

TH1.1: Beyond Household Headship: Examining the Intra-household Decision-Making Process Among Wheat Growers in Bihar, India

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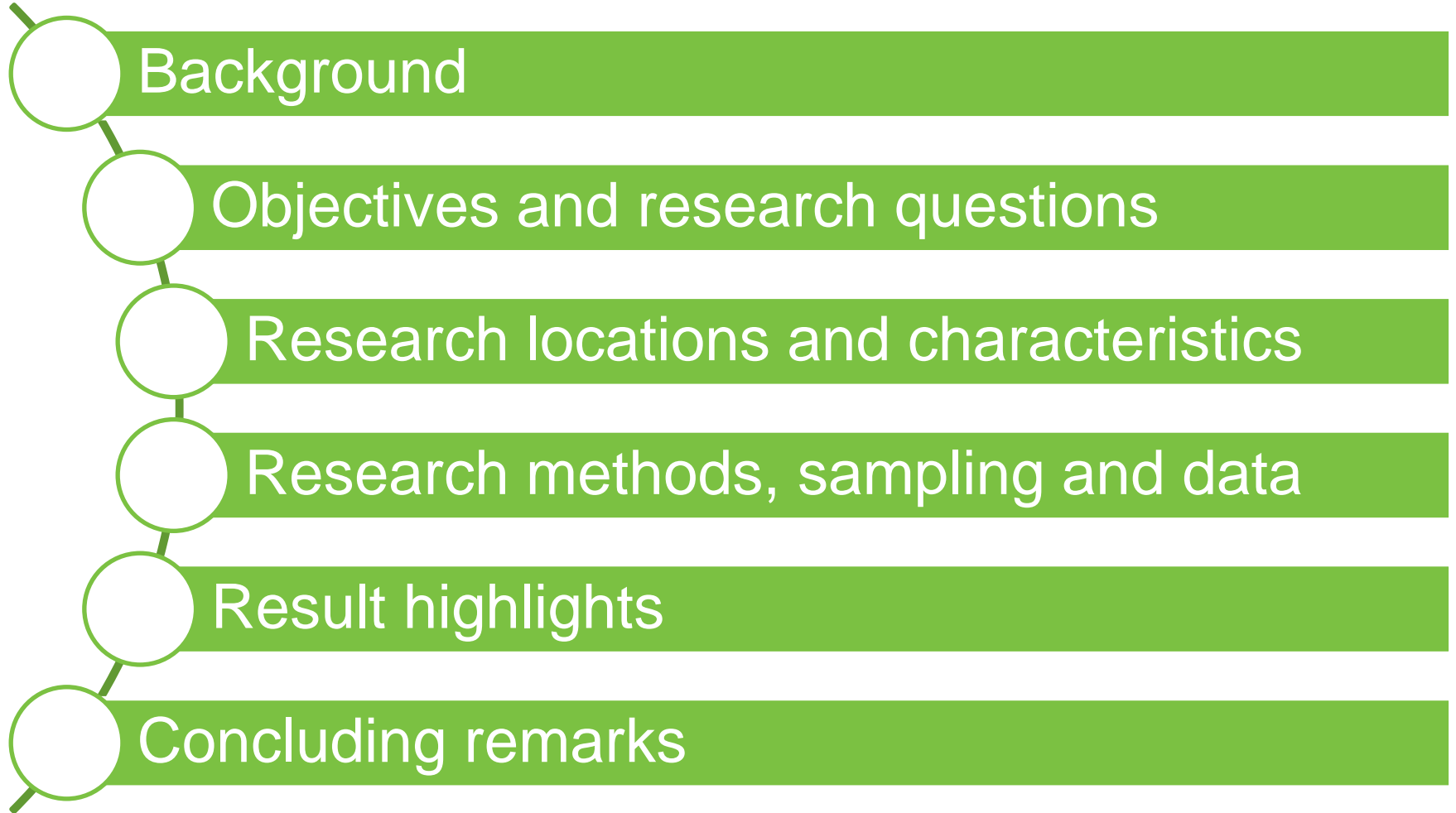
Sustainable Agrifood Systems Program (SAS)

