



IFPRI

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRIFOOD GOVERNANCE (WEAGOV)

## Training Video: WEAGov Conceptual Framework

Jordan Kyle and Catherine Ragasa  
International Food Policy Research Institute

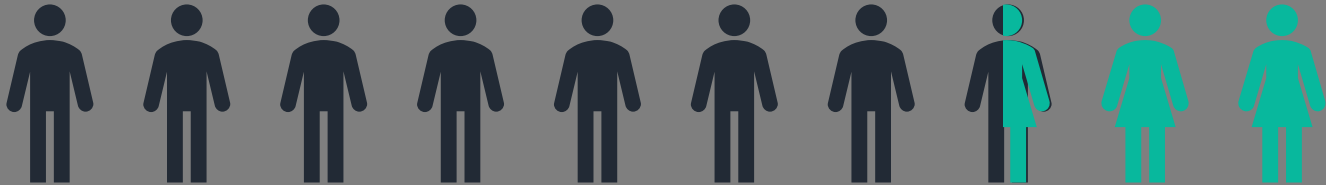


CGIAR

Women make up **only 27%** of members of parliament worldwide...

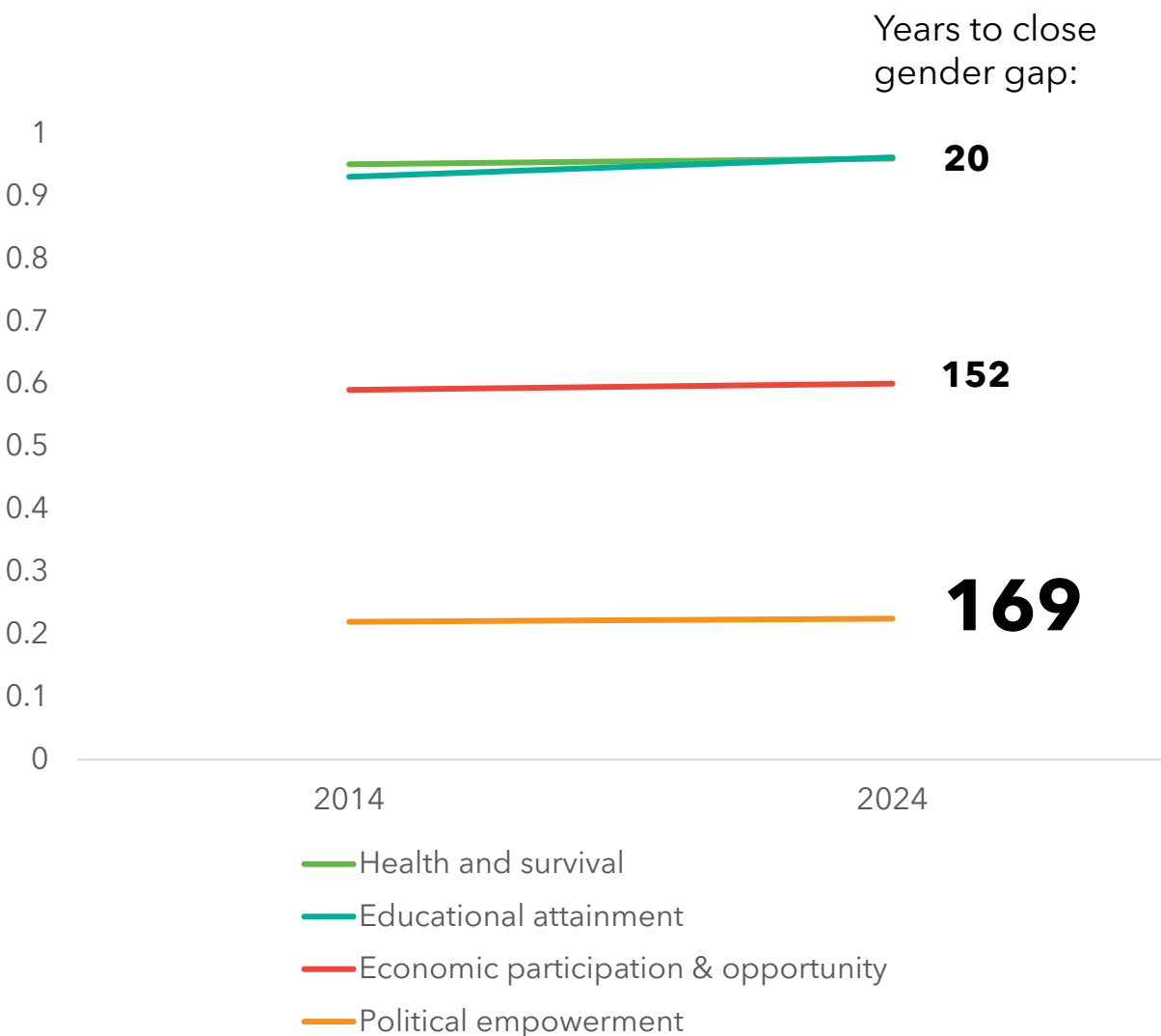


... and **only 23%** of cabinet secretaries



Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (2024); WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2024

