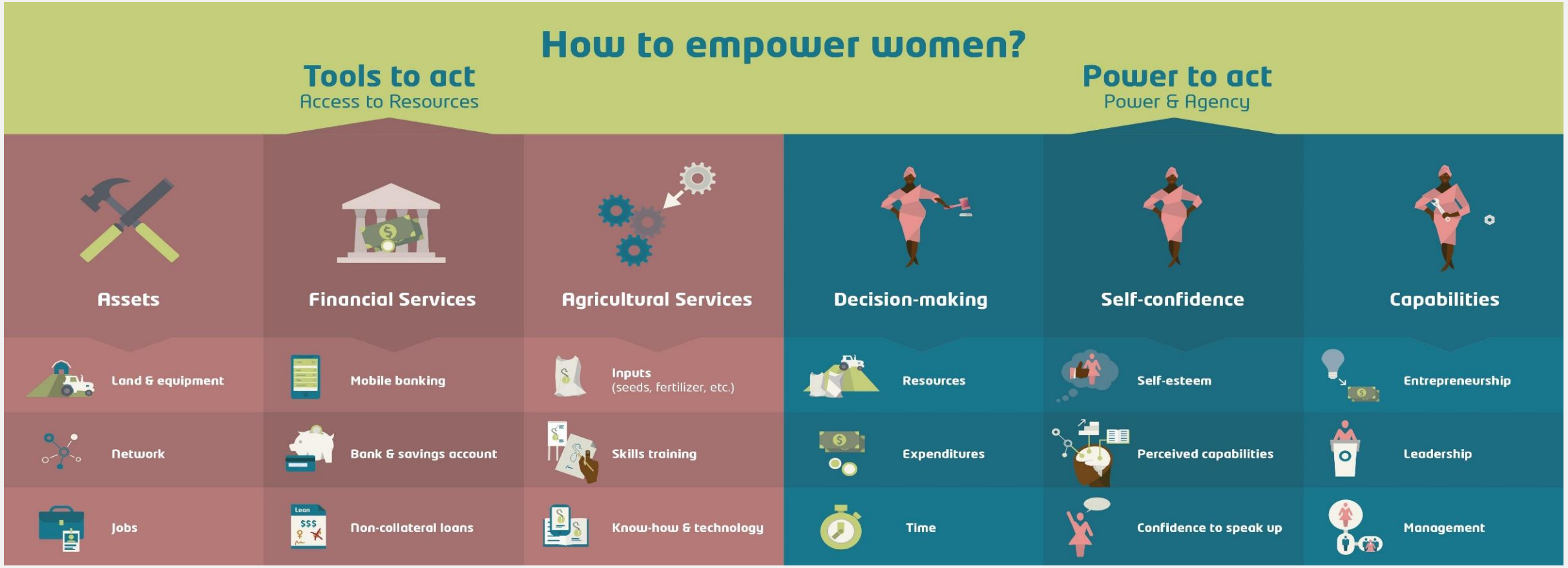
HOW TO MEASURE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DIETARY DIVERSITY IN STEP 2

PART 1 – WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE: A MULTIDIMENTIONAL CONCEPT



MEASURING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGROECOLOGY

The **Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index** (WEAI) is a survey-based index designed to measure the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector.

The WEAI has been used extensively since 2012 by a variety of organizations to assess the state of empowerment and gender parity in agriculture, to identify key areas in which empowerment needs to be strengthened, and to track progress over time.

THE ABBREVIATED WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AGRICULTURE INDEX (A-WEAI)

The survey collects data using the **Abbreviated version** of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (**A-WEAI**) (IFPRI, 2015) retaining 5 domains of empowerment, with 6 indicators:

(i) Input in productive decisions

(ii) Ownership of assets,

(iii) Access to credit

(iv) Control over use of income,

(v) Group membership,

(vi) Workload.

THE A-WEAI

Each domain weights for 20 percent of the overall average score for A-WEAI. The score for each domain is calculated using the following rules then standardized on a percentage scale.

Green (desirable):	Yellow (acceptable):	Red (unsustainable):
A-WEAI ≥80%	A-WEAI ≥60% and <80%	A-WEAI <60%

The criterion is then scored according to the following rule: Green (desirable): A-WEAI ≥80% Yellow (acceptable): A-WEAI ≥60% and

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PART 2 — DIETARY DIVERSITY

WOMEN PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN DIVERSIFYING THEIR HOUSEHOLDS' AND COMMUNITIES' DIETS

While men take care of cash crops, women are traditionally involved in selecting, improving and adapting local plant varieties, seed exchange, management and saving. They grow and collect food, manage and use natural resources to fulfill the daily needs of their household (crops, tree products, wild and domesticated animals). In their **home gardens** – which are important experimental plots to for diverse wild plants and indigenous species – women grow traditional varieties of vegetables, herbs, spices used for nutritious, medicinal and culinary purposes.

Gender differentiated local knowledge systems play a decisive role in ecosystems conservation and management and improvement of genetic resources for food and agriculture. This knowledge, along with their particular roles in the economy, influences **women's management strategies and priorities, often different from those of men**. Women may prioritize crop characteristics, such as cooking time or preservability, overlooked by men, who are more concerned about marketability and yield (FAO, 2019).

Women have key roles in the preservation of **neglected and underutilized crops**, the 'so-called 'orphan' crops, affirming what local communities have known for generations. Yet these crops can increase food production diversification, adding new species to our diets and particular nutrients, besides their economic and environmental benefits (FAO, 2019). Women are primary collectors of **wild foods** that provide important micronutrients for the diet and can be essential for the household survival in case of food shortages.

Through experience, innovation and experimentation, women select and improve animal and plant genetic resources, which are crucial for biodiversity to ensure sustainable agriculture and food systems. The **local knowledge** is highly sophisticated and traditionally shared between generations. However, there is increasing concerns that local knowledge is disappearing, with the risk that this information is not passed to the next generation, with consequent erosion of plant diversity, family food security and nutrition.

MINIMUM DIETARY DIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

MDD-W is an indicator of whether or not women have consumed at least five out of ten defined food groups the previous day or night (FAO and FHI 360, 2016).

Women are considered a proxy of the nutritional status of the household and these data are directly collected with them.

The dietary diversity scores consist of a simple count of 10 food groups consumed over the preceding 24 hours.

Green (desirable):	Yellow (acceptable):	Red (unsustainable):
MDD score ≥ 7	5 ≥ MDD score < 7	MDD score < 5

1. Grains, white roots and tubers

2. Pulses

3. Nuts and seeds

4. Dairy products

5. Meat, poultry, fish

6. Eggs

7. Dark green leafy vegetables

8. Dark yellow or orange fruits and vegetables

9. Other vegetables

10. Other fruits