

# WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR PROMOTING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION



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# Introduction: Women, Empowerment and Food Security

## Multiple Pathways to Food Security and Nutrition

- Increasing production and productivity
  - Increasing access to productive resources
  - Technologies that increase productivity of women's labour and reduce drudgery
- Incomes under the control of women and their purchasing power
  - There is evidence that income under the control of women is more likely to be used to improve family welfare (family food consumption, education, child nutrition etc)—Quisumbing et al, 1995, FAO, 2006)
  - Women are significantly excluded from markets and opportunities for them to move from subsistence to market oriented agriculture are much lower
- Increasing women's assets, productive resources and their decision making within countries, communities and households

### Need to Recognize:

- Women as food producers
- Women as income-earning farmers
- Women as health/nutrition-care providers
- Women as nutritionally vulnerable population
- Women and men as partners in food security and nutrition efforts

# How Do We?

## Develop and promote innovative approaches for improving the productivity of farmers?

*Develop approaches to target men and women with agricultural interventions in*  
**AGRICULTURAL INPUTS AND TECHNOLOGY**



- Women would increase productivity on their farms by over 23% if they had the same access to resources and technologies as men...
- Work with women and mixed producers groups
- Work with women as extension and service providers to reach other women farmers
- Involve men and women in developing technologies so that they are better suited to their needs
- Use innovative input supply systems that reach the poor and women e.g voucher schemes, agro-dealer networks promoted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
- Work with men and boys to better engage whole families in agriculture production

# How Do We?

Develop and Promote Innovative approaches for improving the productivity of subsistence farming

*Develop mentorship schemes and research and extension models that engage WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION*



- Develop an evidence base for promoting the participation of women in agriculture research and extension systems
- Support institutional policies that support mainstreaming gender in extension, research, agriculture policy making
- Support in developing countries, women to advance in agriculture research and extension—African Women in Agriculture Research and Development-AWARD
- Scholarship funds and North-South and South-South mentoring for young women scientists and extensionists

# How Do We?

## Expand Women's Economic Opportunities

*Integrate gender and support women in  
AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS*



- Analyze the roles, constraints and the opportunities that exist for women in agriculture value chains
- Develop strategies that ensure women participate and benefit from agriculture value chains
- Build capacity of women to engage with markets at farm and beyond the farm
  - Target crops and livestock where women are likely to benefit
- Include men and women in identifying enterprises, problems and their solutions
- Develop monitoring and evaluation systems that track benefits to men and women in value chains

# How Do We?

## Expand Women's Economic Opportunities

### *Support* **WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**



- Identify profitable and sustainable enterprises by and for women
  - Income-generating entrepreneurial activities
  - Ensure female participation persists with commercialization
- Link women with input and capital services providers at affordable rates
- Build women's capacity in business development, management and financial literacy skills
- Support associations for women entrepreneurs for peer support and exchange of ideas

# How Do We?

## Expand Women's Economic Opportunities

*Increase access to  
INFORMATION AND BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES*



- Business development services to women agribusinesses
- Market information systems that reach women
- Link to rural and women led microfinance businesses- e.g The Kenya Women Finance Trust
- Training and other business support services in ways that are conducive to and reach women entrepreneurs and farmers
- Promote women as service providers

# How Do We?

## Expand Women's Economic Opportunities

*Increase access to  
TO NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL MARKETS*



- Promote participation of women in farmer associations-in policies and in practice
- In international marketing and sourcing models, ensure women benefit by integrating gender and sustainability into standards
- Improve wages and conditions of work for women working in the agriculture and especially the export sector



# How Do We?

Develop markets that ensure the availability of affordable food in rural communities?

