



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for
Nutrition
and Health

Led by IFPRI



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Policies,
Institutions,
and Markets

Led by IFPRI

THE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX

*A suite of tools and methods for measuring empowerment
and gender equality*



Photo credits: Farha Khan, IFPRI; Olivier Girard, CIFOR; Finn Thilsted, Worldfish; OPS

Why is measuring women's empowerment and gender equality important?



- Women are key actors in every part of the food system, and yet their contributions are often undervalued, unpaid, and overlooked
- Need individual-level data to track progress not only on food security and nutrition, but also on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Having data on both women and men enables WEAI-based metrics to track gender equality and transformation of gender norms.

Reach-Benefit-Empower (RBE) Framework

- Three types of gender-sensitive food systems interventions:

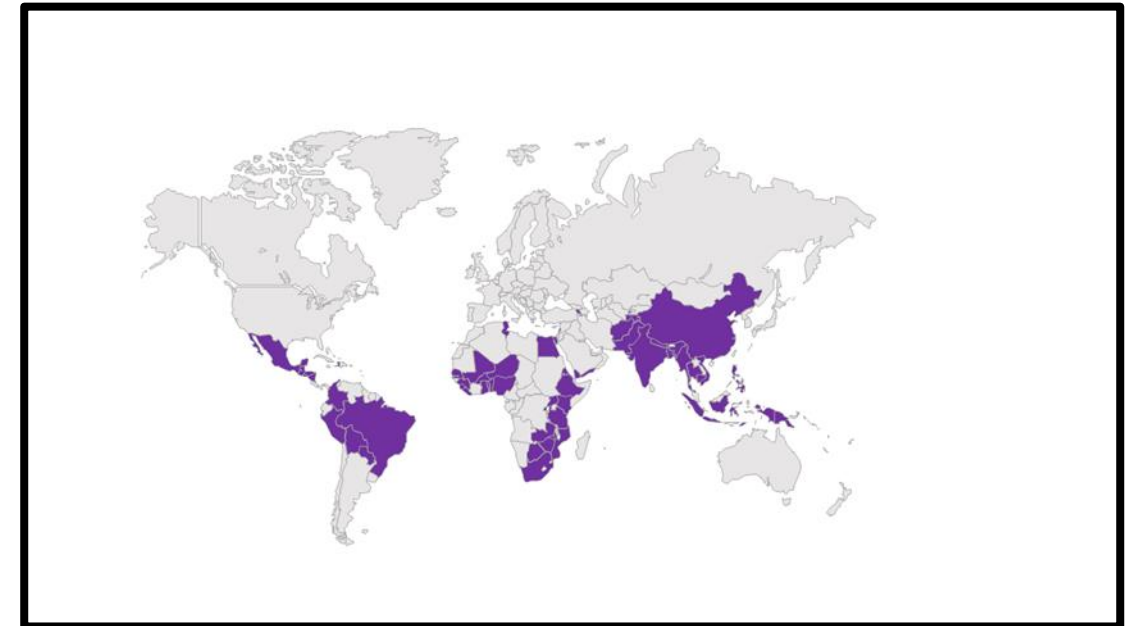


- The strategies and activities to achieve these aims will be different
- Sex-disaggregated indicators on food security and nutrition can capture “reach” and “benefit”, but does not capture agency or empowerment

