



# DEVALUATION OF WOMEN'S LABOUR IN FOOD SYSTEMS & FEMINIST RESISTANCE

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## Research Question(s)

How do corporations and their interests impact the value of women's labour all over the world? How are such interests combatted?

## Abstract

My research looked at how:

- The interests of multinational corporations reinforce existing gendered differences in agriculture and food work .
- These interests contribute to increasing wealth inequalities. These interests also see to the rise of feminist resistance in opposition to such.

## Methodology

Research was conducted for this project in the form of a literature review. Sources were found through a) the required readings for the course (GWST 4513) and b) the York University online database, "Omni".

## Results/Findings

- Women's labour in food systems is devalued and marginalized all around the world, at all levels of the food supply chain.
- Gendered expectations lead to women's labour being overlooked since it is culturally/socially expected.
- Corporate interests maintain wealth inequalities and keep female labourers in a low socioeconomic status.
- Corporate interests lead to the cycle of male-abandonment of family farms in developing countries, and to exploitable cheap female labour.
- Opposition to harmful corporate interests is often undertaken by women, using feminist and anti-capitalist frameworks.

## Application to Current Events

### Farmer's Protests - India

As this presentation is being prepared, there are mass protests raging in India.

- Is in response to recent agricultural legislation which opens up the agricultural market.
- Laws remove bargaining power from farmers and remove minimum prices set on produce.
- Corporations now carry the power to further disadvantage small-scaled local agricultural practices.
- Women are among the most disadvantaged by this new legislation and they are also at the forefront of the resistance to these laws.



## Discussion/Implications

- This research highlights key issues of women's rights all around the world and holds implications for policy development, both local and international.
- Further areas of research can include a) the topic of legal and socioeconomic barriers to equitable labour conditions for women and b) policy development to limit corporate influences on local agriculture practices.

