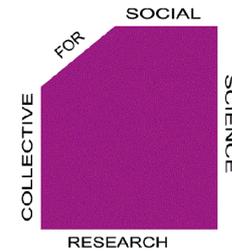




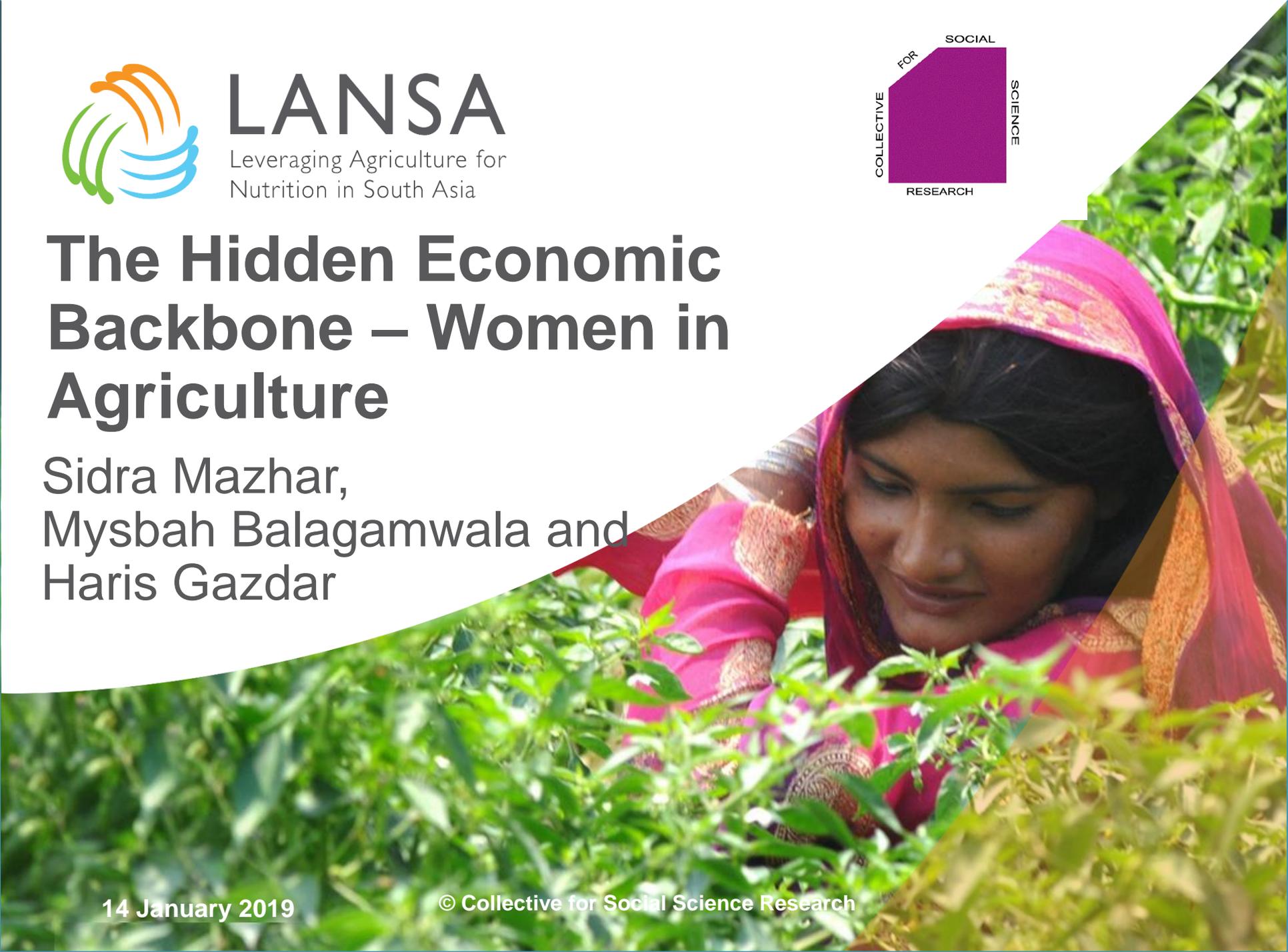
LANSA

Leveraging Agriculture for
Nutrition in South Asia



The Hidden Economic Backbone – Women in Agriculture

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Overview of Presentation



- Motivation of the Study
- Research Objectives
- Undercounting of Work
- Prevalence of Women's Work
- Comparison with Other Data Sources
- Who Works, When and Why?
- Conclusion



