Promoting Rural Women’s Access to Income Generating Opportunities and Social Protection

Commission on the Status of Women
Panel Discussion 1
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Who are the rural women?

• Recognize and appreciate the diversity
• Need for
  – gender disaggregated data collection and analysis
  – more information on rural women’s time use, employment, asset ownership and income
  – better understanding of rural women’s capacities, constraints and opportunities for income generation
Income generation

• Decreasing role of agriculture and increasing role of other sources of employment and income; income diversification in rural areas

• Different employment and income profiles between men and women. Rural women dominantly in low-productivity jobs, working on small farms and firms, running small enterprises, overrepresented in the informal sector and as unpaid family workers

• Rural women and woman-headed households earn less than men and man-headed households
Capacities and Opportunities

- Capacities
- Opportunities

Income strategies
Seizing the opportunities depends on rural women’s resources and capacities.

- Assets:
  - natural
  - physical
  - human
  - social
  - financial

- Social relations

- Institutions
- Organizations

- Trends
- Shocks
## Building rural women’s capacities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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| HUMAN CAPITAL | • education (numeracy, literary, bargaining power)  
• health, including reproductive health  
• reducing time poverty through services (child care), household and production technologies and sharing of household duties |
| NATURAL       | • securing access to land and water                                                                                                             |
| FINANCIAL     | • promoting access to saving and credit services & insurances                                                                                   |
| SOCIAL        | • mobilizing, raising awareness, promoting women’s own organizations and collective action                                                                 |
| PHYSICAL      | • up-grading rural infrastructure, transport, ICT  
• accessibility of agricultural inputs                                                                                                           |
Through institutions, organizations, social relations

| legislation                  | • labor legislation, codes of conduct and ethical standards & enforcement  
|                             | • laws that guarantee equal rights |
| policies                    | • gender sensitive, comprehensive rural development and employment policies |
| programs                    | • gender sensitive social protection programs, such as cash transfers, food distribution, public work and insurances |
| markets                     | • market information  
|                             | • improved functioning of credit, input, land and labor markets |
• establishment of women’s own organisations and collective action

• women’s participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and programs

• altering of norms and practices that inhibit women from fully utilising their capabilities

• questioning of prevailing patterns of women’s engagement in unpaid work
Thank you very much!