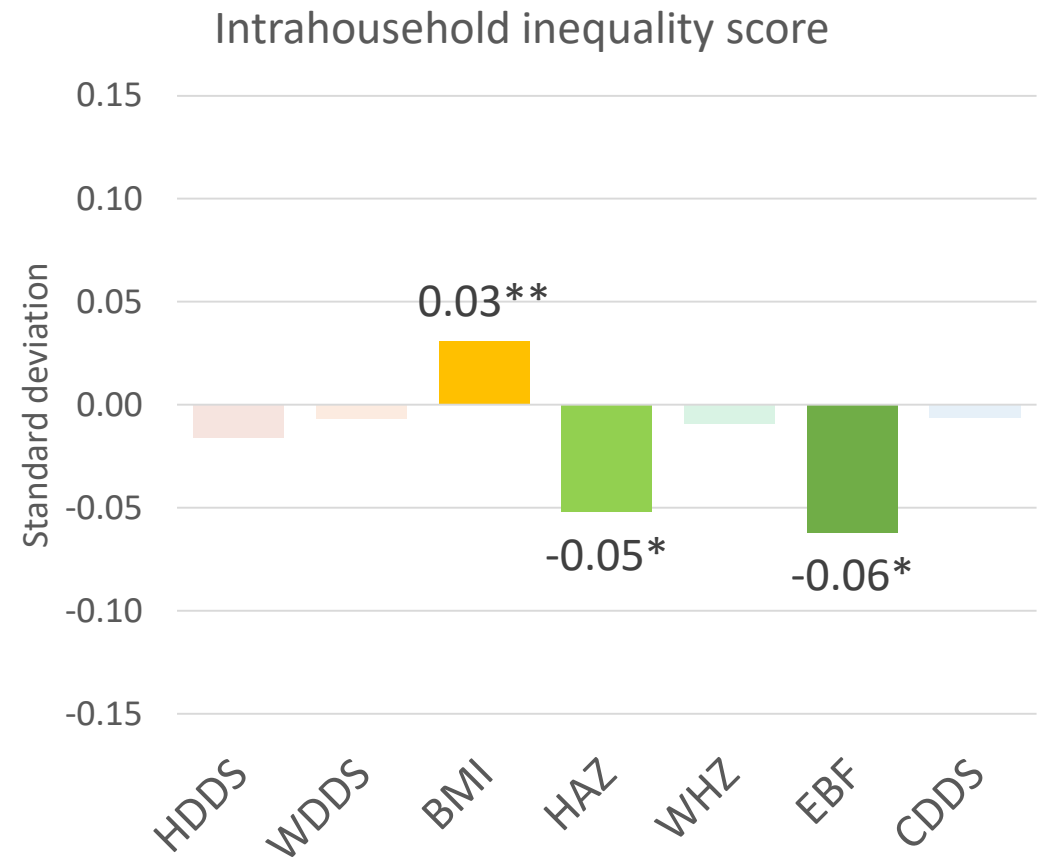
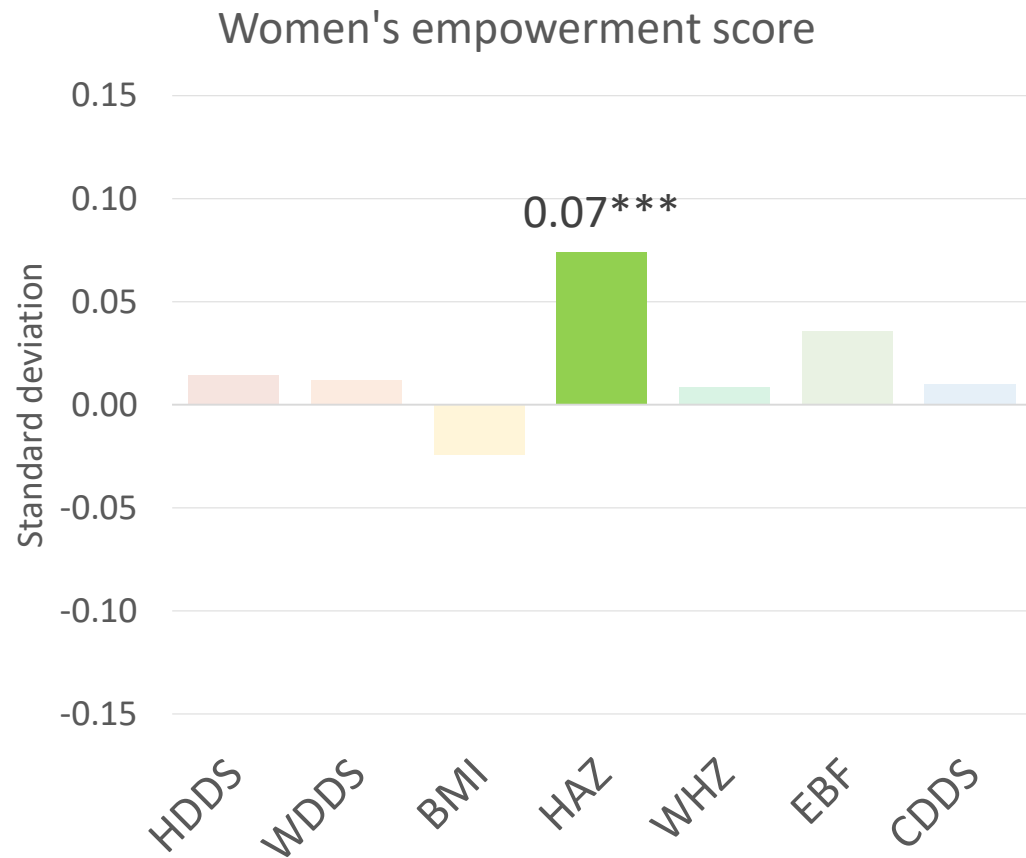
Why WEAI?

