

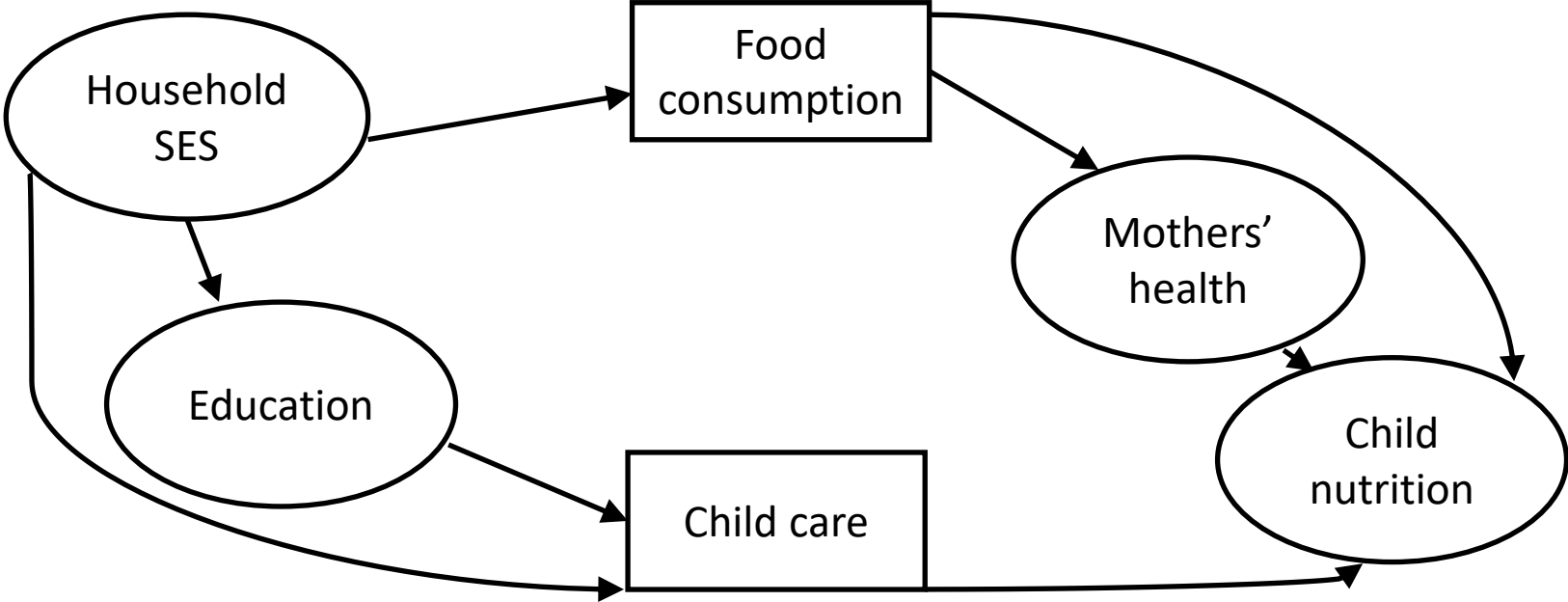
# From research to law and policy – women agricultural workers in Pakistan

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# Nutrition pathways - simplified

