Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) 101 Workshop
WELCOME
INTRODUCTIONS

Please share:

• Your name

• Your organization, title and/or role
OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

• Articulate the WEAI measures including the 5 Domains of Empowerment

• Describe the methodology used in the WEAI and how it measures empowerment

• Demonstrate a foundational ability to interpret and explain your country’s WEAI results

• Plan for one possible action to take using the WEAI as part of your role and responsibilities
WORKSHOP AGENDA

Welcome 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

• Introductions
• Objectives and Agenda
• Overview of the WEAI
• Empowerment & Purpose of the WEAI
• WEAI Construction
  – 5 Domains of Empowerment
  – Gender Parity Index
• Practice
• Planning

Close 1:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.
WHAT IS EMPOWERMENT?

Similar to Kabeer (2001), we define empowerment as:

*The expansion of people’s ability to make strategic life choices within their households and their communities, particularly in contexts where this ability has been limited.*
WHAT IS EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE?

A person who:

• Has the resources and opportunity to engage in agricultural activities that are productive

• Has a role in deciding how to engage in agricultural management decisions

• Receives and controls the benefits and returns from their efforts in agriculture
WHY A WEAI?

• Empower both men and women in agriculture

• There are gender gaps in overall empowerment and in particular “domains” of empowerment (FAO, State of Food & Agriculture 2010/11)

“The gender gap is found for many assets, inputs and services – land, livestock, labor, education, extension and financial services, and technology … ”

• The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that if women had the same access to resources as men, they could increase their yields by 20 to 30%

• Women could raise total agriculture output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4%

• Project design processes may unknowingly focus on the constraints that men face in increasing agricultural productivity without an awareness of the different needs of women and men farmers
WHY A WEAI – GREATER INCLUSION

**FEED THE FUTURE RESULTS FRAMEWORK**

**FEED THE FUTURE GOAL**
Sustainably Reduce Global Poverty and Hunger

- Prevalence of poverty: People living under $1.25/day (by HH type)
- Prevalence of underweight and prevalence of stunting among children under five years of age (by sex)

**FIRST LEVEL OBJECTIVE**
Inclusive Agriculture Sector Growth

- Percent change in Agriculture Sector GDP
- Per capita expenditures in rural households (by HH)
- Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) Score

**FIRST LEVEL OBJECTIVE**
Improved Nutritional Status (women & children)

- Prevalence of stunted children (by sex)
- Prevalence of wasted children (by sex)
- Prevalence of underweight women
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY
WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX (WEAI)

- Measures women’s and men’s empowerment and inclusion in the agricultural sector
- Developed by USAID, IFPRI, OPHI
- Launched in early 2012
- It is a survey-based index, not based on aggregate statistics or secondary data
- Uses interviews of the women and men in the same household
- Index components designed to apply across countries and cultures
A LOOK AT BANGLADESH
As you review WEAI results for Bangladesh, look at the two bars and write down:

– What are the Top 3 factors that disempower women?
– What are the Top 3 factors that disempower men?
– What else strikes you about these findings?
HOW IS THE WEAI CONSTRUCTED?

WEAI IS MADE UP OF TWO SUB-INDICES

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX (WEAI)

- FIVE DOMAINS OF EMPOWERMENT (SDE)
  A direct measure of women’s empowerment in 5 domains

- All range from zero to one; higher values = greater empowerment

GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)

- Women’s achievements relative to the primary male in HH

90%  10%
5DE: INDICATORS BUILD INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT PROFILES

- Production 1/5
  - Input into productive decisions
  - Autonomy in production

- Resources 1/5
  - Ownership of assets
  - Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets
  - Access to and decisions on credit

- Income 1/5
  - Control over use of income

- Leadership 1/5
  - Group member
  - Speaking in public

- Time 1/5
  - Leisure
  - Workload
WHO IS EMPOWERED?

An individual who has achieved ‘adequacy’ in 80% or more of the weighted indicators.
WHO IS EMPOWERED?

A SDE score of 80 percent or more across all five domains indicates empowerment.

- **Jane**: Production 75%, Leadership 25%, Time 100%, Income 25%, Resources 33%
  - Overall SDE: 52%
- **Tom**: Production 80%, Leadership 100%, Time 20%, Income 90%, Resources 40%
  - Overall SDE: 66%
HOW IS THE WEAI CONSTRUCTED?

WEAI IS MADE UP OF TWO SUB-INDICES

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX (WEAI)

FIVE DOMAINS OF EMPOWERMENT (SDE)
A direct measure of women’s empowerment in 5 domains

GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)
Women’s achievements relative to the primary male in HH

All range from zero to one; higher values = greater empowerment

90%

10%
GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)

• The GPI makes up only 10% of the WEAI score

• Compares how equal 5DEs are between women & men in the same household

• GPI is between 0-1

• Higher GPI scores mean greater equality between the woman and man interviewed
5DEs WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD

HH1 0.3

HH2 0.2

HH3 0

HH4 0

HH5 1
LET’S RETURN TO BANGLADESH
HOW IS THE WEAI CONSTRUCTED?