- **Internationally-validated** measure of women's empowerment
- Data collected from women and men in the same household
- Developed using **qualitative and quantitative methods**, with appropriate adaptations.
- Monitors progress toward women's empowerment and gender equality in **different country contexts** and different types of **agricultural development projects**.

WEAI and adaptations used by 113 organizations in 56 countries

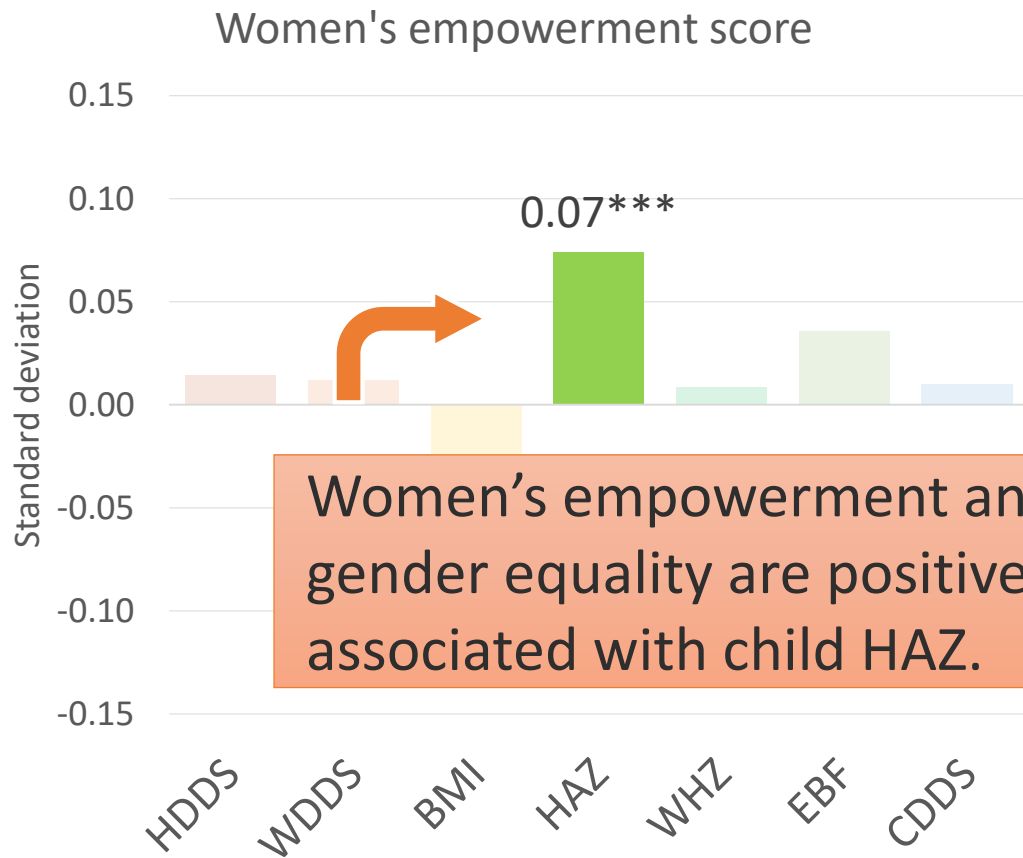


Linkages between women's empowerment and nutrition in 6 countries using WEAI data

