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## Presentation outline

- Conceptual framework: Women's empowerment
- The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
- Tool relevance
- Methodology to adapt and translate instruments
- Adaptation and translation process
- Research in Timor-Leste





## Conceptual framework Women's empowerment

### Academic views

- As a process (Battiwala, 1994; Kabeer, 1999; Mosedale, 2005; Lee-Rife 2010)
- As a goal (Tengland, 2008)

### Definitions of empowerment (Ibrahim and Alkire, 2007)

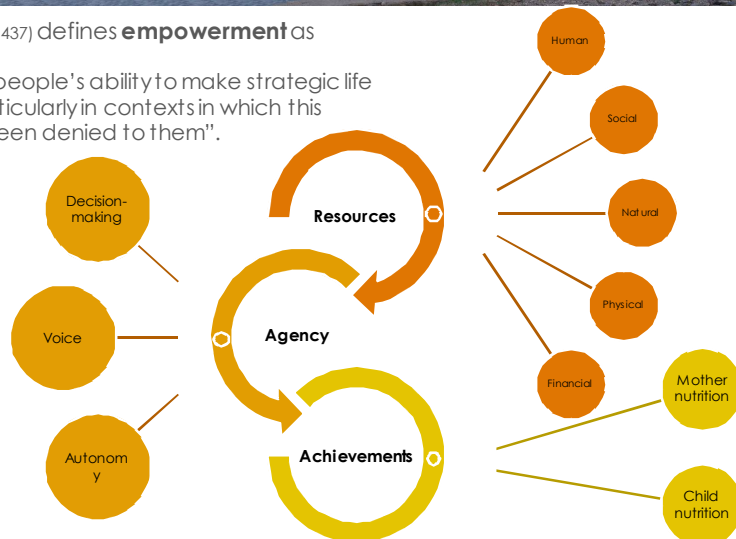
- Kabeer (1999)
  - Focus: the degree to which they **transform underlying gender inequalities**
- Narayan (2002)
  - Focus: **individual choice can limit the definition of empowerment**, especially in cultural contexts wherein community and mutuality are valued
- Alsop et al. (2006)
  - Focus: **ability to make choices and the capacity to act** upon these decisions



## Conceptual framework Women's empowerment

Kabeer (1999:437) defines **empowerment** as

"expanding people's ability to make strategic life choices, particularly in contexts in which this ability had been denied to them".



Source: Adapted from Kabeer, 1999



## Conceptual framework Women's empowerment

### Key elements

- Context specific and multi-dimensional
- Focuses on shifting power structures
- Relational concept

### How can it be measured?

- Proxy indicators - education, income, autonomy...
- Sectoral approaches - economic (WEE), and the WEAI

## The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

### Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

- Survey-based index
- Measures the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agricultural sector
- Creates a figure that can be compared across locations
- M&E, diagnostic and research tool

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)  
Oxford Poverty and Human development Initiative (OPHI)



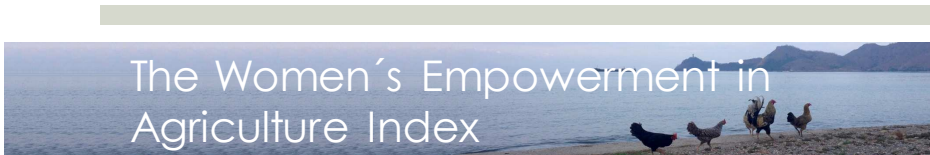


**Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)**

- Two sub-indexes:
  - Five domains of empowerment (5DE)
  - Gender Parity Index (GPI)

$$WEAI = (0.90 \times 5DE) + 0.10 GPI$$

- Aggregated WEAI index shows the degree
  - to which women are empowered in their households and communities
  - of inequality between women and men within the household



