

# **EMPOWERING**

**RURAL** 

# **COMMUNITIES**

Gender Equality and Innovation in Action

The FLIARA Framework: Rethinking Policy for Rural and Agricultural Innovation

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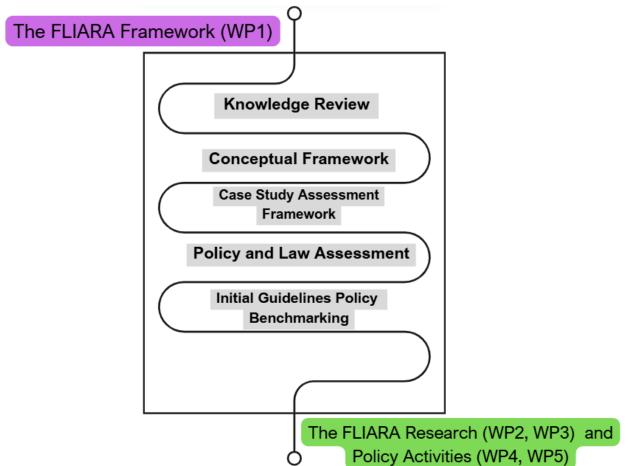
#### Context – The FLIARA Framework

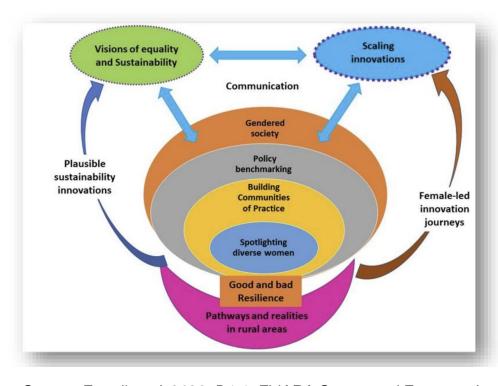












Source: Farrell et al. 2023. D1.1: FLIARA Conceptual Framework







### Research Focus and Methodology: Policy Benchmarking

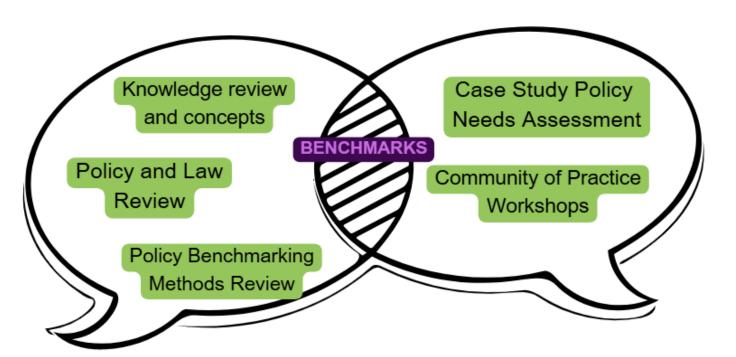








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- Initial Guidelines for Policy Benchmarking: Murtagh, A., Farrell, M. and Weir, L.2024: <a href="https://zenodo.org/records/14045179">https://zenodo.org/records/14045179</a>
- Benchmarking Initial Report: Murtagh, A.
   Oprea, A. Farrell, M. and Weir, L.
   forthcoming
- ☐ (Final) Gender Benchmarking Report (November 2025)













# Rethinking Policy: Understanding where we are at? Benchmarking as (one) tool

#### Definitions of methods of gender-related policy assessment

Step	Explanation
Benchmarking	The establishment of criterion, standard or reference point against which to establish targets and measure progress.
Gender audit	The analysis and evaluation of policies, programmes and institutions in terms of how they apply gender-related criteria.
Gender Impact Assessment	Examining policy proposals to see whether they will affect women and men differently, with a view to adapting these proposals to make sure that discriminatory effects are neutralised and that gender equality is promoted.
Gender planning	An active approach to planning which takes gender as a key variable or criterion and which seeks to incorporate an explicit gender dimension into policy or action.
Gender proofing	A check carried out on any policy proposal to ensure that any potential gender discriminatory effect arising from that policy have been avoided and that gender equality is promoted.

