



# POWER AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Imad (Jordan): "women are the ones that are fully responsible for taking care of the house. Men very rarely cook for themselves, and very rarely know anything that is going on with the expenses. And they say that this happens everywhere, even their sons save money for their own futures and not for their families. Another thing is that women do not inherit. Women are supposed to receive half the inheritance of the men, but because of economic pressure, women are pressured to give their portion to the men in order to keep the land within the family. We talked about how early in their life girls are taught to cook, and boys are never taught to participate in that activity. Fatima and Aysheh both said that they were expected to learn to cook full meals by the age of 12, because they were responsible for taking care of the family. The gendered role in Jordan is still separated."

Bikrum [researcher, US] tells the story of his grandfather in Punjab, India. Under British colonial rule, Punjab was used to grow wheat for export to Britain: those in Punjab were hungry while those in Britain were well fed. "My grandfather grew to hate the British, grew to hate the international system, and went to prison for protesting against this exportation of Punjabi food. When Punjab and India gained independence in 1948, there was energy around the potential to grow food for themselves, and discussions about how to grow food to be successful. [Then came the so-called Green Revolution, and the Americans with their "better seeds and better sprays" to increase production.] Farmers like my grandfather started using American technologies, starting growing lots of food, and became very successful. For about ten years. And then food production fell. There was only one type of wheat that lasted, the American wheat. All those Indigenous wheats disappeared. Before my country listened to the Americans, they grew 15-20 different crops. After that, they only grew wheat and rice. My grandfather wanted to preserve how those old crops grew together, but nobody listened. The land was damaged and the farmers were going into debt, because now they had to buy seeds and chemical fertilizers and prices were set by the world market."



HOW DOES GENDER IMPACT FOOD SYSTEMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY? WHO DOES THE SHOPPING AND COOKING IN YOUR OWN HOME?

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