

# Linking Gender Approaches of a Multisectoral Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Intervention with Indicators of Women's Empowerment in Rural Ghana: A mixed-methods study

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## BACKGROUND

- Research findings on the influence of nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) on women's empowerment have been inconsistent.<sup>1</sup>
- There is an inadequate understanding of how NSA projects contribute to women's empowerment and gender equality.<sup>2</sup>

## METHODS

### Data sources:

- LinkING Up (LU) project<sup>2-3</sup>
- Project documents, endline focus group discussions [FGD] and in-depth interviews [IDI], and baseline and endline surveys

### Sample:

- Qualitative: 78 participants from treatment group, selected purposefully for 14 FGD (7 with women, 7 with male partners) and 32 IDI (16 with women, 16 with male partners)
- Quantitative: 330 women (Treatment, n=166; Comparison, n=164)

## OBJECTIVES

- To assess a NSA case study for (i) its gender-specific approach, (ii) theorize its pathways to women's empowerment, and (iii) examine the changes in women empowerment using a mixed-methods lens

### Assessment framework and tool:

- Reach, Benefit and Empowerment (RBE) Framework<sup>1</sup>
- Project-Level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (intrinsic, instrumental and collective agency)<sup>4</sup>

### Analysis:

- Inductive thematic analysis approach with MAXQDA 2022
- Generalized linear mixed models adjusting for baseline outcome values, covariates, and clusters

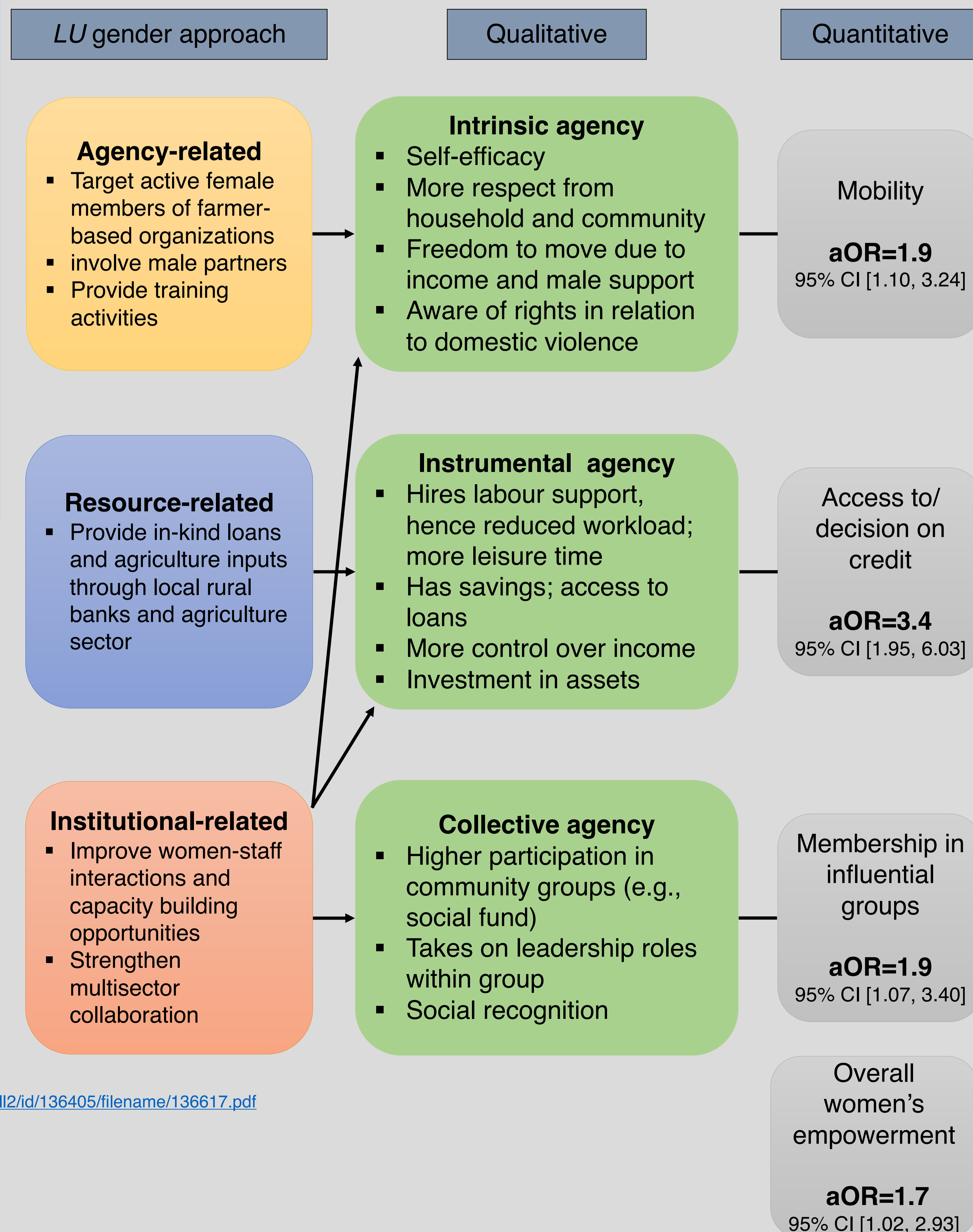
## RESULTS

### Baseline characteristics of LU women

Variables	Treatment n = 166 <sup>1</sup>	Comparison n = 164 <sup>1</sup>	P value <sup>2</sup>
<b>Individual</b>			
Age, y	45.3 ± 12.8	44.3 ± 14.5	0.50
Education level <sup>3</sup>			0.05
None	49 (29.5)	53 (32.3)	
Primary	65 (39.2)	44 (26.8)	
Secondary or higher	52 (31.3)	67 (40.9)	
Married/cohabiting	124 (74.7)	122 (74.4)	0.95
<b>Household</b>			
Wealth			0.25
Low	50 (30.7)	59 (36.2)	
Medium	52 (31.9)	57 (35.0)	
High	61 (37.4)	47 (28.8)	
Women's Empowerment <sup>4</sup>	112 (67.5)	69 (42.1)	< 0.001

Mean ± SD or n (%). <sup>1</sup>Total n = 330 for all but age (n = 319), wealth (n = 326). <sup>2</sup>Independent Student's t test or Chi-Squared test of independence. <sup>3</sup>Highest completed. <sup>4</sup>Based on 12 pro-WEAI indicators.

### Linkages between LU and women's empowerment indicators



## CONCLUSIONS

- Based on the RBE framework, the LU project had three gendered approaches that led to women's empowerment.
- The findings demonstrate the benefits of designing NSA interventions that leverage and strengthen existing resources (i.e., farmer groups and service institutions) to allow women to increase their agency.
- Empowerment outcomes may change but may not entirely be reflected in the quantitative pro-WEAI indicators measured.
- Integrating both quantitative and qualitative methods is important for assessing empowerment over time.

## References

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