Invitation

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Africa and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development warmly invite you to briefing ahead of International Women’s Day on the first ever **Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)**.

Developed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford, the innovative new index marks a breakthrough in the **measurement of the empowerment and inclusion of women in the agricultural sector**.

**Wednesday 7th March 2012**
10:00-11:30am
**Committee Room 10, Houses of Parliament, London, UK**

Dr. Meredith Soule, Team Leader for West Africa
USAID

Dr. Sabina Alkire, Director
OPHI

Dr. Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Senior Research Fellow
IFPRI

The index shows that:

*In southern Bangladesh, more than half of women are less empowered than the man they share their house with, and yet are usually more confident speaking in public*

*In the Western Highlands of Guatemala, wealth is a poor indicator of empowerment - on average three quarters of women in the wealthiest two thirds of the population are not-yet empowered*

*In rural parts of Uganda, lack of control over resources and time burdens contribute most to the disempowerment of women*

To attend, please RSVP to Joanne Tomkinson, Research Communications Officer, OPHI
Email: joanne.tomkinson@qeh.ox.ac.uk Tel: 01865 271528

This event will be followed by a second discussion with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development to mark International Women’s Day on “**Effective Solutions for Agricultural Development through Empowered African Women Scientists**,” in the same venue, from 12:30-2:00pm. To RSVP for this event, please email Jo Seed on j.seed@imperial.ac.uk

The US Government will use the WEAI for performance monitoring and impact evaluations across 19 focus countries as part of their Feed the Future global hunger and food security initiative. Uses of the index for measuring, monitoring and evaluating empowerment will be covered at the event.

The WEAI will be formally launched at the UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York on 28th February 2012 by Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, USAID with Dr. Sabina Alkire, OPHI Director and Dr. Agnes Quisumbing, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI. The Parliament event on 7th March is designed to introduce senior UK policymakers, academics, development practitioners and media commentators to the index and its potential for informing new approaches to boosting empowerment and improving food security.