

# Making better farm tools and equipment for women farmers

**SARE PROJECT LNC21-458**

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## More women farmers and producers

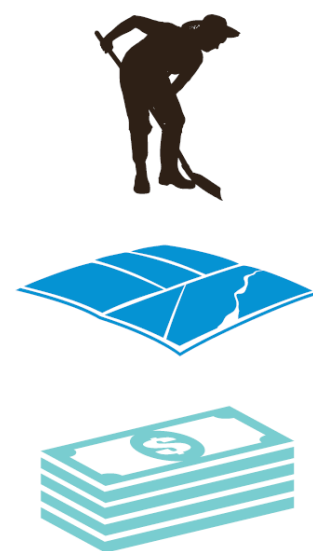
- US women principal farm operators increased from 13% (2012) to 30% (2017) (*from 2017 Ag Census*)



**1.2 million**  
female producers

**388 million**  
acres

**\$148 billion**  
agriculture sales



- MO has 59,000+ female farm producers in 2017, which is 31% more than that in 2002

## Need better farming tools and equipment

- Farm tools and equipment are **NOT** designed based on women farmers
  - ✓ Women have relatively smaller body size and less strength
  - ✓ Tools are heavy, long and unbalanced
  - ✓ Equipment is difficult to operate
  - ✓ Handles and grips are not appropriately sized or placed
  - ✓ Less modern technologies are used
- May cause more injuries, illness, and chronic conditions related to agriculture work



## Our goal and approaches

### Our goal

- Improve the safety and health of women farmers
- Provide knowledge and resources
- Deliver alternative and next-generation farm tools and equipment

### Our approaches

- Understand the issues through survey, field visit and assessment
- Conduct education and training activities
- Develop next-generation farm tools and equipment using modern technologies

### You can help us

- Participate our survey, focus group, field visit and educational programs
- Volunteer to participate the ergonomic assessment research
- Give your suggestions and comments



Learn More: <https://sites.google.com/umsystem.edu/women-farmer-safety>