

SDC 2018 Annual Meeting Abstracts

Malapit, Hazel; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

h.malapit@cgiar.org

Authors: Hazel Malapit, IFPRI

Jessica Heckert, IFPRI

Elena Martinez, IFPRI

Ruth Meinzen-Dick, IFPRI

Agnes Quisumbing, IFPRI

Deborah Rubin, Cultural Practice

Greg Seymour, IFPRI

Ana Vaz, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

Kathryn M. Yount, Emory University

GAAP2 working group, n/a



Title: Pro-WEAI: The Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

Introduction: Increasing evidence confirms that women's empowerment is important for women, and for food and nutrition security. Despite growing commitment to women's empowerment among agricultural development agencies and project implementers, guidelines for measuring women's empowerment within agricultural development projects are lacking. Without appropriate metrics, it is impossible to assess whether these projects are achieving their goals.

Methods: The Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, Phase 2 (GAAP2) project is working with 13 agricultural development projects in Africa and South Asia to develop the project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. Adapted from the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), pro-WEAI is a multidimensional index, derived from quantitative interviews of the male and female respondents in each household and informed by qualitative work in project communities. Pro-WEAI comprises 12 indicators mapped to 3 domains: intrinsic agency (power within), instrumental agency (power to), and collective agency (power with). Like the WEAI, pro-WEAI uses the Alkire-Foster methodology, applying cutoffs for adequacy for each indicator and the index as a whole. A gender parity index compares the scores of men and women in the same household. We developed and tested the pro-WEAI using baseline data collected in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Nepal, and Tanzania.

Findings: Across the 3 domains of empowerment, women's empowerment scores are much lower than men's, and roughly half as many women as men are classified as empowered. Only one-third of households achieve gender parity in empowerment. Group membership, membership in influential groups, and freedom of movement are the areas of greatest disempowerment for women; for men, these areas are group membership, membership in influential groups, work-balance, and self-efficacy. The large contribution of group-membership indicators to disempowerment corroborates prior multicountry WEAI results. Compared to other WEAI versions, pro-WEAI identifies more women as disempowered. It also includes indicators that projects find more relevant to monitor success—intrahousehold harmony, attitudes about partner violence, and freedom of movement.

Conclusion: This effort illustrates that a women's empowerment measure can be developed, combining theory and project-based data, that enables projects to track progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 5, to empower women and girls and achieve gender equality.