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FINAL REPORT ON PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is prepared within the framework of Contract No. 6433, entered into between Landesa and Colombia Rural SAS, which aims to support CINEP in the collection of quantitative and qualitative information to be used as input for evaluating social norms and behavior change (SNBC) and pilot legal literacy interventions in sub-municipal areas of Mahates, Carmen de Bolívar, Colosó, and Tierralta in the departments of Bolívar, Sucre, and Córdoba in the Colombian Caribbean region.

To advance in this investigation, Sigma Dos Colombia and Colombia Rural S.A.S joined forces and formed a strategic alliance to carry out this data collection and analysis exercise, constituting a highly qualified team. On one hand, Sigma Dos contributed its expertise in collecting quantitative information in rural areas of the country and its knowledge of territorial dynamics in the study areas, ensuring the quality of the field operation to fulfill the consultancy's purpose. Colombia Rural contributed: i) key technical knowledge for responsible land tenure governance, rooted in the social and historical processes of the communities; ii) tools related to land and territory rights advocacy, in line with the realities and ongoing processes in each municipality; and iii) expertise in the design, application, and analysis of qualitative information.

This document triangulates the qualitative information (interviews with public officials and focus groups with women leaders and community men) and quantitative information (surveys conducted with men and women) . Colombia Rural SAS and Sigma Dos Colombia expect that the analyses presented in this document will provide significant contributions to the implementation of the Stand For Her Land Campaign in Colombia.

The analysis of information is conducted based on six categories, which allow for weaving together the information provided by the actors in each instrument: land tenure, social norms and behavior changes, gender-based violence, masculinities, knowledge about women's rights, and regulations. Finally, conclusions and recommendations will be presented.

2. DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

The objective of this mixed-methods study is to evaluate social norms and behavior change (SNBC) and pilot legal literacy interventions in sub-municipal areas of Mahates, Carmen de Bolívar, Colosó, and Tierralta in the departments of Bolívar, Sucre, and Córdoba in the Colombian Caribbean region.

Based on the above, this research has two objectives. First, to provide baseline information on levels of legal literacy, determinants of behavior change, including attitudes, knowledge, skills, descriptive and injunctive norms, agency, social sanctions and rewards, and intentions to engage in behaviors, as well as the prevalence of such behaviors. This information will help identify current barriers to women's land rights and improve the design of interventions.

The second objective is to evaluate the effect of these pilot interventions. By comparing baseline and final data, we will assess whether the pilot interventions improve legal education, alter any of the determinants of behavior change, or change behaviors related to women's land rights. If so, how? If not, why not?

Despite the wide range of studies assessing the effects of social norms and behavior change interventions on gender equality, there is a gap in research assessing whether these interventions can strengthen women's land rights. This study specifically aims to engage with women leaders and men of the pilot communities, and people that are part of or may eventually participate in the campaign. We plan to survey the same individuals again at the end of the project. This analysis will provide valuable insights and allow us to determine if the pilot interventions successfully change behaviors, informing decisions regarding the project's continuation. If it is identified that these interventions are ineffective, this will contribute to the improvement of the design of future interventions.

Specific Objectives:

The main topics for data collection include, but are not limited to:

- Demographic information.
- Knowledge of women's legal rights, including land rights. Attitudes towards gender equality, women's rights, and women's land rights.
- Skills, descriptive and injunctive norms, self-efficacy, social sanctions, and rewards, intentions to engage in behaviors of interest, and behaviors of interest.
- Knowledge, attitudes, and experiences related to violence against women and girls.
- Access, use, control, and ownership of land.
- Land tenure security and land disputes.
- Women's agency and decision-making.

To achieve the proposed objectives, Colombia Rural and Sigma Dos Colombia collected quantitative and qualitative information in four (4) townships of the prioritized municipalities in the Call for Proposals. Below, Table No. 1 presents the intervention locations, disaggregated by township.

Table 1: Intervention Locations

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	RURAL DISTRICT/ HAMLET
Córdoba	Tierralta	Santa Anita
Bolívar	Mahates	San Joaquín
	María La Baja	Palo Altico
Sucre	Colosó	Maratón, Cappelarga and Desbarrancado

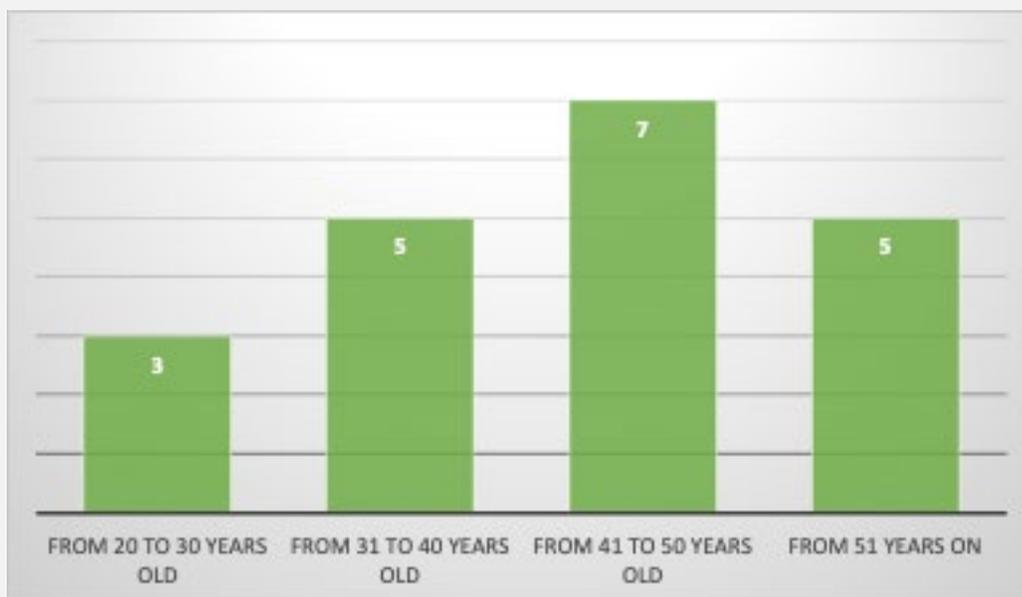
Source: Landesa, 2023.

2.1 METHODOLOGY FOR QUALITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

At the outset of this research, it was mutually agreed upon by all strategic partners that twenty (20) semi-structured interviews and eight (8) focus groups would be conducted, distributed across the four (4) townships under study. However, due to external contingencies unrelated to Colombia Rural, it was only possible to conduct six (6) focus groups in three (3) prioritized municipalities.

The women leaders selected the individuals interviewed, taking into consideration their roles and level of interaction. Of the 20 interviews conducted, 12 were administered to women and 8 to men of varying ages, as depicted in Graph No. 1.

Graph 1: Age Ranges of Interviewees



Source: Colombia Rural, 2023.

Regarding the distribution of the focus groups, two were conducted in each municipality, involving women leaders and closely associated men. This approach was employed to ensure that their participation did not jeopardize the safety of the women who invited them. Despite initially planning to hold two focus groups in María la Baja, the women leaders suggested canceling these activities. Subsequently, the following tables summarize the number of participants in each focus group per municipality and identify the organizations in which they are involved.

Table 2: Focus Group Participants in Colosó

WOMEN FOCUS GROUP			MEN FOCUS GROUP		
Name	Age	Organization	Name	Age	Organization
Participant 1	30	Asociación Agropecuaria mujeres virtuosas	Participant 1	57	Aprodeca y JAC calle larga
Participant 2	26	MUVICOR	Participant 2	29	Campeño
Participant 3	43	MUVICOR	Participant 3	28	Amucol
Participant 4	67	MUVICOR	Participant 4	34	Amucol entró como joven
Participant 5	56	AMUCOL mujeres campesinas	Participant 5	41	Campeño
Participant 6	52	Amucol	Participant 6	48	ASOC VIC SAN
Participant 7	66	Amucol	Participant 7	26	Amucol
Participant 8	27	MUVICOR			

Source: Colombia Rural, 2023

Table 3: Focus Group Participants in Mahates

WOMEN FOCUS GROUP			MEN FOCUS GROUP		
Name	Age	Organization	Name	Age	Organization
Participant 1	45	Red de Mujeres – Rayito de luz	Participant 1	66	Asociación de pescaderos
Participant 2	54	JAC Santander Guajira	Participant 2	63	Agricultura
Participant 3	45	JAC Santander Guajira	Participant 3	65	Agricultura
Participant 4	20	Rayito de luz	Participant 4	73	Campo y casa
Participant 5		Corporación Desarrollo Solidario- Red de Mujer- JAC	Participant 5	62	Unión Integral Campesina
Participant 6	20	Rayito de Luz	Participant 6	68	Organización de pescadores
Participant 7	21	Rayito de Luz			
Participant 8	29	Rayito de la red de la plataforma			

Source: Colombia Rural, 2023.

Table 4: Focus Group Participants in Tierralta

WOMEN FOCUS GROUP			MEN FOCUS GROUP		
Name	Age	Organization	Name	Age	Organization
Participant 1	31	JAC	Participant 1	57	JAC
Participant 2	50	JAC	Participant 2	28	JAC - Vice
Participant 3	57	JAC	Participant 3	65	JAC y GTTC
Participant 4	37	Mujeres ahorradoras	Participant 4	32	JAC
Participant 5	56	JAC y ESPANO (asociación de plátano)	Participant 5	61	JAC, asociación de desplazado y GTTC
Participant 6	54	JAC y mujeres ahorradoras	Participant 6	62	JAC, Aspanu
			Participant 7	60	JAC y Aspanu

Source: Colombia Rural, 2023.

Below, we present the methodology employed in this data collection exercise:¹:

- Focus Groups:

It is a technique used in social research where, in the form of a group conversation, group members' experiences, feelings, and preferences are discussed following the research objectives related to a particular topic. To guide the discussion, the qualitative coordinator will appoint a moderator who explains the exercise's objectives, ensures that false expectations are not generated, organizes the interventions, ensures that all members participate, records the interventions, and addresses any concerns about the guiding questions.

During the discussion, negotiations are expected to take place around collectively constructed issues. However, the focus group technique does not seek consensus, so participants may maintain their initial opinions, change them, or adopt new ideas based on the reflections established within the group. Nevertheless, during the conversation, the qualitative coordinator will guide participation and record how participants collectively elaborate on their reality and experience, deriving conclusions from collective interaction (USAID 2005).

According to Saldanha, Colomé Beck, Heck Weiller, and Viero (2015), the use of this technique benefits those involved in knowledge management processes as it allows for the construction of a

¹ This section was extracted from the technical and methodological proposal submitted to Landesa as part of the competitive selection process for the consulting team.

critical and dialectical stance by promoting the initiation of an open discussion on specific topics and sometimes fostering the construction and deconstruction of concepts.

Among the reasons justifying the use of the Focus Group as a methodological option, it is essential to highlight that interaction allows participants to respond spontaneously, even when opinions differ. Similarly, their proximity to the topic facilitates responses as all discuss it.

The project director and a social professional always accompanied the focus groups. In cases where permitted, the sessions were recorded and transcribed, which facilitated the categorization of interventions, all of which were stored in an Excel matrix, included in the annexes of this document.

The construction of analysis categories was conducted in collaboration with the Landesa and CINEP teams, ensuring that the information classification aligns with the purpose of the constructed baseline.

- Semi-Structured Interviews:

Interviews serve as a valuable tool for acquiring and collecting primary data. This tool establishes communication and exchange of information through a thematic framework of organized questions. Pre-designing the questionnaire helps guide the conversation; however, it is not intended to be a rigid script, and if necessary, the conversation can be refocused. Spontaneity and unexpected topics often contribute relevant information and allow for identifying situations or perceptions that may not have been initially considered. In any case, the expertise of the project director and the social professional facilitated the redirection of questions and the exploration of emerging themes.

The interviews were conducted with public officials from territorial entities that are present in the municipalities related to the agricultural, environmental, social integration, and economic development sectors.

All interviews were conducted virtually, recorded, transcribed, and coded considering the categories collaboratively constructed between Landesa, CINEP, and Colombia Rural. This same collaborative working methodology was used to formulate the interview guide questions.

2.2. METHODOLOGY FOR QUANTITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

The data collection technique for gathering quantitative information involved conducting face-to-face surveys using a structured questionnaire. These instruments were administered to individuals,

both men and women, aged 18 and above, residing in the municipalities of Mahates (Bolívar), María la Baja (Bolívar), Colosó (Sucre), and Tierralta (Córdoba). These individuals were affiliated with grassroots organizations advocating for women's land rights.

