Women’s empowerment is essential to achieving Feed the Future’s topline objectives of improving nutrition and reducing poverty through inclusive agricultural growth. Women are empowered when they define their own goals and have the necessary resources and power to act toward achieving them. The Feed the Future Gender Integration Framework is a USAID programmatic tool developed to understand the most critical constraints to women’s empowerment in the agricultural sector in a particular country or context and how programs can best address the constraints. The Framework has seven dimensions: (1) **Production**: awareness of different possibilities for and decision-making power over agricultural production; (2) **Resources**: access to and decision-making power over productive resources, including but not limited to land, credit, and equipment; (3) **Income**: control over the use of income and expenditures; (4) **Leadership**: social participation, including leadership in the community and ability to voice opinions in public; (5) **Time**: ability to choose a workload that allows adequate and satisfactory time for non-work activities; (6) **Human capital**: having adequate skill and knowledge to productively use resources, new technologies, and information to improve the household’s economic situation; and (7) **Technology**: access to beneficial technologies.

The full paper reviews the empirical literature on linkages between dimensions of women’s empowerment and greater household agricultural productivity, focusing on Production, Resources, Human Capital, and Technology which are the dimensions that are evidenced to most directly contribute to increased agricultural productivity. Figure 1 maps the broad relationships between the seven dimensions and agricultural productivity.

**Figure 1: Linkages between Domains of Women’s Empowerment and Agricultural Productivity**
Production
There is little empirical literature that directly links women’s decision-making power in agriculture with household agricultural productivity because the majority of studies either do not take into account that production decisions are often made by multiple household members, or do not account for the sex of the person(s) making the decisions. However, the literature has consistently found that productive resources generally are not efficiently allocated between women and men and that re-allocating inputs from male-managed plots to female-managed plots or increasing women’s decision-making power over agricultural assets would likely result in overall increased agricultural productivity for the household.

Resources
Many studies in agricultural economics that address gender and agricultural productivity find that, on average, men farmers are more productive than women farmers. However, much of this gender gap is explained by differences between women and men in access to resources such as land, social and human capital, inputs, and services. Most studies found that, controlling for differences in access to resources, women farmers were as productive as or more productive than men farmers. Estimates suggest that if women had similar access to land and other resources as men, they could achieve similar levels of agricultural productivity as men, which in turn would increase household agricultural productivity.

Technology
Women farmers’ lower use of technologies, such as fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and improved crop varieties, is responsible for much of the gender gap in agricultural productivity. Access to technology is also positively correlated with access to resources, such as land (Doss and Morris (2000)).

Human Capital
Although empirical associations between farmers’ education and productivity are mixed, farmers with more education appear to use technology more efficiently (Rahman 2010; Oladeebo and Fajuyigbe 2007). Beyond formal education, Doss and Morris (2000) found that differences in access to extension services resulted in gender differences in the adoption of beneficial technologies on maize plots in Ghana. Because information about farming practices and new technologies may not be fully shared within the household, it is important to ensure women’s equal access to agricultural extension services.

CONCLUSION
The literature suggests that empowering women by increasing their control over decisions in agriculture (Production dimension) and by increasing their access over the resources needed for agricultural production (Resources, Human capital, and Technology dimensions), has the potential to greatly increase household agricultural productivity. Although the literature does not directly, empirically link the Income, Leadership, and Time dimensions to increased agricultural productivity, they support the other dimensions, especially human capital, to contribute to agricultural productivity.

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