# Global gender gaps across 4 domains



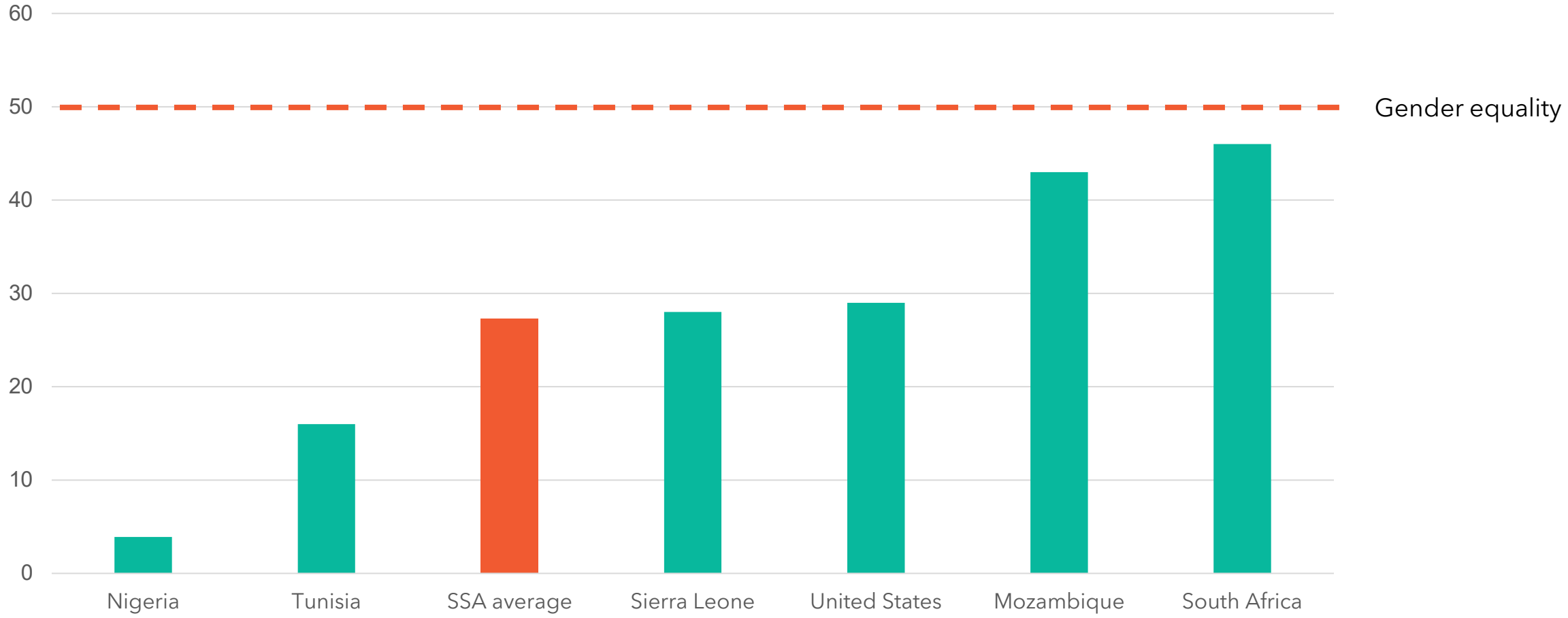
*....very little, if any, progress in closing gender gaps in past 10 years*

*Widest global gender gap in political empowerment*

*Estimated to take 169 years to close political empowerment gender gap at current rates of progress*

# Women in parliament: How far from parity?

Share of women in parliament (lower chambers)



# Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment

# Policy and Governance

# Agrifood System

SIGI Index

Global Gender Gap

Gender Equity and Governance Index

Women, Business, and the Law

GAPo

WEAI

**WEAGov**

Enabling Agribusiness

Kaleidoscope model

Land Governance Assessment Framework

Forest Governance Toolkit

# What is WEAGov?

- WEAGov - the Women's Empowerment in Agrifood Governance - is an assessment framework and tool to measure women's voice and empowerment in the agrifood and climate policy process
  - Developed by IFPRI researchers, with inputs from > 50 experts and index developers consulted, and piloted in Nigeria by APRNet in 2023 and India by LEAD in 2024



We need triggers... to get policies funded and implemented... Trigger[s]... serve to activate... attention among policymakers. WEAGov is serving as a trigger.



