

# Mainstreaming Gender in Renewable Energy Sector: Needs and Strategies

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# Presentation Outline

- **Why gender issue is important in the context of energy?**
- **What does ‘meaningful participation’ of women in energy initiatives mean?**
- **What are the constraints in achieving meaningful participation?**

## **Policy Needs and Strategies**

# Characteristics of Energy

- **Large source of energy-bio-mass-domestic cooking is the largest energy end-use sector (> 90%)**
- **Natural energy use for subsistence**
- **Poor penetration of commercial fuels (Commercial: Kerosene and Electricity)**

# **Women's Role in Energy Management**

- **Manage energy for cooking and agro- processing**
- **Responsible for the procurement of biomass resources for fuel**
- **Process fuel into a form readily amenable to domestic cooking tasks**
- **Build stoves**

# Role of Men & Women

**Women- care taker,  
supporter**

**Reproductive: major role  
player for child birth,  
family take care, hh  
work, etc**

**Community- major role  
in socializing process**

**Productive- supporting  
role**

**Men- bread earner,  
decision maker,  
finance controller**

**Reproductive work-  
supporting role**

**community- supporting  
role**

**Productive- active role**

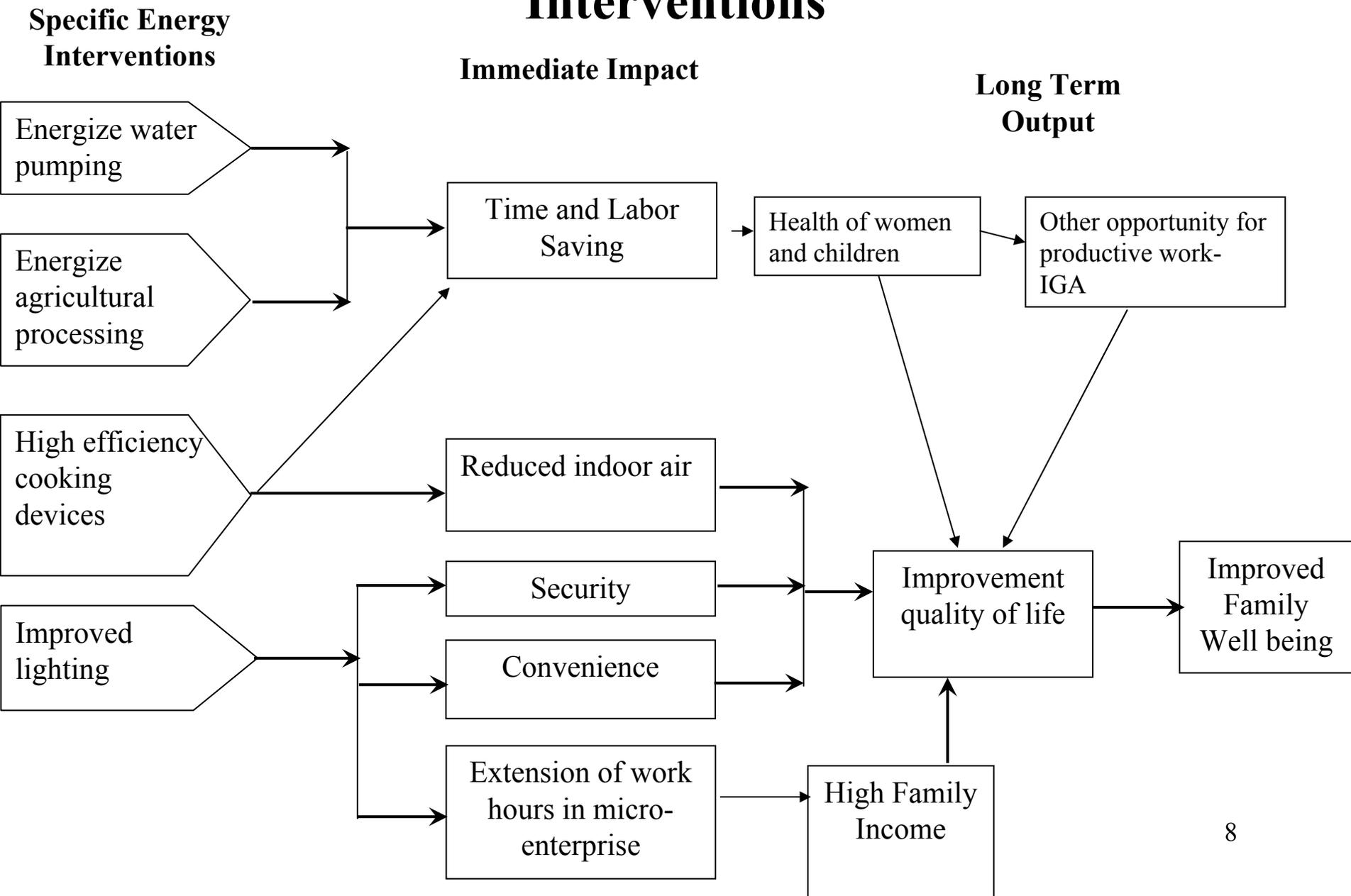
# Coping Strategies to Deal with Energy Scarcity