Below are some characteristics of the data collection process:

- **Sampling Design:** Convenience Sampling
- **Sample Size:** 236 Women and 209 Men.
- **Location:** As presented in Table No.1, the baseline measurement study covered the rural areas/townships of the four municipalities focused on three departments of the Caribbean region of Colombia.
- **Sample Size and Distribution:** The baseline sample consisted of 445 adult individuals, distributed by gender and territories/departments as follows:

Table 5: Distribution of Survey Sample

Department	WOMEN		MEN		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	N	%
Mahates/San Joaquín	40	17%	41	20%	81	18%
María La Baja	59	25%	57	27%	116	26%
Colosó	74	31%	55	26%	129	29%
Santa Anita/Tierralta	63	27%	56	27%	119	27%
Total	236	100%	209	100%	445	100%

Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023.

Fieldwork Period: The fieldwork was conducted between May 20 and June 26, 2023.

Survey Instruments: Two questionnaires were administered, one for women and another for men.

Topics Covered:

Women's Questionnaire:

- A. Identification, consent, and demographic information (same in both questionnaires).
- B. Land, land tenure security, and land services.
- C. Social norms and behavior change.
- D. Violence.
- E. Knowledge about women's rights, women's rights legislation, and gender equity.

Men's Questionnaire:

- A. Identification, consent, and demographic information.
- B. Social norms and behavior change.
- C. Violence.
- D. Masculinities.
- E. Knowledge about women's rights, women's rights legislation, and gender equity.

3. RESULTS ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the analysis of the triangulation of qualitative and quantitative information will be presented, divided into five categories of analysis: i) perceptions regarding land tenure and legal status; ii) social norms and behavior changes; iii) gender-based violence; iv) masculinities; and v) knowledge about women's rights and regulations.

3.1. PERCEPTIONS REGARDING LAND TENURE AND LEGAL STATUS

In this section, we will analyze the perceptions of officials, men, and women regarding their relationship with the land, the connection between land tenure and identity construction, and the significance of agricultural and livestock practices.

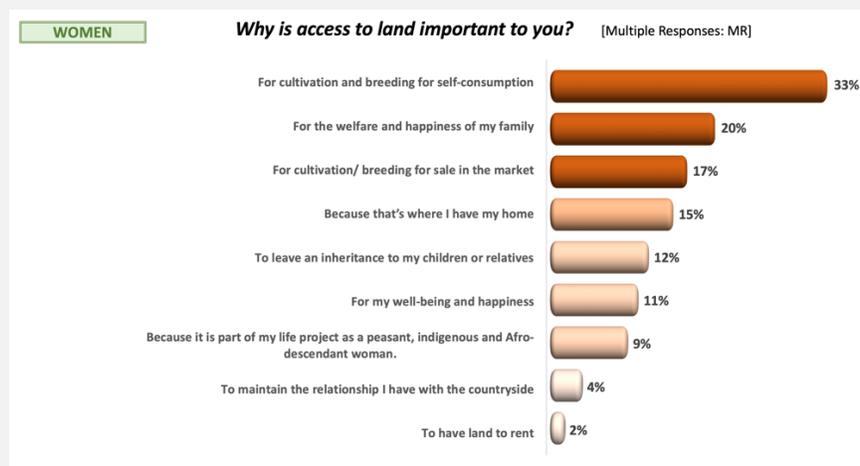
3.1.1. Land as Peasant Identity

How the relationship with the land and territory is constructed, from the perspective of participants in the focus groups, reveals that this connection is not merely a matter of material or economic affairs. While economic aspects are certainly a part of it, its significance goes beyond being a matter of identity, a source of life, belonging, cultural heritage, and sustenance, which generates an emotional and social burden around agriculture.

Participants express a profound love and care for the land, which provides the opportunity to cultivate food and ensure subsistence. Thus, the attachment to the territory is linked to peasant identity. The land is considered part of the inheritance from their parents, and maintaining it is a way of preserving family culture and roots. The transmission of knowledge and food independence are vital aspects that highlight the multifaceted significance of working the land in their lives.

When asked about the importance of access to land, as shown in Figure No. 1, 33% emphasized its utility for cultivation and raising small livestock for self-consumption, 20% associated it with the happiness and well-being of the family, 17% mentioned activities that would contribute to the family's economy, such as selling crops and animals in the local market, 15% stated that land guarantees housing, 12% saw the possibility of leaving an inheritance for their children, 11% believed it contributes to their well-being and happiness, 9% related it to their life project as rural actors, 4% found a connection with the countryside and their roots. In comparison, the remaining 2% viewed it as an economic activity because they could rent it out.

Figure 1: Importance of Land Access for Women



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023.

Furthermore, the participants agree that besides the sense of identity with the land and territory, they feel fortunate not to experience some of the hardships seen in towns or cities. As one participant expressed, "[...] because here, if a neighbor has yucca or plantains, we can go there to buy, or they might give it to us because we have our animals, chickens, and pigs. If you live in town and do not have money in your pocket, you can't eat, whereas here in the countryside, you can."²

Regarding the perceived relationship with the land and territory, these focus groups revealed that there is a strong sense of attachment and meaning associated with the idea of land. It is linked to a

² Focus Group with Men in the Municipality of Tierralata.

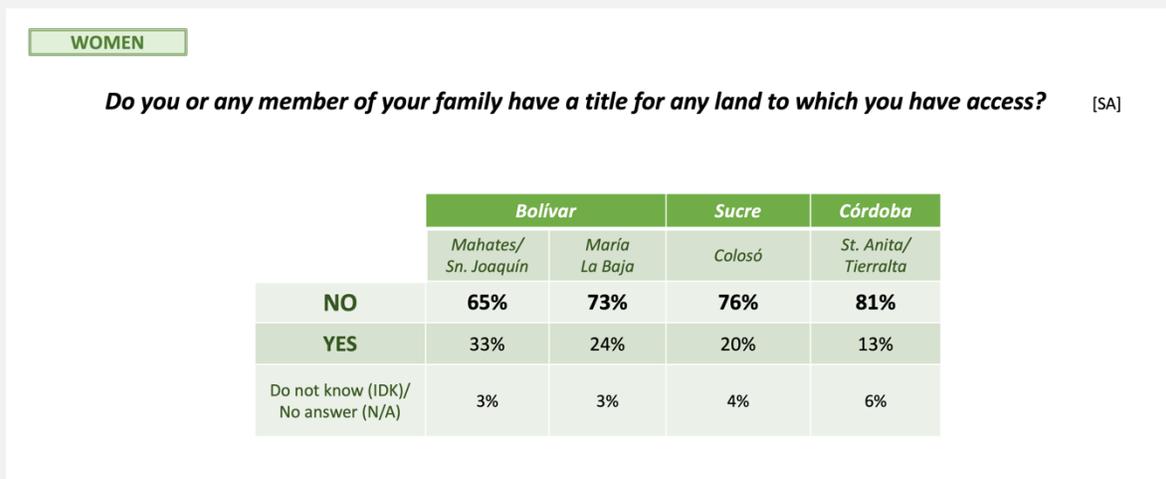
source of livelihood, hope, and satisfaction. This connection with the land goes beyond mere subsistence and becomes a factor that drives a sense of identity, purpose, and opportunity in rural communities. This is reflected in expressions such as "mother earth," used to describe what is essential for the existence and sustenance of life. Additionally, land tenure is seen as an achievement and a reward for hard work.:

“The relationship with the land is everything. I found my wife because I had a little piece of land. Otherwise, I wouldn't have found her. I can support a family because I have small plots of land. Without them, I can't do anything. I have connections with my community because I have these pieces of land. Without them, I would have nothing. It's everything to me. People in the countryside must have a relationship with the land, their rights, and their dignity.”³.

3.1.2. Legal Status of Women Regarding Land

The information collected from the survey administered to women revealed that 75% of them or their families do not have a title of ownership for the lands they have access to. Meanwhile, 21% claimed land titles, and 4% preferred not to respond or did not know (3% and 1%, respectively). The following Figure, No. 2, presents these data broken down by municipality.

Figure 2: Percentage of Women with Land Ownership Titles



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia rural, 2023.

Figure No. 2 shows a significant difference in the percentage of women or their families with land ownership titles in each municipality. In Mahates, 33% of women claimed land titles, while in María

³ Focus Group with Men in the Municipality of Mahates.

la Baja, it was 24%, in Colosó, 20%, and in Tierralta, only 13%. This difference can be explained in several ways.

On the other hand, while Mahates is part of the Canal del Dique region, which borders the Montes de María region, it, fortunately, did not experience the same intensity of armed conflict as the latter. The following are the figures of properties with requests for land restitution in each of the municipalities:

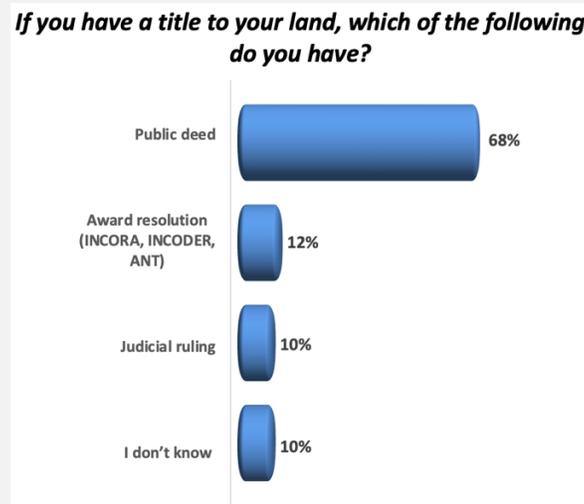
DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITIES	Number of requests	Number of properties
Córdoba	Tierralta	1.122	1.052
Bolívar	Mahates	49	47
	María La Baja	500	471
Sucre	Colosó	263	206

Source: URt, 2023.

The above data reveals that in Mahates, the figures of dispossession were not very high compared to Tierralta or María La Baja. The magnitude of abandonment and dispossession in municipalities like Tierralta and María La Baja significantly impacted women's property rights and the land concentration phenomenon, resulting from the exploitation of the displaced population's needs by large companies. This phenomenon had much more strength in María la Baja and Tierralta; therefore, this could be a hypothesis explaining the differences in the number of property titles held by women or any member of their family.

Regarding the type of property title most prevalent among the survey respondents, it was found that 68% of women or their families have a public deed, while only 12% have an adjudication resolution from INCORA, INCODER, or ANT. Ten percent have a court judgment, and the remaining 10% are unaware of the type of document that validates their ownership.

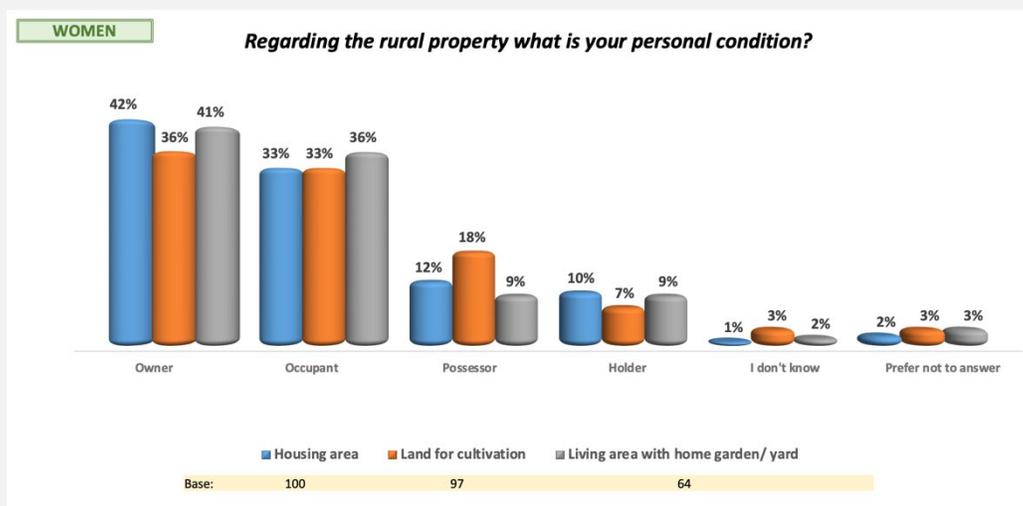
Figure 3: Types of Documents Validating Women's Property Ownership



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

When asked about other forms of land tenure, women mentioned having a legal relationship with the land in terms of occupation in 33% of cases, both for housing and cultivation purposes, and 36% where they live with a home garden. Women identify themselves to a lesser extent as landowners, with percentages of 12% for housing areas, 18% for agricultural land, and 9% for housing areas with a home garden. The following Figure, No. 4, presents these results:

Figure 4: Legal Status of Women Regarding Land



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

This information should be reviewed carefully because it is possible that the respondents may not have understood the difference between the legal concepts of occupation and possession, and therefore, they may have answered based on their intuition. Furthermore, to have certainty about this information, it is necessary to know the legal nature of the plots, which involves a registry analysis to determine if the studied plot is unregistered land, which would validate the legal status of occupant or privately owned land, with which the respondent could be an owner (if they have a properly registered land title with the ORIP) or a possessor (meeting the requirements of Law 160 of 1994).

