

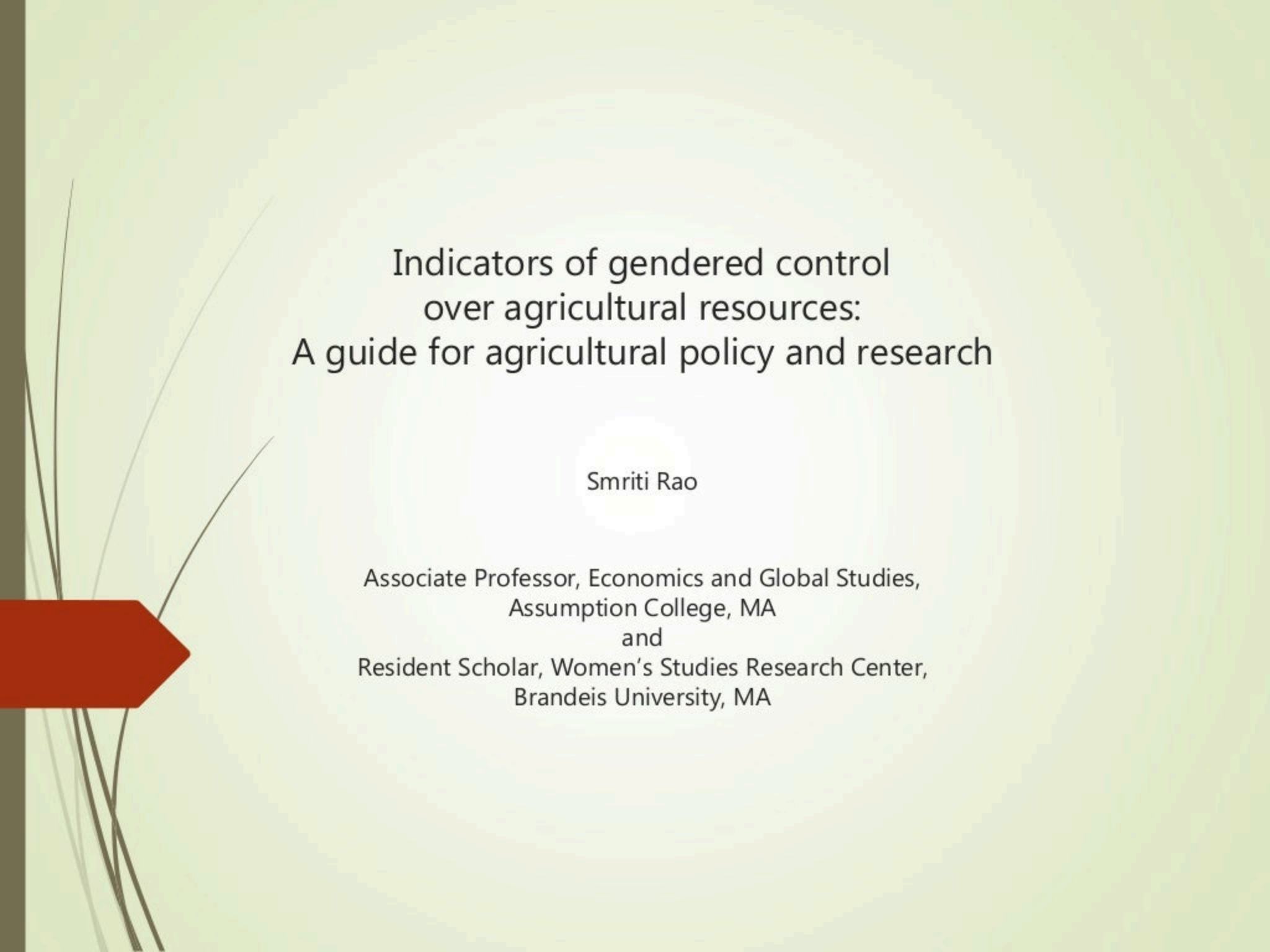


Webinar #4: Indicators of gendered control over agricultural resources

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Moderated by Cheryl Doss

July 13, 2016

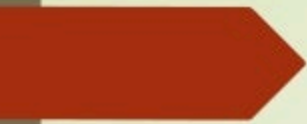


Indicators of gendered control
over agricultural resources:
A guide for agricultural policy and research

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Motivation for this study

- ▶ We need simple, robust national and international indicators that can be used for tracking the short-to-medium term impacts of agricultural interventions upon gender inequalities.
 - ▶ Indicators are constructed by organizing data analytically to enable decision-making, in this case about whether a project needs to be modified based on its gendered impacts.
 - ▶ Building such indicators requires resolving conceptual issues, as well as issues about measurement.
 - ▶ For example: how do we measure whether a project has worsened/improved women's access to land?
 - ▶ Conceptual: Does access to land mean de jure ownership?
 - ▶ Measurement: Can we interview a male principal respondent to collect the data on ownership?