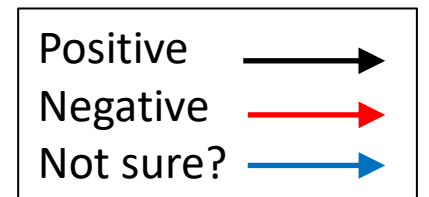
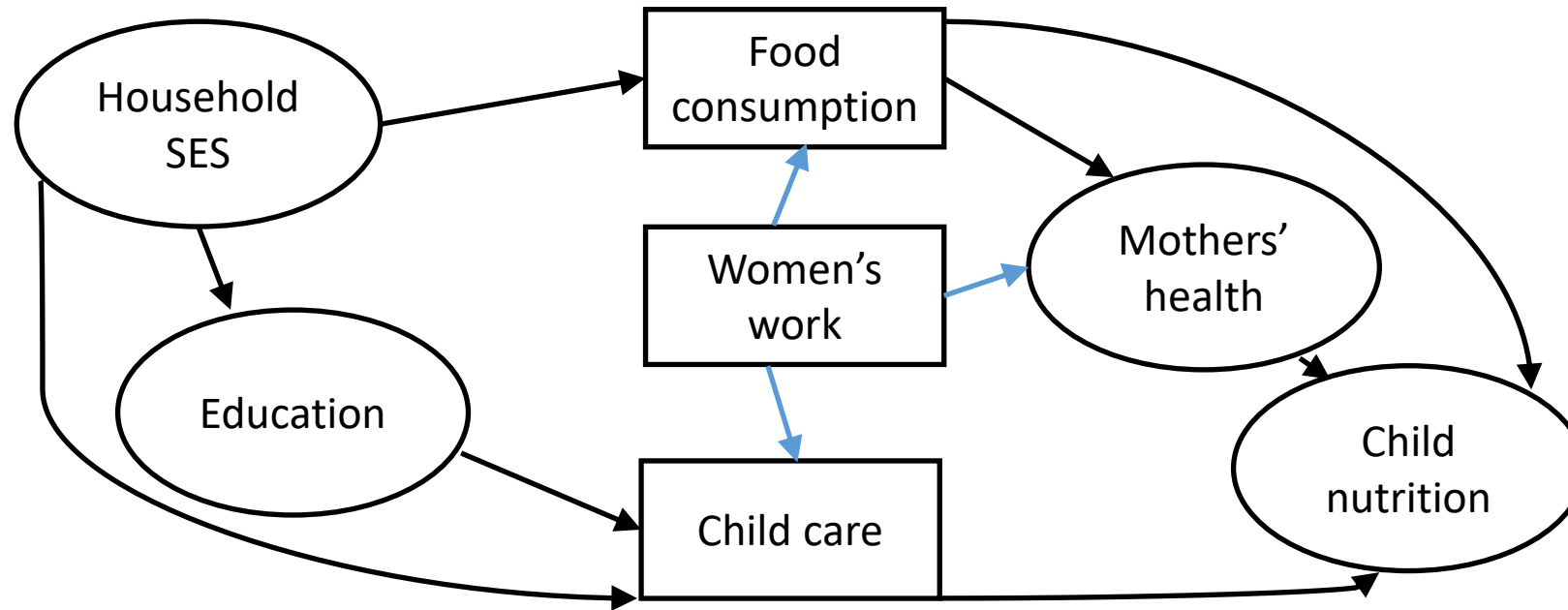


# Labour force statistics

- Over 75 per cent of female workforce in agriculture
- Over 50% of agricultural workforce is female
- Mazhar et al (2017)  
[http://www.researchcollective.org/Documents/The\\_Hidden\\_Economic\\_Backbone\\_Women\\_in\\_Agriculture.pdf](http://www.researchcollective.org/Documents/The_Hidden_Economic_Backbone_Women_in_Agriculture.pdf)

Reference region	Standard labour force participation rates		Augmented labour force participation rates	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Urban Pakistan	66	10	66	12
Rural Pakistan	67	29	69	44
Urban Sindh	66	6	66	9
Rural Sindh	72	22	73	51

# Women's (agricultural) work - and gaps in evidence



# Women's Work and Nutrition (WWN) Survey – 2016

- Collaboration between Collective for Social Science Research and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine under Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA)
- Prior qualitative work: Balagamwala et al (2015)
  - [http://www.researchcollective.org/Documents/Women\\_Agricultural\\_Work\\_and\\_Nutrition\\_in\\_Pakistan\\_findings\\_from\\_qualitative\\_research.pdf](http://www.researchcollective.org/Documents/Women_Agricultural_Work_and_Nutrition_in_Pakistan_findings_from_qualitative_research.pdf)
- Representative survey of irrigated rural areas of Sindh
  - Randomly drawn sample of villages across # districts, all births in reference period documented
  - Over 1,000 mother-child recruited in baseline
- Unique features
  - Questions on women's work based on prior qualitative research
  - Baseline (aged 2-12 weeks) and endline (11 months later) with same cohort
  - Precision – particularly in age-probing

# Household worried about Not having enough to eat last 30 days

## By Wealth

	<b>Baseline N= 1153</b>	<b>Endline N=1031</b>	<b>Neither N=1026</b>	<b>Both N=1026</b>
<b>All</b>	59.1	60.9	21.9	41.8
<b>Wealth Quintiles</b>				
Poorest	82.7	78.0	2.6	64.2
Poor	73.2	72.8	8.2	52.3
Average	62.8	63.7	15.2	44.1
Rich	51.3	57.9	26.3	34.9
Richest	26.9	32.5	55.2	14.4