CIMMYT

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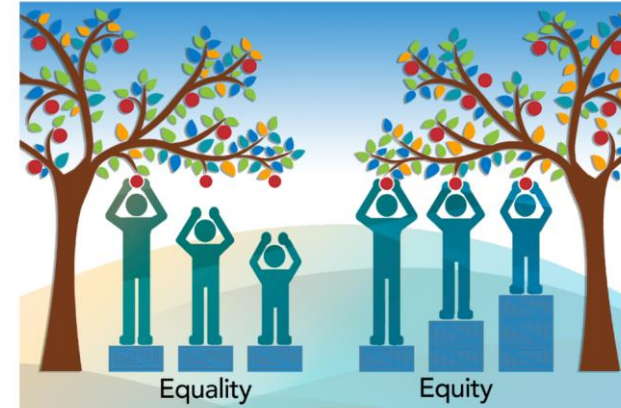


Outline

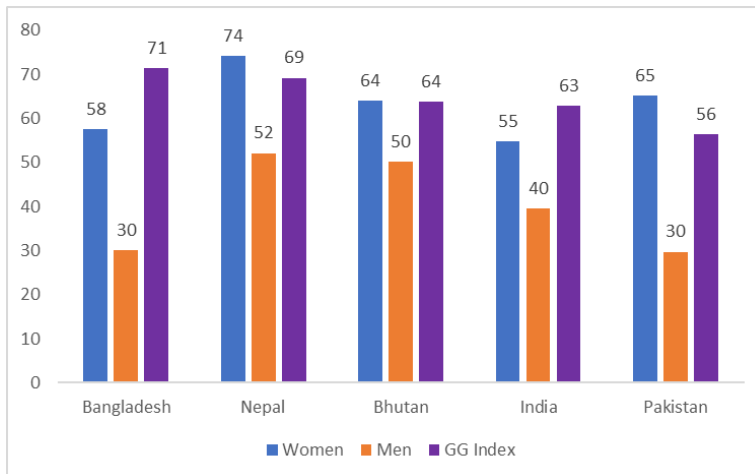


Background

- Women and men farmers are differently engaged in wheat crop production and management system
- They differ in influencing the decision-making (e.g., variety use, land use, labor management, harvest use, etc.)
- They differ in access to and need for agricultural innovations (improved seeds, fertilizers, services)
- Household head approach to data collection and analysis doesn't capture the perspectives of women living in male-headed households



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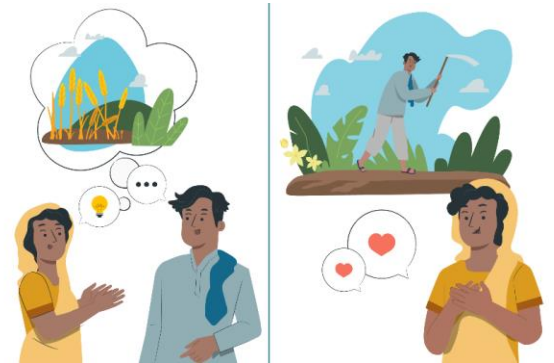


In this research, we try to understand some of these complex gendered realities by unpacking the process of intra-household decision-making

Sources: Employment in agriculture, % of employed (World Bank, 2019);
Gender Gap Index in % (World Economic Forum, 2022)

Research objective

- To describe the intra-household decision-making process in wheat crop management among the smallholder households, using vignettes (storytelling approach).