On the other hand, it is suggested that this information be handled cautiously because it also shows a very high inconsistency with the informality index in land tenure reported at the municipal level by UPRA. In this report, the following informality levels were estimated for each municipality where the survey was applied:

Table 6: Informality Index in Land Tenure by Municipality

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	INFORMALITY INDEX
Córdoba	Tierralta	82,50%
Bolívar	Mahates	73,87%
	María La Baja	82,25%
Sucre	Colosó	80,51%

Source: UPRA, 2020.

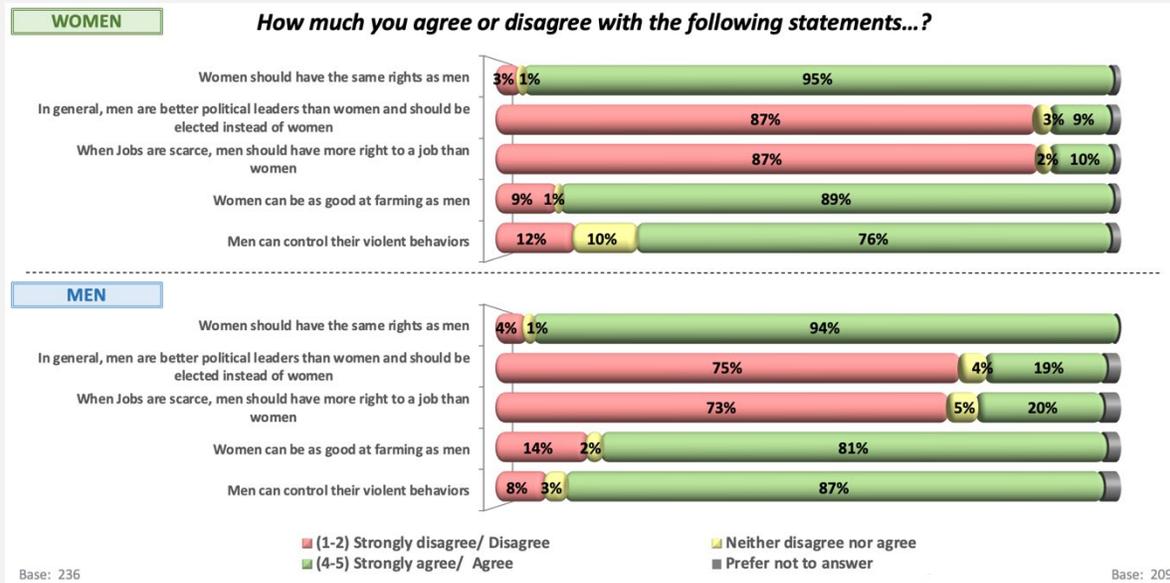
3.2. SOCIAL NORMS AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

This section contains the analysis of the results regarding social norms and behavior changes observed in the research. These are understood as cultural and social assumptions reflected in the responses from interviews and focus groups, specifically regarding perceptions of women's participation in community organizations and responses related to gender-based violence cases.

As shown below, this analysis shows that, for the most part, men provided politically correct responses, especially when answering closed-ended questions, both in the survey and in the quantitative section of the semi-structured interviews. However, triangulating the information revealed differences between discourses and behaviors associated with everyday life situations.

For example, five general questions were asked to both men and women in the survey and in interviews with officials to measure social norms. These questions aimed to gauge how much they agree or disagree with i. women should have the same rights as men; ii. men are better political leaders than women and should, therefore be elected instead of women; iii. when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women; iv. women can be as good in agriculture as men, and v. men can control their violent impulses. The results of these questions are presented in Figure No. 5

Figure 5: General Questions on How Social Norms Operate



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

Upon analyzing these figures, it can be concluded that most people agree that women should have the same rights and receive equal treatment as men. However, in some cases, their responses were inconsistent with this assertion when delving into more specific questions. For instance, when asked whether men are better political leaders than women and, therefore, should be elected instead of women, 19% of male respondents fully agreed with this statement, 9% of women agreed, and all the officials disagreed with this assertion.

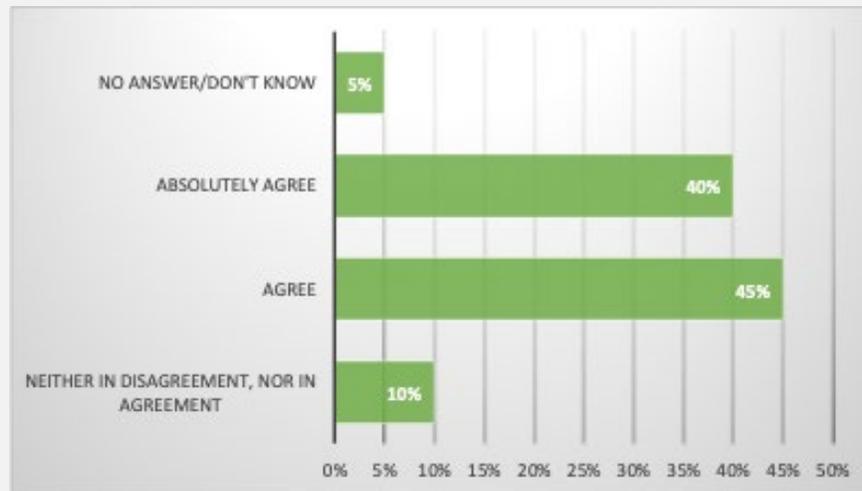
Most male and female respondents disapprove of the belief that "when jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women." Nevertheless, as evidenced in Figure No. 5, the degree of disagreement with the second statement is lower among men (73%) than among women (87%), which raises concerns about inconsistencies in men's responses to questions that may easily have a politically correct answer, depending on specific situations. Officials' responses were different; none agreed with prioritizing jobs for men.

The statement "Men can control their violent impulses" received a less optimistic response from women, with 76% agreeing, compared to 87% of men. Likewise, more women disagreed with this statement (12% of women, 8% of men). Although men's openness to women's rights is high in perception, there is a disparity in opinion regarding controlling violent impulses, which may be interpreted as women's distrust of these potential behavioral changes.

In the same vein, as evidenced in Graph No. 2, 85% of the interviewees believe it is possible, 10% did not take a position on the issue, and 5% did not respond. The trend is similar when asking

whether men should contribute to eradicating violence against women. In this case, 100% of the interviewees emphasized the importance of men's role in ending abuse. However, it is essential to mention that this last question was not included in the surveys.

Graph 2: Perception of public officials on whether men can control their violent impulses



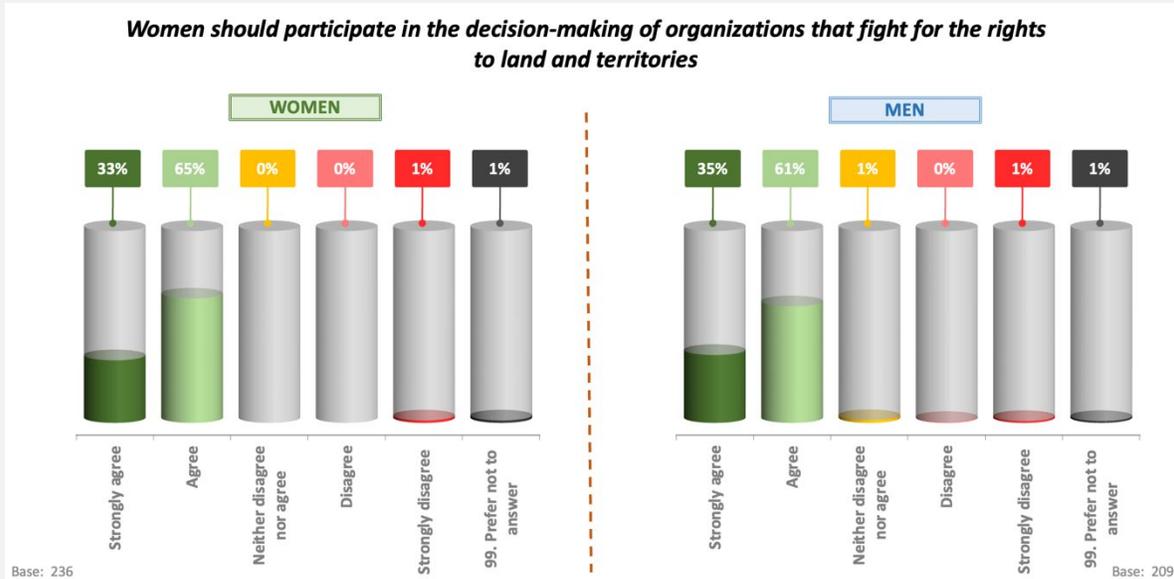
Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

3.2.1. Women's rights and women's participation in community organizations

The results of the quantitative and qualitative reports reveal that, to a large extent, both genders believe that women should have the same rights and employment opportunities as men. Likewise, men and women expressed disagreement with the notion that men are better leaders simply because they are men.

Regarding whether "Women should participate in decision-making in organizations that fight for land and territories," as shown in Figure No. 6, the trend is affirmative for both men and women (96% and 98%, respectively).

Figure 6: Perception of Women's Participation



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

Furthermore, among the married or cohabiting interviewees, 92% agreed that wives participate in organizations advocating for land and territorial rights. However, when analyzing the qualitative information, contradictions become evident as both men and women stated that one of the main obstacles to women's participation is the rejection and delegitimization attitude of some men towards their female peers' involvement. In this regard, one man stated, "[...] *It is not shame. I would say it is not shame. It is like... I would say what you mentioned earlier. Machismo. It is like saying, if I am macho, why should she come and rule over me? I am macho. It is not cowardice*"⁴.

Regarding this matter, three women who participated in the focus groups expressed:

*"Nevertheless, sometimes he tells me, "No, how can you go to a meeting?" because I have my savings; I mean, I have a source of income. And as for lunch, "Do not worry, I will pay my sister-in-law to make it for me." It is something you have to find as an alternative"*⁵.

"We are in this confinement like we are very submissive, and we make so many excuses. It is about the home, the children, permission, and my husband, what if he comes? We are sometimes tied up and like slaves. If he comes, you have to be there a hundred percent. I mean, if he comes, he asks for water, he asks for one thing, he asks for another, and that is

⁴ Focus group with men conducted in the municipality of Mahates.

⁵ Focus group with men conducted in the municipality of Colosó.

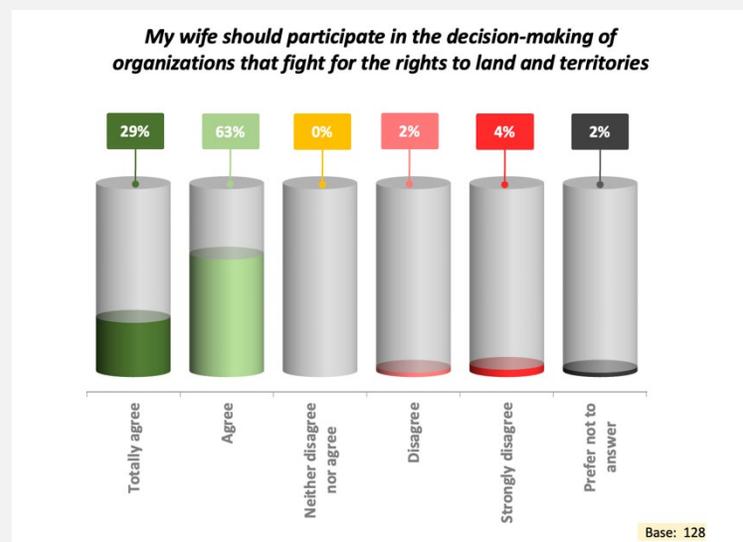
what many of us still believe. They have planted it in our heads that we do not want to break free from that... from that slavery of the past.”⁶.

“When I started working with women, many who initially joined later withdrew because their husbands gave them an ultimatum: either you continue participating in the organization, or you attend to me.”⁷.

The participants' narratives allow us to observe the social norms that have structurally prevailed in the everyday dynamics of families. For example, it has been established that women should always be available to attend to household tasks and the demands of their husbands. When women seek to break these social norms and explore activities such as participating in organizations or community decision-making scenarios, men exhibit authoritarian attitudes, attempting to persuade women to change their decision to participate. Faced with this confrontation, women adopt a position and behave accordingly. However, it is crucial to note that these decisions will always be influenced by these profoundly ingrained norms which do not necessarily respond to the “will” of individuals.

Figure No. 7 and the previous quotes highlight the contradictions that exist between the discourse and behaviors that men engage in daily life.

