



CGIAR

# Gender and A Food Secure Future

*What do we need to  
know?*

*What do we need to  
do?*

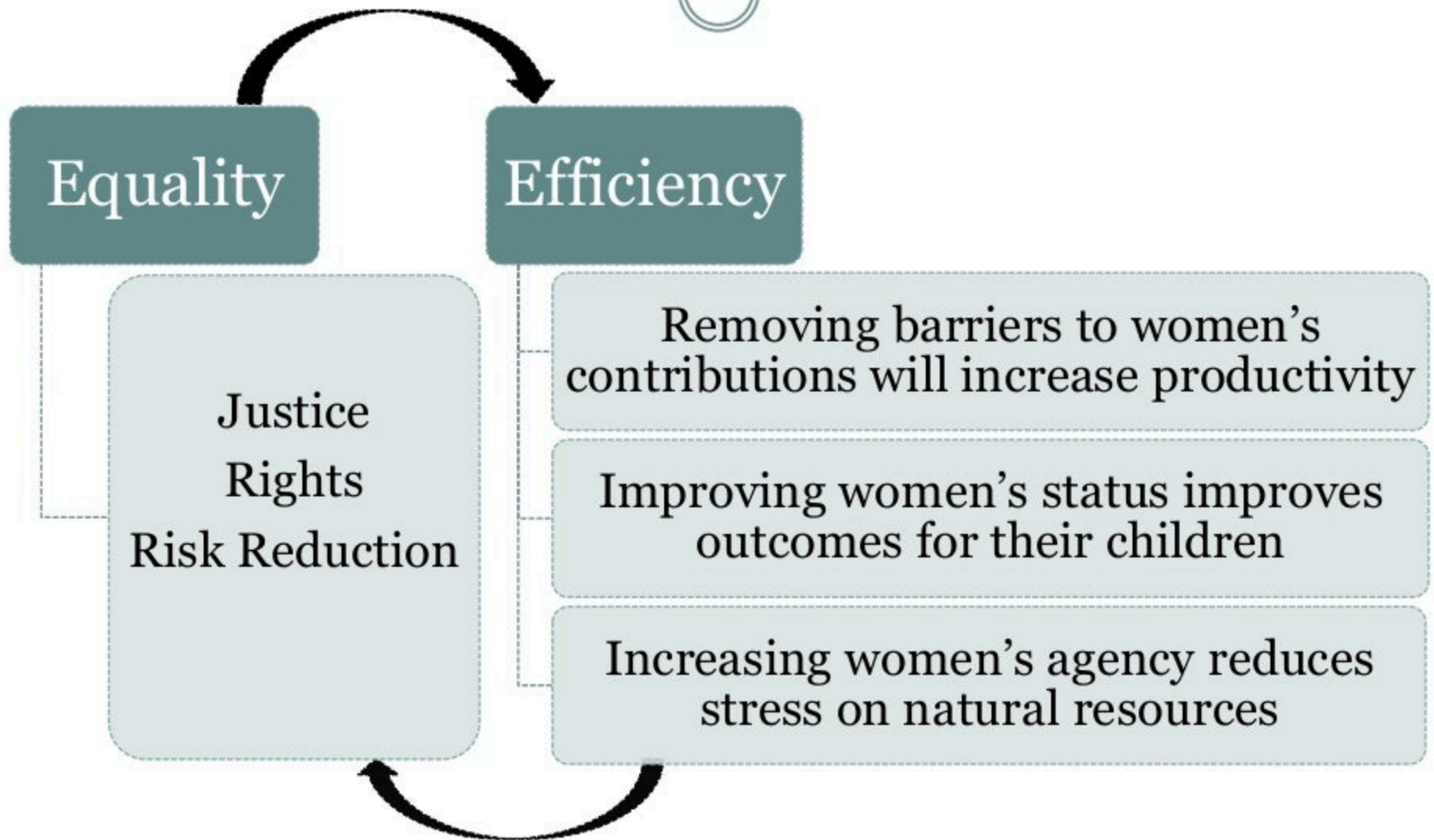
**Karen Brooks**

**CGIAR Knowledge Day**

**November 5, 2013**



# Making the case: Why close the gender gap in agriculture and food systems?



# Value Proposition: Gender and System Level Outcomes



## Reduced rural poverty

- Eliminating barriers to women's labor participation in some sectors would reduce gender productivity gap by one third to one half (WDR 2012)

## Increased food security

- Equalizing access to agricultural resources could increase yields by 20-30% and reduce the world's hungry by 12-17% (SOFA 2011, Quisumbing, et al., forthcoming)

## Improved nutrition and health

- Nutritional supplementation for girls influences the growth of their children (Behrman, Calderon, Preston, Hoddinott, Martorell, Stein, 2009)

## Sustainable natural resource management

- A woman with secure ownership rights is more likely to invest in sustainable farming practices (Otsuka, et al., 2003)

Clear case should lead to clear actions...

# ...but heterogeneity intervenes

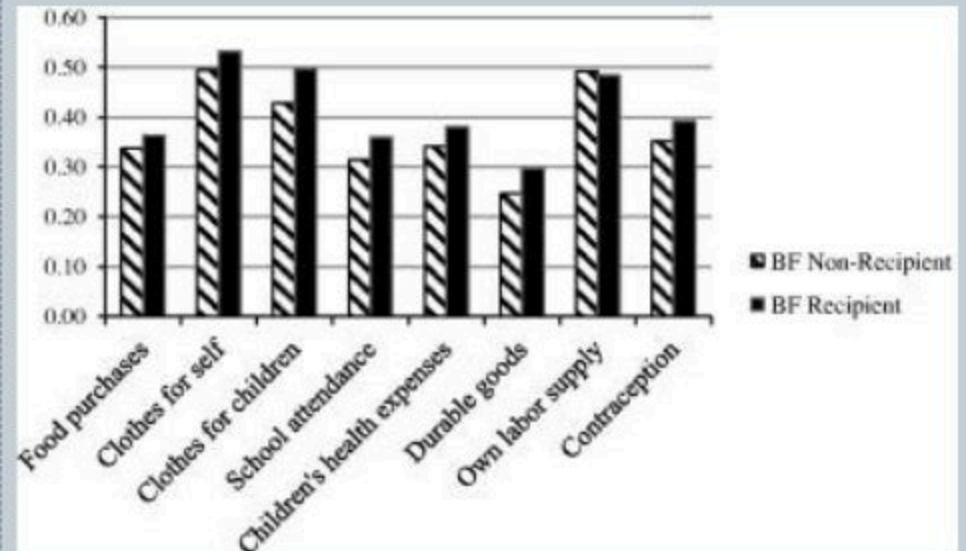


**Women and men experience gender together with other dimensions of life: interactions matter.**

*Bolsa Família*, a conditional cash transfer program with female beneficiaries, increases women's decisionmaking, but with heterogeneity in effects:

- Effect driven by urban households
- In rural households, program does not increase and possibly reduces women's decisionmaking power

Source: de Brauw, Gilligan, Hoddinott, and Roy (2013)



Average proportion reporting female decision making power regarding specific decisions, Bolsa Família transfer recipients and nonrecipients, 2009.

# Action requires knowledge of interactions; heterogeneity



## Progress in:

- Education
- Fertility
- Labor force participation

## ...and less so in:

- Mobility
- Mortality
- Job choice
- Earning gaps
- House and care work
- Asset ownership
- Agency

All relate centrally to agricultural innovation and reduction of rural poverty.

# This is core challenge of CRP gender strategies



## For CRPs

- Identify key barriers
- Understand heterogeneity that matters
  - Research agenda
- Work with implementation partners to design interventions
- Address scale
- Monitor outcomes

## System-wide

- Identify policy and institutional issues with greatest gender impact
- Diagnose
  - Barriers that work of CGIAR can address
  - Barriers that work of CGIAR can address in partnership
  - Barriers best left to others
- Extrapolation, generalizability
  - Comparative research
- Improve the data and methods
  - collect sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis

“When market signals, formal institutions, and income growth all come together to support investments in women, gender equality can and does improve very quickly.”

- WDR 2012



**Photo Credit: Neil Palmer, CIAT**

# Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato

**A major accomplishment  
of CGIAR and partners**

- Gender in decisions on land use
- Gender in communication

*Probability of adoption highest on parcels jointly controlled by men and women, but where women lead in deciding crops grown. Communication strategy must recognize limits of communication within households.*

**Gender lens speeds  
adoption**



Source: Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP)



# Closing the gender knowledge gap



## Strategic:

- Collecting and analyzing sex-disaggregated data: progress in agreeing on a set of minimum standards for inclusion of sex disaggregation in most data collection
- Continuing empirical work on gender issues in agriculture; especially comparative research and meta studies
- Working with partners to explore alternative design and delivery mechanisms to meet context-specific gender needs
- Evaluating outcomes: focus on gendered impacts of agricultural interventions
- Generalizing with caution: moving beyond the specific

*Source: Quisumbing, et al. (eds.), forthcoming. Gender in Agriculture: Closing the Knowledge Gap. Springer.*

Thank  
you



**Photo Credit: Neil Palmer, CIAT**