Main contributions of this study

- ▶ The identification of criteria relating to conceptual and measurement issues that are of particular importance for developing robust indicators of changes in gender gaps.
- ▶ A review of the robustness and feasibility of the gender gap indicators used by existing published studies.
- ▶ Recommendations for indicators based on the above criteria and the review of the literature.
- ▶ A review of sources of country-level data currently available and suggestions for data that need to be collected for constructing these indicators.



Presentation outline

- ▶ Criteria related to conceptual issues
 - ▶ Criteria related to measurement issues
 - ▶ Discussion of some of the recommended indicators
 - ▶ Questions and Discussion
- 

Scope of the paper

The central question that each of the recommended indicators will help answer is “What are the **gender gaps** in **control** over key **resources in the agricultural production process**?”

A. Agricultural resources:

1. Land
2. Livestock
3. Common pool resources such as water and forest resources
4. Financial assets
5. Labor power
- +
6. Household income
7. The ability to participate in extra-household collective decision-making processes.

Scope of the paper

B. "Control" over a resource rather than ownership (more on this later)

C. "Gender gaps" in control

- ▶ The *difference* between male and female control over resources.
- ▶ However, an exclusive focus on the final gender gap can obscure 'race to the bottom' outcomes.

In each case we recommend an indicator of female control, and of male control over the resource, and suggest some ways to combine them to compute a gender gap (see Table 1 in the paper).

D. The unit of data collection is thus an individual within a household. Our indicators are based on population sampling, rather than the sampling of groups (such as microfinance groups, or forest or water users' associations)

Scope of the paper

E. This is *not* an effort to measure women's empowerment

- Measuring the impact of agricultural projects upon women's and men's control over resources requires fine-grained, resource specific indicators....
- ...while empowerment is an aggregate concept.
- A change in one or more specific indicators of a gender gap in control over resources will not necessarily correlate with a change in women's empowerment.

Criteria relating to conceptual issues

Does the indicator of a gender gap:

- capture the differences between control and use rights: where control (the ability to manage, exclude others or alienate the resource) may not be the same as use (the ability to access the resource and withdraw the output)?
- capture de facto rights and decision-making in preference to de jure?
- measure joint rights and decision-making (shared among individuals, but not necessarily equal) as well as sole rights and decision-making?
- disaggregate rights and decision-making by sex of the respondent rather than by sex of the household head?
- measure the value of resources as well as (or instead of) the quantity of resources used or controlled?

Criteria related to measurement issues

Is the gender gap indicator based on:

- quantitative measurement, with qualitative validation?
- data that can be readily collected at several different points in time?
- data that are easily replicable across sites, countries, or regions?
- data that are not resource intensive to collect because they are already being collected at scale or could feasibly be included in a large-scale survey?
- short- term outcomes (as distinct from impacts that take a long time for measureable change to occur), especially gaps related to use and to the value of resources?



Criteria relating to conceptual issues

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- capture de facto rights and decision-making in preference to de jure?
- measure joint rights and decision-making (shared among individuals, but not necessarily equal) as well as sole rights and decision-making?
- disaggregate rights and decision-making by sex of the respondent rather than by sex of the household head?
- measure the value of resources as well as (or instead of) the quantity of resources used or controlled?

Conceptual: Distinguishing between use, control and ownership

		Categorization	Definition	Example (piece of land)
Ownership	Use rights	Access	Right to use the asset	Individual has the right to physically be on a piece of land and use the land. In many cases, women are an important source of basic labor (weeding, harvesting) on men's fields, but have no control over the output or even their own time
		Withdrawal	Right to claim the output or income produced by the asset	Individual(s) has the right to use or sell the produce grown on the piece of land and, most importantly, to receive the income from the sale. In some cases, women are actually responsible for selling the agricultural products at the market, but have no rights over the financial reward.
	Control rights	Management	Right to make decisions about how to use the asset	Individual(s) has the rights to make such decisions as what crops will be grown on the piece of land, what laborers will be hired, and how agricultural inputs like fertilizer and pesticide will be applied.
		Exclusion	Right to exclude others from using the asset	Individual(s) has the right to exclude others from physically being on or using the land.
		Alienation	Right to transfer the asset to others, such as through sale, leasing, gift or inheritance	Individual(s) has the right to transfer ownership of a piece of land to others. In the majority of cases, women lack the right to decide what will be done with land or to even receive the land, especially through inheritance.