Figure 7: Men's Perception of Their Wives' Participation in Organizations



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

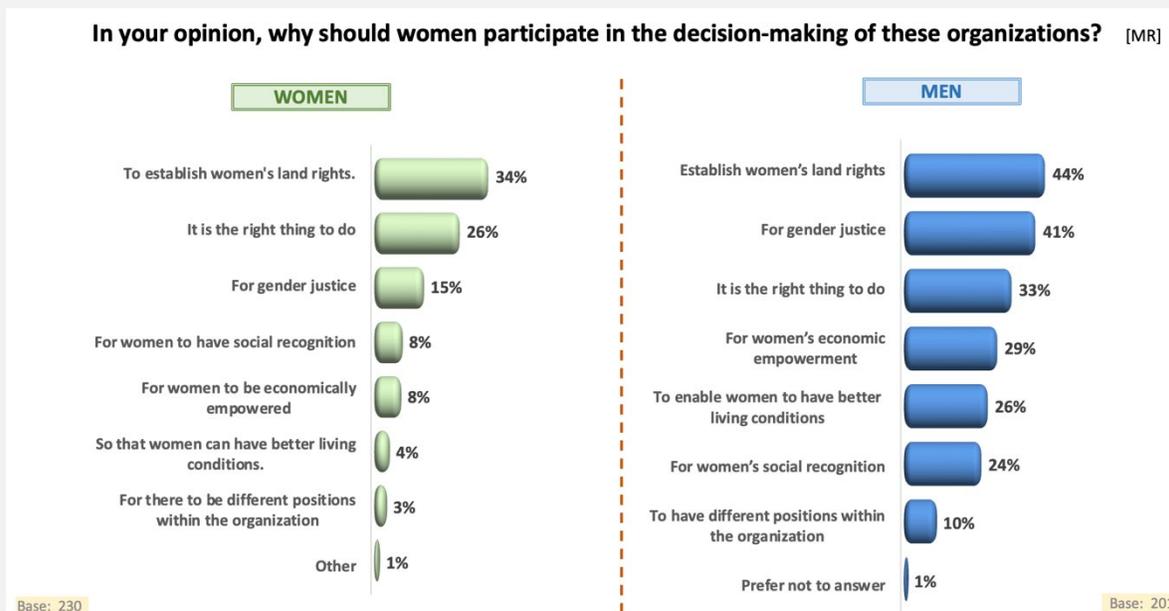
⁶ Focus group with women conducted in the municipality of Colosó.

⁷ Focus group with women conducted in the municipality of Mahates.

One of the components that stands out in the women's focus groups is the pedagogical process: international organizations, various institutions, and women's organizations have provided training that contributes to their educational process. This provides them with practical skills and a way to work on their emotions and build bonds that, in their own words, reinforce their "empowerment"⁸. One participant describes how she felt when sharing with other women: "[...] every story she cried about was a tear that I shed."⁹.

Men and women agree, in this order, that the reasons why women should participate in the decision-making of these organizations are "[...] To establish women's rights to land," "To achieve gender justice," and "Because it is the right thing to do." Among women, the reason "So that women have social recognition" ranks fourth, while among men, that statement ranks sixth, followed by social and economic reasons. The following Figure No. 8 summarizes why men and women believe that women should participate in organizational decision-making.

Figure 8: Reasons why women should participate in decision-making



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

⁸ This is a concept used by women in the focus groups. When they mention it, they are referring to strengthening their abilities, which contributes to changing their social practices. This document will only use the term "empowerment" to convey the women's perspective.

⁹ Focus group with women conducted in the municipality of Mahates.

Regarding the perception of men and women about women's participation in decision-making within organizations, it is noteworthy that the results are pretty similar. The combined responses of "few," "some," and "many" add up to 69% among interviewed women and 68% among men. Among men, a quarter (25%) stated that "all" women participate in their organizations, while the same response was given by 28% of women in the sample. Moreover, a significant proportion of women (88%) expressed feeling "very secure" and "somewhat secure" (52% and 36%, respectively) about being able to participate in decision-making within their organizations and territories, "even if their families oppose it."

3.2.2. The role of women in the organizations and the communities

When asked the interviewees about women's role in decision-making settings within communities, the majority agreed that there is currently a greater interest among women in participating in discussion spaces, such as Community Action Boards, assemblies, project boards, and organization meetings. According to them, this situation reflects an improvement in gender equity conditions and greater empowerment, resulting from initiatives to strengthen women's organizations in the territories and replicating the participation of other women who have historically held leadership roles. A female official stated:

*"[...] 'I feel that these leaders emerge from the need to defend our rights, to say, 'We are here, we are raising our voices,' and when we are raising our voices now, it is because we are tired, well, let us say, of so much vulnerability, of so much stigmatization, of saying, 'We women are capable.' There are already laws and guidelines telling us that we have our autonomy to progress and that our communities become stronger daily.'"*¹⁰.

*"[...] It is like something innate in them that they achieve by learning when they are perhaps invited to community meetings, and they learn and listen and begin to raise their voices."*¹¹.

Regarding the positive changes observed in women's participation, one of the female leaders stated that entering an organization was initially difficult because gender roles permeated by machismo persisted. However, these obstacles have been gradually overcome with increased participation: associations led by men have become more open, and through the creation and strengthening of women's social organizations, they have engaged with other actors, such as youth, promoting an environment for the emergence of new leadership.

The perception of how women participate in decision-making, the interviewees once again pointed out the changes that have occurred in recent years related to the inclusion of women and the adoption of new roles in community spaces. In a context where historically, women did not engage

¹⁰ Interview No. 16 Conducted with a Public Official from the Municipality of María la Baja.

¹¹ Interview No. 18 Conducted with a Public Servant from the Municipality of Colosó.

in decisive spaces, there is now an increased interest among women in participating in community-building scenarios.

However, there is also a social norm in which women attend community meetings while men are the primary decision-makers. According to the interviewed officials, this distinction between women's participation and male influence in decision-making reinforces patriarchal stereotypes, masking the situation with an apparent veil of transformation of established practices.

According to the interviewees, the areas where these changes are most evident include the reconfiguration of gender roles, challenges of female leadership, jurisprudence and normative frameworks, and community dynamics associated with support entities such as women's organizations or practices of sisterhood. Together, these elements are perceived as the main drivers for women to participate more in critical instances in their region.

How women's participation in organizations is perceived indicates that there have been changes in gender perception and participation in traditionally defined roles. In response, there is admiration for the commitment of women who participate in organizational instances, leading to an upbeat assessment that they perform tasks traditionally considered "heavy work" and exclusive to men. They also believe that women are not limited to tasks conventionally considered "feminine."

Furthermore, the perception of women's participation shows that their involvement is positively valued and has become more relevant in recent years. Participants expressed that women play an increasingly important role in decision-making, and in some cases, they are prominent leaders in assembly spaces: "[...] when there is an assembly, everyone has a voice and a vote, whether a woman or a man. Of course, most of the time in organizations, the percentage of women is lower than that of men. For example, here in our case, which is agriculture, perhaps only 20 or 25% are women. The majority are men."¹² It is mentioned that in some cases, women "take charge," and some organizations even require female presence, attributing their leadership to the ability to fulfill responsibilities and the empowerment they have achieved.

3.2.3. Obstacles to Effective Participation

The Obstacles Faced by Participants are Related to Machismo and Social and Cultural Barriers. Regarding this issue, women have expressed that they have encountered challenges when attempting to establish new organizations due to gender stereotypes that perceive women as incapable of executing projects or leading teams. Moreover, they highlight that these notions are not exclusive to men; unfortunately, some women also hold such beliefs, partly due to the

¹² Men's Focus Group Conducted in the Municipality of Colosó.

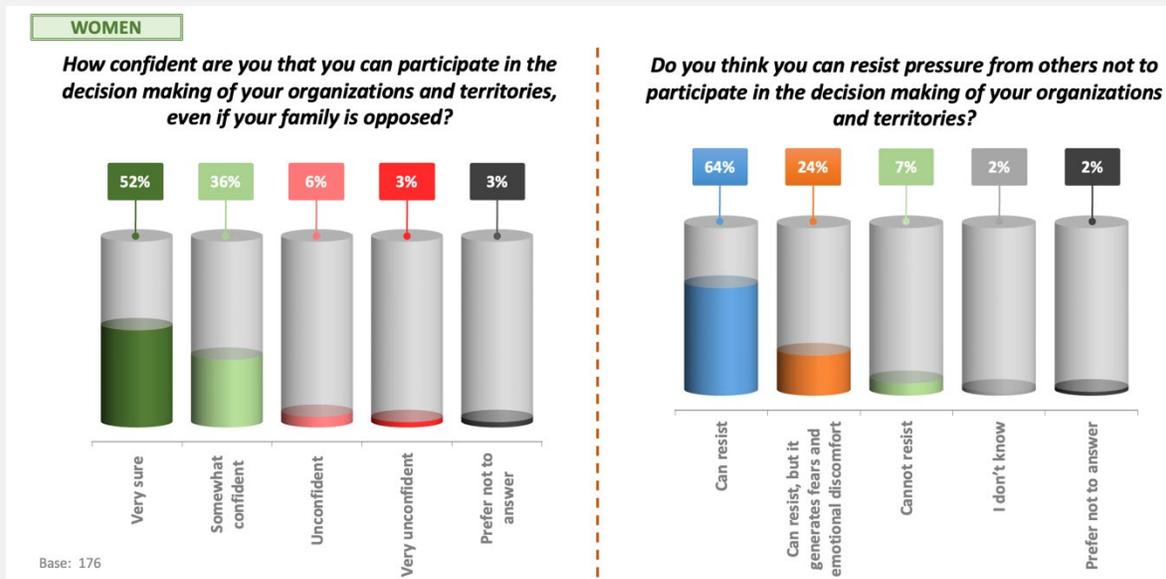
reinforcement their fathers and brothers provided on the subject. One of the participants in a focus group shared her perspective on this matter:

"[...] my father used to say that women should not be given anything because that was the husband's role. My father used to say we shouldn't pursue education as there was no need. Why should women study? Education was reserved for men. So, I believe that we have not subscribed to such beliefs. We have transmitted them, we have transmitted them."¹³

Similarly, a female leader pointed out that public entities also perpetuate these discriminatory practices when issuing calls for participation. For instance: "Now, there is the land renewal agency. Nevertheless, they almost always invite men. We, as women, have to assert ourselves and participate. We participate because we also have the right to. However, notifications almost always reach the men."¹⁴

In any case, they largely affirmed that, in the event of opposition from their family or pressure from other community members, 64% would resist, and 24% could resist, albeit with fear or emotional discomfort. These findings are presented in Figure No. 9:

Figure 9: Women's Perception of Their Willingness to Participate Despite Pressures and Opposition



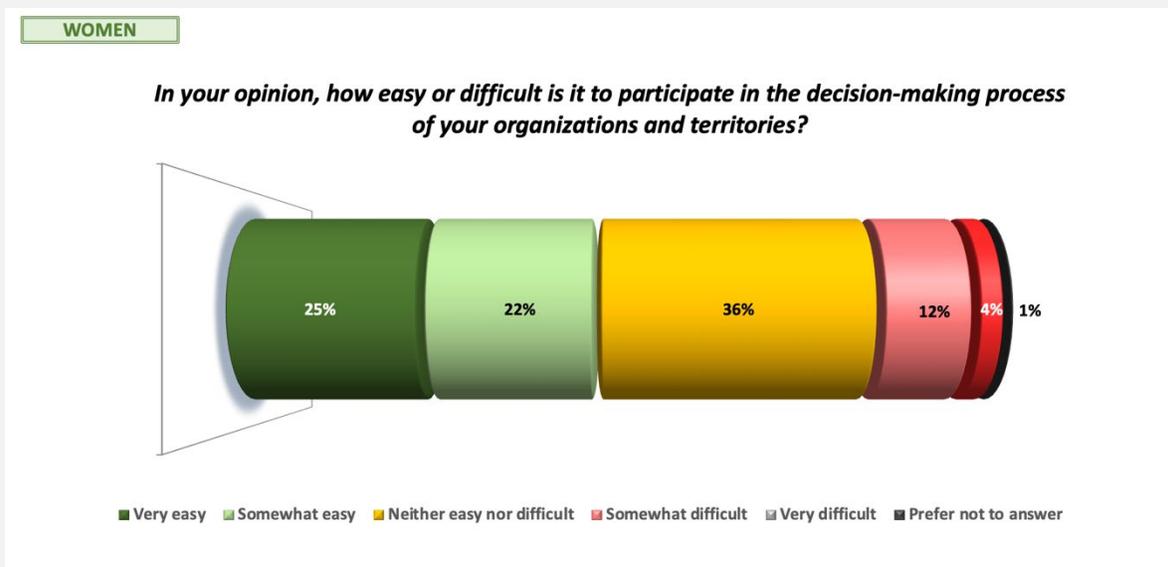
Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

¹³ Women's Focus Group Conducted in the Municipality of Mahates

¹⁴ Women's Focus Group Conducted in the Municipality of Mahates.

