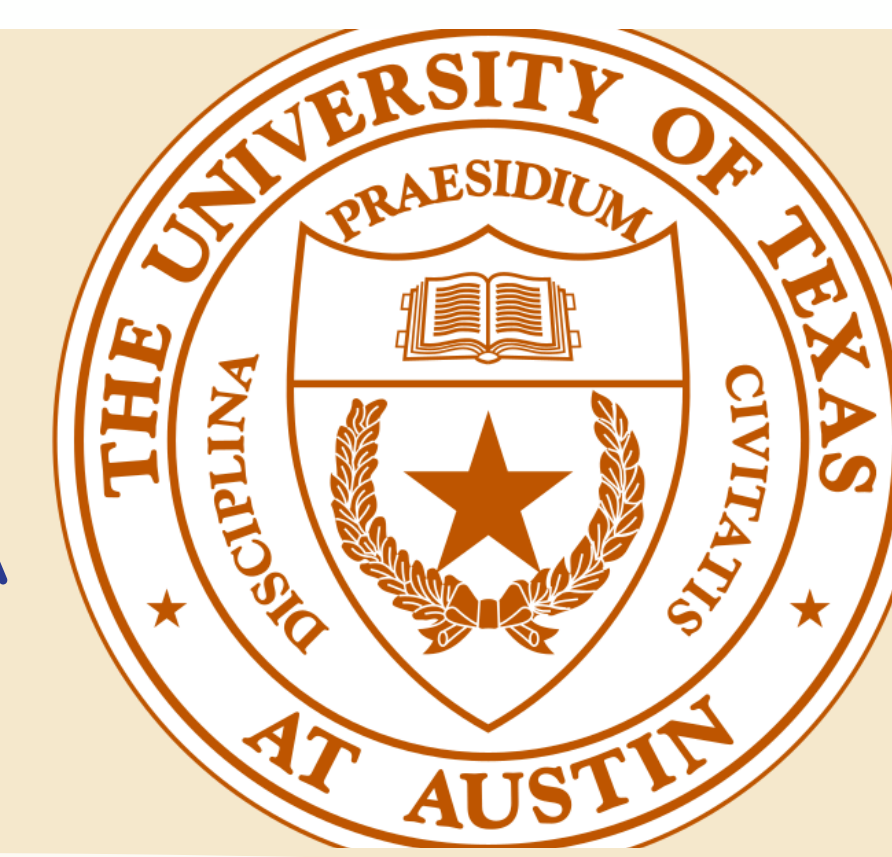


# SOCIAL-CULTURAL DRIVERS THAT SHAPE WOMEN SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' (DIS) EMPOWERMENT IN UGANDA'S AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

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## BACKGROUND

- 80% of women in Uganda derive their livelihood from agriculture - largely - smallholder farming
- Persistent gender barriers to to own well being & transformation
- Constraints mainly around critical gender and agric dimensions: *decision-making over crops grown; participation in upper levels of the value chains, e.g as lead farmers and aggregators; control over income from high-value cash and food crops; Financial access, mobility, decision making, and access to inputs; heavy workloads and time constraints*

