



Ambasciata d'Italia
Tirana



ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



DECLARATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES OF ALBANIA

We, the women and girls from rural areas of Albania, are the driving force that keeps our communities and rural economy alive.

We come from every corner of the country: Koplik, Shkodra, Vau i Dejës, Dibra, Bulqiza, Elbasan, Kolonja and Tirana.

We are young and older generations, long-rooted families and newly settled ones.

We provide food for the country, sustain family economies and bring life to sustainable development of rural communities.

Despite this, our contribution often remains invisible, undervalued and unsupported. Even though we are the backbone of agriculture and rural development, we own only around 11% of agricultural land in Albania.¹ In many cases, we are co-owners within the household, yet our names are missing from property certificates. This denies us our rights, limits our access to services and financial support, and reduces our ability to grow as economic actors. It threatens our well-being, security and capacity to face crises in the current challenging times.

We are not asking for favors. We demand equal rights to land ownership as a foundation for dignity, opportunity and equal progress. Eliminating the constraints that exclude us from property rights is essential to create mechanisms that enable us to act and decide for our lives and the future of our communities.

We call on national and local authorities to:

- Ensure gender equality in land ownership, management and decision-making, grant social and legal protections to spouses and partners engaged in agricultural work through amending and harmonizing the legal and policy framework governing agriculture, rural development and family property, including *Laws No. 9817/2007 and No. 8337/1998, the Civil Code and the Family Code*.
- Support the implementation of the national policy and legislative frameworks in ensuring gender equality such as the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021 – 2030 and Law on Gender Equality to ensure alignment with the EU gender equality acquis and effective implementation of the commitments highlighted under Chapter II of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

¹ FAO and UN-Women. 2025. *Monitoring and reporting of gender equality in landownership in Albania – The empowerment of rural women, gender-responsive land policies and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. Assessment Report 2025*. Written by Merita H. Meçe, and Eralda Çani, Budapest, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd5891en>



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REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIE
MINISTRIA E BUJQËSISË
DHE ZHVILLIMIT RURAL



- Ensure gender-disaggregated land registration data in the State Cadaster, reflecting women's real property rights to ensure evidence based policymaking processes in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.
- Provide monitoring and reporting framework on gender equality in landownership by ensuring that INSTAT integrates a dedicated module on women's access to and control over land in upcoming censuses and annual surveys; that the Albanian state monitor and report the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Make joint land titles a required or strongly favored criteria for access to subsidies, financial schemes and rural development programs.
- Provide systematic legal counselling, information and support to rural women regarding land rights and access to other production resources.
- Establish dedicated budgetary supporting measure for women-led farms and enterprises.
- Guarantee functional public services, transport healthcare and quality education that allow women and their families a dignified rural life.
- Include rural women not only as beneficiaries, but as decision makers that shape the rural development policies and programs.

We call for action now. A fair and sustainable rural future in Albania cannot be built if women are denied their rights to land. Our contribution is real, our presence is constant, and our potential is undeniable. We stand united, determined to shape the future we deserve.