Source: Johnson and Quisumbing (2009)

- It is often use and/or control that we seek to enhance through the impact of an agricultural project.
- In practice, the meaning of "ownership" may differ across contexts. Existing data on ownership should be used with the caveat that it may not be easy to aggregate across contexts.

Conceptual: Distinguishing between use, control and ownership

Recommendation:

1. Develop indicators of use as well as control for each resource
2. Treat control as more definitely linked to gender equity; however use may be more likely to change in the short run.
3. Use data on ownership with caution. Where possible, gather data directly about the rights of interest, rather using the term 'ownership'.

Conceptual: Capture de facto use and control in preference to de jure

- ▶ De facto patterns are more likely to reflect the reality on the ground.
- ▶ De jure rights may change without substantive changes in patterns of use and control.
- ▶ It is important to recognize and validate the custom-based claims of marginalized groups (who have less access to formal legal processes).

Recommendation: questions on use, control and ownership should attempt to capture de facto rather than de jure patterns.

Conceptual: Measure joint as well as sole rights and decision-making

- Joint rights and decision-making are not the same as equal rights and decision-making.

However:

- Women are much more likely to exercise use and control rights jointly with other members of the family.
- Furthermore, gender equity is a vision of shared access and rights, and thus of equal and joint rights exercised together by men and women.

Recommendation: Indicators of use, control and ownership should include joint as well as sole rights and participation in decision-making.

However, where possible, data should be collected on sole and joint rights separately to allow for disaggregated analysis.

Conceptual: disaggregate rights and decision-making by sex of the respondent rather than the sex of the household head

- ▶ The analysis of female headed versus male headed households is not a gender analysis.
- ▶ “Male-headed household” is often a mis-labelling of a household that contains a principal couple, and is thus in fact a dual-headed household (as opposed to a household where the principal adult is a single male).
- ▶ A majority of men and women live in dual-headed households.
- ▶ Thus we need to capture the impacts of agricultural interventions upon men and women in dual as well as single headed households.

Recommendation: All indicators should be based on data samples of men and women within dual headed as well as single headed households. This can be achieved by surveying a single respondent for each household, as long as women respondents are included in the sample.

Conceptual: measure the value as well quantity of resources used, controlled and owned

- ▶ The value of a resource is most likely to be the sale or rental price of a resource.
- ▶ These are difficult to capture, but are likely to be more sensitive to short and medium term impacts of projects.
 - e.g. the price of an acre of land held by a female farmer may rise as soon as irrigation is introduced; the quantity of land held is less likely to change as fast.

Recommendation: Where the context permits (rental and sale markets are 'thick'), data on the value of resources controlled and owned should be collected.

Criteria related to measurement issues

The gender gap indicator should be based on:

- ▶ quantitative measurement, with qualitative validation
 - ▶ For example: The need to determine whether or not rental and sale markets are thick enough to collect value information shows the importance of qualitative validation.
- ▶ data that can be readily collected at several different points in time
 - ▶ Impact analysis necessarily requires data collection at multiple points in time.
 - ▶ Indicators must thus be constructed based on data categories that remain relatively consistent across time.
 - ▶ Data collection must also be relatively time and cost effective to allow for multiple rounds.
 - ▶ For example, the choice of recall rather than time diaries in collecting data on time use

Criteria related to measurement issues

- ▶ data that are easily replicable across sites, countries, or regions
 - ▶ The importance of context makes this a difficult criterion to satisfy, but without national and international level data it is hard to draw generalizable conclusions about the impact of agricultural projects.
 - ▶ Indicators may need to use broad rather than narrow definitions of resources, control and ownership.
 - ▶ For example, construct indicators that aggregate across all forms of livestock or across different forms of financial assets.
- ▶ data that are not resource intensive to collect because they are already being collected at scale, or could feasibly be included in a large-scale survey
 - ▶ Where possible, choose indicators that can use data already being collected via existing national and international surveys, or require relatively small additions to existing surveys.
 - ▶ Lobby for any additions necessary!

Criteria related to measurement issues

- ▶ Capture short- term outcomes (within 3-5 years). These are more likely to be indicators of gaps related to use rather than control, and to the value of resources rather than quantity
 - ▶ To be able to course correct when projects appear to have unintended consequences for gender gaps, prioritize indicators that capture short term (3-5 years) changes.

