

A woman with dark hair tied back with a red hair tie, wearing a brown lace top, is smiling and looking to her right. She is standing in a lush green field with trees and mountains in the background. An orange semi-transparent banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

Enhancing opportunities for rural women's employment and poverty reduction

09 May 2017, Expert Group Meeting on Strategies for Eradicating Poverty

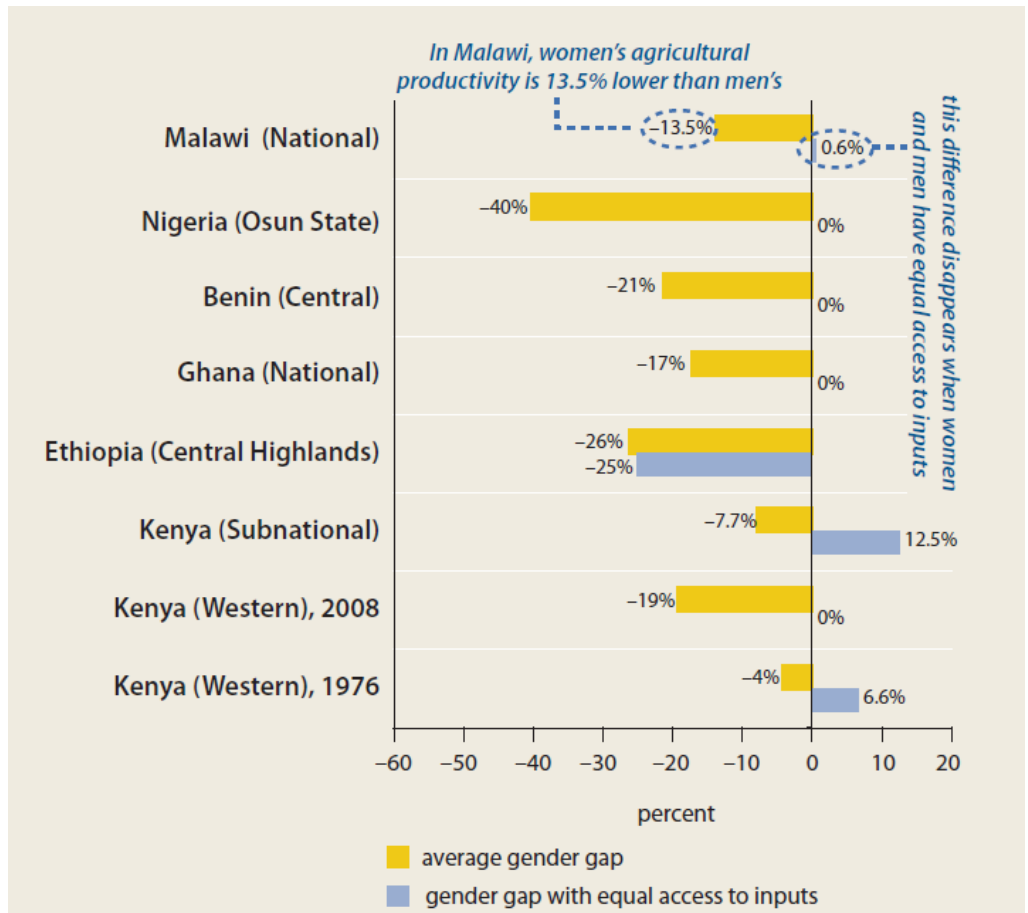
WHY?

- In many developing economies, women are concentrated in time- and labour-intensive agricultural activities
- Yet their potential as farmers, labourers and entrepreneurs is limited due to structural gender inequalities:
 - 1. Limited access to resources:** between 10% and 20% of land holders are women
 - 2. No opportunities for education and skills development:** in rural areas, women have less than half the years of education than men
 - 3. Limited or no access to financial services:** 70% women-owned small business have no access to credit
 - 4. Exclusion from decision-making**



WHY?

