

# **Gendered subjectivities and climate change processes in Ghana's Central Region: Moving toward more equitable adaptation decision-making and outcomes**

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**Institute of Australian Geographers Conference 2019**

# Background

Projected temperature rise and rainfall variability in Ghana

Rural livelihoods highly dependent on agriculture

Current adaptation strategies in Ghana focus on education, technical solutions, and adaptive assets

Gendered dynamics of climate change adaptation are well documented

Shortcomings in research on gender and adaptation

- Oversimplified frames of gender

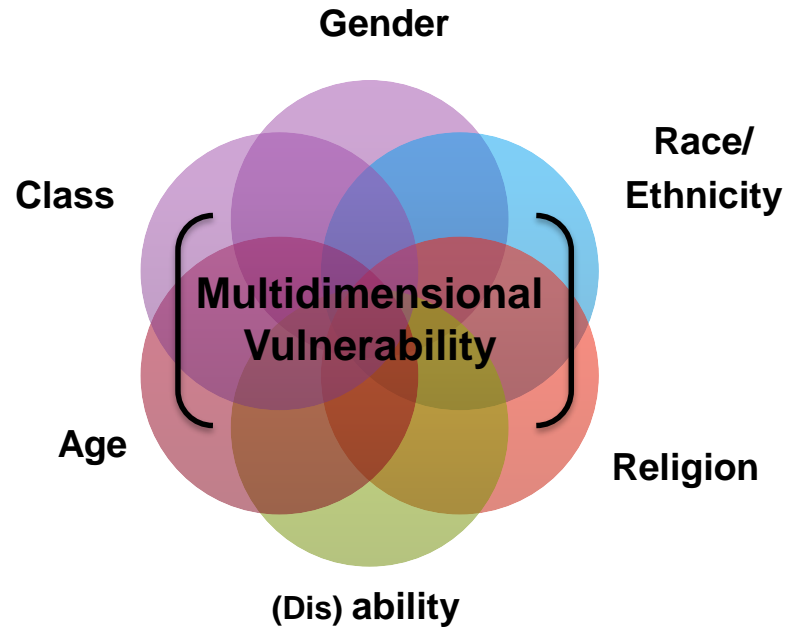
- Need for examinations of power in adaptation processes

Emancipation (liberation) from inequality key for transformational adaptation



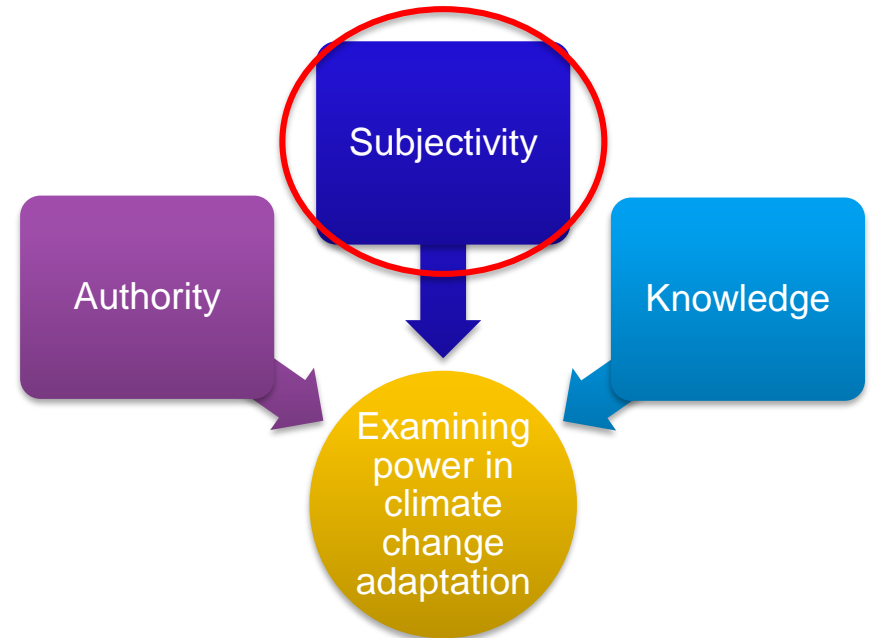
# Theoretical Framework

## Intersectionality theory



Intersections of Identity Markers (Adapted from Olsson et al. 2014)

## Politics of Adaptation



Three lenses for examining the exercise of power in climate change adaptation (adapted from Eriksen, Nightingale & Eakin 2015).

