

## *Promoting Gender Equality in the Context of Agriculture and Natural Resource Management: Opportunities, Challenges, and Management Policies in Indian Mid-Himalayas*

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### 25.1 Introduction

In most of the hill states of India, women are the main rural workforce, due to their major involvement in agriculture, animal husbandry, fodder and fuel-wood collection, and household activities. Among the three hill states in North-western Himalayas, women are contributing ~90% of the total work in agriculture and animal husbandry (National Sample Survey Organization 2009–2010). The structure of employment in particularly in rural areas (and that too in hill regions), is predominated by low yielding employment in agriculture. This has dramatically dislocated in the village communities. Since, the hills are constrained in the development of large-scale industrialization, and due to infrastructure constraints,