Context of the Study



- Recognition of women's work is a key concern of feminist politics and scholarship
 - Theoretical insight – distinction between productive and reproductive labour; enhancing visibility and accounting of women's unpaid care work
 - But in many developing countries, women's productive work too remains unacknowledged or without remuneration, often hidden behind expansive assumptions about reproductive labour
- Policy context of study – Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA)
 - Feminisation of agriculture
 - Linkage between women's (agricultural) work and their own health and the nutrition of their children



This Paper's Objectives



1. Highlight that despite improvements in national data collection, women's contribution to the agricultural economy in Pakistan remains under counted
2. Provide insights into the nature of work done by women in agriculture in Pakistan
3. Understand the drivers behind women's work in agriculture in Pakistan
4. Provide recommendations with respect to data collection and analysis



Women's Work is Undercounted Everywhere



- Labour market factors
 - Women in unpaid and subsistence sectors – particularly in agriculture and all work in these sectors is undercounted
- Survey design factors
 - Self-reporting
 - Focus on income-generating activities
 - Emphasis on crop production misses out livestock and homestead production
 - Short reference periods of surveys miss out on seasonal work
 - Assumption that farmers are male
 - Local beliefs and surveyors perceptions about women's

work



Women's Work and Nutrition (WWN) Survey



- Conducted by the Collective for Social Science Research and LANSA partner Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research on Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH)
- Part of a larger study on the implications of women's work in agriculture on their own health and the health and nutrition of their children
- Representative sample of over 1,000 mothers with infants between 2 and 12 weeks in perennially-irrigated Sindh
- Survey design informed by prior qualitative fieldwork out in Sindh (Sanghar and Badin) and Punjab (Bahawalpur and Jhang) – cotton as well as diverse cropping regions
 - Qualitative research adopted a chronological 'crop cycle' and 'livestock process' approach to investigate gendered division of agricultural tasks

Qualitative Research and Design of Quantitative Survey



- Main findings of qualitative research
 - Market penetration and specialisation of agricultural tasks in general
 - Gendered division of labour in most agricultural tasks: women's tasks, men's tasks, mixed tasks
 - Lack of clarity on which activities constitute as work and where an individual's contribution is recognised
- The qualitative findings guided in the design of the WWN survey in a number of ways:
 - Focus on activities and tasks rather than 'work'
 - Questions about participation in tasks asked separately for farming, livestock and non-agricultural work with prompts about possible types of activities in each ("ever worked")
 - Open-ended questions about reason for carrying out a particular activity



Prevalence of Women's Work



Type of work	% ever worked	% worked in the last year
Any work	89	75
Agricultural work	81	67
Farming	67	46
Livestock	70	60

Source: Authors' calculations based on the WWN survey

- Three-quarters of the women surveyed reported having worked in the **last year**
- Two-thirds of the women surveyed had done some agricultural work in this sector during the **last year**
- A considerable proportion reported having undertaken **non-agricultural tasks** mainly sewing and embroidery

Which Agricultural Tasks Do Women Do?