On the other hand, regarding the ease or difficulties that the surveyed women encounter in their participation, contradictions between discourse and everyday practices are once again evident. As shown in Figure No. 10, nearly half of them stated that participating in decision-making processes within their organizations and territories is 'very easy' (25%) or 'somewhat easy' (22%), while a notably smaller proportion affirmed that such participation is 'somewhat difficult' (12%) or 'very difficult' (4%). Slightly more than one-third (36%) of the respondents mentioned that their participation in decision-making within the organizations is 'neither easy nor difficult'.

Figure 10: Women's Perception of the Level of Difficulty in Their Participation



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

However, upon analyzing the qualitative information, it was found that women from the three focus groups and the interviewed officials expressed that there are still men within the organizations who sabotage their work or feel threatened, reacting by belittling their contributions or advocating for changes in decisions, even if they have received the support of the majority of participants.

In this category, a perception consistent throughout the research is reinforced, namely that despite the difficulties, women have increasingly played an essential role in creating and strengthening organizational processes. Women emphasize that they have enhanced their roles in various spaces through training on topics related to participation and gender-based violence.

Regarding men's perception of women's participation dynamics in the community, it is evident that while some agree and support them, others acknowledge that challenges persist in dealing with the problems that machismo has generated in the community.

Another obstacle women have perceived relates to the economic dependence many women still face concerning men. Added to this is the responsibility for household care, which reduces the availability of time and energy for women to participate in organizational processes.

On the other hand, there are a series of obstacles associated with the fear some women have of being accepted, inhibiting them. Fear of criticism, concern about not speaking correctly, and the fear of not receiving support are barriers that some women face. This is negatively reinforced by pressures from their family circles, with statements such as involvement in these dynamics being a "waste of time."

Women experience a marked economic dependence on their fathers or their romantic partners. These are two of the main barriers that officials highlighted in the interviews. This perception aligns with the arguments presented in the document "Rural Women and Agrarian Reform in Colombia:

*"Throughout history, rural women in Colombia have been an invisible and marginalized population, suffering from historical neglect by the state. For decades, inequality, discrimination, and social gender disparities have been working against rural women. Over the years, they have had to confront issues such as lack of autonomy, informal employment, violence within the context of armed conflict, limited and challenging access to land ownership, credit, education, technical assistance, among others."*¹⁵.

Other obstacles mentioned by the interviewees include limited access to education and socioeconomic constraints, which perpetuate inequality. In this regard, Cristina Maldonado emphasizes that the context in which rural women engage in their political, social, and economic activities exacerbates the exercise of their rights. Living in rural areas in Colombia entails "additional discrimination, which is inhabiting an environment and society where a patriarchal mentality predominates, generating multiple issues such as economic dependence of women on their husbands, unpaid labor for women, and low political participation among women,"¹⁶ she says.

It is essential to highlight that the intersecting discriminations experienced by women, as described above, impact their exercise of citizenship. In other words, restrictions based on gender roles contribute to restricted citizenship, where the political, social, and economic rights of women and the rural-urban gap translate into a lack of guarantees for the rights of rural women.

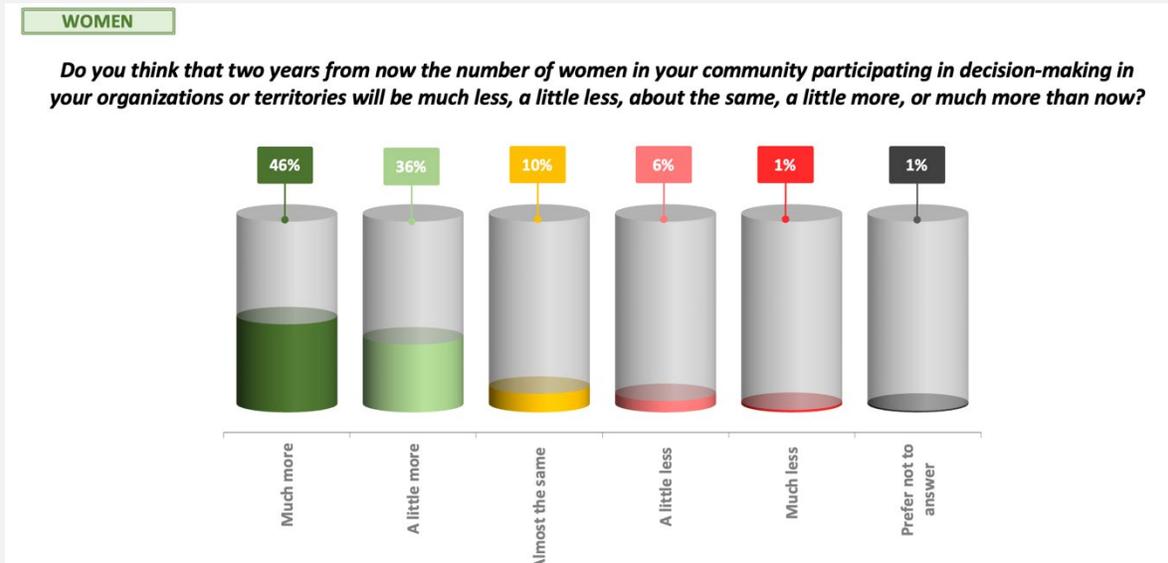
Despite the challenges mentioned above, 70% of the surveyed women affirmed that they have participated in community decision-making processes in the last two years. These figures

¹⁵ Thesis *Efectividad de las políticas de inclusión de las mujeres rurales en la historia de Colombia (2002-2022): análisis crítico de la ley 731 de 2002.*

¹⁶ Meldevieso, Cristina y Felipe, Julián. *Efectividad de las políticas de inclusión de las mujeres rurales en la historia de Colombia (2002-2022); análisis crítico de la ley 731 de 2002.*

undoubtedly represent significant participation by women, which they hope will continue to increase shortly.

Figure 11: Projection of Women's Participation in the Next Two Years



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

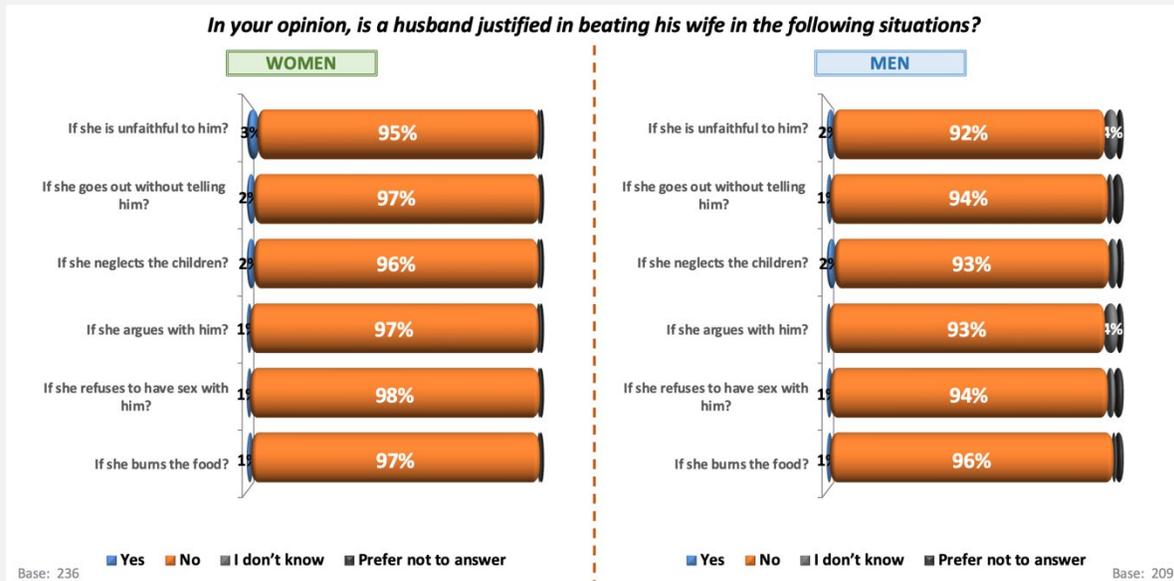
3.3. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

This report addresses issues related to the justification of violent acts, perceptions of insecurity, violence associated with participation, the most common forms of violence, and knowledge of support pathways.

3.3.1. Justifications for Violence

The interviews, focus groups, and surveys conducted as part of the project's baseline construction consistently reflect the overwhelming majority perception that gender-based violence is never justifiable. Most respondents answered "NO" to: "In your opinion, is it justified for a husband to hit his wife?" The rate of negative responses exceeded 90% across the six hypothetical situations presented, with an average rate of 97% among women and 94% among men. Although there are differences in responses between men and women, these differences are minimal, as shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Factors That Could Justify Violence



Source: Sigma Dos, 2023.

However, during interviews with officials, it was mentioned that although factors associated with violent acts against women, such as socio-economic or cultural conditions in the studied regions, are discussed, this does not justify their occurrence. From their perspective, economic difficulties and a lack of job opportunities can lead to frustration and family crises.

According to focus groups with men, some of the reasons why some men perpetrate violent actions against women revolve around the deep-seated nature of machismo within cultures "for their entire lives." Jealousy is one of the most frequently mentioned situations to justify violence against women. In this regard, one of the participants concludes that being a woman is very difficult and that things would improve if workshops on managing jealousy were conducted. The reason they considered was that "there are men who do not accept that times have changed and that women now have the same rights as they do."¹⁷

Contrary to the politically correct responses provided by the interviewed public officials, one of them from the municipality of Colosó stated that he believes there are circumstances in which it is understandable for a man to hit his partner, especially in cases of infidelity. The interviewee mentioned: "I probably would not intervene because you have to consider first, what if someone intervenes and they are hitting her because she went with another man [...] then it would be justified."¹⁸.

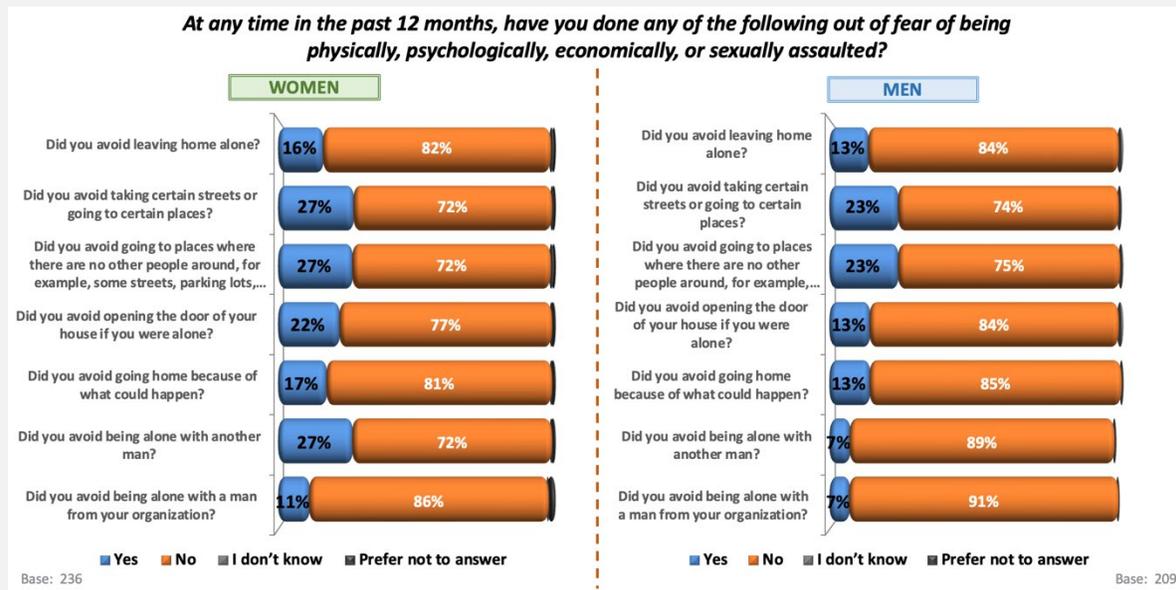
¹⁷ Men's Focus Group Conducted in the Municipality of Tierralta.

¹⁸ Interview Conducted with a Public Official from the Municipality of Colosó.

3.3.2. Perception of Insecurity

Regarding the conditions of insecurity and their relationship with the occurrence of violent acts against women, according to the survey, it is observed that in the last 12 months, nearly one-fourth of the surveyed women (25%) have been exposed to situations that have caused them to fear physical, psychological, economic, or sexual aggression. Among them, the most common responses include having had to avoid certain streets or places (27%), avoiding going to places where there are no other people around (27%), and avoiding being alone with a man (27%).

Illustratin 13: Situations of Fear Among Women Due to Possible Aggressions''



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

When viewed in parallel, men's responses to a similar set of seven questions about possible experiences of fear of being assaulted reveal a different situation. This highlights a gender-based influence on the perception of insecurity. The affirmative response rates indicating fear/ insecurity in some questions are notably lower among men than women.

For example, 27% of women reported feeling afraid to walk on certain streets or go to certain places; therefore, the same percentage of women avoid going to places no other people are around. In the case of men, 23% respectively stated experiencing similar fears. The difference can also be significantly evident when comparing the percentage of women (27%) who reported feeling fear when alone with a man, as opposed to men, where only 7% feel at risk.

