Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index

CASE STUDY PROFILE

Ingrid, Guatemala

Ingrid is a 63-year-old woman who belongs to an indigenous Mayan group (Mam) and lives in a small village within Guatemala’s mountainous Quetzaltenango district. She lives in a brick house with four bedrooms, electricity, and dirt floors. Ingrid is married, but she is often solely in charge of the household because her husband currently works as a carpenter in the United States and sends money back to support their large family. Ingrid lives with her daughter, her son, and her son’s family, including three grandchildren. While they do have available land, Ingrid’s family does not have sufficient money to build a separate house for the children and grandchildren. Ingrid stopped attending school after the third grade at age 11 because “there was no money.”

The family cultivates maize and a small amount of broad beans and owns a variety of livestock. Ingrid is actively involved in agricultural production, and she and her husband have been growing maize, a customary crop in the village, since they got married 42 years ago. However, they are only able to produce enough to last three or four months of the year. Her husband makes the decisions on planting while he is at home, and Ingrid makes them when he is abroad. She

“Although I am tired, I am content.”
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This innovative new tool is composed of two sub-indexes: one measures how empowered women are within five domains, and the other measures gender parity in empowerment within the household. A woman is considered empowered if she has adequate achievements in four of the five domains or in some combination of the weighted indicators that reflect 80 percent total adequacy. Gender parity reflects the percentage of women who are as empowered as the men in their households.

Ingrid’s Empowerment Score

Ingrid is empowered according to the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index, and she has achieved gender parity with her husband. In the Index diagram, the outer ring identifies the domains. The shaded segments inside represent the indicators in which Ingrid has adequate achievements.

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