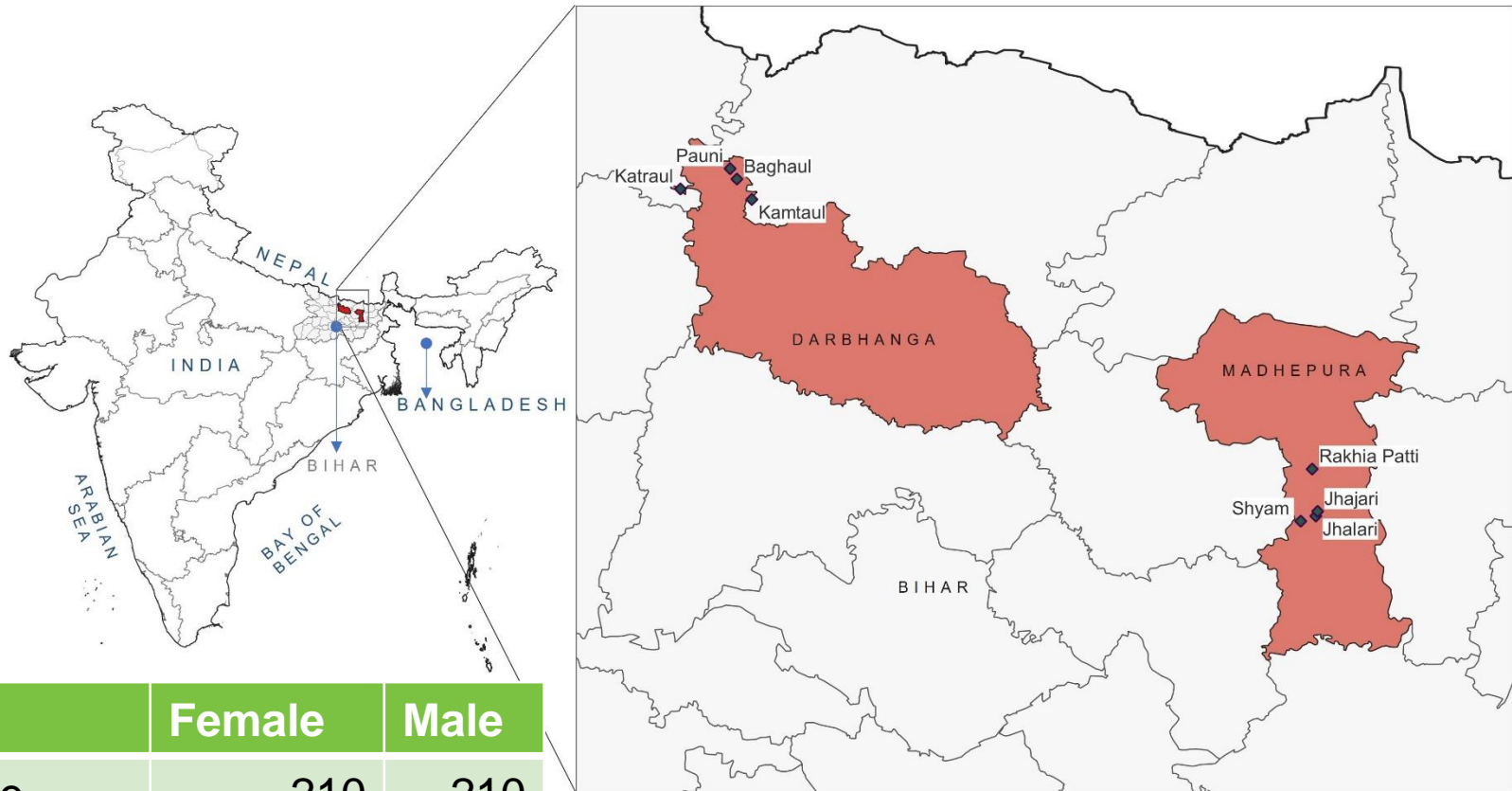
Research questions



- How do men's and women's reporting of decision-making differ in wheat crop production and management?
- Why do they report differently? How do perceptions of farm management roles differ between women and men?
- What are the implications of these dynamic intra-household decision-making pattern for women's and men's ability to choose and access wheat seeds?



Research locations and sample characteristics



	Female	Male
Sample size	210	210
Average age	44.3	49.0
Average year of education	3.8	5.5

Main varieties reported: Sriram 303, UP262, HD2967 (in order, same trend for both women and men)



Methods

- Sex-disaggregated survey using vignettes – storytelling approach
- Vignettes are short stories about a hypothetical scenario, presented to participants during qualitative or quantitative research, to glean information about their own set of beliefs
- The research participants are asked to comment on how they think about different (household decision making) scenarios (the stories) relating to their own (household) situation
- As the focus is on a third (hypothetical) person, vignettes can be advantageous in research on sensitive topics where the participants may not feel comfortable discussing their personal situation



Household Decision Scenarios



Cooperation scenario: Respondent and spouse have full collaboration in decision making. *mutual understanding*



Contribution scenario: Respondent decides, as puts more resources/efforts. *no one feels left out*



Contention scenario: Respondent has idea, but spouse doesn't listen. *creates conflicts and frustration*



Specialization scenario: Respondent has little or no interference in decision. *trust*



Norm scenario: Male respondent makes decision even if he feels not being the right person. *traditional and cultural expectations*



Unpacking process



What?