At the same time, the results are indicative of an overall situation of insecurity in the territory, as even among men, close to one-fourth of respondents reported having experienced situations that generated fear, such as having to avoid certain streets/places or going to places where there are no people around.

However, it cannot be denied that the reasons why men and women feel fear are different. While sexual assaults affect both men and women, there is a higher incidence of sexual offenses that threaten the integrity and rights of women¹⁹. This example reflects the different motivations that could cause fear among men and women.

3.3.3. Violence Associated with Participation

Regarding recognizing the existence of violent practices within organizations, according to the survey of men, 3 out of every 10 men acknowledge the existence of acts against women. This demonstrates a significant incidence of such practices within organizational processes. One aspect highlighted by the surveyed women is that 9 out of 10 perceive that there are spaces within their organizations to discuss gender-based violence. Undoubtedly, this represents progress in recognizing rights and preventing violence against women, as it opens up a space to address these issues and acknowledges the possibility of such practices occurring.

However, there is a discrepancy in the responses between men and women regarding how they would react to cases of violence committed by members of the organizations. Women tend to indicate that they would intervene immediately and be less apathetic in the face of verbal or physical violence: 56% mentioned that they would intervene at that moment if there is verbal violence, 51% if there is physical violence, and 48% would call the police. On the other hand, when faced with acts of physical or verbal violence within organizations, men do not seem inclined toward any reaction (none of the response options received more than 20% support from the respondents).

The data mentioned above is relevant when considering the findings of the interviews. The interviews highlighted how the importance of questioning cultural traditions that may limit women's rights is recognized. One of the areas where this is most pronounced is land tenure issues. Several interviews emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable access to land, even if it goes against cultural practices that dictate that only men should have access to it. The other predominant factor relates to the importance of women being able to access decision-making bodies.

3.3.4. Most Common Forms of Violence

¹⁹ Ospina H, Daniel. "La Violencia sexual contra las mujeres: un estudio preliminar". Bogotá, 2007. DAvilab: <https://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r24504.pdf>. Consulted in October 10th, 2023.

Regarding the most common forms of violence suffered by women in communities, surveyed women reported that psychological violence (30%), physical violence (26%), and economic violence (26%) are the most prevalent, primarily perpetrated by romantic partners (64%). In this context, while violence may have public dimensions evident in organizations or in conditions of insecurity, the primary concern lies within the domestic space.

Figure 14: Violence in the Territory and Perpetrators



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

Furthermore, it is highly contradictory that, as mentioned earlier, all surveyed and interviewed actors agree that there is no reason to justify violence against women. However, alarming percentages of violence in the regions continue to be evident. In this regard, the participants in the focus groups also identified that the most recurrent violent practices in the territory are physical and verbal violence by their partners.

On the other hand, they pointed out that, due to the structural violence associated with patriarchy mentioned throughout this section, they feel afraid to travel alone at night in the municipality. They also feel stigmatized by myths associated with menstruation as a sign of impurity and a limiting factor in agricultural activities. These narratives are highly discriminatory as they restrict women's agricultural participation, reducing their employment opportunities.

This demonstrates that the interviews, focus groups, and survey findings consistently highlight the importance of transforming beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors to eradicate gender-based violence. This should be done from a shared responsibility perspective involving both men and women, from communities to state institutions.

Both men and women participating in the focus groups recognize the existence of different types of violence: physical, verbal, psychological, and sexual, indicating an understanding of how violence can manifest in the daily lives of women. However, it was also emphasized that physical violence is the most visible and recognized, while sexual violence is considered the most severe, although it may be less evident compared to other forms of violence due to barriers and fears associated with reporting.

Other forms of violence, such as psychological violence, which is often influenced by jealousy, also hinder women's participation in public life. This is due to harmful stereotypes such as "a woman who goes out is unfaithful or has another man," which reflects resistance from some community members to accept better conditions regarding gender equity. However, it is also highlighted that contemporary women are less likely to accept these attitudes and are more willing to challenge traditional gender norms.

Another type of violence mentioned and of particular interest in the research context is related to practices associated with land tenure. Concerning this issue, the participants stated that one of the biggest problems they face regarding land ownership is that, in most cases, men's names appear in public records, leading to a violation of economic and property rights. Although women contribute to the work on the land and the acquisition of the properties, men generally appear as the sole owners.

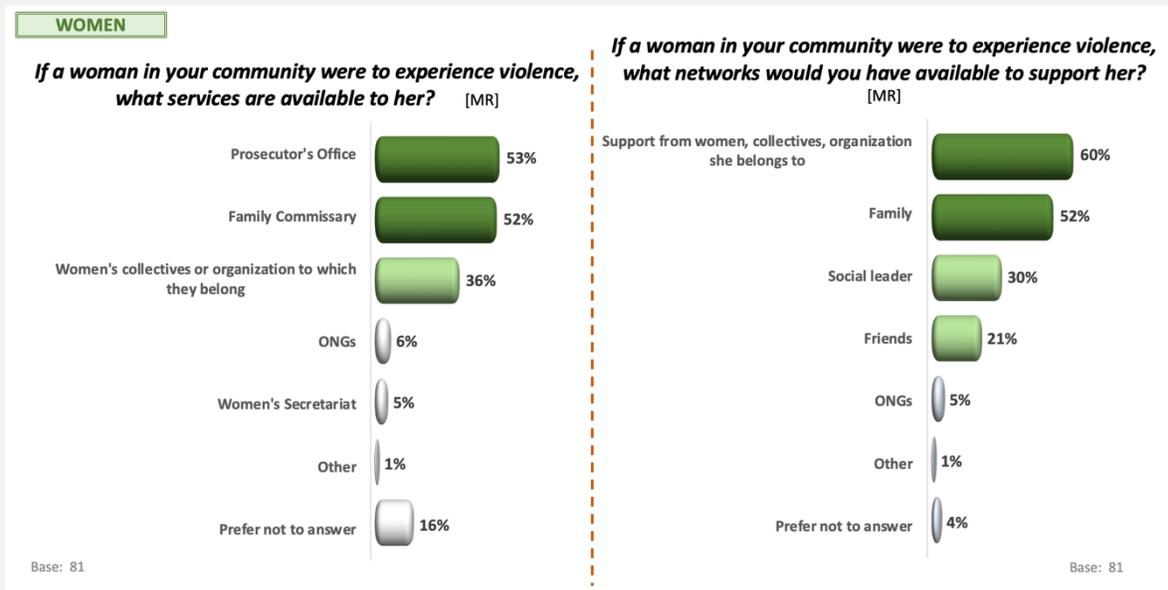
There is a clear recognition of the various types of violence and their implications in women's lives. The interviewees and participants in the focus groups mentioned situations where, even in everyday aspects such as choosing clothing, there is control over women, reinforced by economic and psychological violence present in the territory. The different accounts illustrate how violence is intrinsically related to the preservation of systems of power and gender inequality..

3.3.5. Knowledge of the Routes

Regarding knowledge of the pathways for addressing cases of violence against women, as shown in Figure No. 15, according to surveys conducted with women, 53% of the respondents mentioned having access to the Prosecutor's Office, 52% to the Family Commissioner's Office, and 36% to women's collectives or social organizations. They also mentioned the networks they would have as support, including women from the community (60%), family members (52%), social leaders (30%),

and friends (21%). These elements suggest that women are more likely to recognize the institutional channels led by the family commissioners and the local liaisons of the prosecution as an alternative for reporting this type of aggression.

Figure 15: Knowledge of Support Routes and Networks



Source: Sigma Dos, 2023.

These elements were further corroborated in the interviews, as there is awareness of the existence of institutional pathways, recognition of the importance of support networks, and identification of the prevalence of barriers and conditions that tend to re-victimize. Undoubtedly, these barriers deter victims from reporting, highlighting the need to overcome the stigma associated with reporting, strengthen informational campaigns about the mechanisms available to women, and, above all, build trust among women in institutions so that they feel free to report without the risk of information leaking to the community and without facing accusations regarding their decision. Ultimately, what is required is to promote a protective environment for victims that guarantees the recognition of their rights.

3.4. MASCULINITIES

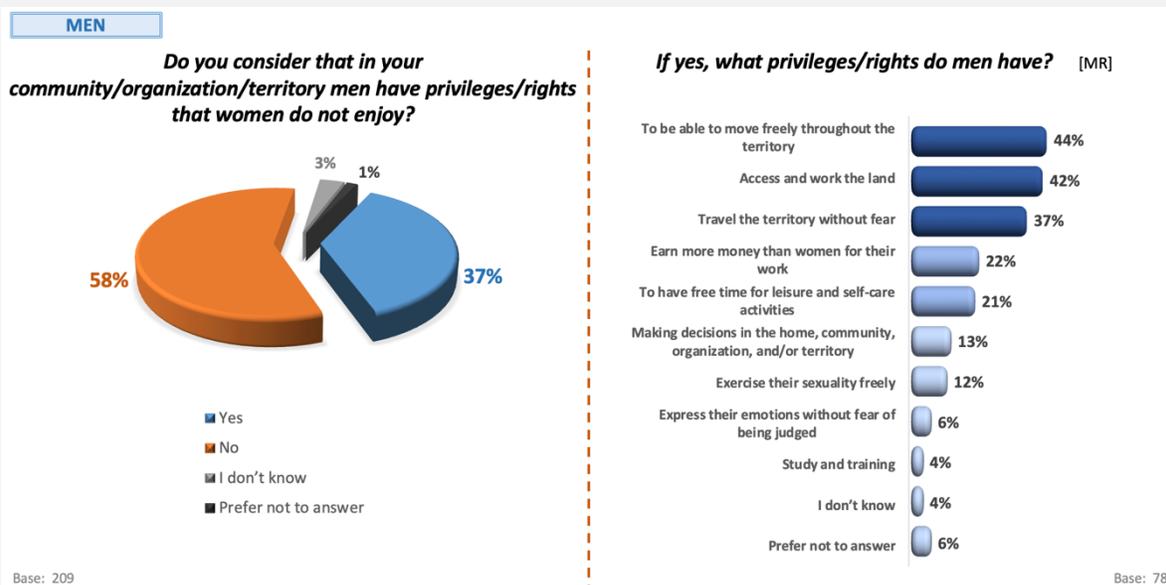
There is an incipient attempt to deconstruct macho ideas associated, for example, with the role of women being confined to private and family spaces. This is evident in the interviewees' narratives, where they acknowledge equal rights between men and women, at least discursively. However, despite these indications, the information analysis leads to the conclusion that predominantly macho behaviors associated with male gender identity continue to persist, almost as if it were a mandate from which men seem unable to escape.

This can be evidenced by the respondents' responses when asked, "What does it mean to be a man for the members of your community?" The three most frequent responses among men were, in descending order: "Provide financially for the household" (45%); "Strong, decisive, energetic, courageous..." (40%); "Make decisions in the household..." (34%).

On the other hand, in response to the question, "What does being a man mean to you?" The three most frequent responses were, in descending order: "Strong, decisive, energetic, courageous..." (52%); "Provide financially for the household" (43%); "Being more rational than emotional..." (33%).

Among men, a little over one-third (37%, or at least one in three) believe that "in their community/organization/territory, men have privileges/rights that women do not enjoy." Among these, the most mentioned privileges/rights were: "Being able to move freely around the territory" (44%), "Accessing and working the land" (42%), and "Roaming the territory without fear" (37%)

Figure 16: Men's Perception of Their Privileges



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

Among men, just over a quarter (27%) believe that *"there are spaces to which women cannot enter/attend in the territory."* Among these, the most mentioned spaces were *"crop fields, especially if they are menstruating"* (57%), *"streets, roads, and paths, especially if they are poorly lit"* (29%), *"spaces where only men are present"* (27%), and *"crop fields, because they are too weak for agricultural work"* (18%).

These ideas about the differentiation of roles between men and women could be understood as the orientations from which social gender norms are formed in the region. The qualitative analysis revealed that both men and women conceive this institutionalized masculinity as a model of manifestation and exercise of power.

For example, female officials recognize that men have had a privileged position from which they have controlled participation spaces. This becomes evident, for instance, in the percentage of men compared to women who hold elected positions or are part of social organizations and Community Action Boards. Even though female interviewees mention no record of a female mayor elected by popular vote, this is a clear example, although more women are currently participating in local elections.

One female official considers that sexist practices are deeply ingrained to the point that *"they do not give us space, they do not want well-being, they only want their well-being over all those offers of pleasure, economic, and food."*

On the other hand, men believe that there are no more extended privileges in recognizing men's rights than women's rights. They believe that gender stereotypes, especially sexist practices, have been reassessed, and men in the territories have constructed new narratives about, for example, women's participation in community decision-making spaces.