Energy Use	Constraints	Traditional Coping Mechanism	Implications
Cooking Fuel	Scarcity of Fuel wood Reduced availability of agro wastes	-Increased time & effort for fuel wood collection -Change in cooking practices and food habits -collect inferior fuel	Less time available for other household activities and family take care. Force girl child to assist in fuel collection Indoor smoke and adverse impact on family health
Fetching water	Environmental Degradation leads to depletion of water sources like springs and wells	Increased time & energy in water collection	Conflicts and social disharmony Adverse health impacts of using poor quality water Negligence of women's knowledge relating to water quality and needs in policies
Fodder Management	Decreased availability of fodder because of loss of common lands	Increased time & energy in fodder collection	Less time available for other household activities, child care and productive activities
Home based micro-enterprise	Bio-mass based fuel becoming Scarce	Increased time and effort in fuel collection Switch to inferior fuels	Low energy efficiency & more fuel Increased indoor air pollution Negative impact on family health

# Energy Interventions

Energy	Women's Needs		
	Practical	Productive	Strategic
Electricity	Pumping water Mills for grinding, Oil expeller Lighting Access to information and entertainment- Radio, TV	Opportunity to work more hours Power for variety of formal and informal income generation activities (IGA).	Safety at evening & night More working hours Opportunity to explore more livelihood strategy Open horizons through radio, TV and internet
Improved biomass (supply and conversion technology)	Improved health through better stoves Less time and effort in gathering and carrying fuel wood	More time for productive activities Lower cost of process Heat for IGA	Sustainable management of Forest resources through CF management Framework
Mechanical	Milling, grinding, Transporting water and crop outputs	Increases variety of enterprises	Transport: allowing access to commercial and social/political opportunities

# Multiplier Effects of Women -Oriented Energy Interventions



# Constraints in Involving Women in Energy Programmes

- **Traditional decision-making roles in the society**
- **Access to resource and benefit sharing pattern**
- **Control, sharing & priority of hh income**
- **Social constraints on mobility**
- **Workload and time constraints**
- **Educational constraints**
- **Exclusion from regular information channels**

# Program Level Barriers

- **Sectoral approach of interventions**
- **Gap between extension services and women**
- **Inadequate mechanisms to facilitate women's involvement in project planning**



# *Why Then Women and Energy?*

- **Women & men have different roles, responsibility and authority in the energy system . Women bear burden of the human energy crisis**
- **Women have less access than men to the credit, extension services, ownership and training**
- **Women and men have different kinds of knowledge and experience about energy**
- **Women may need different energy policies and program than men to relief from energy poverty and to improve the productivity.**

# Lessons Learned From Past Interventions:

## *Energy*

### ***Electricity provision does not address rural cooking needs***

- New technologies/ interventions can have unintended negative consequences for women
- Biomass likely to remain the commonly used cooking fuel
- Cooking is a very large share of household energy consumption

***Imperative to address cooking energy needs***

# **Lessons Learned From Past Interventions:** *Technology*

- **Socially acceptable**
- **Easy to adopt and use**
- **Training services must recognize the economic constraints and cultural barriers of women clients**
- **Credit facility for women**
- **Women involvement in all range of program designing, implementation & Monitoring**

# **Involving Women In Project Designing: Key Questions**

- **Who benefits from the intervention?**
- **What is the impact of the intervention on women's social and economic status?**
- **What is the impact on women's time & workload?**
- **Is women's knowledge, especially on ecosystems and biological diversity taken into account?**
- **How far knowledge and experience of individuals and women's NGOs considered in gender mainstreaming during project identification, formulation and appraisal?**

# **‘Meaningful Participation’ Of Women In Energy: Indicators**

- **Improvement in women’s position in energy context**
- **Increased acceptance by women and men of women as community decision-makers**
- **Enhancement of women's access to and control of resources**
- **Increased women’s involvement in personal, family or community development**
- **New, more visible, and more effective women’s organizations**
- **More women in education and training programs**
- **Support for women to enter nontraditional spaces and gain legitimacy in new roles**
- **Improved health of women and children**
- **Gender equality in all range of energy interventions including services institutions**

# Suggested measures for mainstreaming gender into energy policies

- Shift in approach from ‘technology’ focus to ‘energy service’ provision
- Promoting improved access to a variety of fuels and energy technologies, through investments in market development, taxes and tariff policies
- A more market-oriented approach to the energy sector, which would promote greater understanding of consumer needs, including those of women.
- Directing technological interventions that meet women’s practical, productive and strategic needs.
- Capacity building of women to grow at different levels – national policy makers, implementers of energy programs and NGOs.

## Cont.:

- Promoting women as energy technician, entrepreneurs and end users.
- Use of gender tools and methodologies for incorporating gender concerns into planning, implementation and monitoring processes.
- Addressing knowledge gaps in gender and energy through research.
- Providing support mechanisms like credit and other information to improve women's access to energy services
- Legislation and institutional reforms

# Current Strategies

- Building up a body of evidence and experience linking attention to gender in energy policy and projects to equitable, efficient and sustainable outcomes in energy and development;
- Advocacy in national and international arenas on the importance of bringing a gender perspective to policy analysis and design;
- Capacity building and assistance to energy programs, policy and projects in integrating a gender perspective; and
- Creating networks and institutions at the national, regional and international levels to support these efforts at the practical and political level.



*Thank you*