Source: One Hundred Words for Equality, EC, 1998













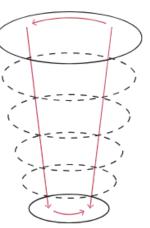
# Rethinking Policy? Different avenues towards policy improvement, for example...

Building a framework is tricky...

Establishing what framework of priorities?

# Address social and cultural conditions

Strengthen rural and farm economy renewal with women-led innovation as a lever



Address barriers in the policy support system itself

Strengthen the conditions for women-led rural and farm innovation and entrepreneurship





# Rethinking Policy? Different avenues towards policy improvement

X







Building a framework is tricky...

What to measure and why?

Are all things equal?

Greater supports for under-harnessed opportunities e.g. social enterprise, shorter food supply chains, care farming, circular economy

Greater supports for addressing sustainability challenges e.g. ecological transition, climate change

Greater supports for women that aspire to return to farming and rural areas Address wider rural development issues

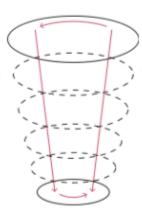
Address domestic work distribution and work equity

Address traditional gender norms and stereotypes

Better representation of women in decision making

Address social and cultural conditions

Strengthen rural and farm economy renewal with women-led innovation as a lever



Strengthen the conditions for womenled rural and farm innovation and entrepreneurship

Address barriers in the policy support system itself Improve access to finance

More tailored supports to different phases and patterns of enterprise development

Better access to networks and peer support

Advance education and skills training for women innovators

Address barriers specific to particular groups of women

Address more specific barriers to women-led farm innovation





Further considerations e.g.

- Simple or complex
- Scale and context
- Focus on particular policy domains









<u>Framework theme</u> : Strengthen the conditions for innovation and entrepreneurship?	
Framework action: Access to finance	
Innovative women-led rural enterprise grants exist (part-funding, non-repayable)	
Innovative women-led rural enterprise fund low cost (or interest free) finance exists	
Innovative women-led rural enterprise tax credit exists	
Innovative women-led rural enterprise Guarantee Fund for Bank Credit exists	
Low cost (or interest free) finance exists for innovative women-led start-ups	
Higher grant rates are available to rural women (part-funding, non-repayable) as part of a wider support scheme for rural business	
Grant support for farm modernisation and application of new technologies	
Finance support programmes target specific stages of innovation development	

Indicators?











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# **Conclusion and Call to Action**

- Further FLIARA work
  - Building a benchmarking framework that will count what counts
- Better harness the role of policy benchmarking in policy improvement
  - Better understand how to build benchmarking into policy development/decision making, monitoring and evaluation systems
  - Role of benchmarking as part of other policy assessment tools
- Build policymaker/institutional capacity
  - Tailoring and updating benchmarking frameworks
  - Measure progress over time

DIMENSIONS **GENDER MAINSTREMING STRATEGY** Equal Representation of women Political Commitment Gender Perspective in the content CONDITIONS METHODS AND TOOLS RESULTS Implementation plan Gender Analysis Better policy making Gender Audit Structures institutions Gender Awareness-raising More effective processes Accountability mechanisms **Gender Budgeting Gender Equality Training** Knowledge generation **Gender Evaluation** Stakeholders involvement Gender Impact Assessment Gender Indicators Gender Monitoring Gender Planning Gener Procurement **Gender Statistics** Gender-sensitive Stakeholder Consultation Institutional Transformation Sex-disaggregated data

Comments, suggestions and questions? *Please add to the Slido* 

Source: EIGE (2024) What is gender mainstreaming.

https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/what-is-gender-mainstreaming

# Thank-you!



### Female-Led Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas

































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