*Deputy Director, Gender Mainstreaming,  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Security, Nigeria*

# How was WEAGov developed?

Stage 1: 2022

KII

Index review

Theory

WEAGov

Stage 2: 2023

KII: Round 2

Piloting

Expert feedback

Stage 3: 2024/25

Scaling partners

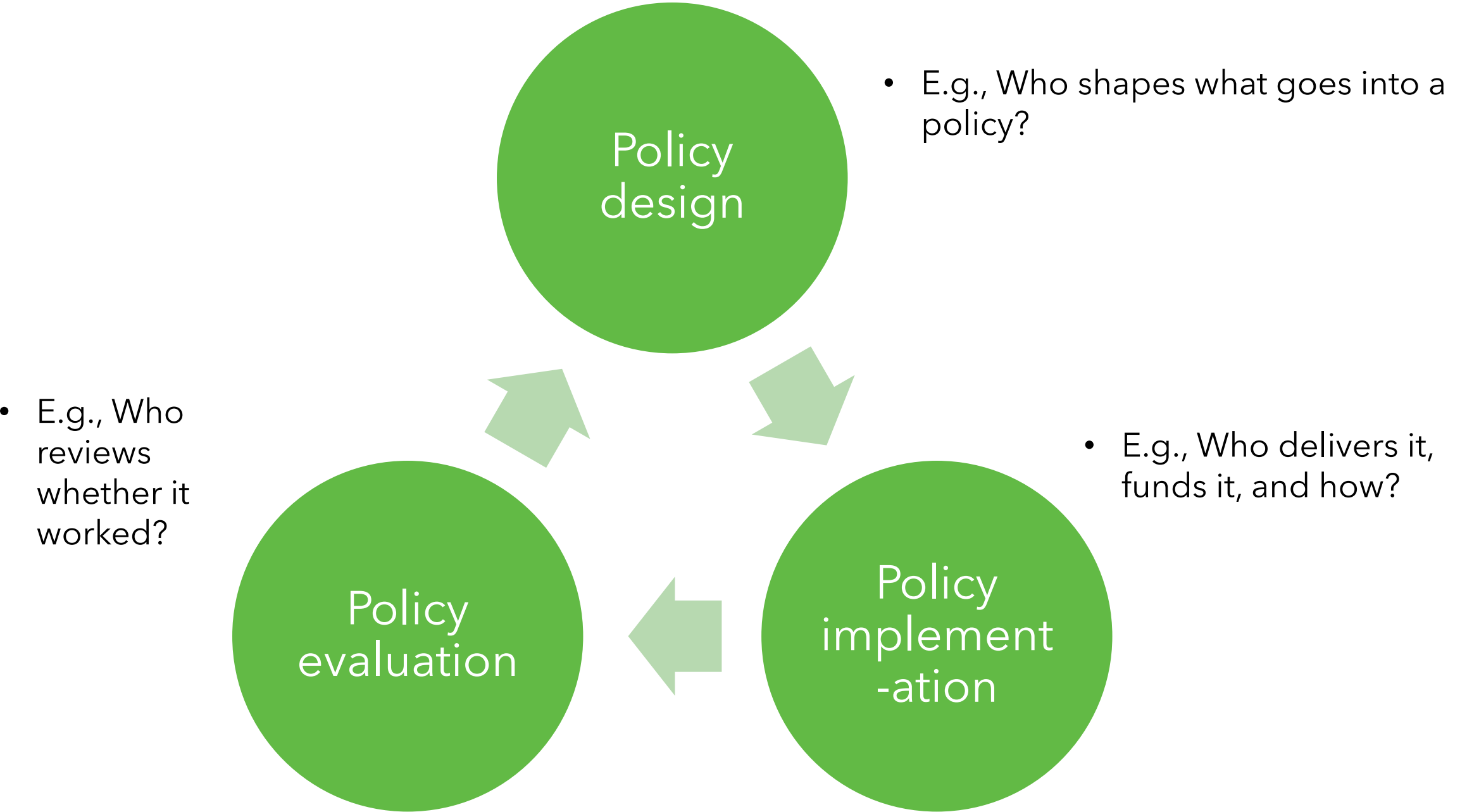
Piloting refined tool

Peer review

**Note:** KII=key informant's interviews

# Key concepts for understanding women's empowerment in agrifood policy process

Term	Definition	Key distinction
<b>Agency</b>	"the capacity to make decisions about one's own life and act upon them to achieve a desired outcome, free of violence, retribution or fear" (World Bank 2014)	Internal, though can be exercised by individuals and groups
<b>Voice</b>	Ability to play a public role in politics and to influence decisions and policy-making	External / relational
<b>Empowerment</b>	Process by which those who have been denied agency acquire agency - enhancing capabilities for self-determination	Process, change over time