**Five domains of empowerment (5DE)**

**FIGURE I. THE FIVE DOMAINS OF EMPOWERMENT IN THE WEAI**

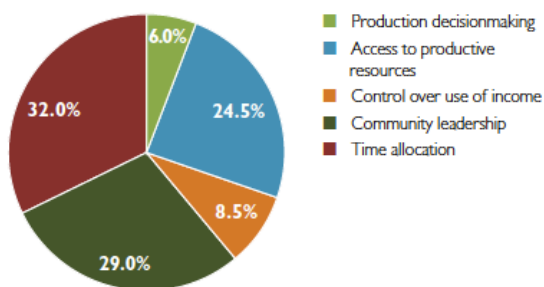
Domain	Indicators	Weight
Production	Input in productive decisions	1/10
	Autonomy in production	1/10
Resources	Ownership of assets	1/15
	Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets	1/15
	Access to and decisions on credit	1/15
Income	Control over use of income	1/5
Leadership	Group member	1/10
	Speaking in public	1/10
Time	Workload	1/10
	Leisure	1/10

Source: IFPRI, 2012

# The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

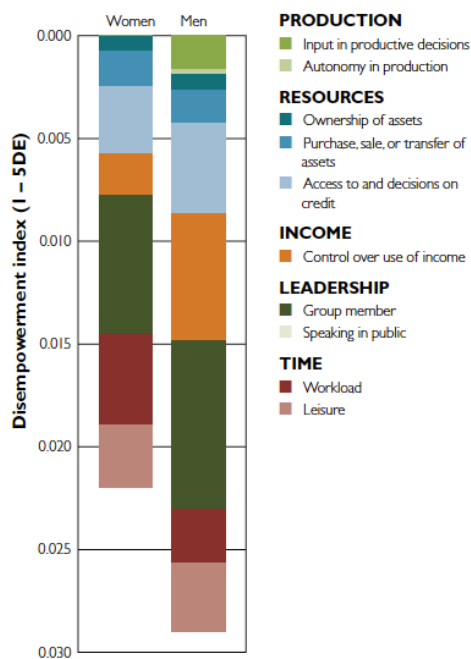
## Five domains of empowerment (5DE) in Cambodia

**FIGURE 2. CONTRIBUTION OF EACH OF FIVE DOMAINS TO THE DISEMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**



Source: IFPRI, 2012

**FIGURE 1. CONTRIBUTION OF EACH INDICATOR TO DISEMPOWERMENT**



## Gender Parity Index (GPI) In Cambodia

Gender parity importance, Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Evidence showing that *equalizing access to assets and opportunities for men and women* helps achieve better development outcomes.



Source: IFPRI, 2014

# The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

**A-WEAI: 5 domains, 6 indicators**

DOMAIN	INDICATORS	WEIGHT
1	Production Input in productive decisions	1/5
2	Ownership of assets	2/15
	Access to and decisions on credit	1/15
3	Income Control over use of income	1/5
4	Leadership Group membership	1/5
5	Time Workload	1/5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

 INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
 OPHI www.ophi.org.uk

Source: Malapit, 2015

- ▣ Abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI)
- ▣ Streamline tool
- ▣ Reduced 30% time
- ▣ Now 25-30 min / respondent
- ▣ Cognitively tested
- ▣ Individual and HH level data



# Tool relevance

In most low- and middle-income countries

- ▣ **Agriculture**
  - ▣ A major source of **livelihoods** of the rural poor (FAO, 2015)



Photo: Author

- ▣ **Rural** areas concentrate extreme **poverty** in a disproportionate manner (WB, 2015)
  - ▣ Exemplified through higher child **malnutrition** (FAO, 2015)

These are interrelated, often reflecting the **gendered nature** of social and economic relations



## Tool relevance



- **Gender relations** require consideration, since:
  - Women supply 43% of all agricultural labour in developing nations (FAO, 2011)
  - Productive decisions are mediated by gender roles
  - Women's greater control of resources is associated with improved child outcomes (Quisumbing, 2003)



## Tool relevance



Nutrition, Gender and Agriculture are important issues in Timor-Leste



## Methodology to adapt and translate instruments

Method: **forward-translations and back-translations**  
(WHO, 2016)

- Achieve conceptually equivalent instruments in different countries/cultures
- Cross-cultural and conceptual > literal equivalence
- Steps:
  1. Forward translation
  2. Expert panel
  3. Back-translation
  4. Pre-testing and cognitive interviewing
  5. Final version

## Adaptation and translation process of the A-WEAI in TL

### ■ Questionnaire adaptation

- Make categories relevant to Timor-Leste

Ex. Adapting animals and crops

- |                                       |   |                          |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| ■ KARAU                               | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ KARAU-VAKA, KARAU-TIMOR             | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ BIBI, BIBI MALAE                    | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ MANU, MANU RADE                     | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ FAHI                                | 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ KUDA                                | 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ ANIMÁL SIRA KI'IK, ez. KOELHU, ASSU | 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ■ IKAN                                | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- No women's empowerment mention!





