

# Pathways to Secure Livelihoods Measuring Women Empowerment



**"I just need water"-  
Connecting the  
Dots between  
Women's  
Empowerment and  
Water**



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# Pathways Program Goal

The goal of Pathways is to increase poor women smallholder farmers' productivity and **empowerment** in more equitable agriculture systems at scale



# Program Objective & Outcomes

**Outcome 3:** Service providers & market institutions cater effectively to the needs of impact population

**Outcome 2:** Inclusive & effective collectives to positively influence groups' productive engagement in sustainable agriculture

**Outcome 4:** Positive and enabling attitude of men in households, service providers and market institutions

**Outcome 1:** Enhanced skills and capacities of SC & ST women farmers to engage productively in sustainable agriculture (and influence wellbeing of their households)

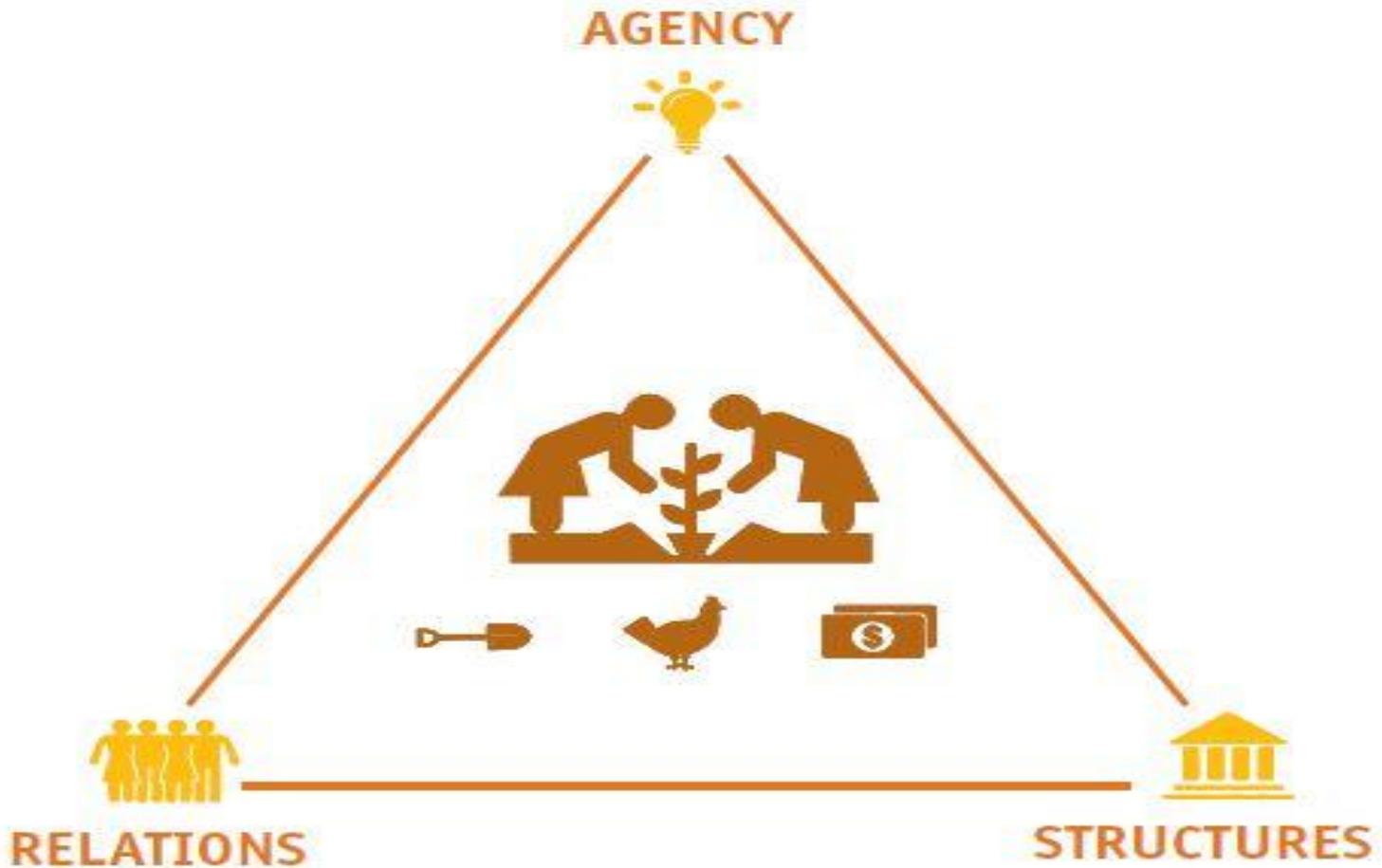


## Overall objective

More productive and equitable engagement of poor small and marginal women farmers from households belonging to Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes

