



United Nations Statistics Division
UN Women
in collaboration with
Statistics Division, ESCAP

EDGE Project
Technical Meeting on
Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective
Bangkok, Thailand
30 July – 2 August 2013

Welcome and Objectives

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It is a pleasure to welcome you to the *Technical Meeting on Measuring Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective*, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

This meeting is organized under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project, seeking to accelerate existing efforts to have comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership. The EDGE project is a three-year initiative building on the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS). The project is jointly managed by UNSD and UN Women and is implemented in collaboration with key partners such as the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and OECD.

One of the objectives of the EDGE project is to develop guidelines to produce internationally comparable data on asset ownership and control—the focus of our meeting, in order to provide answers to questions such as: Do women own land as often and as much as men? Do women apply for and obtain credit as often as men? It's in this context that in the past months a group of experts have drafted a Technical Report providing guidance on how to collect data that should answer those questions. This Technical Report was already shared with you and it will be the basis of our meeting. Indeed, in the next four days this group composed of survey statisticians and gender specialists from selected countries, partner agencies and regional commissions, will discuss in detail how to collect relevant information for a range of selected physical and financial assets, at the individual level.

As we know, owning and controlling assets can make a huge difference to women's livelihoods. Some assets can be used for productive activities and can be a source of income; assets can be used as safety nets in case of shocks in the household such as the death of the spouse; and can be a way out of poverty. However, despite the

increasing recognition of the importance of owning and controlling assets for the economic empowerment of women, little information is currently available.

In addition, measuring asset at the individual level is not only relevant from a gender analysis perspective. Collecting individual-level asset data will also facilitate analysis of asset ownership along a range of other dimensions including age and marital status and may also provide supplementary information to national accountants for their compilation of macro economic aggregates of the household sector for the system of national accounts.

Going back to the meeting, and as per the agenda shared with you, in these four days ahead of us, we will:

(a) Review and discuss the draft *Technical Report on Measuring Individual Level Asset Ownership and Control* presenting the proposed methodology to collect individual-level asset data--rather than household-level data--through a dedicated module attached to a multi-purpose national household survey; We expect to hear and learn, particularly from national statistical offices, on the applicability/feasibility of the methodology proposed; and on the capacity of countries to apply the proposed international methods;

We will also:

(b) Exchange and share national practices/experience and lessons learnt on measuring asset ownership; and

Finally, we will:

(c) Discuss the EDGE project implementation strategy in selected pilot countries.

To conclude,

I would like to express, again, my appreciation for your participation in this meeting and thank our colleagues from ESCAP for making this meeting possible through their excellent work in preparation of this event.

The UN Statistics Division and UN Women are looking forward to working with you all, the representatives of national statistical offices, donor agencies and regional and international agencies, during this meeting and in the future, to promote the advancement of gender statistics.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and look forward to the outcome and conclusions of this technical meeting.