

Small-Scale Irrigation (SSI) and Women's Empowerment (WE): Lessons from Northern Ghana

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Research Questions

- 1) What are the linkages between SSI and WE?
- 2) How does the conceptual framework apply to Northern Ghana?
- 3) How does the introduction motor pumps affect indicators of WE?

Study Area: Upper East Region, Garu District



Qualitative Research Findings

- Women face considerable resource constraints (land, water, labor, assets)
- SSI has benefits for women, but not always the most desirable pathway to WE
- Motor pump assets controlled by men
- Other activities preferred by some women

Mixed Methods

Qualitative: focus groups, life history interviews, seasonal calendars, key informant interviews

Quantitative: Randomized treatment, difference-in-difference (DD), first difference (FD), WEAI

Impact Evaluation Results

- Positive impact on indicators of WE: asset ownership (FD, DD), control over income (DD), production decisions (FD)
- Results not significant with alternative control group
- Negative spillover effects in intervention communities
- WE outcomes also affected by age, irrigation status at baseline, land size, shocks



“Your husband farms [in gardens] and you water and thank God associations have come and we can now get access to machines [pumps] and the men will use to irrigate, so now we only observe and they irrigate.” (Mongnoori FGD women)

Conceptual Framework:

