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The Importance of Gender in Linking Agriculture to Sustained Nutritional Outcomes

March 20, 2013

Agriculture and Nutrition Global Learning and Evidence Exchange (AgN-GLEE)
Bangkok, Thailand
Hazel Malapit and Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted
Overview of presentation

- Review **why gender is important** in leveraging agriculture for nutrition and articulate **pathways** through which gender modifies the relationship between agriculture and nutrition.

- Presentation of a WorldFish case study in Bangladesh where gender has been **successfully** leveraged within agriculture programs for nutrition impact.

- Assessment and evaluation tools available to measure gender inputs and impacts in agriculture and nutrition linkage projects.
Agriculture is highly “gendered” in developing economies (SOFA 2011):

- Women make up a large percentage of the agricultural labor force in developing countries (on average 43%, 50% in Africa);

- Women are disadvantaged in productive asset ownership (including land and livestock), control of productive inputs (including access to credit, insurance, technology etc.);

- Gender differences in base education levels, access to services (extension), natural resource knowledge;

- Female farmers produce less than men not because they are less efficient/able farmers, but because they lack equal access to resources.
By closing the gender-resource gap:

- **Productivity boost:**
  - Women could increase productivity on their farms by 20-30%.
  - This would raise total output at national level by 2.5-4%.

- **Productivity gains of this magnitude have potential to:**
  - Reduce in the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17%.
  - Lift 100-150 million people out of hunger.

- **Multiplier effects on broader economic and social realms:**
  - Women, relative to men, spend more on food for the family.
  - Women’s incomes are more strongly associated with child health and nutrition.

Reviewing the “7 key pathways”

- Pathway 1: Own production → food consumption
- Pathway 2: Income → food purchase
- Pathway 3: Income → healthcare purchase
- Pathway 4: Food prices → food purchase
- Pathway 5: Women’s time use → care capacity
- Pathway 6: Women’s workload → maternal energy use
- Pathway 7: Women’s control of income → resource allocation
Of seven key pathways, three are specifically women-focused, but **ALL** are gendered;

Gender has been identified as the “key element” in the linkage between agriculture and nutrition;

*You cannot successfully and effectively link agriculture and nutrition without accounting for gender issues.*
Part II: Case Study

Aquaculture - Nutrition Linkages in FtF Aqua, Bangladesh: A Case Study

Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted
Senior Nutrition Adviser
What is “gender assessment?”

Including information on women AND men [girls AND boys] and their relationship to each other in:

- Scoping and formative studies
- Monitoring data
- Cross sectional assessments
- Longitudinal impact evaluations
- Qualitative studies
- Reporting
Some generalizations

- Inputs and outcomes must be measured at the individual level;

- Entails significant costs: Monetary, time and logistical costs (e.g. may need to employ female enumerators, women may be less likely to be at home if they need to be interviewed);

- Complex – there are no set of “one size fits all” gender indicators, as relationships are often determined by cultural norms, and important to measure both objective and subjective indicators;

- No set of standardized indicators or methods for gender-agriculture-nutrition assessment, however some progress has been made!
Documenting gender program effects is key to understanding how, why and what impact programs have:

- **Gender in Nutrition Research**: Well established, standardized measurements, most nutrition outcomes focus on individual indicators already.

- **Gender in Agriculture Research**: Less well established, still focus on men, at the household level or very basic indicators such as “counting bodies” – however lots of progress (ongoing) and in the last 5 years.
• **Household Hunger Scale:**

• **Women’s Dietary Diversity:**
  The applicable disaggregated food groups in Module L of the FTF PBS should be aggregated into the nine food groups specified in Volume 8 of the M&E Guidance Series and the number of food groups consumed summed.

• **Exclusive Breastfeeding and Minimum Acceptable Diet:**

• **Underweight, Stunted, Wasted Children:**
  See B. Cogill, 2003 *Anthropometric Indicators Measurement Guide*. Be sure to use the WHO *Child Growth Standards*.

• **Underweight Women:**
  Underweight in non-pregnant women of reproductive age (15-49 years) is defined by a body mass index (BMI) < 18.5. BMI is calculated as weight (in kg) ÷ height (in meters).

• **Anemia:**
  See: ICF/Macro. 2011 *DHS6 Biomarker Manual* and *Infant Feeding and Children's and Women's Nutritional Status*. 
World Bank and country partners with funding from BMGF developed Living Standards Measurement Survey Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA).

Build on nationally representative panels, large-scale, in 8 countries: Ethiopia, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda.

Use Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and pilot innovative ways of collecting indicators.

Household, Agriculture, Community level surveys.