# Main research question:

How, and to what degree do gendered subjectivities in the research communities affect crop farmers' opportunities for climate change adaptation?

## Methods:

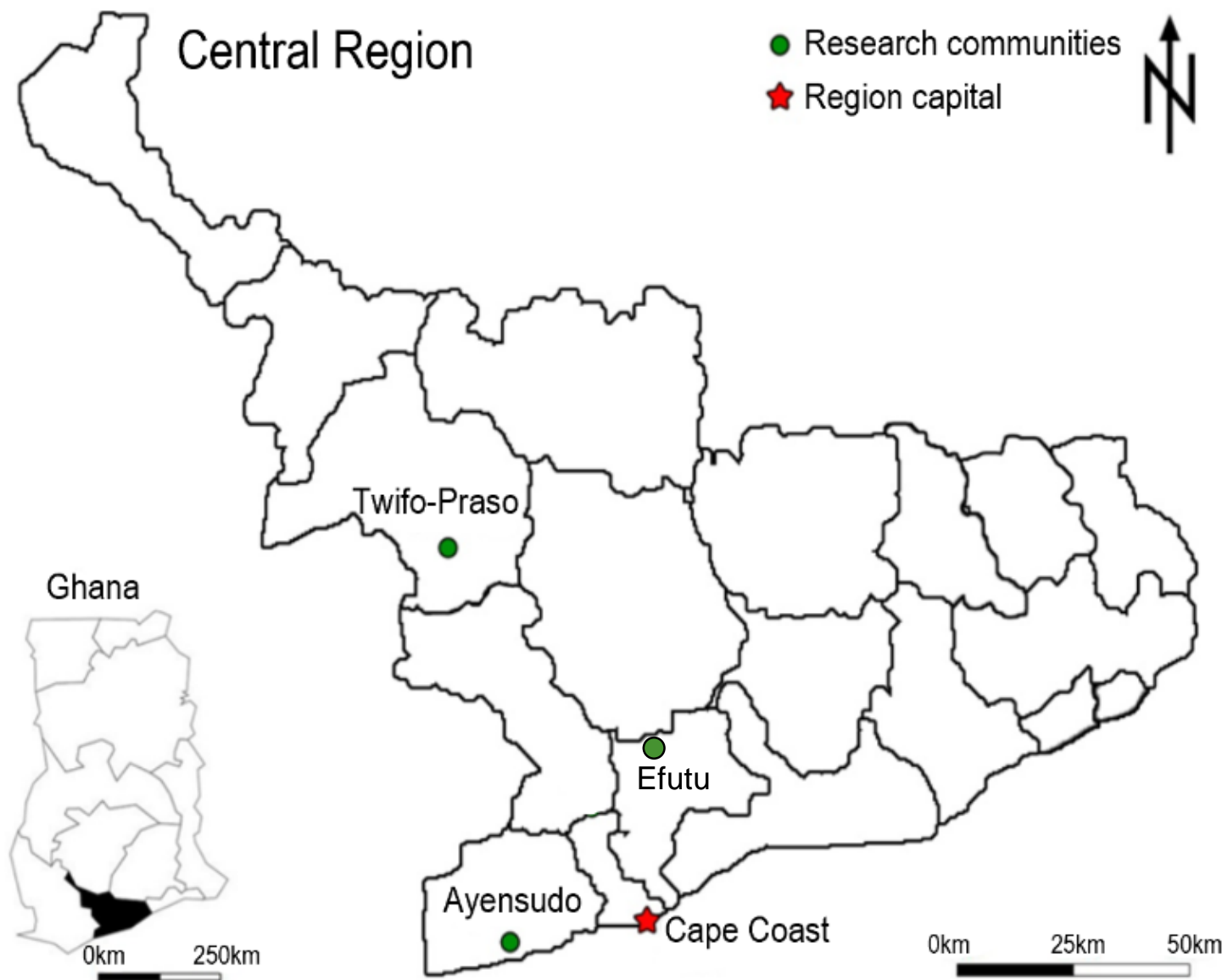
- Semi-structured, individual Interviews (41):
- Photovoice activities (7)
- Focus groups (9)



