Women make up a large proportion of the agricultural labor force in Sub-Saharan Africa, but are LESS PRODUCTIVE than male farmers. This gender gap exists because women frequently have UNEQUAL ACCESS to key agricultural inputs such as land, labor, knowledge, technologies, fertilizer and improved seeds.

A changing climate makes CLIMATE-SMART APPROACHES to agriculture urgent to help close the gender gap and promote women’s empowerment, economic development and societal resilience to shocks.

To CLOSE THE GENDER GAP, policies should aim to:

- Narrow the gender productivity gap due to lack of ACCESS TO LABOR
- Enable women farmers to move into cultivation of HIGH-VALUE CASH CROPS
- Improve women farmers’ ACCESS TO AND USE OF NON-LABOR INPUTS in agricultural production

THREE LESSONS LEARNED

1. The gender gap in agricultural productivity is LARGE; addressing it could substantially INCREASE CROP OUTPUT.
2. Reducing the gender gap may REDUCE POVERTY and IMPROVE NUTRITION, as women tend to spend more of their income on children’s health and education.
3. Focusing on women’s access to FARM LABOR and TECHNOLOGY is key, as they are the most costly constraints. Facilitate women’s access to agricultural machinery and other production technologies.

TANZANIA

- 16% gap
- $85 million increase in agricultural GDP
- $105 million increase in total GDP
- 80,000 more people adequately nourished
- 80,000 people lifted out of poverty

UGANDA

- 13% gap
- $58 million increase in agricultural GDP
- $67 million increase in total GDP
- 119,000 people lifted out of poverty
- 2.8% increase in crop production

MALAWI

- 28% gap
- $90 million increase in agricultural GDP
- $100 million increase in total GDP
- 238,000 people lifted out of poverty
- 7.3% increase in crop production