## Pathways Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Framework

Greater Gender Equity • Productivity • Empowerment



# Women empowerment – what is measured



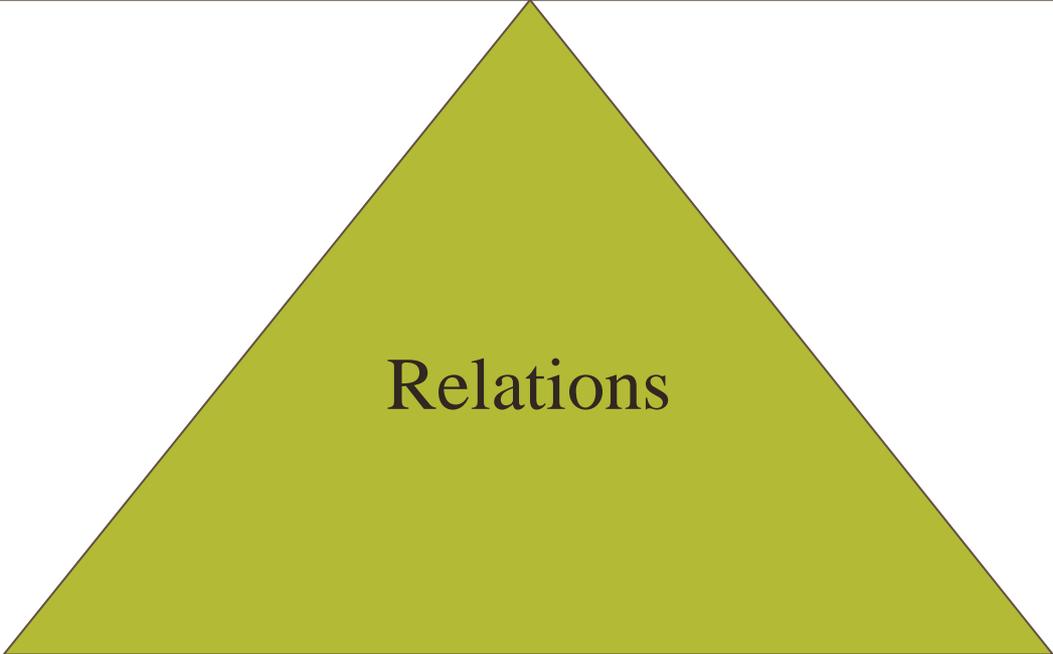
- Practical knowledge of law and self confidence to claim rights
- Positive image of women as farmers, workers, entrepreneurs
- Access to and use of information and skills to improve productivity and income
- Equitable division of labor / time
- Increased involvement on decision making at household level
- Equitable control over productive assets and use of income

Agency

# Women empowerment – what is measured



- Ability to organize, lead, and influence
- Ability to engage male members/groups as change and support agents
- Change in institutional and individual attitude & behavior towards women

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Relations

# Women empowerment – what is measured



- Existence of gender equitable land/property/and other natural resource laws
- Existence of legal support structure for female claimants
- Equitable access to market structure and investment for value creation
- Attention to gender equity by institutional system

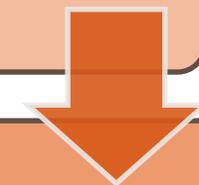
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Structure

# Women empowerment –how it is measured



**Use of women empowerment index by combining**



**Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (USAID, 2011)**



**Engendering Agricultural Research, Development and Extension (IFPRI, 2011)**



**CARE's Women Empowerment Framework**

# Women empowerment –how it is measured



## WEI includes Five Domains of Empowerment (5DE) index (comprising 13 indicators)

- **Production;**
- **Resources;**
- **Income;**
- **Leadership; &**
- **Autonomy**



## The Sample

- **52 villages in two districts of Orissa (Eastern state of India)**
- **Number of participants – 925 Schedule Caste & Schedule Tribe women smallholder farmers and their spouse**

## Methodology

- **Quantitative tool - 925 Households drawn randomly**
- **Qualitative enquiry**
  - **Focus Group Discussions with women and men separately in eight villages (Venn diagrams, daily activity, wealth ranking, social gender mobility map, and seasonal calendar tools)**
  - **Interview with key stakeholders**
  - **Participatory observation**

# Challenges



## 1. Women's internalization of social status as persons of lesser value

### Questions those came as surprise to women:

- Have you ever met with an agricultural extension worker?
- Who makes decision to take out loan?
- Who makes decision about what to do with the money?
- Who normally makes decision on
  - crops that are grown;
  - major household expenditures



# Challenges



## 2. Taken-for-granted rules & norms that are gendered - for example:

- Work load sharing that are skewed towards women
- Women having no or very less (an hour) “personal time” - in spite of this, 90% women were satisfied with the leisure time they get



## **3. Attitudes informed by gendered notion**

- **More than 72% women agreed to the statement:  
**‘Women must tolerate violence in order to  
maintain stability in the family’****

**4. Resource/assets dimension of empowerment –though appears to be the easiest to measure is actually complex:**

**When women report ‘joint ownership of house’ - does not mean they really own it or have title**

**‘Joint ownership’ of house has *negative* correlation with decision-making input by women - may have a bearing with the finding related to “Women must tolerate violence ...”**

# Challenges



**5. Explaining empowerment – the problem of meaning  
How to define ‘empowerment’? - Is it just the resources?**

**Women were asked to articulate what is necessary for their empowerment - on top of the list was water**

**“We should have clean water”**

**“Availability of water will help me have control of my life”**

**“I need water, transportation, and a bit of education. Without water how can we grow crops, what shall we eat?”**

**“Most of my time goes for fetching water ...”**

**Overall – this was a confusing concept for most**

- **What is the real issue?**

**Non-availability of water or infrastructure or the workload imbalance (informed by gender stereotypes) in households**

- **How to explain this imbalance which is considered as ‘natural’ (‘that’s the way it is’) by the impact population?**

**Program interventions:**

- **Reflect Circle**
- **Use of gender tools for discussion and reflection**
- **Engaging with men and boys**

## Objectives:

- **To trigger thought process to reflect on why things are happening the way it is**
- **Provide a platform to discuss issues around gender and power relationships**
- **To initiate discussion around gender stereotypes (workload, decision making, access to resources)**

- **Annual Cohort Study (ACS)**
- **Participatory Performance Tracker (PPT)**

**Both ACS & PPT include aspects of:**

- **Workload sharing / gender division of labor**
- **Participation in decision making (HH & community)**
- **Control over resources/assets**
- **Access to services (extension)**
- **Own aspirations**

## **PPT indicators include:**

- My spouse and other men in HH support with household work and child care
- Discussed with my spouse which crops to grow
- My spouse and I discuss how to spend the HH income



*Thank you*