WEAI IS MADE UP OF TWO SUB-INDICES

WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT INDEX IN AGRICULTURE (WEAI)

FIVE DOMAINS OF EMPOWERMENT (SDE)
A direct measure of women’s empowerment in 5 domains

All range from zero to one; higher values = greater empowerment

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GENDER PARITY INDEX (GPI)
Women’s achievements relative to the primary male in HH

10%
QUESTIONS?
BREAK

PLEASE RETURN IN 10 MINUTES
FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE WEAI

Please turn to your Participant Manual and review the instrument...
WEAI SURVEY EXERCISE…
WELCOME TO OUR FARM!

Jane and Tom are a couple.

Their household has a small garden by the house and a larger plot just outside the village.

They grow maize, pigeon peas and a few vegetables. For these crops, the family uses machetes and other hand tools.
MORE ABOUT OUR FARM

• Jane keeps some chickens and recently bought a goat with the money she earned from selling eggs. There are two other goats.

• Tom bought an ox that Jane takes care of and that their son takes out to the communal grazing area. There is no stall for the ox.

• Tom recently bought a plough so that he can rent ploughing services to his neighbors.
TABLE ASSIGNMENTS FOR VIEWING THE VIDEO

Table A: Agricultural land (pieces/plots)

Table B: Large livestock (oxen, cattle)

Table C: Small livestock (goats, pigs, sheep)

Table D: Poultry (chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBxqxfEwAcM&feature=youtu.be
AT YOUR TABLE…

• Briefly discuss your questionnaire answers for the assigned WEAI asset

• Come to agreement on your table’s responses

• Be prepared to have one spokesperson at each table give a **ONE-SENTENCE** summary of what your table concluded about your assigned asset
TABLE ASSIGNMENTS FOR VIEWING THE VIDEO

Table A: How much control did Jane have over what she owns?

Table B: If this interview were to happen in your country, do you think Tom would respond similarly? Why or why not?

Table C: What is owned jointly? What is owned by Jane? What is owned by Tom?

Tables D: How much control did Jane have over assets she said she owned or took care of? How much control did Tom have over assets Jane owned or took care of?
USING THE WEAI

• Monitoring: How are programs affecting women’s and men’s empowerment?
  o Global, regional, country, project-level

• Diagnostic tool: Identify aspects in which women & men are disempowered in order to guide programs and policies

• Analyses: Examine women’s empowerment across countries, links with other topics
VERSIONS OF THE WEAI

• Full WEAI

• Abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI)
  o Takes 30% less time to administer than the Full WEAI
  o Does not include autonomy in production, transacting on assets, public speaking, or leisure, and adjusts weighting to maintain each domain as equally weighted

• Project-level WEAI (Pro-WEAI) – under development
  o Will create “modules” for different types of agriculture and food security projects (e.g., nutrition, livestock)
GLOBAL WOMEN’S DISEMPOWERMENT SCORES (1-5DE)
MATERNAL BEHAVIOR

Minimum Acceptable Diet
Children 6-23 months receiving MAD

Exclusive breastfeeding
Children < 6 months exclusively breastfed

Source: H. Malapit, IFPRI
EDUCATION:
HIGHEST HOUSEHOLD ACHIEVEMENT

Source: H. Malapit, IFPRI
SUMMARY

Greatest constraints:

- Too little credit, too much work and not enough groups

Comparison with men:

- On average women are twice as disempowered as men
- Women are almost twice as disempowered as men in their ability to access and make decisions regarding credit, and over one and a half times as disempowered with respect to workload and group membership
- While the magnitude of women’s disempowerment is greater, men are also disempowered in these domains
SUMMARY CONTINUED

Geographic patterns:
• Specific constraints dominate certain regions

WEAI and poverty, health and nutrition outcomes:
• The WEAI is most strongly associated with household educational achievement, income and maternal behavior (prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding and children receiving a minimum acceptable diet)
USING THE WEAI IN YOUR OWN PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES

• Understand and track the domains relevant to your project/activity
  – Where are you starting from?
  – Is the project/activity moving that domain? That’s part of telling the project’s success story

• Break it down for use in parts
  – Assessments and impact evaluations have used WEAI survey questions for particular domains

• Modify it for your programs, topics of interest
### ORIGINAL 5 DOMAINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain/Dimension</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Production</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>4 Leadership</td>
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### 6 DOMAINS

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<td>Group membership, Speaking in public, Ownership of an identity card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Time</td>
<td>Workload, leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Health *</td>
<td>Autonomy in making appropriate decisions on reproductive health, Attitudes towards gender based violence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Chiara Kovarik, IFPRI
COUNTRY-SPECIFIC WEAI DATA
AT YOUR TABLE DISCUSS …

• What is one headline from the data?

• What is one way you can envision putting this data to use?
WHAT'S NEXT?

• Pro-WEAI
  – Partnership with Gates Foundation/GAAP2
  – Pilot testing 14 projects
  – Develop add-on modules

• Integrating WEAI into national surveys?

• WEAI data collected in the Feed the Future interim survey

• WEAI/GIF training with Feed the Future staff and partners

• Gender & M&E Guide (coming soon!)
WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU AND WEAI?


• Write at least one way you can imagine putting your country-specific WEAI data to use.
  - How would this change your programming?
WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU AND WEAI?

On a sticky note …

• Write **at least** one way you can imagine putting your country-specific WEAI data to use.
  o How would this change your programming?

• Post this on the flipchart entitled “WEAI Use” on your way out the door!
WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Your feedback is important and we welcome hearing how to make this workshop even better.

Please turn in your completed evaluation before leaving the workshop.
THANK YOU