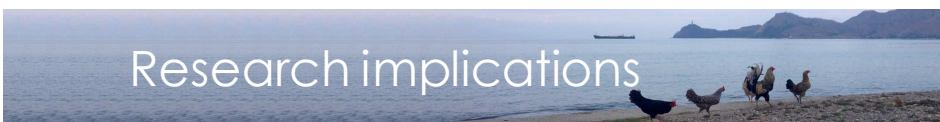


## Adaptation and translation process of the A-WEAI in TL

### Forward-translations and back-translations method (WHO, 2016)

1. Forward translation
  - ▣ Professional translation and revision by Timorese gender expert
2. Expert panel
  - ▣ Technical Advisory Group review
3. Back-translation
  - ▣ Independent translator
4. Pre-testing and cognitive interviewing
  - ▣ Target: subsistence farming households (n=10)  
also women in agriculture cooperative
5. Final version
  - ▣ TAG changes approval

**USAID's Avansa Agrikultura Project:**



## Research implications

- ▣ Women's empowerment
  - ▣ is one of the conceptualised pathways from agriculture programmes to nutrition outcomes (Herforth and Harris, 2013)
  - ▣ is associated with child and maternal nutrition (Van den Bold et al., 2013)

**Is the empowerment of women in agriculture positively associated with child dietary diversity?**

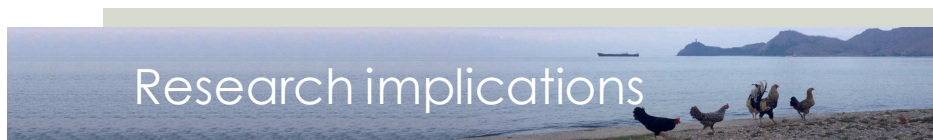
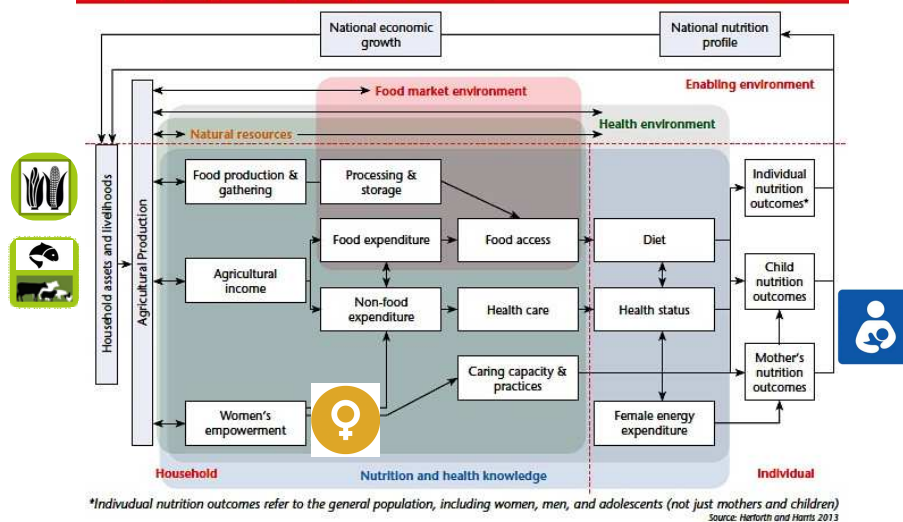
the A-WEAI can help explore this gap





# Research implications

Conceptual pathways between agriculture, nutrition and health



# Research implications

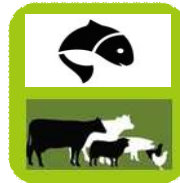
- **Agricultural interventions** have the potential to improve both production and consumption of nutritious foods (IFPRI, 2012)
- The pathways by which these programmes can improve nutritional outcomes have been widely discussed (Kadyiala et al., 2014; Herforth, 2013; Gillespie, 2012; Hoddinott, 2011; WB, 2007)
- Yet, all converge in that

**Women** "are key mediators in the pathways between agriculture inputs, intra-household resource allocation, and child nutrition" (Ruel and Alderman, 2013:538-9)





Photo: Author



Obrigada barak!