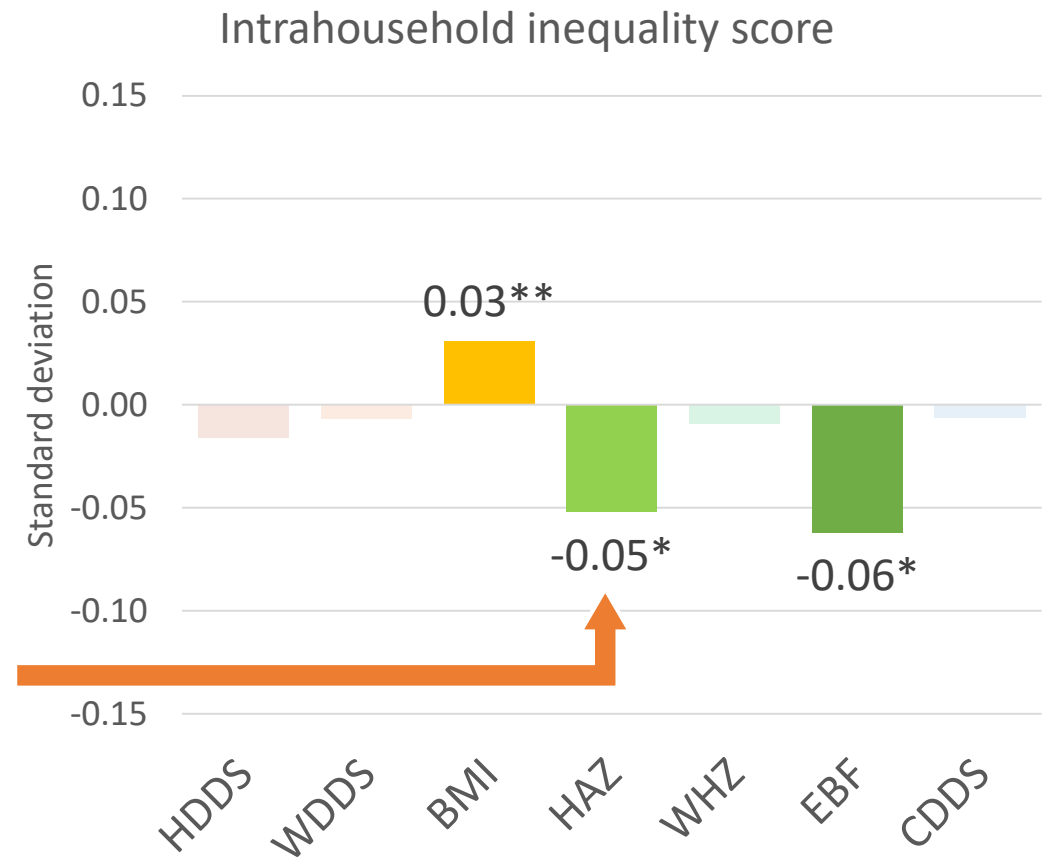


Source: [Quisumbing et al., 2021.](#)

