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# Women's Economic Empowerment in Agriculture

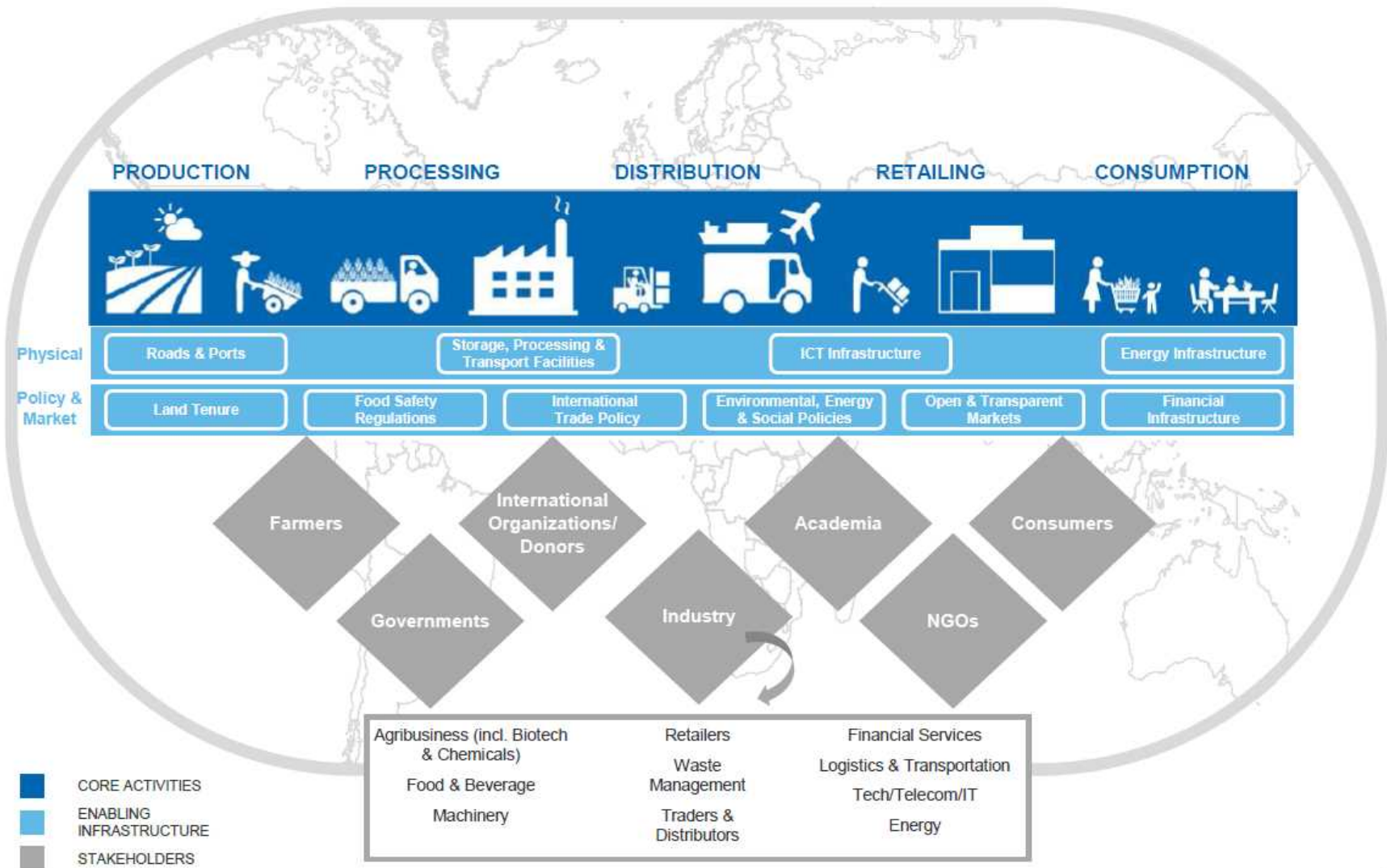
## *A Canadian Perspective on Vision For Action Priorities*



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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*

<b>Maintain the Focus</b>	Maintain explicit targets/objectives	
	Have GE central in policy dialogue	
<b>Address underlying issues</b>	Build human capital (CB, access to info.)	
	Expand asset base (inputs, tools, finance)	
	Build social capital (facilitate organisation)	
<b>Use the whole system</b>	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



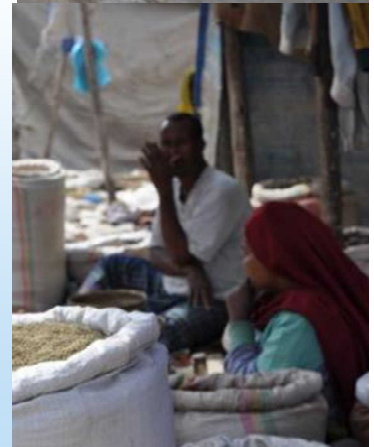
# Investment in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture creates value!

- 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