- Women reported doing cotton picking, weeding, harvesting grains and vegetables and sowing/transplanting
- Livestock related activities included caring for animals, fodder preparation, and feeding and watering them

Farming activities	% of women
Picking cotton	32
Weeding/Digging	23
Harvesting grain	22
Sowing/transplanting	15
Harvesting vegetables	11

Livestock activities	% of women
Taking care, cleaning and giving water to animals	49
Fodder preparation	37
Collecting milk and/or eggs	28
Fodder collection	23
...	11

Comparison with Other Data Sources



	LFS		PRHPS	WWN
	Standard	Augmented		
Survey Respondents	Household head, mostly male	Household head, mostly male	Household head if female, spouse if male	Mother with infant aged 2-12 weeks
Identification of Work Force	Persons working or looking for work (excludes housewives or homemakers)	Standard plus persons not working/seeking work, (e.g. work in subsistence activity)	Persons having done paid or unpaid agricultural activity, or paid non-agricultural work in the previous year	Persons having done paid or unpaid agricultural activity, or paid or unpaid non-agricultural activity other than domestic care work in the previous 9-12 months
Method of Probing	None	Probe about work	Probe about specific	Open-ended identification of

LFS – Standard vs Augmented Labour Force Participate Rates



“Augmented activity rate is based on probing questions from the persons not included in the conventional measure of labour force to net-in marginal economic activities viz subsistence agriculture, own construction of one’s dwelling, etc.”

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

Comparison with Other Data Sources

Type of work	WWN	PRHPS	LFS Augmented	LFS Standard
Any work	75%	59%	60%	26%
Agricultural work	67%	59%	N/A	20%
Farming	46%	45%	N/A	N/A
Livestock	60%	44%	N/A	N/A
Non-agricultural work	32%	0.5%	N/A	2% ³

• The difference between the PRHPS and the WWN in the prevalence of women's work is attributable to two sources

- Livestock related activities
- Non-agricultural work

Comparison with Other Data Sources



Type	Task	WWN	PRHPS
Farming	Sowing and planting	15%	30%
	Weeding	23%	24%
	Harvesting	39%	41%
	Post Harvesting	-	16%
	Carrying loads	6%	-
	Other farm work	-	5%
Livestock	Fodder collection	23%	-
	Fodder preparation	37%	-
	Livestock care	19%	38%
	Giving water to livestock	45%	-
	Cleaning animals	15%	-
	Milking	26%	25%
	Grazing	11%	11%
	Making dung cakes	-	20%
	Medical care	-	2%

- Two methods yielded very similar lists of activities
- The PRHPS list included the 'post-harvest work' and 'making dung cakes'
- WWN identifies broader range of livestock activities



Who Works, When and Why?