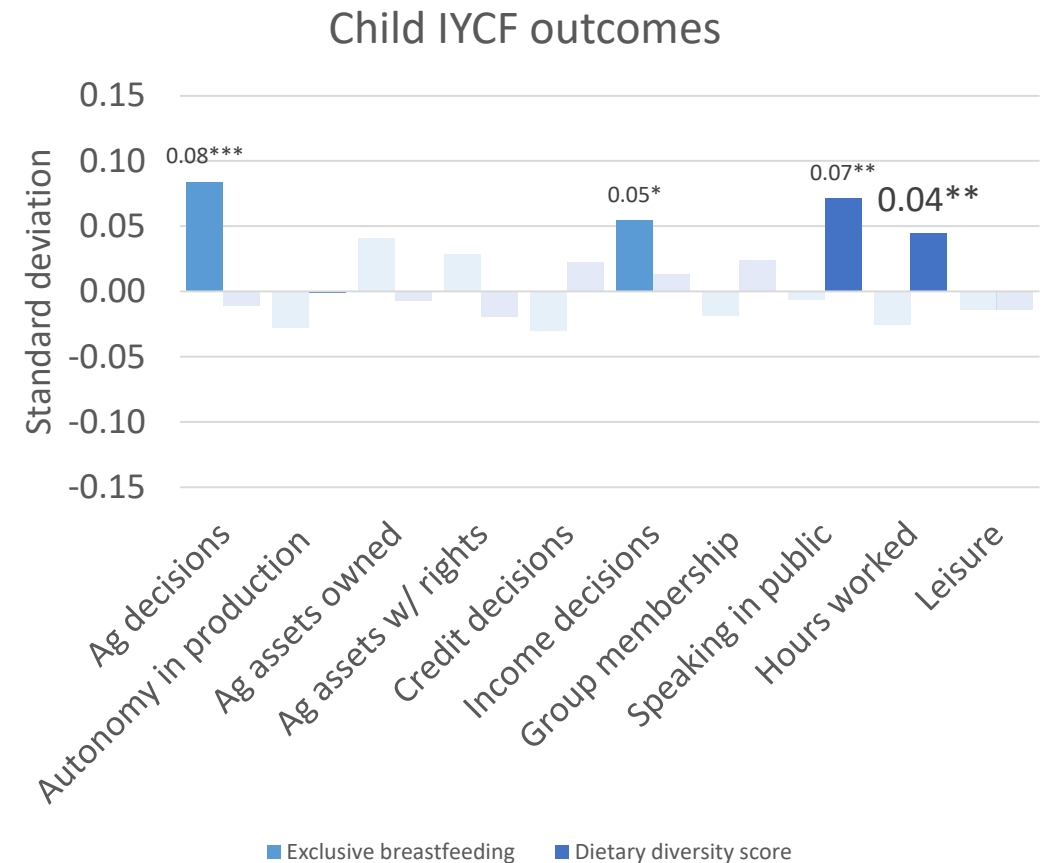
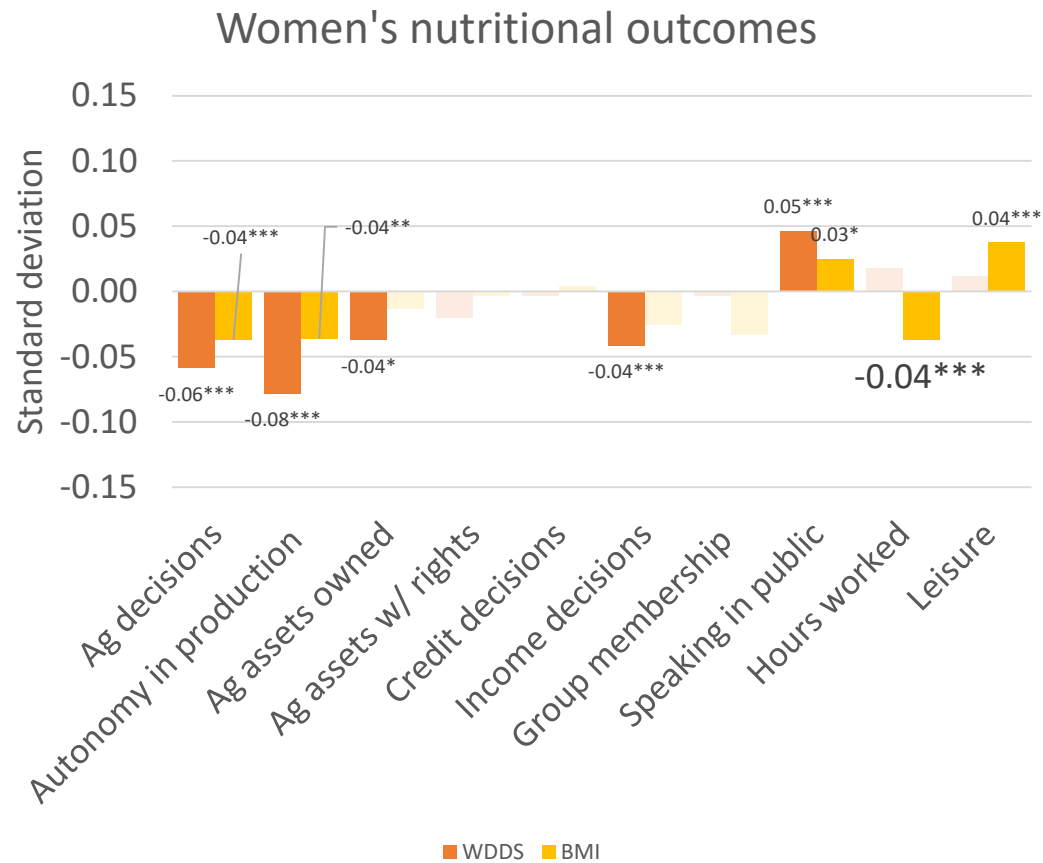
Linkages between women's empowerment and nutrition in 6 countries using WEAI data



