Title of Article: The Land Question and Agricultural production among Women in Ozalla Community, Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The plight of the Nigerian woman in terms of her developmental and economic opportunities is often circumscribed by gender discrimination. They have continued to suffer the disadvantages of an unequal household division of labour, barriers to ownership of land and other property, discriminatory inheritance practices which are grounded in deep-rooted customary practices that are justified by ingrained presumptions about the role and status of women vis-à-vis men. Using Ozalla Community, Edo State, Nigeria, this paper examines the gender dimensions of the land question as a principal economic resource that attracts constant disputes, with particular reference to women’s right of access to land and the need for ownership of land, so as to enhance their level of food production and living standard. This is imperative, because, in this community, a woman’s right to use land is pegged on marriage. If she is abandoned, divorced or becomes widowed, she may likely loose her right to the land that has been her source of survival. It is a patrilineal community with a gerontocratic style of rulership, which is seen as retrogressive with little room for change. A combination of methods was used in the study. They include survey method to generate quantitative data, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions for the qualitative data.