# Women's Agriculture Work

## By tasks

Tasks	Ever (%) N=1048	In pregnancy (%) N=1048	After birth of child(%) N=1035
Picking cotton	51.2	28.6	36.9
Weeding/Digging	31.0	19.1	31.0
Harvesting grain (mainly wheat and rice)	39.8	14.4	31.2
Sowing/transplanting rice	22.4	11.4	10.6
Harvesting vegetables (chili/others)	17.4	8.0	16.0

# Prevalence of stunting (%)

By Infant Sex and Wealth Quintiles

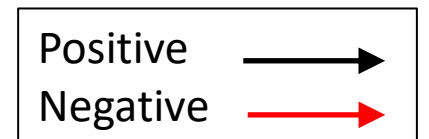
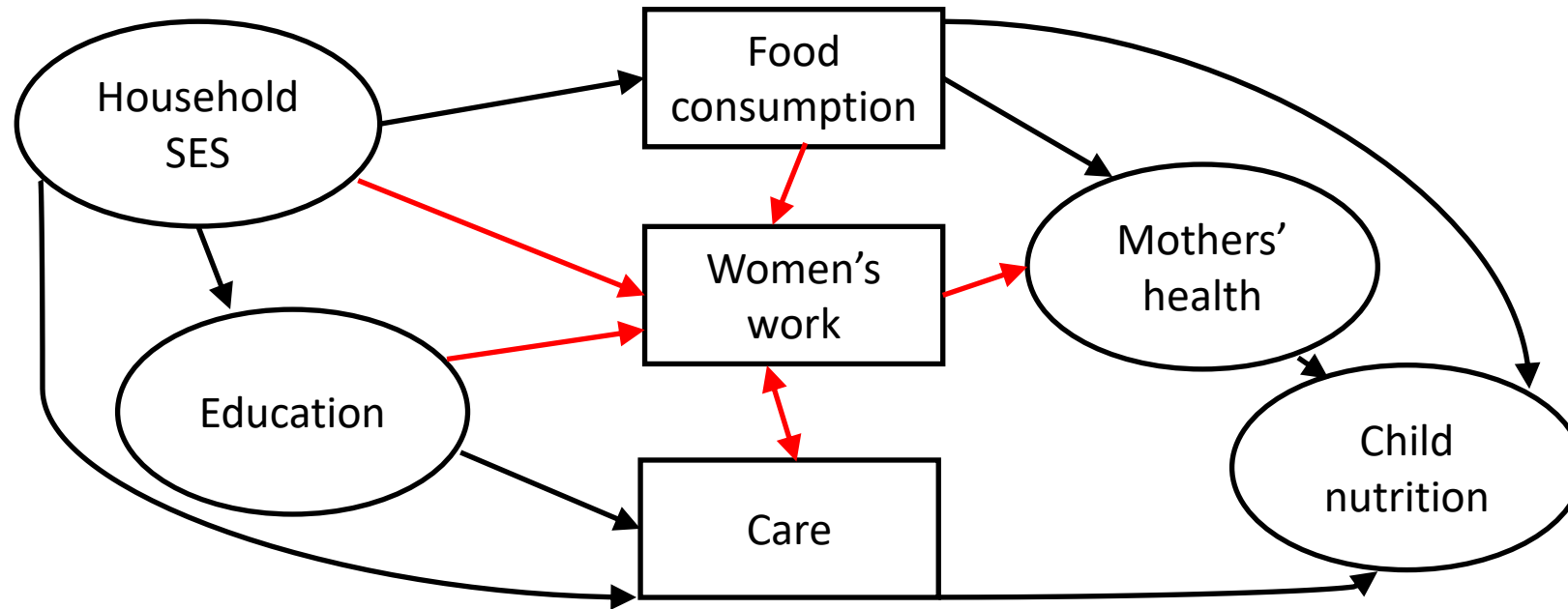
	Baseline		Endline	
	Below -2	Below -3	Below -2	Below -3
<b>All</b>	45.84	19.60	61.10	28.19
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	47.29	21.54	63.44	30.17
Female	44.17	17.49	58.77	26.20
<b>Wealth Quintiles</b>				
Poorest	53.13	25.89	73.44	73.44
Poor	44.44	20.37	70.77	70.77
Average	49.10	18.92	63.90	63.90
Rich	41.74	18.81	52.88	52.88
Richest	38.64	13.64	42.42	42.42



