

# GRASS CEILING

## D6.8

Practice abstracts  
batch n.1  
Spain



# Spain

## Women farmers: Progress towards inclusion and recognition of their capacity to generate employment and income in a professionalised sector

### 2.1. Introduction

Women's participation in agriculture and livestock farming in Spain remains limited across most autonomous communities, particularly in the traditionally less competitive northern regions. Despite this, modernisation and technological advancement in the sector present opportunities for restructuring, with women and young people poised to play a significant role. Historically undervalued and underrepresented in primary activities, women are beginning to gain social and economic recognition as part of this gradual transformation.

### 2.2. Key Statistical Findings

#### 2.2.1. Women's legal position and ownership of capital in agriculture

Spanish women face numerous barriers in agriculture, including lower representation as farm managers, higher average ages, smaller farm sizes, and reduced presence in leadership roles. However, there is a slow but notable increase in women assuming management positions and participating in decision-making within cooperatives and representative organisations.

#### 2.2.2. Women's involvement in innovative initiatives

Limited statistics hinder a comprehensive understanding of women's participation in innovation. Despite their underrepresentation in the primary sector and green activities (renewable energy, resource management, etc.), women show a growing interest in organic farming and diversifying their operations with complementary ventures such as rural tourism. Women also play a more prominent role in social services and community life than men but are less active in sectoral associations and leadership roles in local action groups.

### 2.2.3. Gender dimension in strategic documents

Spanish policy increasingly acknowledges the critical role of women in agriculture. The CAP Strategic Plan includes gender-focused objectives, such as additional payments for women under 40 in income support schemes and targeted rural development interventions. The Shared Ownership Law supports women farmers and livestock breeders, while regulatory advancements aim to balance work and personal life for rural women.

## 2.3. Conclusion

While significant gender disparities persist in Spanish agriculture, particularly in domestic burdens and professional opportunities, progress is evident. Women are increasingly recognised as essential contributors to agricultural and livestock sectors. Policy measures and initiatives like the GRASS CEILING project are essential to accelerating this progress by analysing challenges, showcasing innovative activities, and building collaborative networks to empower women and enhance their well-being. However, achieving full equity will require sustained efforts and systemic change.

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<https://www.grassceiling.eu/living-labs/netherlands/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/grass-ceiling-project/>

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