

Scrutinizing the ‘feminization of agriculture’ hypothesis: A study on the gendered evolution of labor force participation in agriculture and forestry in Indonesia 1993 - 2018

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Justification: ‘Feminization of agriculture’ is widely used despite varying interpretations of what it means, and how to measure it. Uncritical/unvalidated use of the term risks victimizing ‘rural women’, and masks differences among women.

Why Indonesia? (a) contradictory policy objectives (food security and biofuel expansion) amid low-productive agriculture livelihoods and large-scale conversion of multi-functional landscapes in the fourth most populated country in the world with third largest tropical forested area. (b) Potential to serve as a contrasting study - Differences in nature of migration between Indonesia and other countries/regions – gender parity in internal migration, international migration dominated by women (care workers).

Research questions:

- How have men and women’s work in agriculture and forestry evolved in the past 20 years in Indonesia?
- How have levels of women’s empowerment transformed among households where agriculture and forestry have remained the main sources of household income since 1993 in three specific landscapes?

Methods:

Quantitative - Indonesian Family life survey –started in 1993, 7,224 households, representative of 83% of population, 13 out of 26 provinces in the country. Individual, household and community level data set since 1993 in 7-year intervals (1993 – 2014).

Spatial and remote sensing data – estimate agriculture and forestry change in three research landscapes (overlap with IFLS and CIFOR research sites) during the same intervals as IFLS. Compare and contrast trends in agriculture/forestry labor with changes in land use.

Qualitative research – complement with CIFOR datasets from three projects, and fill any gaps through primary research – semi-structured interviews and FDGs.

Partners:

University of Indonesia - Faculty of Economics and Business, and Gender Studies Graduate Program