Sound policies, robust institutions, and well-functioning markets complement new discoveries of agricultural science to create dynamic and resilient food systems. The combination of strong agricultural science and good policy is especially important in poor rural areas, where many people depend on farming for their livelihoods. Agricultural growth creates new jobs both on and off farms as rural economies diversify. Consumers benefit from more affordable food. Landscapes recover as farmers, fishers, herders, and forest dwellers adopt better management regimes and develop new institutions for collaborative governance.

Many countries fall far short of the good policies and strong institutions needed. Our research helps diagnose problems and assess their priority, test potential options, and evaluate reforms or large scale programs. The work falls into the thematic categories of technological innovation, rural transformation, value chains, social protection, natural resource governance, and gender.

We would like to thank all funders who supported this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund www.cgiar.org/funders
Where We Work

Global program with special emphasis on Africa south of the Sahara, South Asia, and selected countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and Latin America

Why PIM

The need for sound policies and well-functioning institutions cuts across all commodities and agri-food systems. Accordingly, PIM serves an integrative function bringing together social science expertise and facilitating collaboration across CGIAR and with external partners.

Examples include foresight modeling, work on trade and value chains, rural transformation and creation of good jobs in rural areas, assistance to the vulnerable and approaches to managing rural risks, management of critical natural resources and institutions that reduce conflict associated with competing uses, and attention to the many ways in which decisions are made by men and women, jointly and separately, creating open opportunities for both to realize their ambitions.

ANALYSIS TO UNDERPIN MORE EFFECTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

PIM studies on social protection in Bangladesh, most notably the Transfer Modality Research Initiative (TMRI), have informed several changes to social protection programs in the country. The results of the TMRI randomized controlled trial showed that all combinations of types of transfers were useful, but that cash transfers combined with messaging about how to improve nutrition, also known as nutrition behavior change communication (BCC), had the greatest impact. Influenced by the TMRI findings, the Ministry of Women and Children incorporated the BCC component into its Vulnerable Group Transfer pilot that provides monthly transfers to poor mothers for the Poorest” will expand upon a tested conditional cash government program titled “The Income Support Programme for the Poorest” will expand upon a tested conditional cash

MEASURING WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE

The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) - part of the PIM portfolio and a joint effort of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and USAID under the US Feed the Future Initiative - is the first comprehensive and standardized measure of women’s empowerment and inclusion in the agricultural sector. Launched in 2012, the Index aims to increase understanding of the linkages between women’s empowerment, agricultural productivity, and food security. By doing so, it helps to diagnose empowerment gaps, identify and prioritize interventions to close these gaps, and later test the effectiveness of interventions.

The WEAI has been adopted by a wide range of research and development organizations. By 2018, 75 external users, including universities, non-profit organizations, international organizations (e.g. FAO, IFAD, UN Women) and CGIAR Centers have used the WEAI (or one of its adaptations) in 50 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

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