These elements, as a whole, highlight the importance of questioning cultural traditions that can limit women's rights. One of the areas where this is most evident is land tenure issues. In several interviews, the importance of ensuring equitable access to land was emphasized, even if it goes against cultural practices that suggest that only men should have access to it.

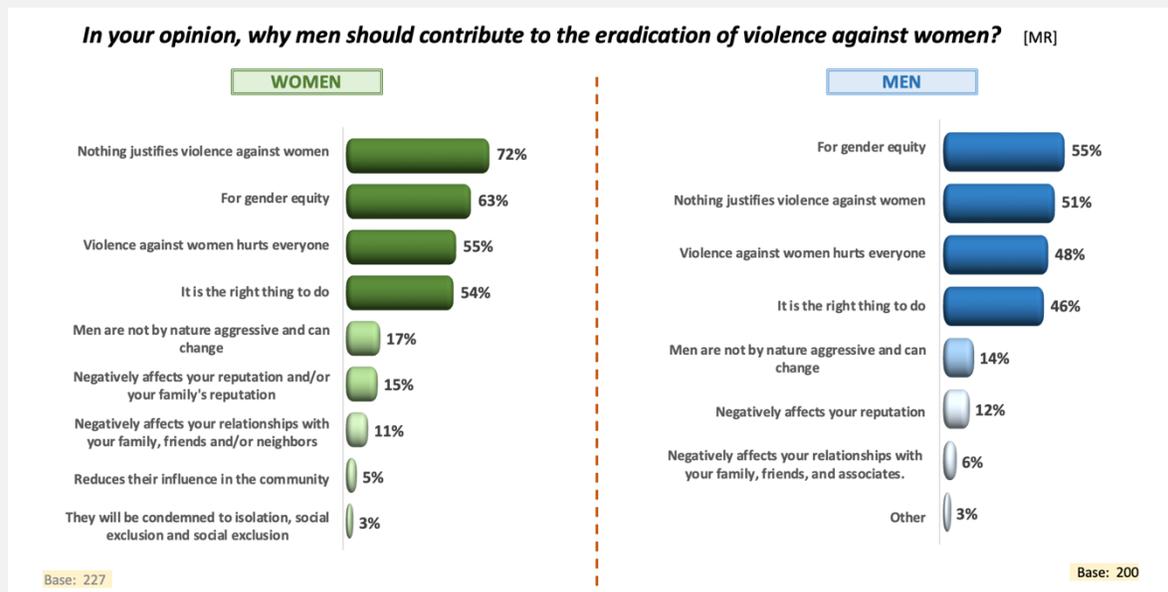
According to the participants' testimonies of the participants, the role of men in organizations is viewed ambivalently. While some are willing to open up participation to women and even get involved in organizations created by them, others resist being part of them and criticize the recognition that women now have in these instances. In these cases, participants expressed concern that these men might try to influence or sabotage the organization's work if they feel that power is being taken away.

3.4.1. The role of men in the eradication of various forms of violence

As mentioned in the previous chapter, regarding non-violence against women, there is a consensus that "men should contribute to preventing violence against women" (96%). However, a small but not negligible proportion of people disagree with this statement (2% and 3%). Both men and women believe that men should contribute to preventing violence against women, primarily understood as unjustifiable and a problem that affects the community.

The main reasons why men should contribute to preventing violence against women are essentially the same among women and men, although with higher response proportions among women than men: "Nothing justifies violence against women" (72% women, 51% men), "To achieve gender equality" (63% and 55%), "Violence against women harms everyone" (55% and 48%), and "Because it is the right thing to do" (54% and 46%).

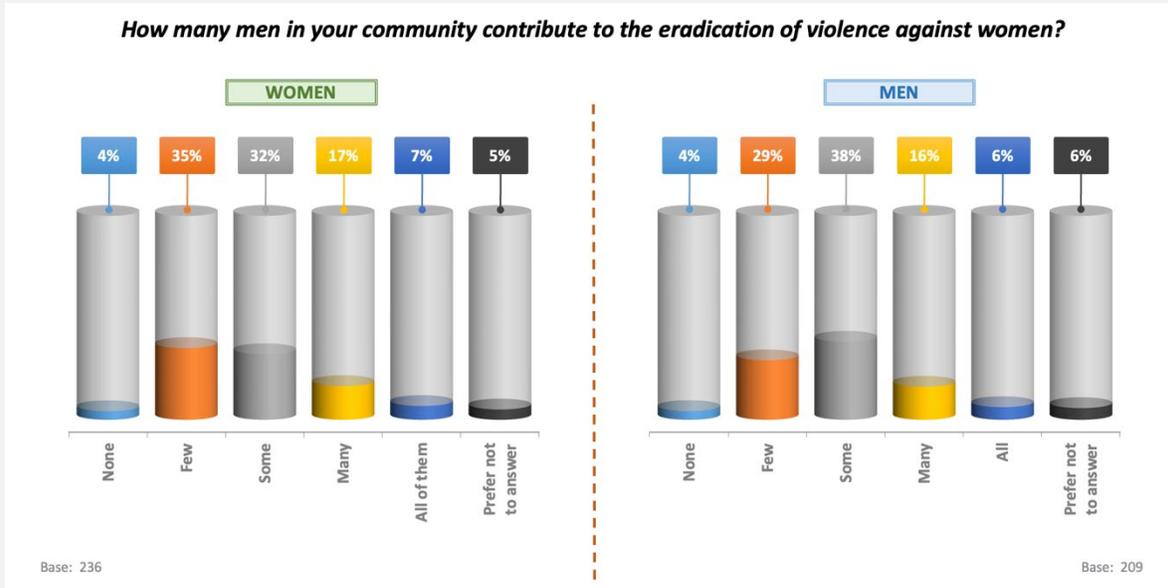
Figure 17: Reasons why men should contribute to eradicating violence against women



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

In this regard, there is also noticeable consensus in the perception that both men and women have regarding the number of men in their communities who contribute to preventing violence against women. Thus, when asked, "How many men in your community contribute to preventing violence against women?" the sum of responses "few," "some," and "many" resulted in 84% among women and 83% among men. Among these, the response "all" was given by 6% of the interviewees, while the same response was indicated by 7% of the surveyed women.

Figure 18: Percentage of men contributing to preventing violence against women



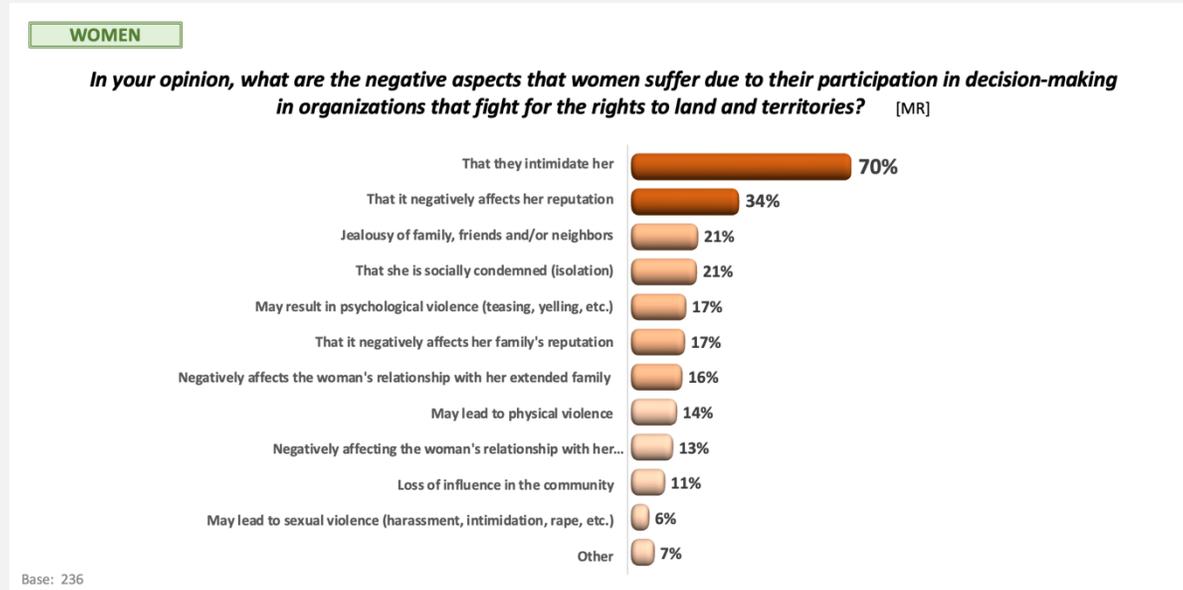
Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

During the focus group discussions, there was evidence of reflection on the perception of an imbalance in evaluating the opinions of men and women regarding gender gaps in representation within organizations. Specific examples were mentioned, such as the composition of Community Action Boards, where fewer women are observed. This inequality can affect decision-making and the inclusion of different perspectives.

In any case, it is appreciated that the new generations "come with a different mentality," and discussions are more open to making decisions collectively: "Each organization contributes to an idea about what we want to build, and it is approved by everyone, as long as women and young people have been given a voice in those discussions so that decisions are made with the participation of women and young people to ensure equity."

In response to the question, "In your opinion, what are the negative aspects that women face due to their participation in decision-making within organizations that fight for land and territory rights?" the most frequent responses were, in order: "Intimidation" (70%), "Negative impact on her reputation" (34%), "Jealousy from family, friends, and/or neighbors" (21%), and "Social condemnation (isolation)" (21%).

Figure 19: consequences of women's participation in decision-making



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

3.5. KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

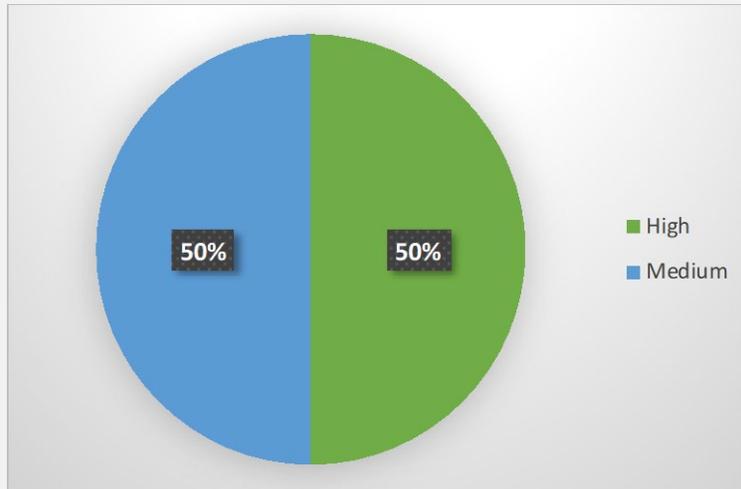
When asking the interviewees about the legal framework related to women's rights and gender-based violence, there was a lack of knowledge regarding laws such as Law 1257 of 2008 and Law 1981 of 2019. These laws represent a significant advancement in recognizing gender-based violence as a violation of human rights and, consequently, in reducing gender inequality.

However, despite the lack of knowledge about the legal and jurisprudential frameworks, when answering a set of 6 closed-ended questions²⁰, with a single response option, 50% answered correctly. Observations from the interviews indicated that, for the most part, respondents relied on

²⁰ The questions employed to construct the knowledge index regarding the regulatory framework associated with gender-based violence are as follows: i) In Colombia, is joint titling by the State legally guaranteed for couples, regardless of whether they are married or living in a marital union? ii) Do the Constitution and laws in Colombia acknowledge the right to collective property for ethnic groups? iii) In Colombia, is it mandated that the National Land Agency prioritize rural women for land access, formalization, national land allocation, and resource allocation for productive projects? iv) Is violating women's property rights a form of violence against them? The two remaining questions pertain to land restitution and access. The correct responses are as follows: i) Both Juana and Pedro possess an equal entitlement to the restitution of their land since, irrespective of their current relationship status, the land belonged to both of them and should thus be formalized in their names. ii) The National Land Agency must recognize the unpaid work performed by Amparo, as a woman, in the household, including maintaining the dwelling and caring for other individuals, as an element of land utilization and, consequently, allocate the property to her.

their intuition to answer rather than their knowledge. The results of this analysis are presented in Graph No. 3 below.

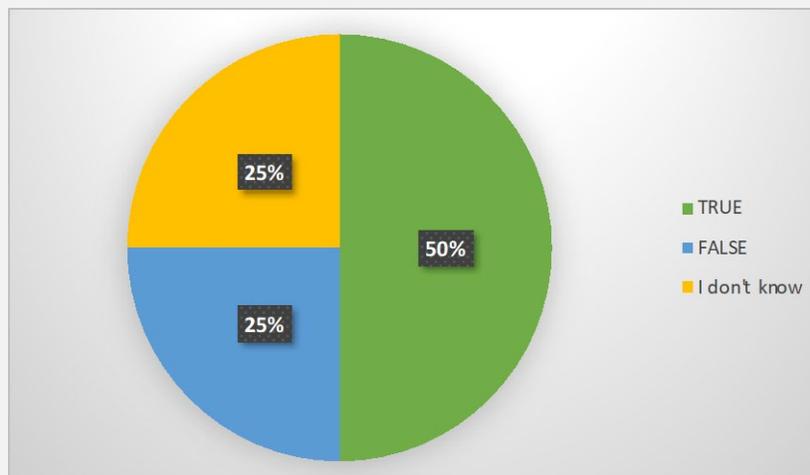
Graph 3: Index of Knowledge Regarding Regulatory Framework Among Officials



Source: Colombia Rural, 2023.

