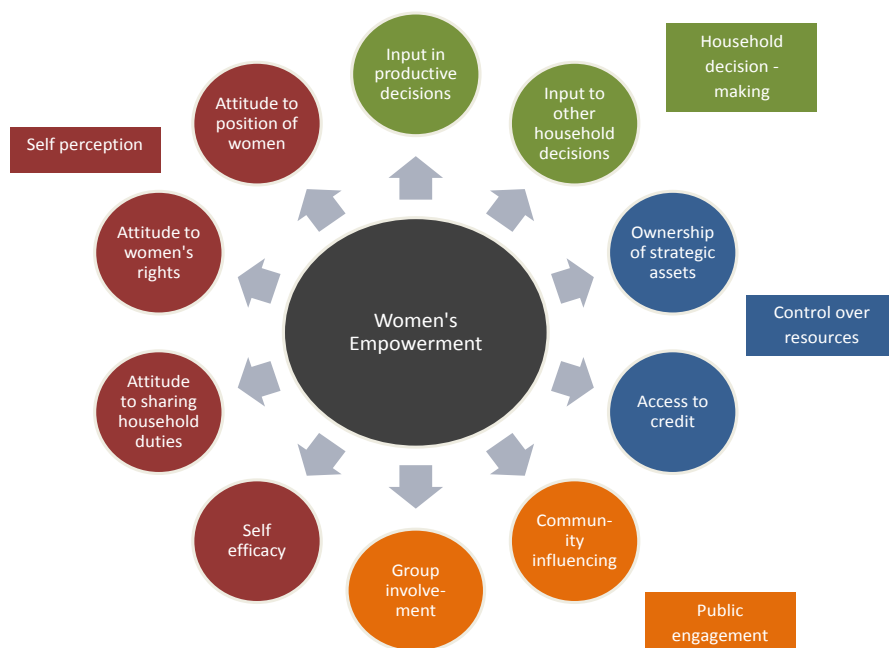




## Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance: Nigeria 2012/13

Nigeria's 'Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance' project aims to increase women's leadership and participation in agricultural decision-making and governance. This is to be achieved through building women's skills and capacity in improved production techniques and influencing local government and community leadership structures to enable greater involvement of women. The project is being implemented between 2009 and 2014 in two different regions in Nigeria – in the North/Central region covering Plateau and Benue states and the South-Western region covering Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states. Due to security concerns, it was agreed to focus the review on the activities implemented in Oyo, Ogun and Ekiti states by a local partner organisation, the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC).









*Figure 1: The figure presents the different dimensions and characteristics of women's empowerment assessed in this effectiveness review. Each of the characteristics are weighted to reflect the aspects considered most important to empowerment in the local context.*

## Evaluation Method

In July 2012, with the support of an external consultant, a household survey was administered to 354 women in 23 women's groups – 13 from communities targeted by the project and 10 from neighbouring comparison communities. In order to compare 'like with like', statistical analysis of the resulting data was undertaken using propensity score matching (PSM) and Multivariable Regression (MVR) to control for observable baseline differences between the intervention and comparison women.

The effectiveness of the project was assessed against 10 characteristics of women's empowerment relevant to the project area (see Figure 1). The results for each of these characteristics were used to create an overall, weighted index of women's empowerment for each woman, which measures the proportion of characteristics in which the woman was above an acceptable level. The review also assessed the project's other intended outcomes, such as its impact on household wealth.

**Rating key:** ● - Evidence supporting large impact; ● - Evidence supporting more modest impact; ● - Evidence of large impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - Evidence of modest impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - No evidence of impact

Outcome	Rating	Commentary
Women's empowerment (global outcome indicator)		Evidence of modest impact on the overall women's empowerment measure. However, this is restricted to supported women in Ogun state.
Dimension 1 – Household Decision Making		No evidence of project impact in relation to supported women's involvement in productivity-related and other household decisions.
Dimension 2 – Women's control over resources		No evidence of project impact in relation to supported women's ownership of strategic assets. Modest evidence of impact on women's access to credit, although just in Ogun state.
Dimension 3 – Women's Public Engagement		Evidence of impact on women's perception of their ability to influence affairs at a community level – although just in Ogun state. Strong evidence of impact on supported women's involvement in community-based groups – although just in Ogun state.
Dimension 4 – Women's Self Perception		No evidence of project impact on supported women's self-efficacy. Evidence of project impact in Oyo state that the attitudes of supported women to their position in the home are changing. Modest evidence of a positive change in supported women's attitudes to women's rights in wider society. No evidence of project impact on supported women's attitudes to sharing of household responsibilities.
Household Wealth		Strong evidence of project impact on household asset wealth – although just in Ogun state

## Results

The effectiveness review found evidence that the 'Improving Women's Leadership and Effectiveness in Agricultural Governance' project successfully affected several of the key outcomes but not others. In general, there is some evidence that it has worked to both empower women and increase household wealth. However, this is primarily restricted to the supported women in Ogun state. In particular, significant differences in this state were identified on several of the measures which contribute to the overall women's empowerment index. Women in the intervention communities in Ogun state scored positively on an average of 65 per cent of the 10 characteristics of women's empowerment considered in the review, compared to 62 per cent in the comparison communities. The project appears to have brought about the greatest positive change in both women's participation in community life and in their ability to influence affairs at community level. Where no evidence of change in empowerment was detected, it tends to be in those areas affecting issues at a more personal or household level, such as women's involvement in household decision-making and attitudes towards gender roles in the household.

## Going forward

Oxfam's support to this project continues until March 2014, and there are plans to scale up training in transformative leadership among the women's group members, with the aim of increasing empowerment at the household level. The partner is also reviewing differences in implementation in the two states with a view to increasing its effectiveness in Oyo state.

Photo credit: Barney Haward