Focus group 2, Twifo Praso, March 2018

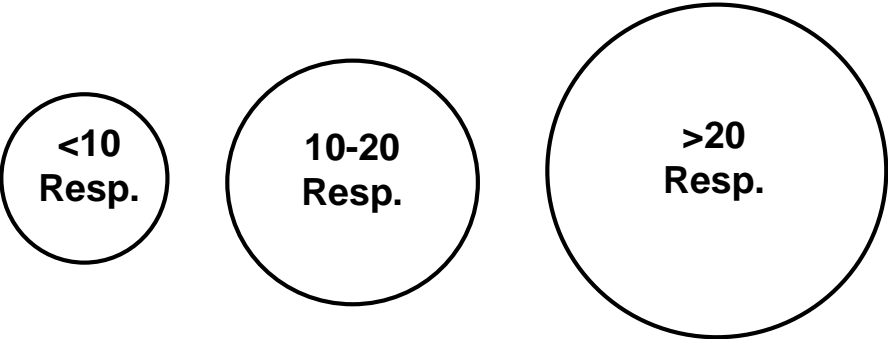


Focus group 1, Twifo Praso, Feb 2018

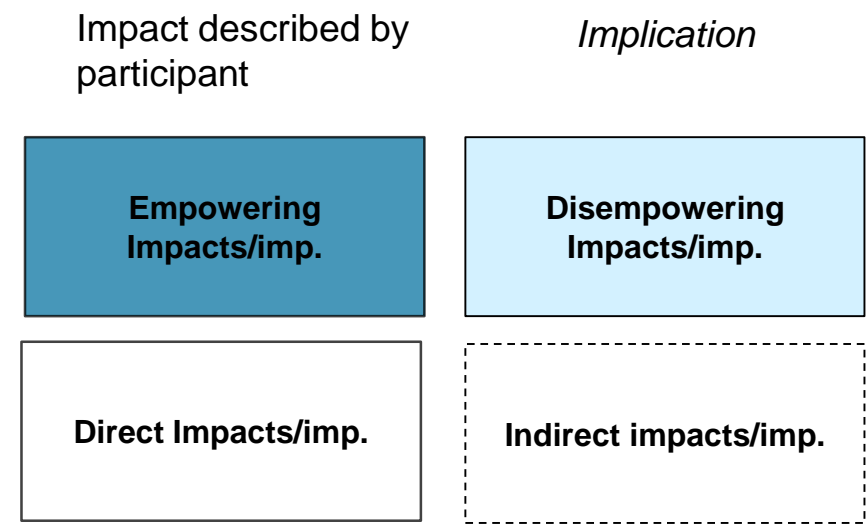


# Gendered subjectivities: Strength, power, and suffering

## Aspects of subjectivity



## Impacts/ Implications for adaptation



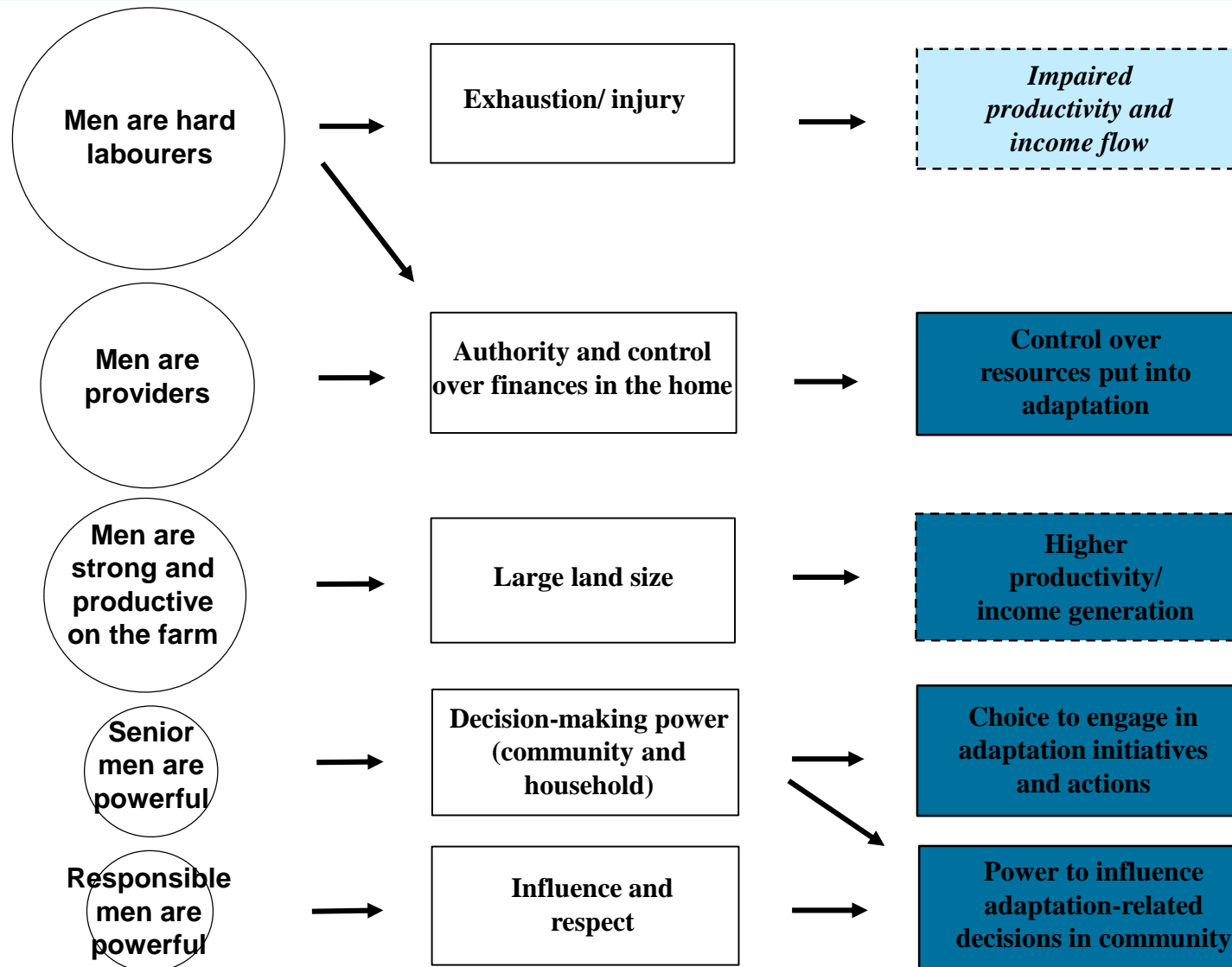


## Perceptions of men as physically strong, powerful, and suffering

### Aspects of subjectivity

### Consequences

### Impacts/ Implications for adaptation



## Perceptions of women as physically weak and dependent

### Aspects of subjectivity

### Consequences

### Impacts/ Implications for adaptation

Women are weak  
and unable to  
labour  
productively on  
farm



Cultivation of small plots



less opportunity to expand/  
increase productivity

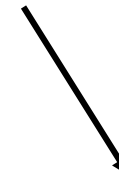
Women are  
dependent on  
men to provide  
and labour