Strategic
Operational
Financial

(Variety selection, saving seeds, land prep and seed sowing, labor management, credit, harvest use)

How?

Decision making scenarios

(Cooperation, Contribution, Contention, Specialization, Norm)

Why?

Perceived understanding of why they do what they do



Result highlights

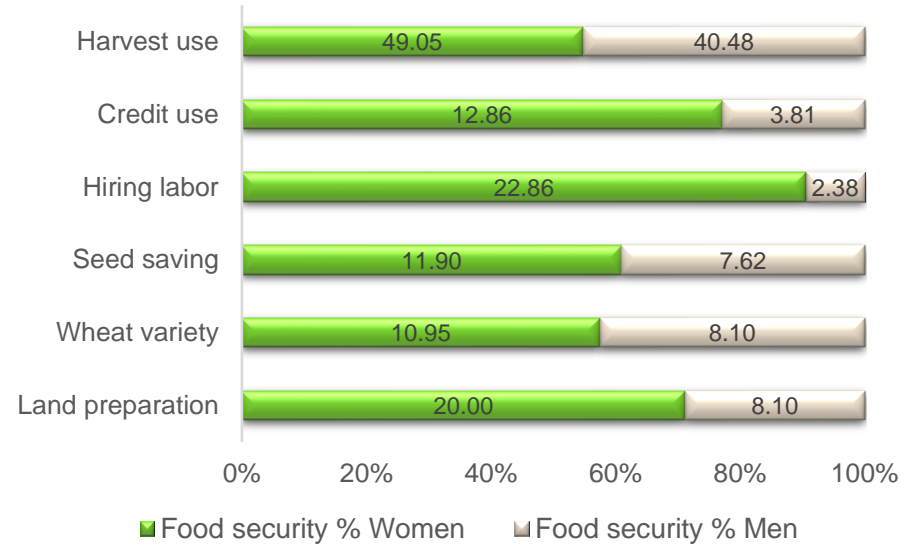
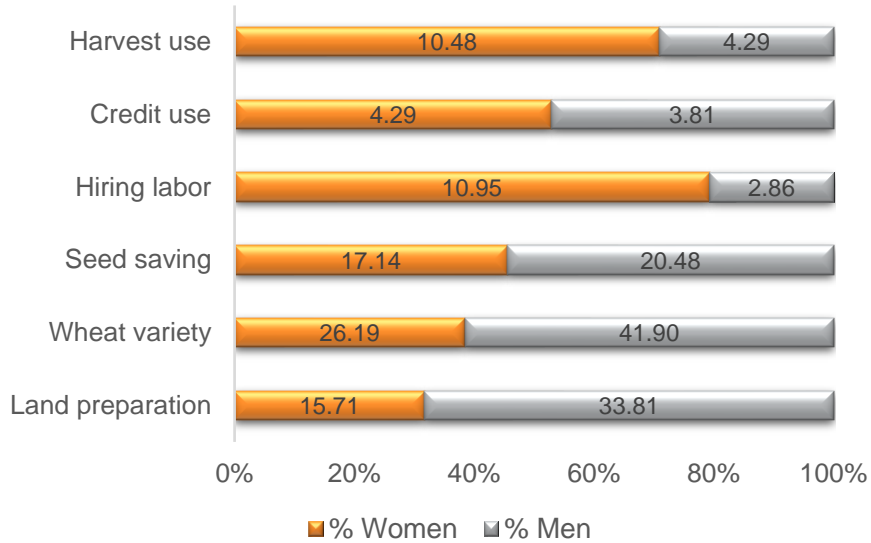
Popular choices of decision-making scenarios (vignettes) by the respondents