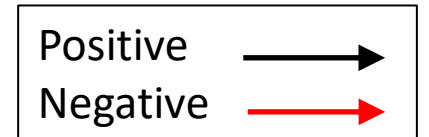
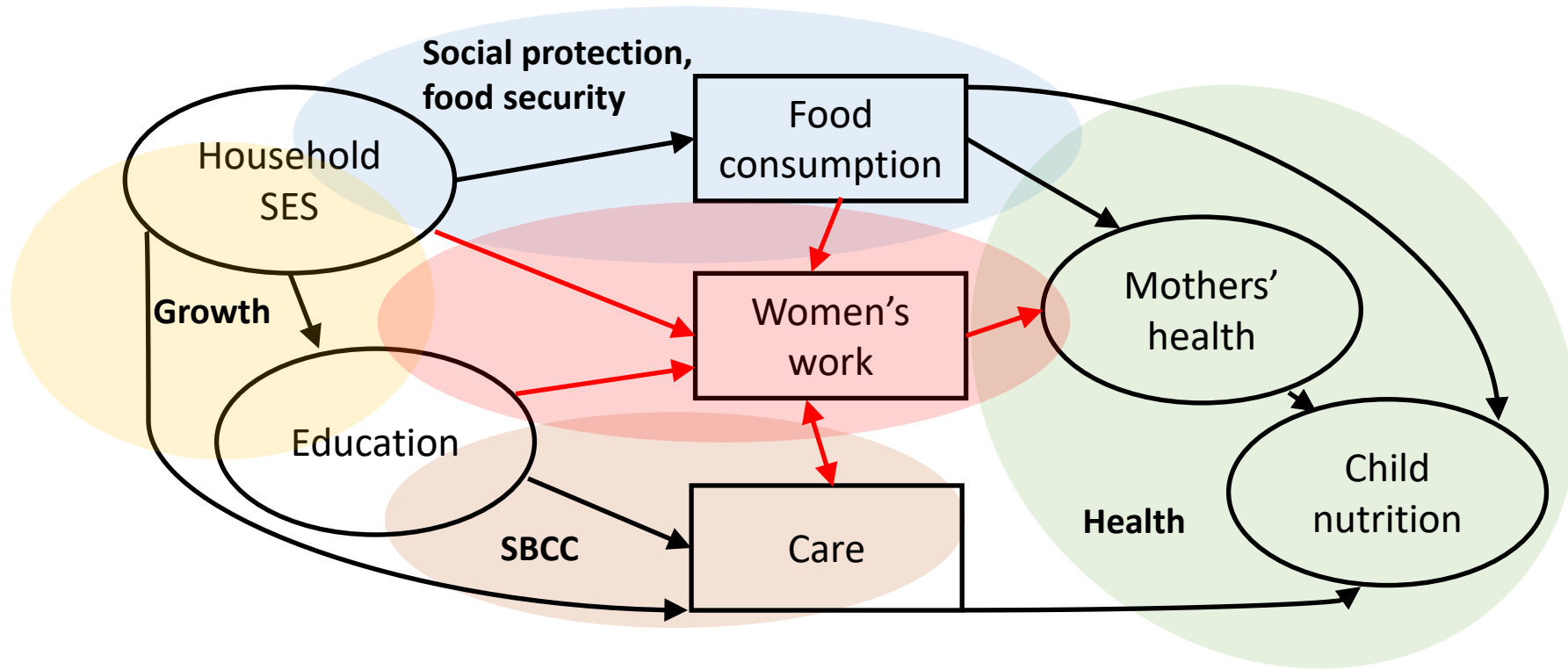
# Key findings

- Maternal BMI, women's crop-related work and infant length
  - Pradeilles et al. BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth (2019) 19:504  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-019-2638-3>
  - "Cotton harvesting during pregnancy was negatively associated with post-partum maternal BMI and infant LAZ, even after controlling for household wealth and education. Sixteen percent of the association between cotton harvesting and infant LAZ was mediated via its influence on maternal BMI"
- Factors associated with catch-up growth in early infancy
  - Pradeilles et al. Maternal and Child Nutrition (2018) 15:2 <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12733>
  - "The factors associated with catch-up growth were mainly socio-demographic. Maternal education, paternal education, the household wealth index, and the number of adult females per household were all positively associated with infant catch-up growth, whereas having a sibling of preschool age and breastfeeding were negatively associated with it."