Concerning this analysis, it is particularly noteworthy that officials appear unaware that in Colombia, the State legally guarantees joint titling for couples, regardless of whether they are married or in a de facto marital union. Following the trend observed in the Index as depicted in Graph No. 2, 25% indicated not being aware of this or responded incorrectly. The results of this analysis are presented in Graph No. 3.

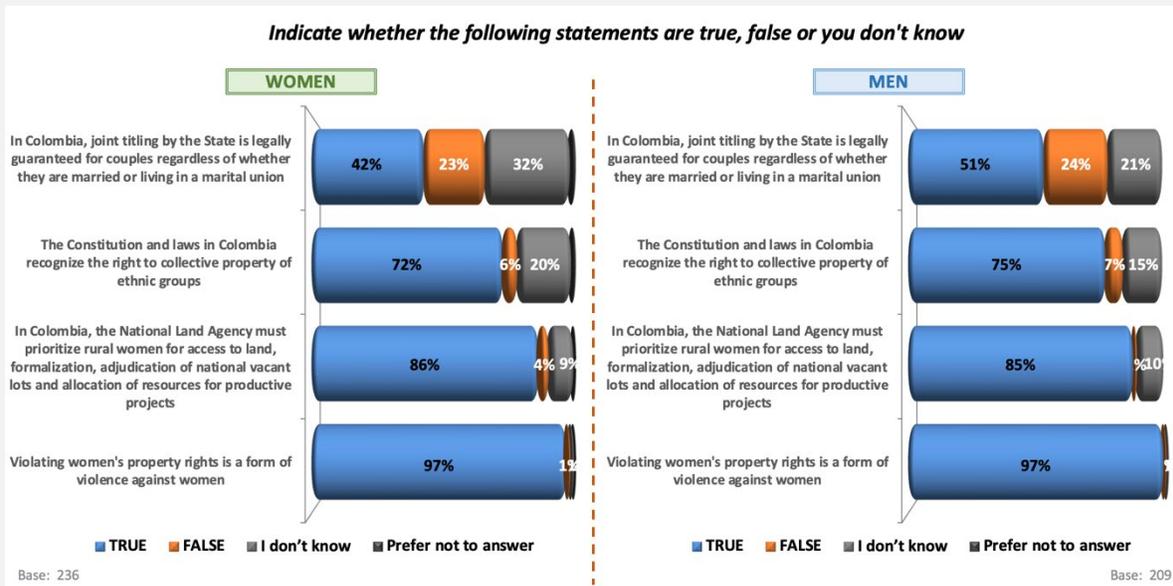
Graph 4: Knowledge of Whether Joint Titling by the State is Legally Guaranteed in Colombia for Couples, Regardless of Marital Status



Source: Colombia Rural, 2023.

Regarding knowledge about women's rights within communities, as depicted in Figure No. 20, when surveying respondents regarding legislation on women's rights and gender equity in Colombia, similar proportions of correct responses were observed between men and women in three of the four statements presented: "Violating women's property rights is a form of violence against them" (97% for both genders); "In Colombia, the National Land Agency must prioritize rural women for land access..." (86% of women and 85% of men); "The Constitution and laws in Colombia recognize the right to collective property for ethnic groups" (72% for women and 75% for men).

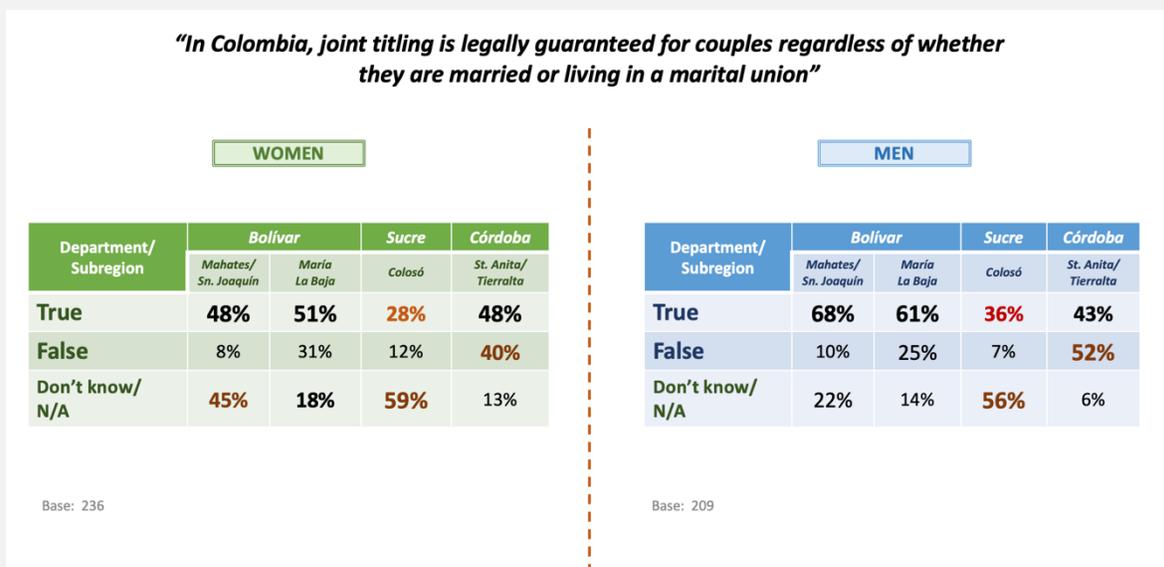
Figure 20: Questions Related to Knowledge About Regulations



Source: Sigma Dos, 2023.

Concerning the first statement, "In Colombia, joint titling is legally guaranteed for couples, regardless of whether they are married or in a de facto marital union," a lower proportion of correct responses was recorded among women (42% vs. 51% for men), and a higher proportion of responses such as "I do not know" or "Prefer not to answer" (32% for women and 21% for men). The breakdown of these figures is presented in Figure No. 21:

Figure 21: Knowledge of Property Rights for Spouses and Permanent Partners



Source: Sigma Dos, Colombia Rural, 2023

Regarding this issue, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) has pointed out that, despite women's significant contributions to rural activities, particularly in agriculture, food harvesting, and the care of minor livestock, significant gender-based inequalities persist in the recognition of property rights and other natural resources (FAO, 2009). Rural women in Colombia have faced substantial land use, tenure, and enjoyment obstacles. In comparison to men, women's land rights are precarious due to various factors, including: i) Biases and lack of clarity in the legal framework. ii) Cultural norms that fail to recognize caregiving activities, household chores, and the maintenance of minor livestock and food crops as part of the property exploitation activities. iii) The rise in violent conflicts which can increase the risk of disinheritance (FAO, 2009).

Interviews demonstrate how violence affects women's ability to secure and exercise their land rights. According to one official, "a person who is a victim of gender-based violence is someone who ends up having mental problems, is someone who is no longer, in many cases, considered normal." The psychological impact can lead women into inertia and the development of their abilities and the decrease in their self-confidence.

Additionally, women face institutional obstacles, as it is often believed that there are insufficient initiatives to recognize their roles, and official records often emphasize the man as the head of the household. Regarding this issue, one interviewee stated:

“All of these factors have a profound impact on women's economic prospects and development. Women continue to fulfill their roles as producers, but they lack the necessary resources and secure land tenure to carry out productive activities. They also continue to fulfill their roles as homemakers, yet they lack property titles that would enable them to say, “I can cultivate here, and no one can displace us because we have legal rights.” A focused and concrete approach must be taken to empower these women to engage in agricultural productivity. This could involve providing access to machinery, technology, soft loans, or non-repayable seed capital so that women can move forward and thrive in their agricultural pursuits”²¹.

Despite the challenges posed by institutional frameworks to achieve women's access to land, it is clear that, at least in formal terms, public policies are becoming increasingly inclusive and protective of their rights. One interviewed official recalled that *“a chapter recognizes land and land restitution for women as a way to reactivate agriculture, occupation, and generate their own economic autonomy.”²²* This undoubtedly represents significant progress, which is also reflected in the regulations. However, there are still significant gaps between these advancements and their implementation.

With the issuance of Law Decree 902 of 2017²³ the country made legislative advancements in ensuring women's rights to access and formalize their land holdings. Article 9 of this decree recognizes the care economy as an activity for land utilization²⁴. In many cases, this positions women as subjects of land management, as they would meet the exploitation requirements, which traditionally focus on agricultural and/or livestock activities.²⁵

The inclusion of the care economy as an activity for land utilization and the prioritization of land access and formalization requests in the RESO²⁶, position the policy of Rural Property Social Ordering

²¹ Interview No. 16, conducted with a public official from the municipality of María la Baja.

²² Interview No. 13, conducted with a public official from María la Baja.

²³ Whereby measures are adopted to facilitate the implementation of the Comprehensive Rural Reform envisaged in the Final Peace Agreement regarding land issues, specifically the procedure for access and formalization and the Land Fund." Available at : <http://es.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20902%20DEL%2029%20DE%20MAYO%20DE%202017.pdf>

²⁴ In the year 2010, the enactment of Law 1413 sets an important precedent regarding the gender perspective by positioning the care economy as: '[...] unpaid work carried out within the home, related to the maintenance of the household, the care of other household or community members, and the upkeep of the paid workforce. This category of work holds fundamental economic significance within a society.' (Law 1413, 2010: 1)

²⁵ Landesa (2023). "Women and Land Tenure Rights: Working Document authored by Rural Colombia."

²⁶ The Registry of Land Ordering Subjects - RESO, is a tool administered by the Subdirectorate of Land Information Systems of the National Land Agency (ANT), which publicly records all subjects of Law Decree 902 of 2017. The RESO will serve as an instrument for planning and the gradual implementation of public policy, guided by the principle of reserving what is possible, in order to advance land access and formalization progressively. This Registry serves as a tool to identify beneficiaries of the Land Fund for RRI.

as a promoter of equal rights between men and women. These regulatory changes represent a significant step in ensuring women's land rights. However, the more significant challenge lies in realizing these changes by implementing policies on the territories.²⁷

By triangulating these analyses with the hypothetical cases presented in interviews and surveys, it becomes evident that the work carried out by women's organizations, NGOs, and international cooperation has helped sharpen awareness of women's rights. Although there is a lack of knowledge among officials and both men and women in the community regarding legislation on women's rights and, mainly, the regulations that protect their property rights, when presented with the cases ["Juana and Pedro," "Amparo"], a higher proportion of correct responses was recorded among men compared to women: 92% and 73% in the first case, and 72% and 59% in the second case.

4. CONCLUSIONS

After reviewing the study results, the following conclusions stand out::

- Only 21% of the interviewed women recognize themselves as landowners of the land they have access to. Moreover, it was evident that women lacked clarity about the documents required to prove ownership. This highlights the confusion and lack of knowledge regarding their legal relationship (ownership, possession, occupation) with the land they are inhabiting and/or utilizing.
- There is a clear need to democratize information about institutional pathways that facilitate land tenure regularization and the possibilities of benefiting from public policies for land access and formalization. This requires organizations present in the territory to promote educational projects and strengthen communication strategies about women's land tenure rights.
- Women must recognize their caregiving, minor livestock raising, and food crop cultivation activities as part of the family economy and, therefore, land exploitation. Colombian regulations have made significant progress in recognizing this. In line with the success this represents in acknowledging women's land tenure rights, there is a need to transform the social norms that have traditionally considered men's activities as legitimizing land exploitation.
- Patrimonial violence is more pronounced in contexts of high informality, de facto marital unions, and family settings with simultaneous or successive unions. These contexts pose greater challenges in ensuring women's property rights, primarily because women often lack awareness of these rights.

²⁷ Landesa (2023). Women and Land Tenure Rights: A Working Document authored by Rural Colombia.

- Regarding women's participation in community decision-making spaces, it can be concluded that women are increasingly interested in being part of social organizations and contributing to local development. This is evident in their self-recognition as decision-makers in community engagement. Despite these transformations, it is clear that challenges persist concerning the recognition of women's opinions and perspectives by men and other leaders and in some cases, by the community itself. This suggests the need to continue promoting cultural and social changes that enable the community, especially men, to have more trust and confidence in their female leaders.
- Regarding rural women's leadership development, the study highlights that issues related to gender-based violence, cultural beliefs and attitudes, and lack of knowledge about their property rights are relevant topics that should be included in the pilot project conducted by CINEP and partner organizations.

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