

Women in Agriculture in Yemen

(Results Summary)

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In the past, Yemen, known as "Happy Yemen," thrived due to its abundant wealth, strategic trade routes, and fertile agricultural regions with ample rainfall and water valleys. Yemeni women played a significant role in driving trade and agricultural prosperity. They actively engaged in agricultural work, including sowing, irrigation, and crop harvesting, contributing to Yemen's status as one of the wealthiest ancient civilizations.

Even today, Yemeni women continue to play a vital role in the agricultural sector. With nearly half of Yemen's population being women, they make substantial contributions, particularly in rural areas.

Despite their crucial role, female farmers face neglect and encounter greater risks than their male counterparts due to various factors, such as lack of appropriate tools and working in hazardous environments. To shed light on the opinions of Yemeni society regarding the participation of women in the agricultural sector, the Information and Opinion Survey Unit at Yemen Information Center conducted a comprehensive survey. The sample consisted of 223 individuals, with a majority of female participants at 52.7% compared to 47.3% male participants.

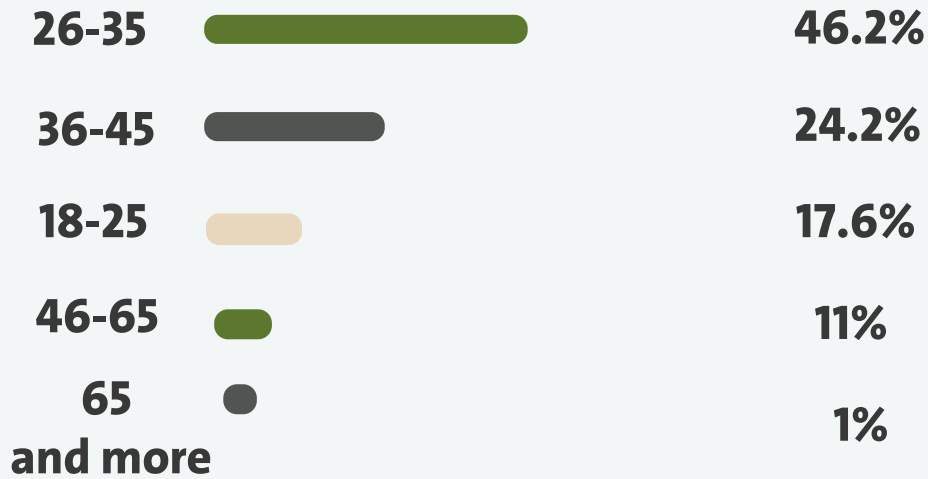


52.7%

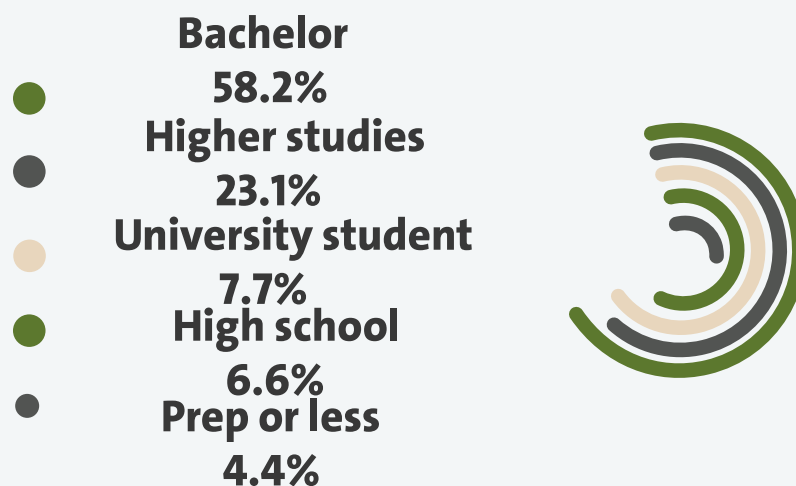


47.3%

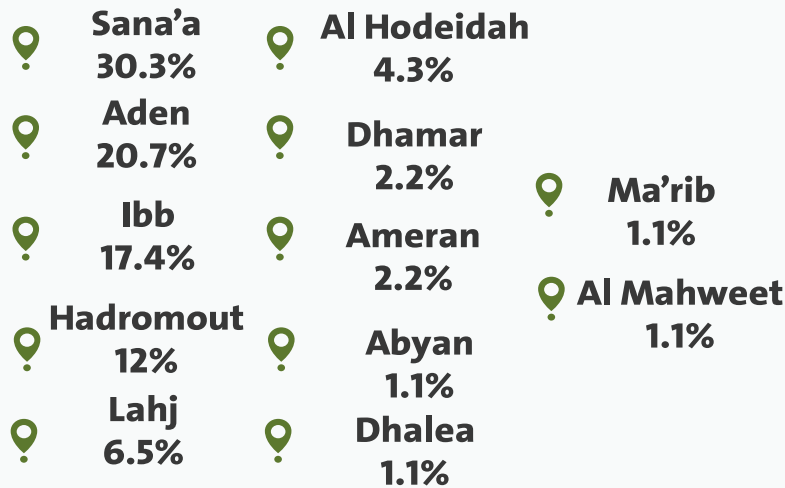
The participants represented diverse age groups, with 46.2% aged between 26-35 years, 24.2% between 36-45 years, 17.6% between 18-25 years, 11% between 46-65 years, and only 1% aged 65 years or older.



Regarding educational levels, the majority of participants held a bachelor's degree at 58.2%, followed by postgraduate degree holders at 23.1%, university students at 7.7%, high school certificate holders at 6.6%, and middle school certificate holders at 4.4%.

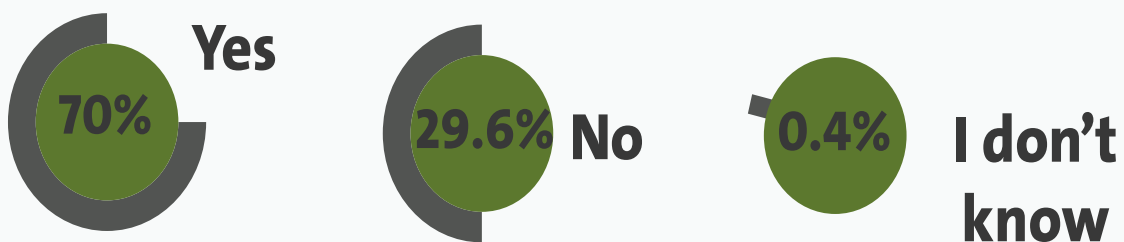


The survey encompassed twelve Yemeni governorates out of twenty-one, including Sana'a (30.3%), Aden (20.7%), Ibb (17.4%), Hadhramout (12%), Lahj (6.5%), Al-Hodeidah (4.3%), and Dhamar and Amran (2.2% each). Abyan, Ma'rib, Al-Dhalea, and Al-Mahwit each represented only 1.1% of the participants in their respective governorates.