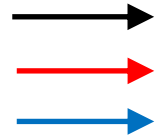
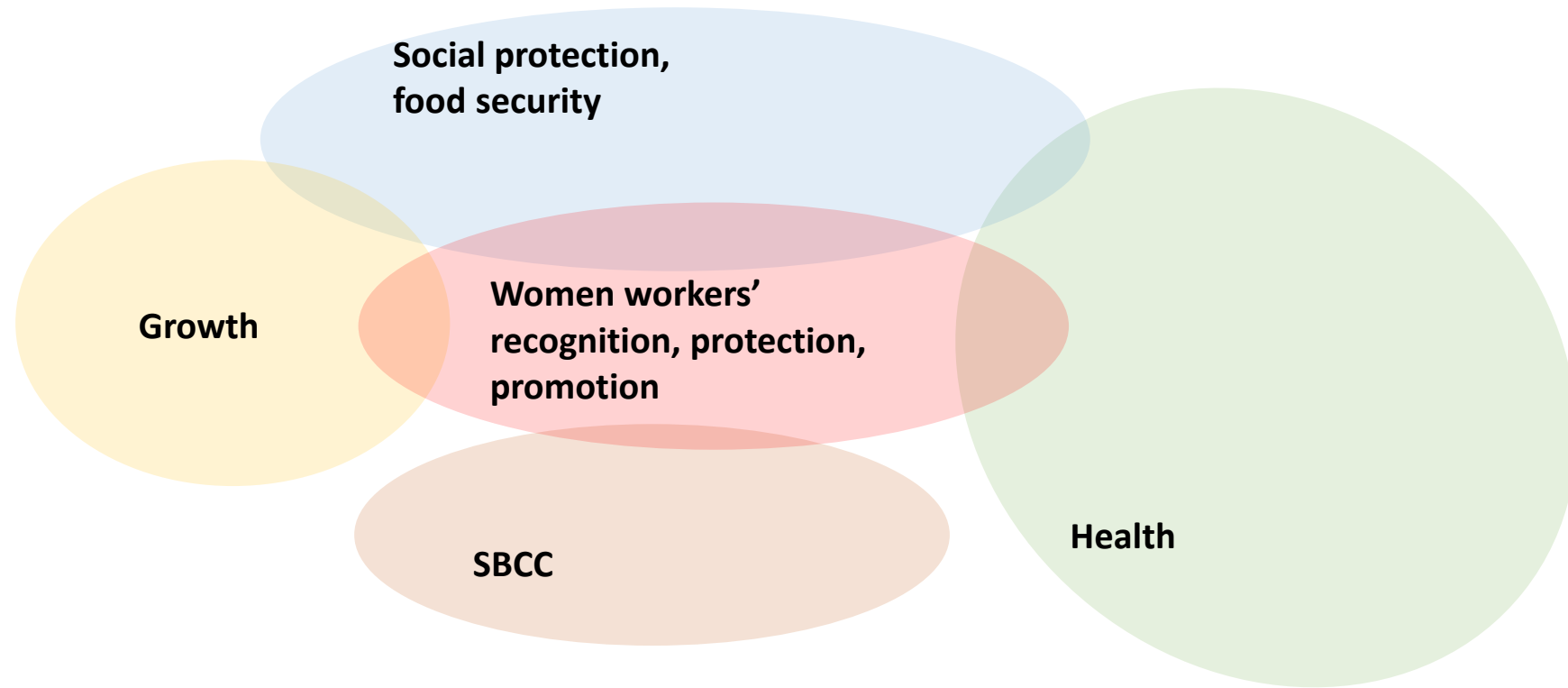
# Poverty, Work, Care, Health, Nutrition



# Policy areas



# Women agricultural workers rights and wellbeing at the centre



# Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Act 2020

- “Para 13 (1):“Government shall, through the Labour and Human Resources Department maintain a register of women agricultural workers at every Union Council.”
- Para 4(2) of Act:“A woman agricultural worker shall take time off work due to sickness or for ante-natal and post-natal care, routine health check-ups and visits without incurring financial or other penalty.”
- Provision in coming fiscal year for pilot programme in cotton-growing districts – fiscal allocation Rs 500 million

## The Sindh Government Gazette

Published by Authority

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KARACHI THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2020

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### PART-IV

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF SINDH  
NOTIFICATION  
KARACHI, THE 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020

NO.PAS/LEGIS-B-24/2019-The Sindh Women Agricultural Workers' Bill, 2019 having been passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 and assented to by the Governor of Sindh on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2020 is hereby published as an Act of the Legislature of Sindh.

**THE SINDH WOMEN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' ACT, 2019**

**SINDH ACT NO. V OF 2020**

# Key lessons

- It takes time – and will take time, and sometimes happens to be the right time
- Research uptake and research go hand-in-hand – sometimes irksome but worth it if commit resources to it
- Don't wait for journal publication before starting research uptake engagement
- Policymakers place trust in relationships with interlocutors before trust in formal evidence