However, the gender productivity gap for female and male farmers disappear altogether when access to productive inputs is taken into account



Source: The World Bank - *World Development Report 2012*




Advantages of closing the gender gap in agriculture


- Agricultural output increased by **2.5 – 4%**
- Number of undernourished people decreased by **12-17%**
- Broader **economic benefits** by strengthening women's direct access to, and control over, resources and incomes
- **More demand for labour**



Three takeaways

1  The gender gap in agricultural productivity is large.

2  Reducing it may reduce poverty and improve nutrition.

3  Reduce the gap by focusing on most costly constraints.

Source: UNWOMEN, UNDP, UNEP and the WB Group, *The Cost of the Gender Gap in agricultural Productivity*



An integrated response

- In order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, **comprehensive efforts should be made to promote rural women's work** conditions by removing the structural barriers to women's economic empowerment at all levels
- Increasing evidence that **an integrated approach to women's empowerment** in development projects has multiplying effects, making the contribution to overall poverty reduction more sustainable
- The Joint Programme on RWEE was developed by FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women in order to **respond to the multiple challenges** most women face in rural areas in an integrated way



WHERE?

7 Countries selected based on:

- Substantial rural gender inequalities
- Demand from the country and political will
- Strong presence of the 4 Participating Agencies



Country	Lead Agency
Ethiopia	IFAD + UN Women
Guatemala	WFP
Kyrgyzstan	UN Women
Liberia	UN Women
Nepal	UN Women
Niger	FAO
Rwanda	WFP

RWEE THEORY OF CHANGE

Rural women's livelihoods and rights secured in the context of sustainable development

Capacity development, training

Advocacy, awareness raising

Knowledge sharing, networking, communication

Policy assistance based on policy intelligence

Improved food and nutrition security

Greater capacity to enhance and control local food security reserves through: Foodbanks, consumer cooperatives, nutrition awareness, and promotion and improvement of food processing

Increased access to resources, assets and services critical for their food and nutrition security, and reduction of work burden

Increased income opportunities

Enhanced entrepreneurship skills and value chains to access markets from their products through WFP school feeding programmes and P4P; and other income generating opportunities

Increased access to decent wage employment opportunities, including through provision of paid ecological services

Enhanced leadership and participation

Enhanced confidence and leadership skills to participate in local governance

Greater organizational capacities to form and sustain credible POs, cooperatives and unions

Increased capacity to engage in and influence relevant policy forums at national and regional levels

More gender responsive policy environments

Enhanced capacities of policy makers and parliamentarians to effectively mainstream gender into land, food, agriculture, nutrition and rural employment policies, laws and budgets

Greater availability of all tools and data to track progress in the economic empowerment of rural women

An enabling environment is promoted to reflect rural women's priorities in regional policy processes

WHAT?

STRATEGIES

Accountability framework: status, rights, resources, agency

Capacity development: enhancing individual collective/institutional and system capacity

Combination of quick wins and medium/long term results

Tailor made approach for programme design and implementation in each country

Positioning the joint programme in UN interagency coordination processes



Using innovative tools to measure empowerment

- RWEE uses the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) for policy and programming:

KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO WOMEN'S DISEMPOWERMENT		ETHIOPIA	GUATEMALA	KYRGYZSTAN	NIGER
PRODUCTION	Input in productive decisions		3		
	Autonomy in agricultural production	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RESOURCES	Ownerships of assets	2	1	2	2
	Purchase, sale, or transfer of assets				
	Access to and decisions on credit				
INCOME	Control over use of income				
LEADERSHIP	Group membership	3	2	1	1
	Speaking in public	n/a			
TIME	Workload	1		3	3
	Leisure	n/a			n/a



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

WHAT?