Less financial decision-  
making power



*Less choice to engage in  
adaptive activities*



Single and  
widowed  
women are  
helpless



Considered by others as  
least able to adapt



*Agency undermined*

Women are  
lazy and  
uninterested in  
farming



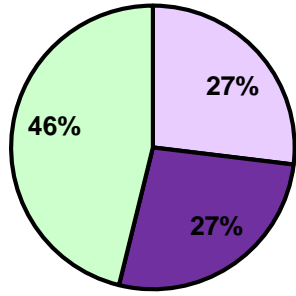
Excluded from  
agricultural programs



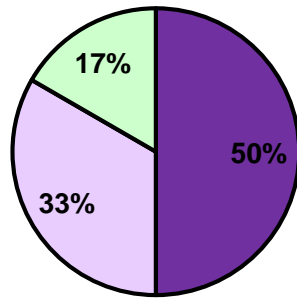
*Less opportunity to learn/  
adopt new adaptation  
strategies*



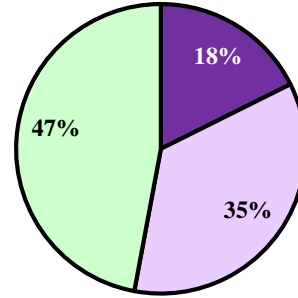
**Men are hard labourers**



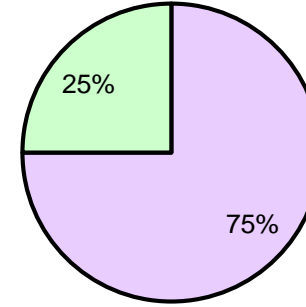
**Men are providers**



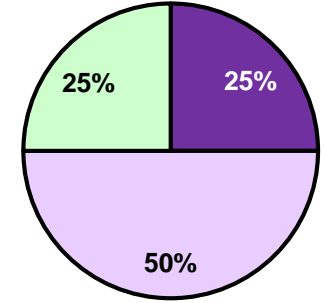
**Men are strong and productive on the farm**



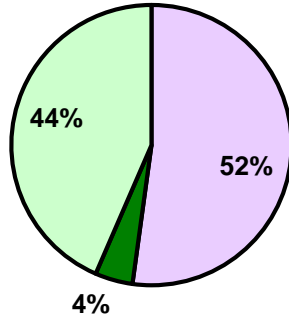
**Senior men are powerful**



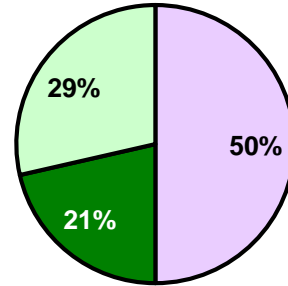
**Responsible men are powerful**



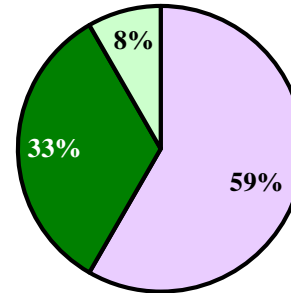
**Women are weak and unable to labour productively on farm**



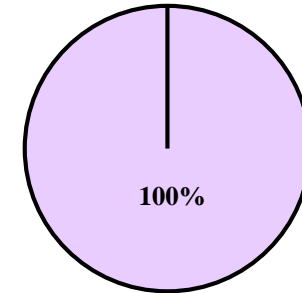
**Women are dependent on men to provide and labour**



**Single and widowed women are helpless**



**Women are lazy and uninterested in farming**



	Men said about self		Women said about self
	Men said about other/ general		Women said about other/ general

