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## Insights from an e-discussion on Women's Economic Empowerment

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# Overview



- 19 March and 10 April through the SDC e+i dgroup on PSD
- Increased from 170 to 230 members
- 60 emails, 33 contributors, 12 countries
- Synthesis paper online
- Three main messages:
  1. WEE is multi-faceted
  2. Open questions
  3. Useful hints along the PCM

A screenshot of a web browser displaying a discussion page on dgroups.org. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://dgroups.org/Discussions.aspx?c=a562c14b-14. The page title is "SDC e+i network Private Sector Development e-learning cycle on M4P". The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: "SDC &gt; SDC e+i network Private Sector Development &gt; Discussions". Below the breadcrumb, there are two tabs: "My Communities" and "Discussions". The "Discussions" tab is active, showing a list of discussion threads. The threads are listed with their titles and authors. The threads are: "Closing of e-discussion on WEE and M4P - please fill in the survey! (1)" by Carsten Schulz; "M4P and WEE - thoughts on strategy and HR requirements (2)" by Caroline Pinder, Tiffany Urechaga; "WEE and M4P - some implications from the debate thus far (1)" by Roger Oakeley; "M4P and WEE - What else comes to your mind? (1)" by Carsten Schulz; "RE: WEE and M4P - practical hints and tips from the practitioners (1)" by Zenebe Bashaw Uruguchi; "RE: WEE and M4P - practical hints and tips from the practitioners (2)" by Annemarie Sancar, Hussein Kiranga; "WEE and M4P - practical hints and tips from the practitioners (5)" by Adwiyait Kumar Roy, Carsten Schulz, Hariliva RASOANARIVO, Kushtrim Mehmetaj, Linda Jones; "AW: men's strategic gender interests (1)" by Sabin Bieri; "RE: Mainstreaming WEE in M4P (3)" by Linda Jones, Roel Hakemulder, Roger Oakeley; "Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (1)" by Marcus Jenal; and "Women's decision making at PrOpCom - Business &amp; Household levels (1)".

# WEE is multi-facetted

- The definition proposed by the discussion paper was widely accepted.
  - Economic aspects
  - Social and political aspects

An example: Rural Livelihood Development Programme, Tanzania



## Collaboration with a female-owned sunflower oil-company

Contract farming

Gender equality awareness raising

## Results

Increased participation of women

Changed attitude of men over women's control over income

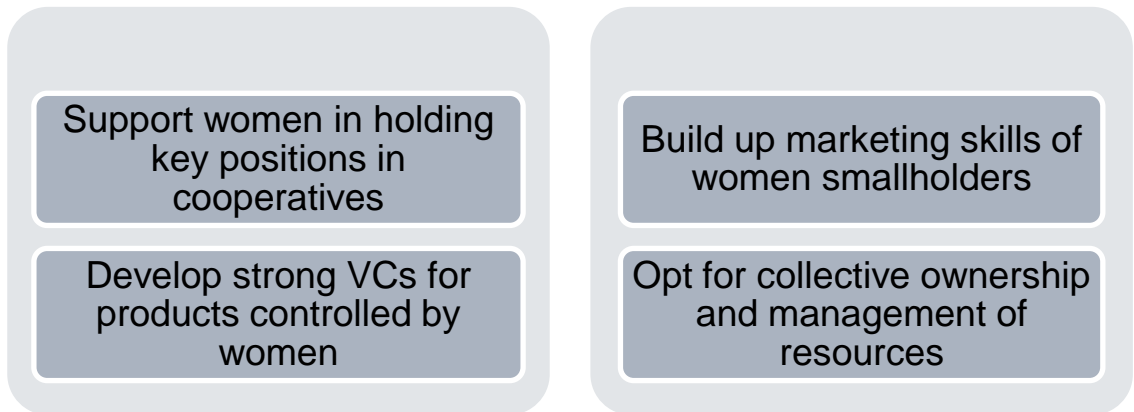
*WEE comprises elements of economic advancement, decision-making power and social acceptance*

# Open questions remain



1. Is a higher income for women leading to empowerment, more decision-making power, and increased wellbeing?
2. Do we need to take a more holistic view beyond looking at economic aspects to achieve real empowerment?
3. Are M4P projects appropriate to work towards such a broad vision of empowerment?
4. How to promote both gender equality and economic growth with a market development facilitation role?

An example: From Grove to Markets: Making Markets Work for Olive Farmers, occupied Palestinian territories



*Projects recognise the need to be facilitators but sometimes opt for more heavy-handed interventions to promote gender equality.*

# Useful hints for PCM

## 1. Gendered market analysis

An example from USAid funded projects in Pakistan and Afghanistan



### Market analysis findings...

Qualitative methods used

Women are „allowed“ to keep income in certain VCs

### ... leading to

Development of embroidery (PAK) and horticulture (AFG)

Social and economic empowerment of women

## 2. Intervention strategies

- based on the findings of the market analysis
- address underlying constraints to WEE rather than symptoms.
- thinking outside the box (e.g. childcare facilities)

# Useful hints for PCM

## 3. M&E

- appropriate indicators
- monitoring at household level
- participatory methods

## 4. Human resources

- finding staff with both an understanding for gender and market development is difficult.
- investment in capacities crucial.
- specific gender advisor: risk that WEE is not a team effort but rather delegated

An example: DfiD-funded GEMS programme, Nigeria



### Gender advisors...

International

National (few days a month)

### ... interact with the team

Impart WEE skills and responsibility

“WEE quality control” facility

Thank you!

[www.sdc-employment-income.ch](http://www.sdc-employment-income.ch)

**e+i** | employment and  
income network

in cooperation with

**M4PHUB** Sharing knowledge on making  
markets work for the poor

## Women's Economic Empowerment in M4P Projects

Synthesis of the e-discussion of SDC's e+i network from 19 March to 10 April 2012

### Introduction

The discussion on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) projects was the first e-discussion of SDC's e+i Network in 2012. The discussion was organised in collaboration with the M4P Hub.

The insights of this e-discussion will be presented at SDC's public seminar on WEE on May 9, 2012 and will contribute to respective guidelines on M4P and WEE to be elaborated by the M4P Hub.