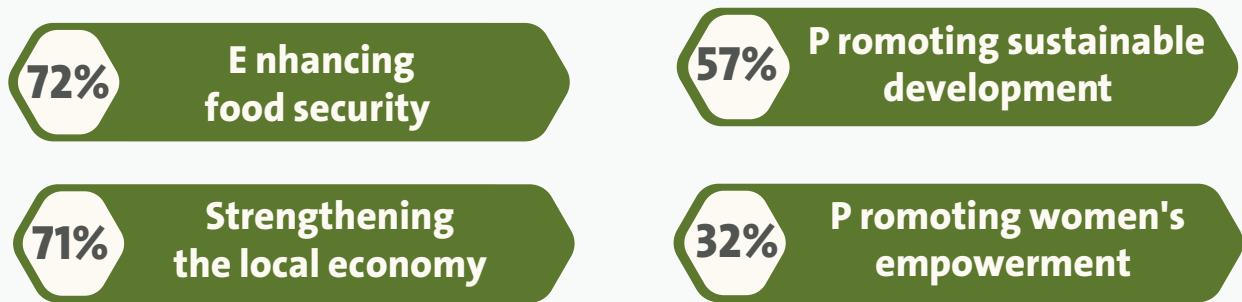


Main Results

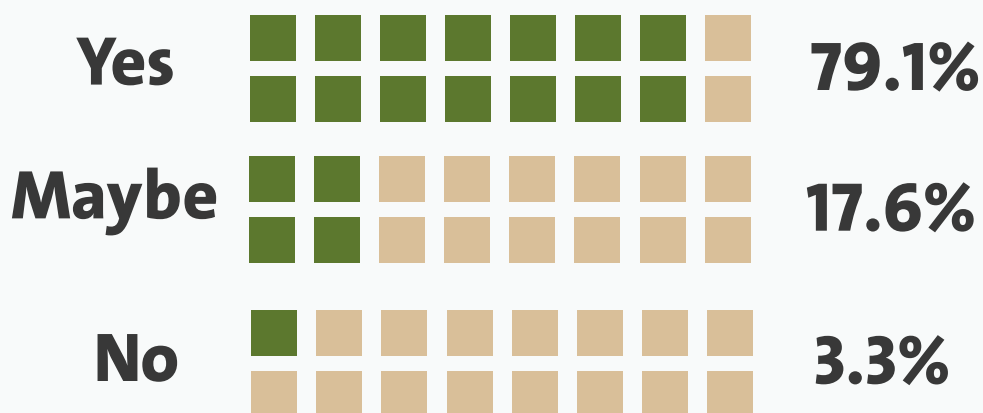
Regarding the contribution of women in Yemen's agricultural sector, the survey revealed that 70% of respondents believe women contribute significantly, while 29.6% perceive their contribution as small and limited. A mere 0.4% believe that Yemeni women are unable to contribute.



When discussing the potential benefits of increasing women's participation in agriculture, the participants' responses were as follows (each answer analyzed separately with an estimated rate of 100% as a multiple-choice question):



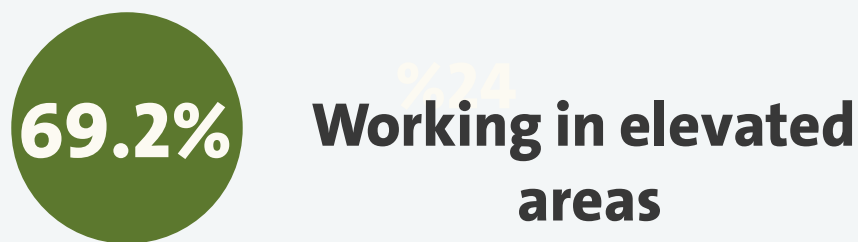
Additionally, 79.1% of respondents believed that increasing women's participation in the agricultural sector would lead to an improvement in the economic and social conditions of women in Yemen. However, 17.6% agreed that while there would be some improvement, it might not be significant. On the other hand, 3.3% believed that increasing participation would not make any difference.



Regarding the obstacles preventing women from participating in the agricultural sector, 48.8% identified social and cultural barriers, while 24% pointed out legal and legislative obstacles. Surprisingly, 19.5% denied the existence of any obstacles, and only 7.7% claimed to have no idea about the barriers.



It is evident that women working in the agricultural sector face numerous risks. According to the survey, respondents identified the following risks (each answer analyzed separately with an estimated rate of 100% as a multiple-choice question):



In conclusion, the survey participants believe that Yemeni women's impact in agriculture lies in enhancing food security, achieving economic empowerment, promoting gender equality, and preserving agricultural heritage. Overcoming the challenges faced by women in this sector is deemed necessary, along with providing the necessary support and opportunities to enhance their participation and empowerment in agriculture. This approach will contribute to achieving sustainable development and comprehensive prosperity for Yemeni society.

