at all levels of education. Consequently, the country has experienced a rapid increase in school enrolments. The net primary school enrolment of 58 percent in 1968 rose to 92 percent in 2001 (ICE; UNESCO, 2004). Data show virtually no gender disparities in enrolment rates up to the secondary level, but women's enrolment rates drop as the level of education increases (ESCAP, 1998).

Government education policies reduced inequalities between urban and rural areas. In 1997, 97.7 percent of urban girls and 94.6 percent of rural girls were enrolled in primary education. Secondary education shows gender disparities with female enrolment of 87.1 percent in urban areas and 70.5 percent in rural areas (BPS).

Female illiteracy dropped from 24.8 percent in 1990 to 17.9 percent in 2000 (UNESCO, 1999). It should be noted, however, that the illiteracy rate varies across the provinces, and females who are 45 years or older have higher illiteracy (ESCAP, 1998).

#### Labour

The adult economic activity rate for women was 52 percent, and for men was 85 percent in 1999 (UN Statistics Division). Women's labour force participation rate has increased due to the improved educational system, the decreasing family size and increasing economic necessity. Rural women's labour force participation in agriculture is 61 percent followed by trade (18 percent) and industry (13 percent) (Iftikhar). However, women tend to engage more in the informal sector and thus are likely to experience unstable, part-time or unpaid work (ILO, 2002a).

The economic crisis in mid-1997 affected urban more than rural areas. The urban unemployment rate that was 8.3 percent in pre-crisis 1996 rose to 9.3 percent in 1998.