Multiple visits per year, ability to link to SES and other economic indicators.

Information, sourcebooks and data publicly available through the WB website: http://www.worldbank.org/lsms-isa
Most comprehensive, comparable statistics on gender-differences in agricultural inputs, productivity, farm related labor:

- Basic crop production;
- Productivity of main crops;
- Land holdings;
- Farming practices;
- Input use and technology adoption;
- Access to and use of services, infrastructure and natural resources;
- Livestock;
- Fishery.

Harvesting in Nigeria, Credit: Yosef Hadar
How is gender-disaggregation captured?

- Plot level using IDs
- Labor inputs, decision making, land, crop ownership etc.
EX 2: The Gender and Agricultural Assets Project (GAAP)

- Joint initiative between the IFPRI and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and 9 implementing partners funded by the BMGF.

- Evaluate the impact of agricultural development activities on women’s and men’s access to and control over key assets using quantitative and qualitative approaches.

- Clarify which strategies have been successful in reducing gender gaps in asset access and ownership.

- Develop and share methods of collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated asset information to put gender considerations at the center of assessment efforts.
Women’s land titling evaluation in Orissa and WB India, Landesa

- Focus group discussions
- Asset ownership, food security, bargaining power games
- Life histories

Not all assessments are quantitative!
The toolkit seeks to answer “the why, what and how to collect, measure, and analyze gender and assets data in qualitative and quantitative evaluations.”

Includes an appendix of “Cases” on the use of gender-disaggregated assets modules being developed:

- World Bank: rural land certification in Ethiopia;
- FAO’s Agri-Gender Statistic Toolkit;
- USAID Handbook for Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains, Greater Access to Trade Expansion (GATE) Project;
- Gender Assessment: Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) ;
- SIDA: Gender Aware Approaches in Agricultural Programmes
- ‘In Her Name’ project: Measuring the gender asset gap in Ecuador, Ghana and India.
Piloting and developing the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

• Partnership between IFPRI, the Oxford Poverty and Hunger Initiative (OPHI) and USAID.

• Design, develop, and test an index to measure the greater inclusion of women in agricultural sector growth that has occurred as a result of US Government intervention under the FTF Initiative.

• “Greater inclusion” is defined as “the empowerment of women in their roles and engagement throughout the various areas of the agriculture sector, as it grows, in both quantity and quality.”
An aggregate index in two parts:

- **Five domains of empowerment (5DE)**: assesses whether women are empowered in the 5 domains of empowerment in agriculture
- **Gender Parity Index (GPI)**: reflects the percentage of women who are as empowered as the men in their households

It is a **survey-based** index, constructed using interviews of the primary male and primary female adults in the same household, piloted in Bangladesh, Guatemala and Uganda.
An individual is considered to be ‘empowered’ if he/she achieves adequacy in 80% of the weighted indicators.

**Ten Indicators**
- Input in productive decisions 1/10
- Autonomy in production 1/10
- Ownership of assets 1/15
- Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets 1/15
- Access to and decisions on credit 1/15
- Control over use of income 1/5
- Group Member 1/10
- Speaking in Public 1/10
- Leisure 1/10
- Workload 1/10
Empowerment Score
= 64%

She has not achieved parity with her husband

On average, disempowered women in the Bangladesh pilot have empowerment scores of 58.9%
Seema is disempowered

- Input in productive decisions
- Autonomy in production
- Ownership of assets
- Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets
- Access to and decisions on credit

- Control over use of income

- Group Member
- Speaking in Public
- Leisure
- Workload
Results: **39%** women empowered, **59.8%** have gender parity
Disempowered women have adequate achievements in **58.4%** of domains

Bangladesh: How to increase empowerment?
The WEAI can be used to:

- Track changes over time in:
  - Percentage of empowered men/women
  - Absolute empowerment score among the disempowered

- Show how to increase women’s empowerment

- Monitor progress toward gender equality

- Correlate empowerment and gender equality with other measures including:
  - Household consumption, food security, welfare
  - Nutrition indicators
  - Socio-economic status including education
Pre-assessment, chart pathways and how gender interacts with intervention components;

Who is being interviewed – who is doing the interviewing [Yes, it matters!]?

How is a household defined?

Measure both input, output and process indicators at an individual level, as well as household level;

Start with examples and commonly used indicators and modify based on cultural context.

When in doubt, ask! Incorporate qualitative components to inform the “why” and “how.”
Tools for gender assessments in relation to the WEAI

WEAI Instructional Guide:

- Annex 4: FTF Gender Integration Framework
- Annex 5: The Gender Checklist by WEAI domain


Thank you!

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