As it turns out these relatively simple criteria are hard to meet at this point due to a paucity of large scale data that is sex-disaggregated!

Recommended Indicators

- ▶ We provide separate indicators of use from indicators of control for each resource type.
- ▶ We discuss indicators of ownership only for land and livestock.
- ▶ We find that the separation of use and control does not make as much sense in the case of income.
- ▶ We find inadequate literature to make recommendations about indicators of control over labor power (including control over the labor power of others).
- ▶ We provide the formulae for calculating each indicator, and a summary of some possible problems/weaknesses of each indicator.

Example: Indicators of gender gaps in use of financial assets

Indicator	Formula	Caveats in the literature about the link to gender equality	Resource intensity of data collection			Replicability	Time sensitivity	
			Required indicator already available	Builds upon existing data instrument	No basis in existing international surveys		Contexts where inapplicable	Short to medium term
Proportion of women and the proportion of men banked (individually or jointly) in a formal sector institution	# of women banked/# of women in sample population; # of men banked/# of men in sample population	Having an account may not be the same as actively using it	Findex			Weak network of formal sector financial institutions	X	
The proportion of women and the proportion of men who are members of a microfinance/ROSCA group,	# of women members/# of women in sample population; # of men members/# of men in sample population	Being a member is not the same as having access to funds, or being able to exercise control over the funds	Findex			Weak network of microfinance institutions	X	
The average duration for women and the average for men of participation in a micro/informal financial institution.	Average of numbers of years of membership for women members; Average of number of years of membership for male members	May increase income generation, but mixed evidence on other aspects of gender equity			X			X
Proportion of women and the proportion of men who have saved money in the last 12 months through a formal or informal institution (i.e. not "under the pillow")	# of women who report saving money/ # of women in sample population; # of men who report saving money/ # of men in sample population	Savings may take away from needed consumption	Findex				X	
Proportion of women and the proportion of men who received a loan in the last 12 months from a formal or informal institution	# of women who report a loan/# of women in sample population; # of men who report a loan/# of men in sample population	The impact of the loan may be different depending on whether it is asset debt or expense debt	Findex				X	

Example: Indicators of gender gaps in control over financial assets

Indicator	Formula	Caveats in the literature about the link to gender equality	Resource intensity of data collection			Replicability	Time sensitivity	
			Required indicator already available	Builds upon existing data instrument	No basis in existing international surveys		Contexts where inapplicable	Short to medium term
Proportion of women and the proportion of men who decided how to use the loan/savings amounts (conditional upon saving/access to loan)	# of women who participated in decision/ # of women with savings/loans; # of men who participated in decision/ # of men with savings/loans				X			X
Proportion of women and the proportion of men who acquired ownership stake in the asset, conditional upon asset use of loan	# of women who acquired stake/ # of women with loans; # of men who acquired stake / # of men with loans			GAGP				X
Proportion of women and proportion of men responsible for repayment of the loan (conditional upon loan receipt)	# of women who are responsible/ # of women with loans; # of men who are responsible/ # of men with loans	Such responsibility may be onerous in the case of a debt cycle		GAGP			X	

Example: A "dashboard" of indicators for the short and medium run

	Data already available	Data can be constructed using existing survey
Land		
The average sale value of the land owned by women, same for men	No	GAGP
Proportions of women and men participating in decisions about the agricultural use of land	No	FAO, GAGP, WEAI
Livestock		
Proportions of women and men who own livestock (preferably by livestock type, for example: poultry, sheep and goats, cattle)	No	WEAI, GAGP
Livestock: proportions of women and men participating in decisions about sale or slaughter of livestock	No	WEAI
Water and forest		
Proportions of women and men able to access water, firewood and fodder to the desired degree	No	WWAP is developing indicators for water
Number of hours (per week, per person) for women and for men in the household, spent on collecting water, firewood and fodder (aggregated)	Yes	National time-use studies, UN Statistics Division
Finance		
Proportions of women and men who saved money in the last 12 months through a formal or informal institution (i.e., not "under the pillow")	FINDEX	FINDEX
Proportions of women and men who received a loan in the last 12 months from a formal or informal institution	FINDEX	FINDEX
Labor		
Female labor force participation rate and male rate in agriculture (denominator, size of agricultural labor force)	World Development Indicators	Yes
Female paid labor force participation rate and male rate in agriculture (denominator, size of agricultural labor force)	World Development Indicators	Yes
Average hours of leisure for women and for men, or proportions of women and men who report inadequate leisure time	National time-use surveys	
Income		
Proportions of women and men who participate in decisions to purchase daily goods	DHS	Yes