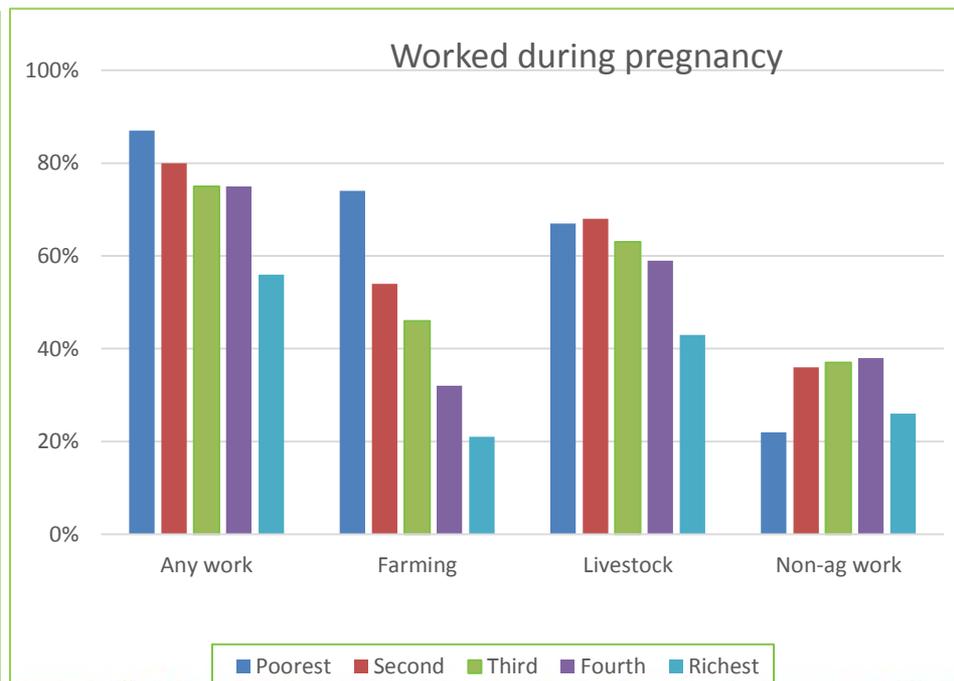
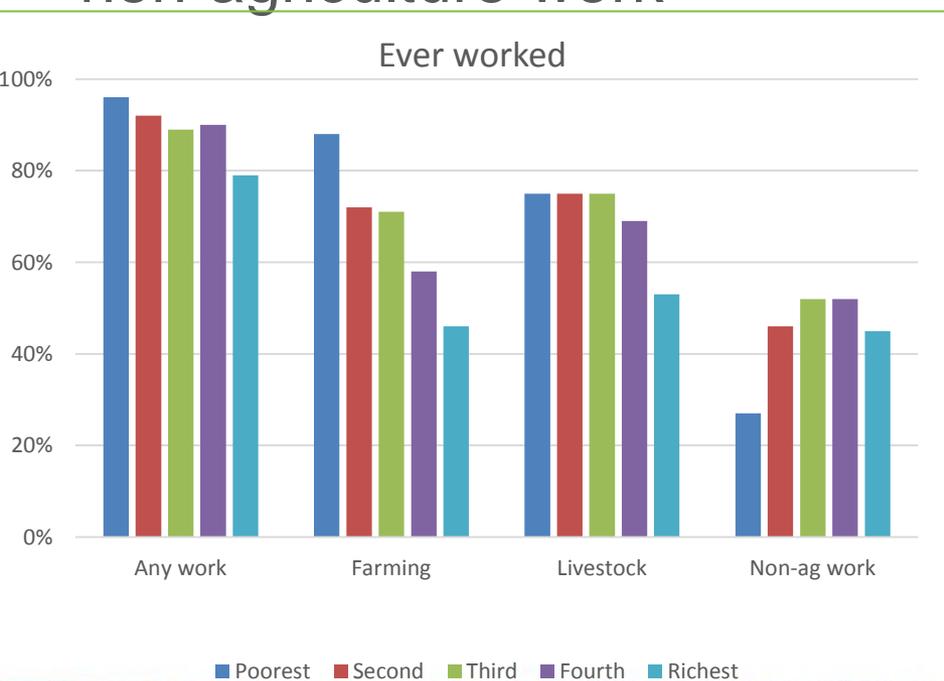
- Work is seen across two dimensions
- Socio-economic status
- Ever worked versus worked when pregnant.
 - Fewer women reported working when pregnant (75 per cent) compared to those who had ever worked (89 per cent)
 - Part of the difference is also due to the withdrawal from work as a result of the pregnancy
 - Some women's work seemed to be more resilient to pregnancy in some activities (livestock) than others (farming).

Who Works, When and Why?



Work, Pregnancy and Socio-Economic Status

- Farm and livestock activities decline up the wealth scale
- The decline is less dramatic in livestock as a result of pregnancy
- The poorest and the wealthiest are less likely to be involved in non-agriculture work