*Promote*

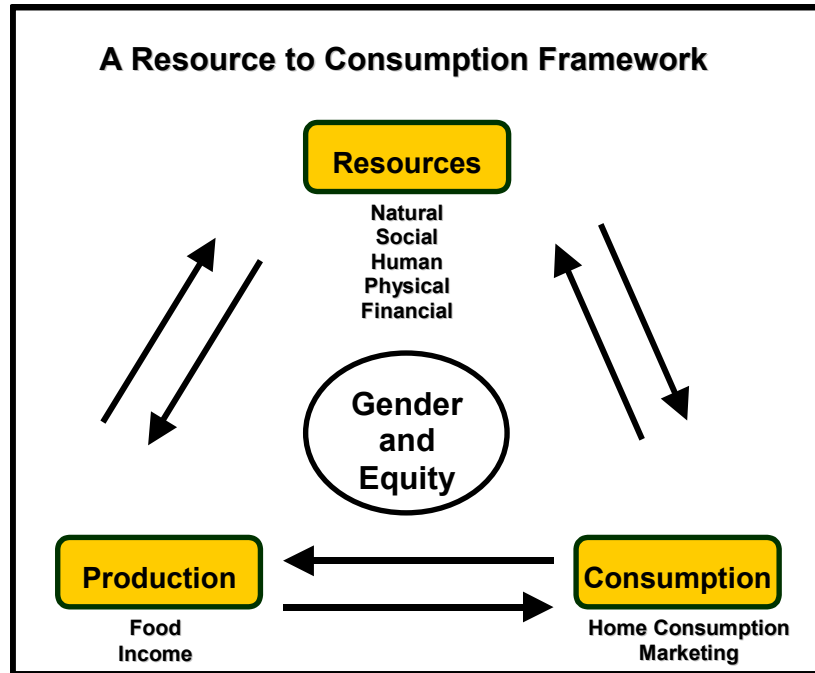
*LOCAL AND PROFITABLE MARKETS*



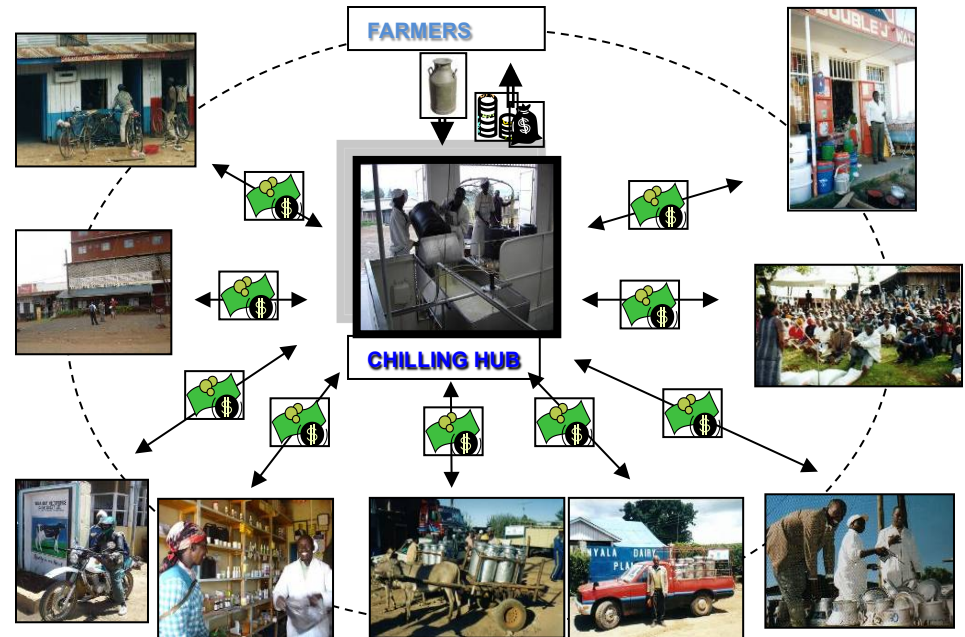
- Infrastructure development that promotes local trade and entrepreneurship
- Support local business through innovative financing mechanisms and business development services
- Promote production of local foods that have high nutritional value and that promote local marketing and sourcing systems
  - Local trade fairs as a way to promote local businesses

# Two Examples

## Enabling Rural Innovation in Africa



## The East Africa Dairy Development Project



# A conceptual framework for analysing women's economic empowerment, rights and livelihoods

