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Women's Economic Empowerment in Agriculture

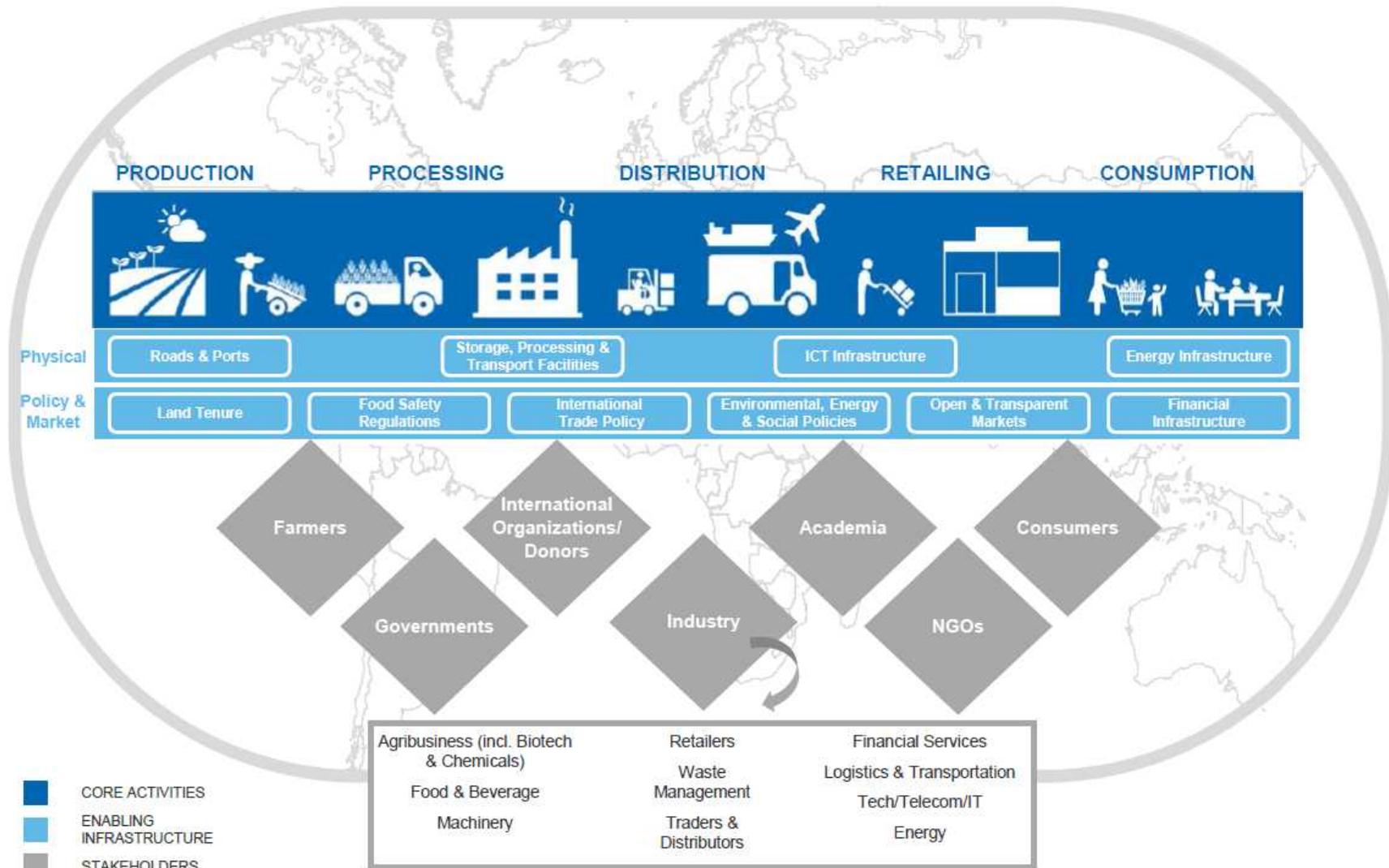
A Canadian Perspective on Vision For Action Priorities



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The food system is complex, presenting both challenges and opportunities for women's empowerment



Women in Agriculture and Food Systems

- Canada recognizes the essential roles women play in agri-food systems
- There are many structural disadvantages in access
 - Land
 - Information/Specialized knowledge
 - Financial services
 - Technology
 - Political voice
- This ultimately impacts agricultural output, income, and nutritional outcomes.
- The V4A addresses these challenges through rights and access to resources, an enabling environment, and economic opportunities



Considerations

- Discriminatory social and cultural attitudes remain.
- Structural constraints barring women's empowerment are persistent.

But

- Women are not one homogenous group and experience these constraints differently
- There are ethnic, socio-economic and generational differences across the regions in which we work



Canada's approach

Gender equality is central to all Canada's international assistance

Maintain the Focus	Maintain explicit targets/objectives	
	Have GE central in policy dialogue	
Address underlying issues	Build human capital (CB, access to info.)	
	Expand asset base (inputs, tools, finance)	
	Build social capital (facilitate organisation)	
Use the whole system	Look across the value chain for opportunity	
	Involve women in research	
	Effective multi-stakeholder partnerships	

WEE in Practice

Canada supports many initiatives with mandates to empower women in agriculture

- GROW project (Ghana) – MEDA
- Increasing Women's Participation in the Dairy Sector (Southern Punjab) – Plan International Canada
- Women's Leadership: Economic Empowerment and Food Security (Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia) – St. Francis Xavier University
- Knowledge Gateway on Women's Economic Empowerment – UN Women



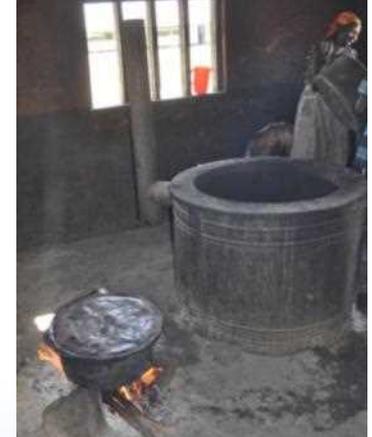
Investment in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture creates value!

- SMS messaging to improve access to market information has a cost-benefit ratio between 1:4 and 1:8
- Laos: \$405 US/household provides education on land tenure rights and processes for women to gain legal access to land
- Bangladesh: \$300 US/household provides long-term diversified vegetables, fruit and poultry production for women and their families
- Disseminating improved household cooking stoves in Uganda has a cost-benefit ratio of 1:13 for fuel savings only, or 1:25 for all benefits



Guiding Questions

- Positive reinforcing impacts on:
 - Improving nutrition
 - Sustainability and resilience
 - Impact on achieving the SDGs
- What can stakeholders do to better coordinate and collaborate to empower women?
- Are there missing elements? How can others complement G7 efforts?





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Thank you - Merci