# At each stage of the policy process, WEAGov asks 3 key questions

Are women considered?

- Whether the needs and priorities of women are recognized and built into the policy
- Include things like setting and monitoring gender targets, budgetary support, and collecting gender-disaggregated data

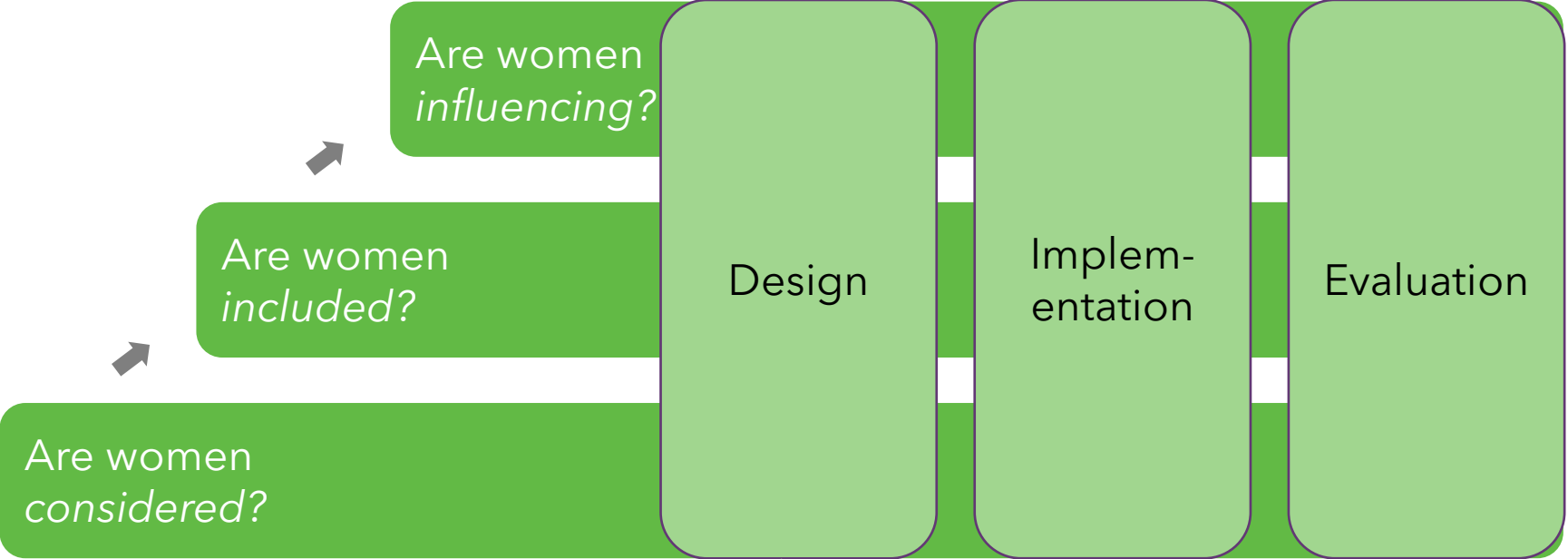
Are women included?

- Opportunities for women to meaningfully weigh in on how policies affect them
- Includes things like input on policy design, feedback on policy implementation, and representation among organizations implementing policies

Are women influencing?