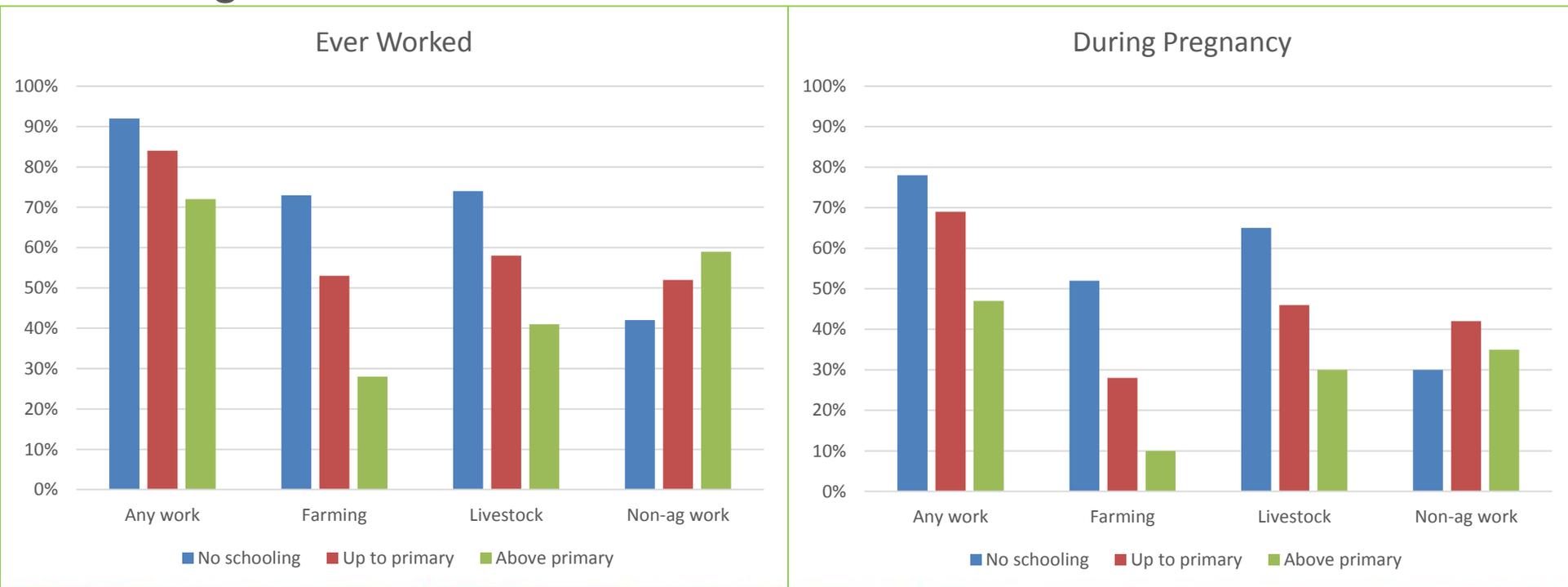


Who Works, When and Why?

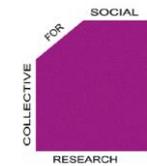


Work, Pregnancy and Socio-Economic Status

- Farm and livestock related work declined for women with higher levels of education
- Effect of pregnancy was also the sharpest with respect to farming



Who Works, When and Why?



Reasons for Working

- Women work to earn income, for food, and out of responsibility
- Paid activities are undertaken for income or due to household need
- Unpaid work is done out of responsibility
- In sewing/embroidery women reported self-fulfilment as a reason for undertaking the activity

Activities/ Reasons	Grain harvestin g	Cotton picking	Livestock- related	Sewing / embroidery
Not seen as a matter of deliberative choice	15%	10%	71%	6%
Household need/income	84%	87%	27%	74%
Self-fulfilment	2%	3%	1%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Conclusion



- This paper has shown that the insightful distinction between productive and reproductive labour continues to be relevant for the recognition of women's work
- National data tend to undercount women's work, at least partly because of their survey design
- Women's work in agriculture is driven mostly by household need and is not seen as a source of agency or empowerment
 - Poorer women tend to work more and they tend to continue working through sensitive periods in their lives

Conclusion



- There is greater inflexibility around women's work in the livestock sub-sector of agriculture than there is for farm work - it is most likely to be seen as reproductive work
- Survey design that is attentive to how communities, families, men and women might be conditioned into recognising work, can yield dramatically different results
- The recognition of women's work in national data will be a significant step towards the broader recognition of their economic contribution



Thank You