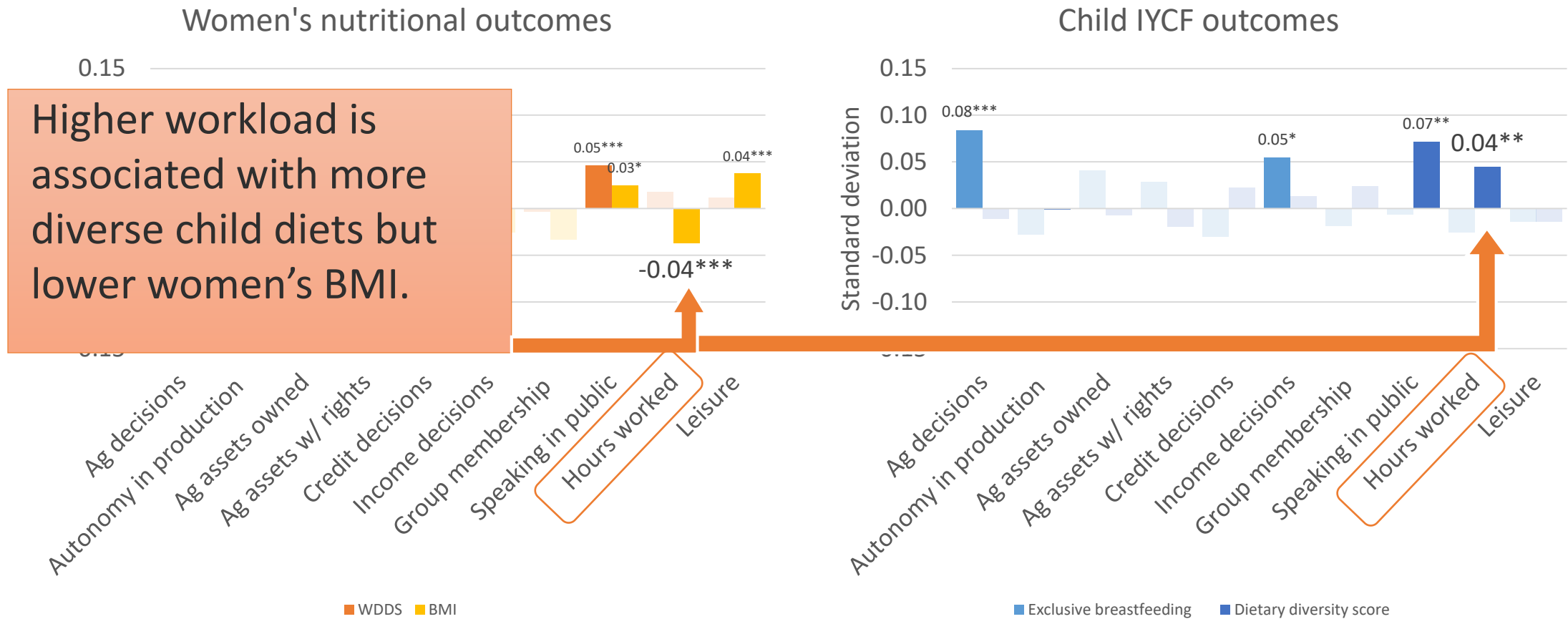
Women's empowerment and gender equality are positively associated with child HAZ.



Tradeoffs exist between domains of empowerment and nutritional outcomes



Tradeoffs exist between domains of empowerment and nutritional outcomes



How can WEAI support policy-making and investments?

- Diagnosis and intervention design:
 - Identify main areas of disempowerment of women and men of different groups
 - Develop strategies to address major gaps, meet local aspirations
 - Think through potential positive and negative effects, tradeoffs (e.g. increasing workloads, control over income)
- Demonstrate commitment and create accountability to go beyond “reaching” women and increasing “household” incomes to empowering women. If women’s empowerment is our goal, we must be willing to be measured against that goal.

WEAI Resource Center – weai.ifpri.info

WEAI RESOURCE CENTER

Released in 2012, the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is an innovative tool that measures women’s empowerment in agriculture. This measurement tool helps diagnose areas of disempowerment and design development programs to address those areas. Since the WEAI’s initial release, several versions of the WEAI have been developed. This site offers information about the WEAI and related research instruments, how to calculate empowerment using the quantitative WEAI surveys, WEAI-related publications, and more.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Distance Learning weai.ifpri.info/distance-learning

	Foundations of WEAI	Survey Fieldwork	Qualitative Analysis	Index Construction	Analyze & Integrate	Interpreting WEAI
Research PI	*	*	*	*	*	*
M&E specialist	*	*	*	*	*	*
Survey field supervisor	*	*				*
Quantitative analyst	*	*		*	*	*
Qualitative team	*		*		*	*
Project Implementers	*					*
Donor	*					*