## STUDY FOCUS & METHODOLOGY

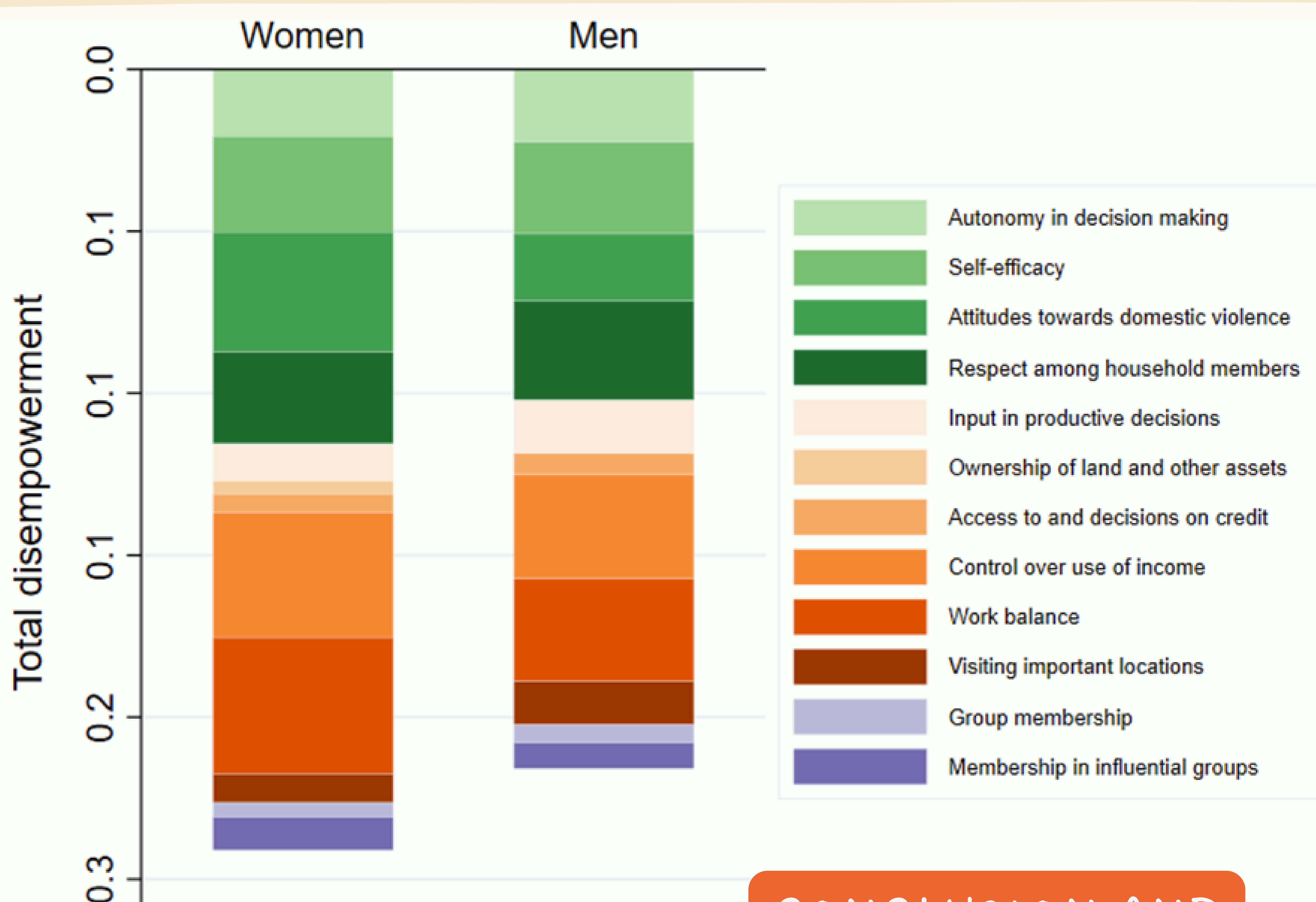
- Social-cultural drivers that shape women smallholder farmers' (dis) empowerment in Uganda's agri-food system.
- **Mixed methods:** Qualitative and quantitative (2022, baseline study)
- Project-specific Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) tool, developed by IFPRI/GAAP2 Team
- **Study sites:** Men and women smallholder farmers in Alebtong (North) and Isingiro (Southwestern Uganda)

## RESULTS

Women largely inadequate in six indicators below;

- Work balance
- Attitudes about domestic violence
- Control over use of income
- Self-efficacy
- Respect among household members
- Autonomy in income

## RESULTS



## RESULTS

- **Complex & contradictory social-cultural norms and practices** that limit women's agric. opportunities and empowerment
- **Connected to the expectations of a traditional ideal woman;** submissive, respectful to husband, jointly discusses her priorities and needs with her husband for approval/decision maker
- Focused on marriage sustenance, persistent, peaceful and less aggressive, yet hardworking - targeted at family well being rather than herself
- **Or else labeled as:** dangerous to family peace, not marriage material, prostitute, disrespectful, uncultured, less submissive, competitor with husband



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- Major dis-empowering drivers for women aligned to instrumental & intrinsic agency
- Social and gender norms and identities rooted in the patriarchal systems of power relations
- Address barriers to women's access to and control over resources and recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work
- Prioritizing economic/income resources - access and control rights
- Need for intentional gender transformative agenda that targets women and men farming communities

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