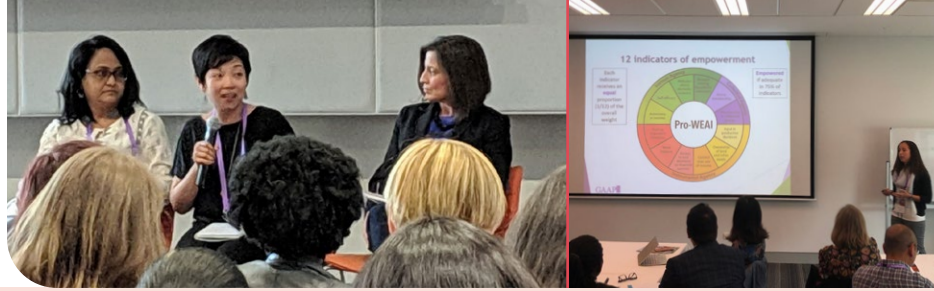




RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for
Nutrition
and Health
Led by IFPRI

A4NH



Focus: Gender and Equity

Highlight 1: Impact of Pro-WEAI Grows

While many agricultural development projects aim to empower women, it is difficult to know which strategies work best to reach this goal without indicators that can measure the many dimensions of empowerment. The project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) is the first comprehensive, standardized tool for measuring women's empowerment in agriculture at the project level. Developed with support from A4NH, [pro-WEAI was first piloted in 2018](#) for projects with agriculture and nutrition outcomes. In 2019, the research team moved forward with numerous trainings and capacity building opportunities to generate awareness about the tool and how to use it.

Pro-WEAI builds on the success of the original [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (WEAI). The original WEAI was designed by IFPRI, the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, and USAID as a monitoring and evaluation tool for the Feed the Future Initiative, using information collected as part of Feed the Future's population-based surveys to measure women's inclusion in agriculture. Demand for this type of tool was high, but WEAI users adapted it to fit specific projects, making it complicated to compare findings across projects.

Pro-WEAI was designed to give users greater flexibility, and deliberately uses a mixed-methods approach with both quantitative and qualitative tools, to delve into nuances of empowerment such as language and context. It is composed of 12 indicators: autonomy in income, self-efficacy, attitudes about domestic violence, input in productive decisions, ownership of land and other assets, access to and decisions on credit, control over use of income, work balance, visiting important locations, group membership, membership in influential groups, and respect among household members. These indicators are organized into three domains: intrinsic agency (power within), instrumental agency (power to), and collective agency (power with).

A workshop to introduce researchers to pro-WEAI and how to use it was held during the [Seeds of Change: Gender Equality through Agricultural Research for Development](#) conference in Canberra, Australia, in April 2019. Case studies were presented during several conference sessions, including Gender and Value Chains and Measuring Impacts on Nutrition and Empowerment. Pro-WEAI was also shared during a Learning Lab at the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy Week in Hyderabad, India, in June and in conference presentations on measuring empowerment among milk traders in peri-urban Nairobi.

Because requests for information about and trainings on pro-WEAI exceed the capacity of researchers at these in-person gatherings, the team is exploring other avenues of dissemination. [A paper published in October in World Development](#) chronicles the development of the tool, helping potential users understand the rationale for the approach taken and for certain decisions on structure. After securing additional funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the research team is creating a distance learning course that will meet the rapidly growing demand from people seeking to implement pro-WEAI and interpret its implications. The team is also working to build a market inclusion module to take the tool's scope beyond agriculture and into other parts of the agri-food value chain.

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