

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

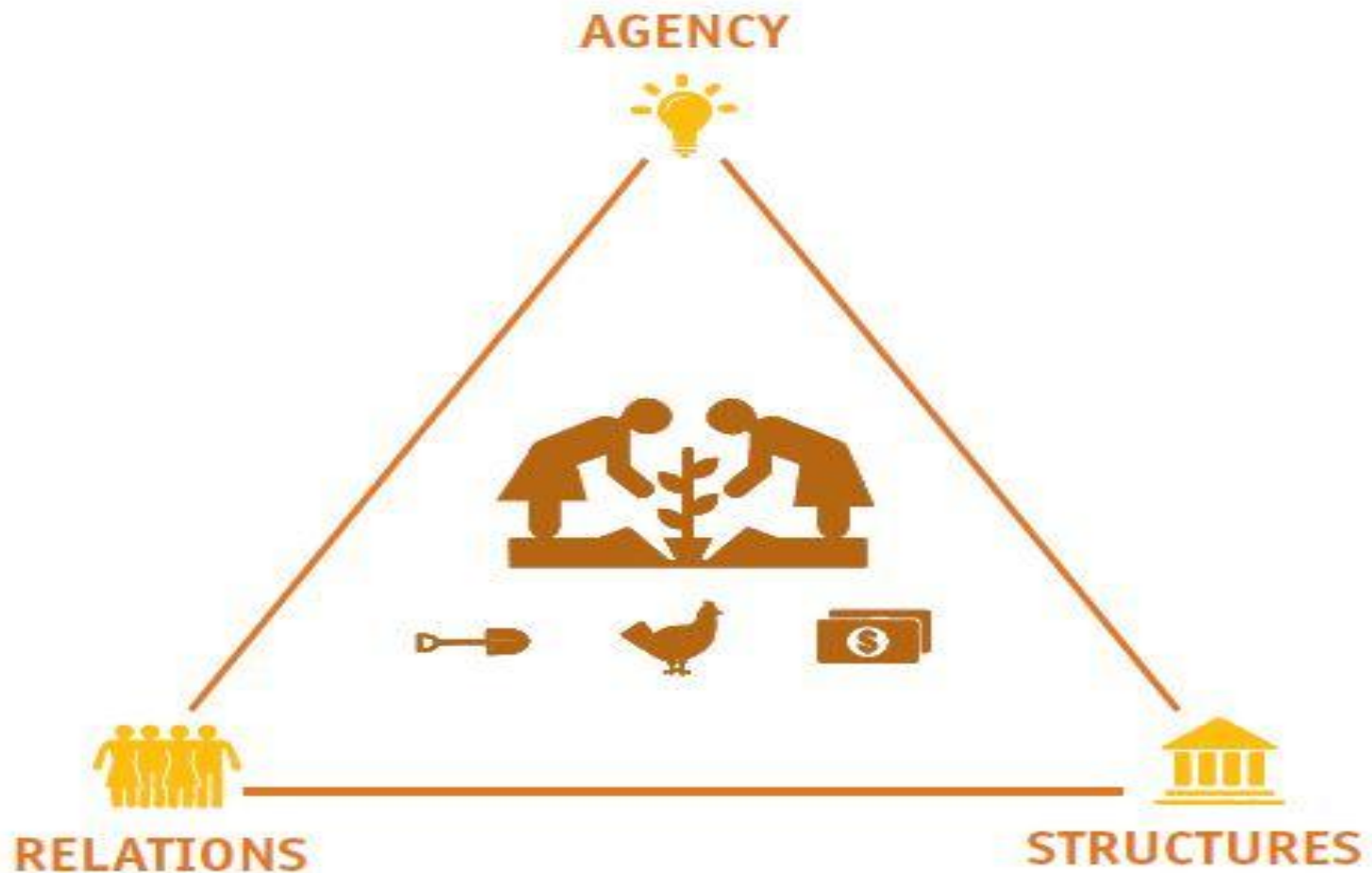
Outcome 1: Enhanced skills and capacities of SC & ST women farmers to engage productively in sustainable agriculture (and influence wellbeing of their households)

Overall objective

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

Paththways 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

A large green triangle is positioned below the list, with the word 'Agency' centered inside it.

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

A large, solid green triangle is positioned at the bottom of the slide, pointing upwards. It is centered horizontally and serves as a visual anchor for the content above it.

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

A large green triangle pointing upwards, with the word 'Structure' centered inside it.

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