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## The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

TABLE I. WEAI SCORE

	Indicator	Baseline value	
Total number of women interviewed	<b>SDE score</b>	<b>0.90</b>	The SDE sub-index assesses the extent of women's empowerment in the five domains. A higher number reflects greater empowerment.
	Disempowerment score (1 – 5DE)	0.10	
The average disempowerment score among women who are not yet empowered. A higher number reflects greater disempowerment	<i>N</i> (number of observations)	1,481	Percentage of women with SDE scores of 80% or more
	% of women achieving empowerment	70.21	
	% of women not achieving empowerment	29.79	Percentage of women with SDE scores of less than 80%
	Mean SDE score for not yet empowered women	0.67	
The number of households with both a primary male and primary female decisionmaker	Mean disempowerment score (1 – 5DE) for not yet empowered women	0.33	The GPI sub-index measures the inequality in SDE scores between the primary adult male decisionmakers and primary adult female decisionmakers in the households. A higher number reflects greater gender parity.
	<b>GPI score</b>	<b>0.96</b>	
Percentage of women who have SDE scores equal to or higher than those of the primary adult males in their households	<i>N</i> (number of dual-adult households)	878	Percentage of women who have SDE scores lower than those of the men in their households
	% of women achieving gender parity	73.46	
	% of women not achieving gender parity	26.54	For women lacking parity, the average percentage shortfall they experience relative to the males in their household
	Average empowerment gap	0.15	
	<b>WEAI score</b>	<b>0.91</b>	

Source: IFPRI, 2014

The WEAI score is composed of 90% SDE and 10% GPI.



## The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

### Limitations of the WEAI

- While the WEAI provides a rigorous measure of empowerment relevant to agriculture, it is subject to some limitations:
- WEAI results may not be representative of the empowerment of all adult women in a country, because respondents in the WEAI survey are primary decision-makers and may be more empowered than other women in their households.
- Women who are not involved in agricultural decisions may appear disempowered even if they are engaged in decision-making on nonagricultural activities.
- Women in households that do not have a male decision-maker are likely to be identified as empowered because of the WEAI's focus on decision-making questions.
- Other domains of empowerment not captured in the WEAI, which focuses solely on agriculture, may be more relevant to specific desired outcomes, such as nutritional status.

Source: IFPRI, 2014



## Project partners

### Community-Driven Nutrition Improvement Project (CDNIP)

Nutrition education

Support production of



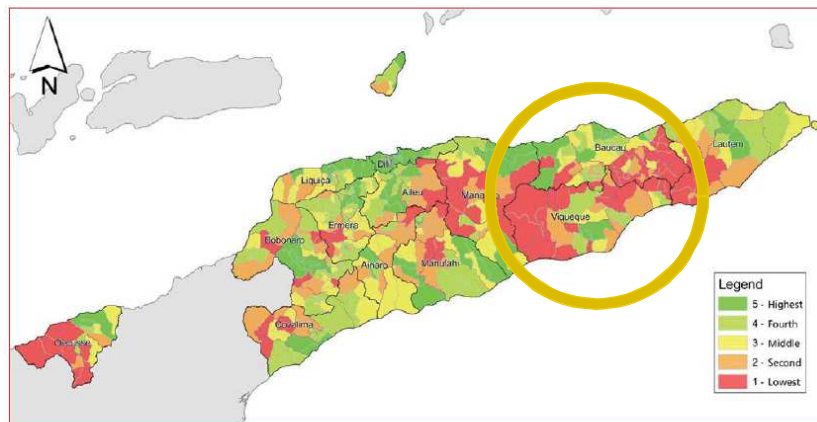
Photo: UCAnews



## Project partners

### Community-Driven Nutrition Improvement Project (CDNIP)

Map 1: Living Standards by Suco



Source: Map prepared by the National Statistics Directorate, using ADB estimates of living standards based on the suco data of the 2010 Timor-Leste population and housing census (National Statistics Directorate 2011).

Source: ADB, 2012