Household decision making scenarios (vignettes)	Land prep and seed sowing (%)		Variety decision (%)		Saving seed for next season (%)		Labor decision (%)		Finance decision (%)		Harvest use decision (%)	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
	Cooperation	40	44	22	36	27	35	39	17	29	22	62
Contribution	11	26	27	27	21	30	27	46	25	36	11	25
Contention	2	1	5	1	3	0	4	0	3	1	1	0
Specialization	39	22	41	31	42	30	25	32	35	36	22	39
Norm	6	6	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	4	2	3
Observations (n)	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210



Result highlights

Reasons for joint (cooperation and contribution) decision scenarios



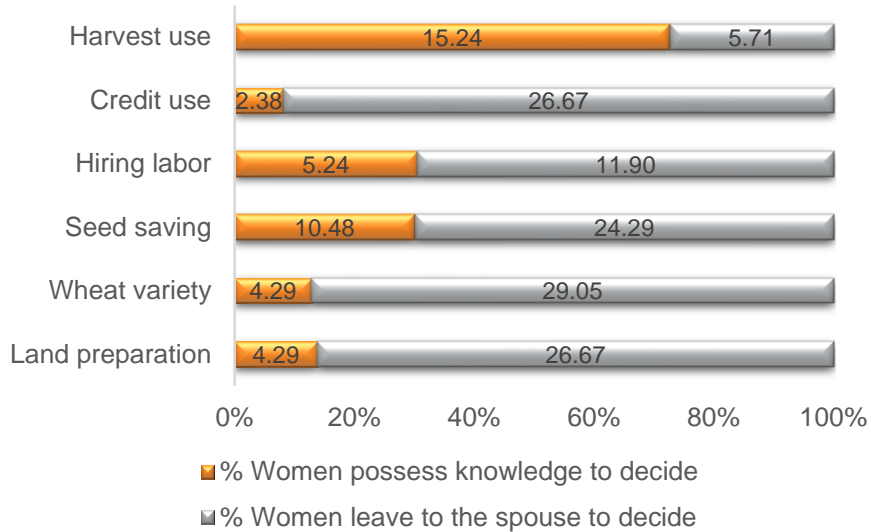
For better wheat production

To ensure household food security

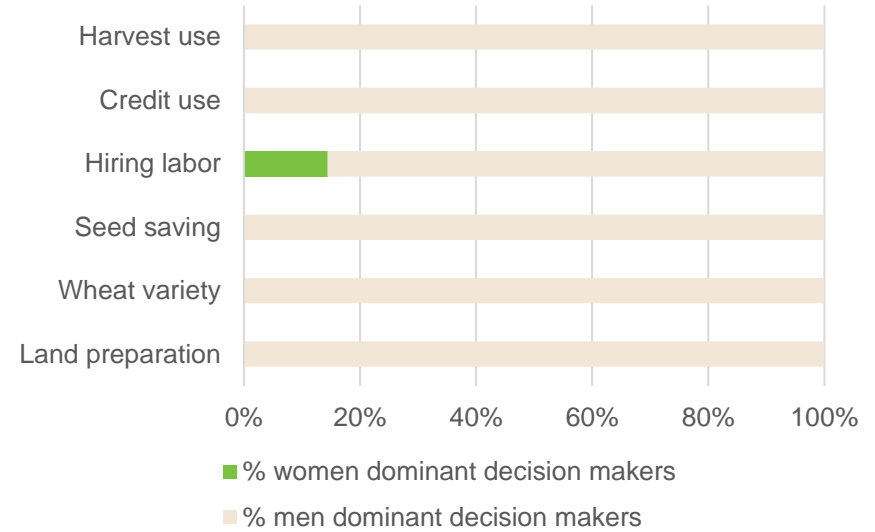


Result highlights

Women as knowledge holders



Cultural norms as a reason for decision making



Concluding remarks

- Vignettes help respondents to provide sensitive information relatively openly
- Women and men have different perspectives on what they decide and why!
 - Even for same responses the logic behind (why) differs between women and men
- The dynamic and nuanced aspect of intra-household decision-making can be addressed by asking both women and men separately (not only to the household head), especially with those having significant role in decision making!



Acknowledgements

❖ Project

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❖ Team members





**Thank you
for your
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