

Women's land rights for rural poverty reduction

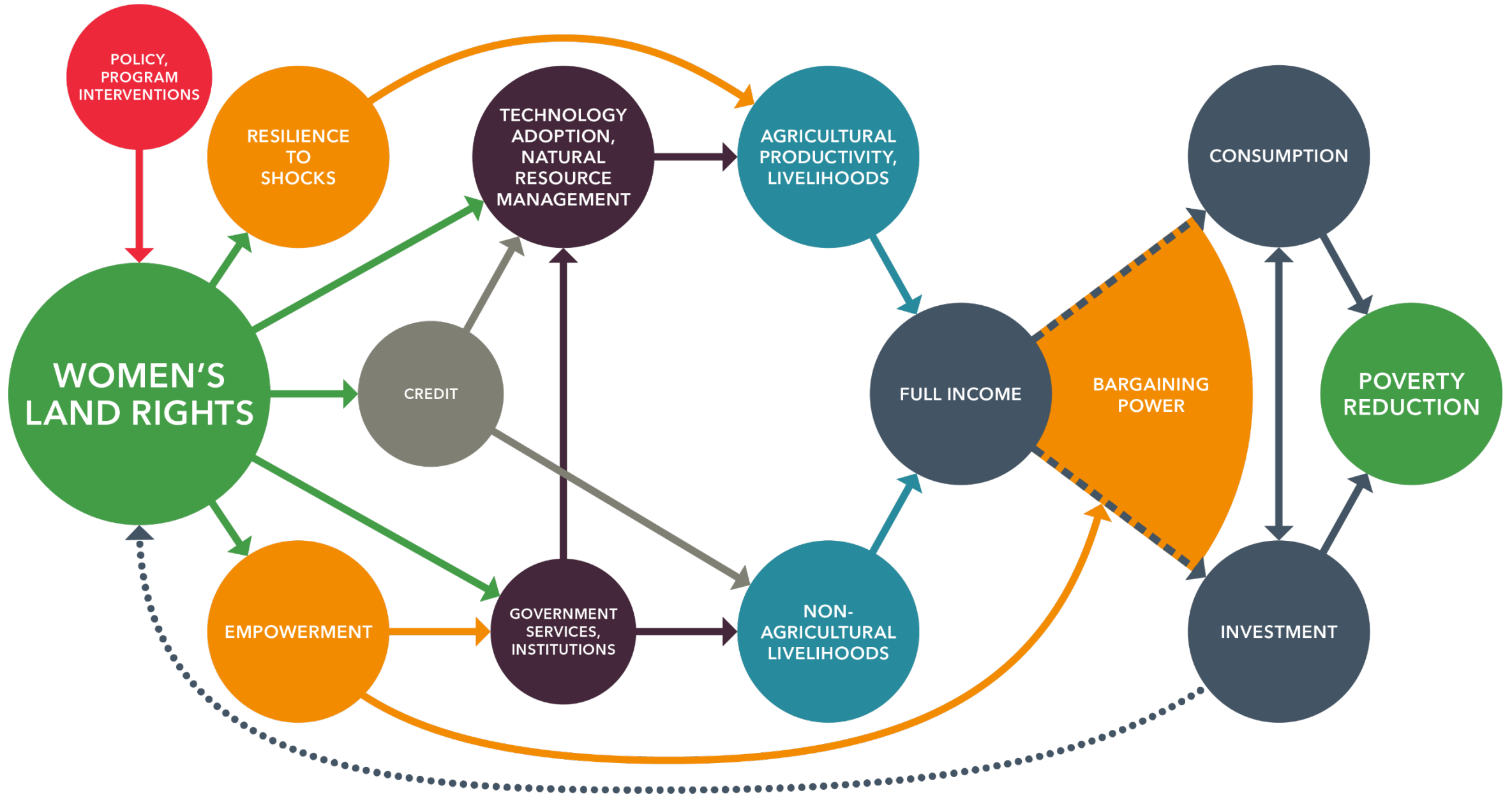
Cheryl Doss
Tufts University

Women's land rights are important:

- As a component of women's empowerment
- They influence women's ability to acquire agricultural credit, information, and inputs
- And thus affect women's agricultural productivity
- Provide security and help in coping with risk
- All of these contribute to poverty reduction



Links from Women's Land Rights to Poverty Reduction



But strong land rights
for women does not
simply mean women
owning their own plot
of land



Photo: Amber Peterman

Land rights are more complex than simply “ownership” or having a title

Bundle of rights –

- Right to use

- Right to manage or change

- Rights to make profit and loss

- Rights to prevent others from using the land

- Future interests such as the right to inherit



Photo: Rachel Kramer

Land rights may be held individually or jointly.

The strength of those rights and her tenure security depends on legal systems, social norms, and family and intrahousehold dynamics.



Women's tenure security on collective lands depends on both the tenure security of the group and women's voices in governance.



Photo: Cheryl Doss

Mixed methods approaches
have taught us much more
about the ways in which
women's property rights
lead to poverty reduction
within particular context.