- **36,500 women & men and 192,000 household members** directly reached since programme inception
- JP RWEE works to:
 - strengthen the capacities of rural women's to demand accountability for full access to resources and services
 - enhance ability of government institutions to respond to rural women's needs
- Substantial contribution to SDGs, particularly **SDG 1, 2, 5 & 17**

Helping countries design gender-sensitive policies

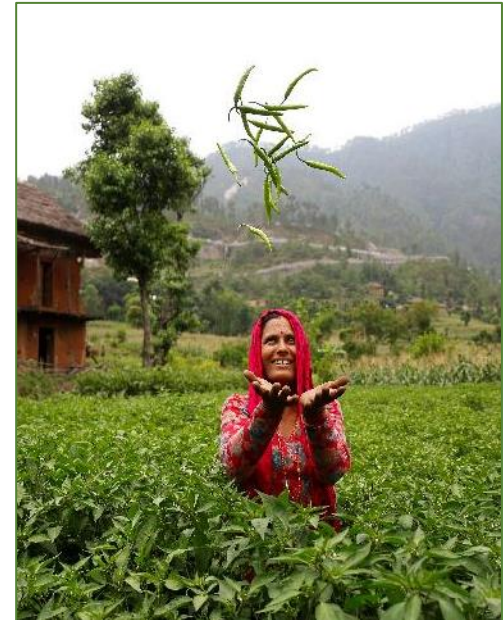
The JP RWEE is working with governments to design policies and strategies that respond to the priorities of rural women:

- Key support for the development and implementation of the **gender strategies** of the Ministries of Agriculture in Ethiopia, Guatemala and Nepal
- **Coordination mechanisms** of main stakeholders in agriculture established in Ethiopia and Guatemala
- **Ongoing dialogue between rural women and government institutions** on key policy and legislative issues

Sequenced package of interventions

The JP RWEE offers a comprehensive **‘package’ of sequenced interventions** to support women’s economic and social empowerment:

- **Capacity Development & access to productive assets** → 60% average increase in agricultural production & up to 60% improvement in Food Consumption Score
- **Access to markets** → up to 35% increase in sales for women’s cooperatives
- **Access to finance** → over 7,300 are already receiving financial services and credit



Promoting women's agency

The JP RWEE focuses on a selection of activities closely associated to the promotion of women's agency at individual and group levels:

- Strengthening collective voice and representation through:
 - **Literacy:** in 2016 alone, almost 3,800 women completed adult literacy courses
 - **Human Rights:** including modules on GBV, SRH, and land rights for over 6,500 women
 - **Formalization of women's groups:** in 2016, over 7,500 women joined formal groups
 - **Leadership development:** for 7,250 participants



Promoting women's agency (cont'd)

- **Household Methodologies** for more equitable intra-household relations

Through a set of pictorial tools, household members build their vision for the future



- **Easy to scale up:** Through pyramid learning, in few months participants trained in Kyrgyzstan went from 420 to 4700
- Potential to transform **gender-based power relations**
- Improve **livelihoods**



KEY COMPONENT OF SUSTAINABILITY

RWEE AND THE CHANGING WORLD OF WORK: Our Responses

FOCUS ON
REMOVING
STRUCTURAL
BARRIERS TO
WOMEN'S
ENGAGEMENT
IN ECONOMIC
ACTIVITIES:

- Promotion of women's equal participation
- Provision of technology for increased production
- Holistic approach to capacity development
- Use of HHMs for fairer division of unpaid care
- Revolving funds for access to capital
- Increased awareness around land rights
- Support to public institutions

- **All women's groups have income-generating opportunities**
- **Approximately 5,100 women who run individual business saw an increase in the income up to 30%**



How RWEE is contributing to the Agenda 2030: **LESSONS LEARNED**

- **A multi-sectoral development package** maximizes impact
- **Formalization of women's groups** facilitate access to services
- **Right partners** enhance programme performance
- **Adequate governance** mechanisms ensure programme-wide coherence
- **Men's engagement and promotion of equitable intra-household relationships** eliminates barriers
- **South-South cooperation** contributes to the adoption of the most relevant and effective solutions
- **More gender-responsive policy environment** fosters empowerment

THANK YOU!



JOINT PROGRAMME ON

Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

JOINT INITIATIVE BY

WORLD LEADERS IN WOMEN

IFAD

World Food Programme