# Emancipatory agency: Gender-inclusive co-learning



Story on adaptation for the future, Efutu 2019



Story on gender and adaptation, Twifo-Praso 2019



Visual drawing adaptation planning activity, Efutu 2019



Visual drawing adaptation planning activity, Twifo-Praso 2019



Ice-breaker game, Twifo-Praso 2019



Facilitators and local Assembly, Efutu 2019

# Thank you!



Photovoice participant, Twifo-Praso 2019



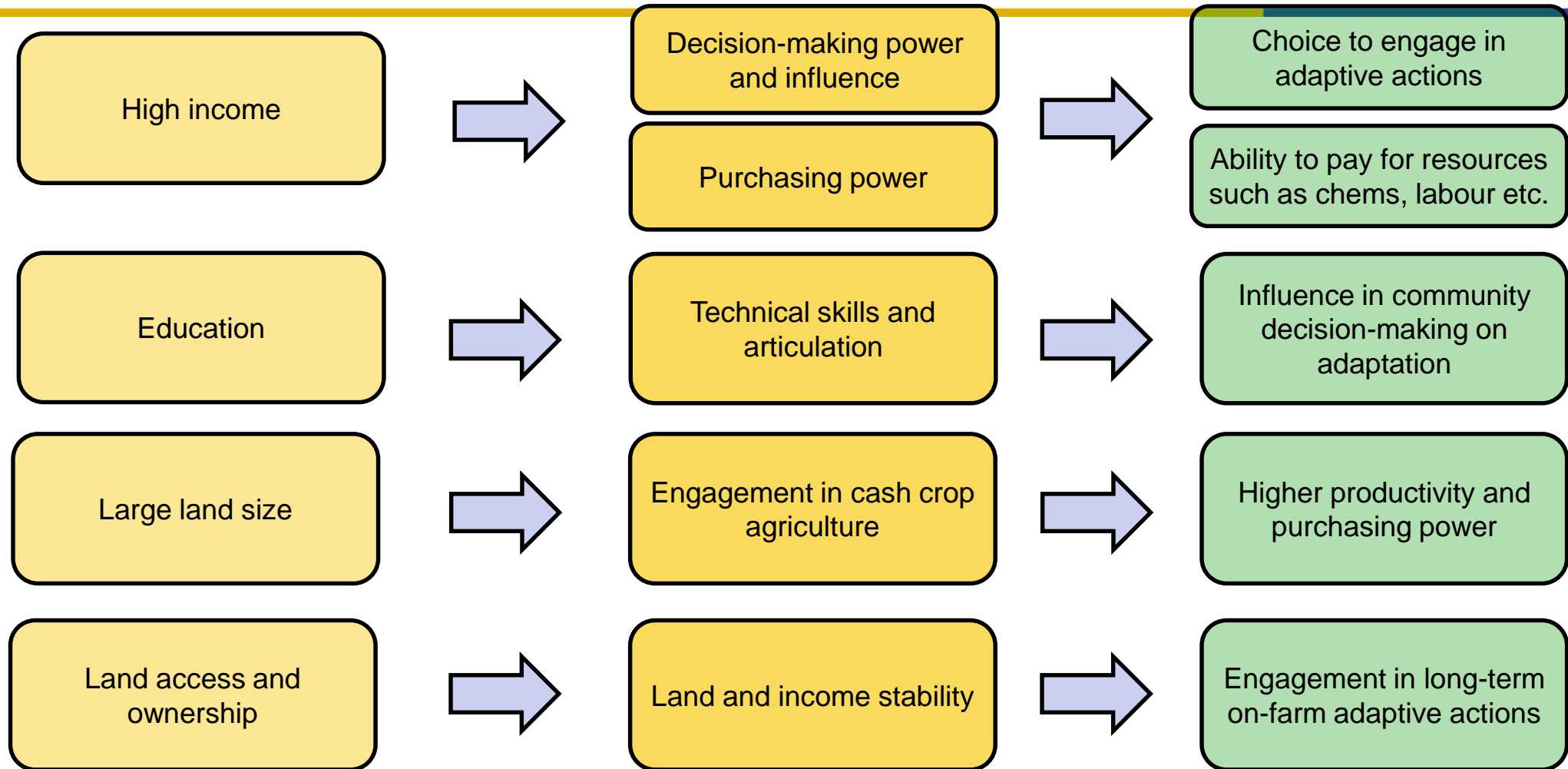
Photovoice participant, Ayensudo, 2019



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# Important for adaptation:



# Power in adaptation