- Ability to act *with* other women to shape policy choices
- Includes things like women playing leadership roles in organizations that play a role in the agrifood policy process

**Achievement**  
An agrifood governance system in which women can realize their own choices and goals



**Enabling resources**  
Gender norms, Access to resources, Health & well-being, Education

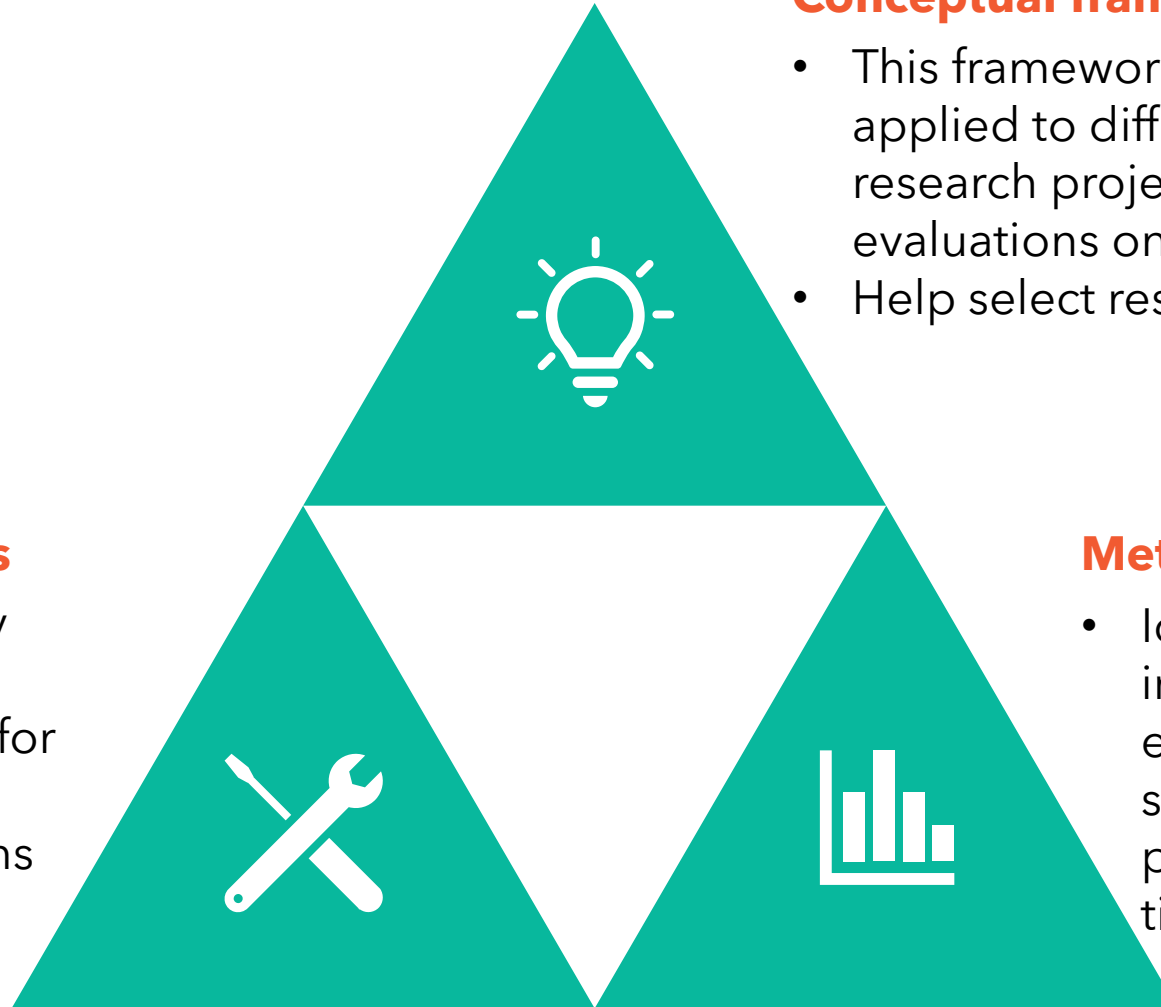
*Positive feedback loop*



## Seed policy example

	Design	Implementation	Evaluation
<b>Considered?</b>	Are there significant social or economic problems in the sector that differentially affect men and women? Does the policy take these into account?	Are gender targets funded and tracked in a budget line?	Are gender-disaggregated data collected and used?
<b>Included?</b>	Were women and women's groups consulted in policy design?	Are women in technical roles in the agriculture ministry and seed councils?	Do women have channels to provide feedback on implementation?
<b>Influencing?</b>	Are women on the parliamentary agricultural committee that adopted the policy?	Are women in leadership roles – not just represented among technical staff – in the ministry?	Are women leading the organizations that review and advocate for gender targets?

# Three ways to engage with WEAGov



## Conceptual framework

- This framework can be widely applied to different types of research projects or policy evaluations on gender & policy
- Help select research questions

## Tools and resources

- Use WEAGov survey instruments and measurement tools for your own research, e.g., survey questions for key informant interviews or desk review templates

## Metric and application

- Identify entry points for increasing women's empowerment in national and state-level agrifood policy process, track progress over time