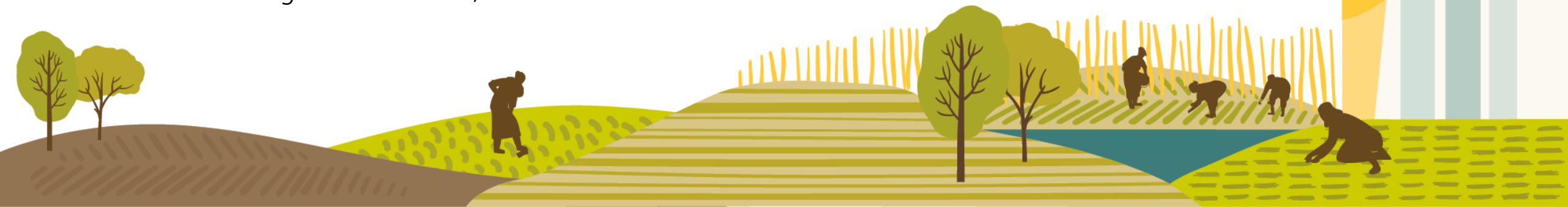




- SECURING WOMEN'S RESOURCE RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES

Introduction to Gender Transformative Approaches

Miranda Morgan | October 5, 2022

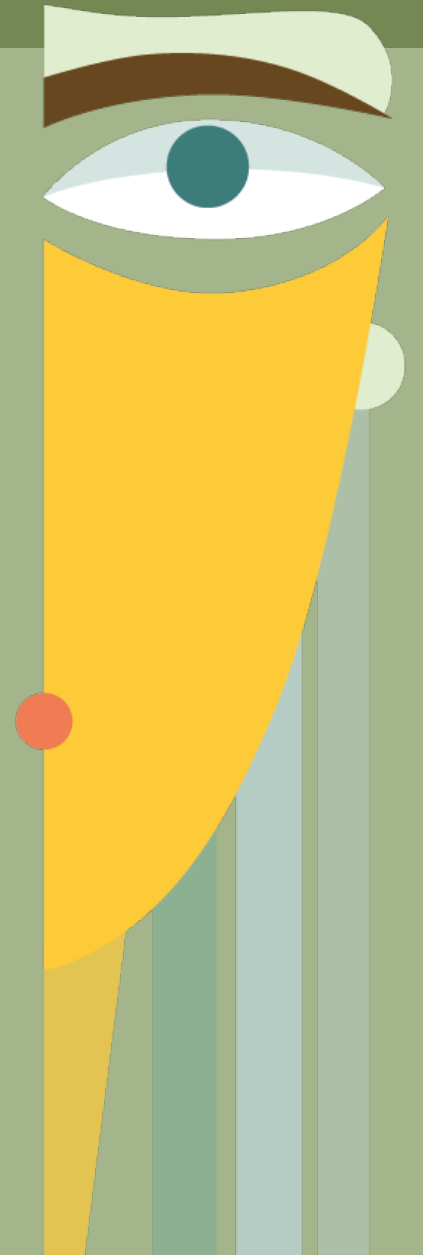


“Gender Transformative Approaches”?

‘Gender Transformative Approaches’ are being mentioned everywhere!

i.e. ILC has been striving to inform all actions with a gender transformative approach, committing ourselves to “overcome any practices in its operations or those of its members that perpetuate the marginalisation of any section of society, and in particular of women” (core values in 2016-21 strategy).

- Builds on and goes beyond members’ work to promote women’s land rights (WLR) to achieve gender justice across our network
 - Space for gender focal points from the network to share knowledge and good practices, with a focus on promoting gender-transformative practices
 - Changing ways of working; changing operations to become gender-transformative, therefore we will:
 - 3.1. Integrate gender at all stages of our planning and MELC cycle:
 - 3.1.1. Revise internal procedures for proposal development and review (NES/CBI);
 - 3.2. Deepen learning on gender through in-depth analysis/MEL missions focusing on positive and negative cases

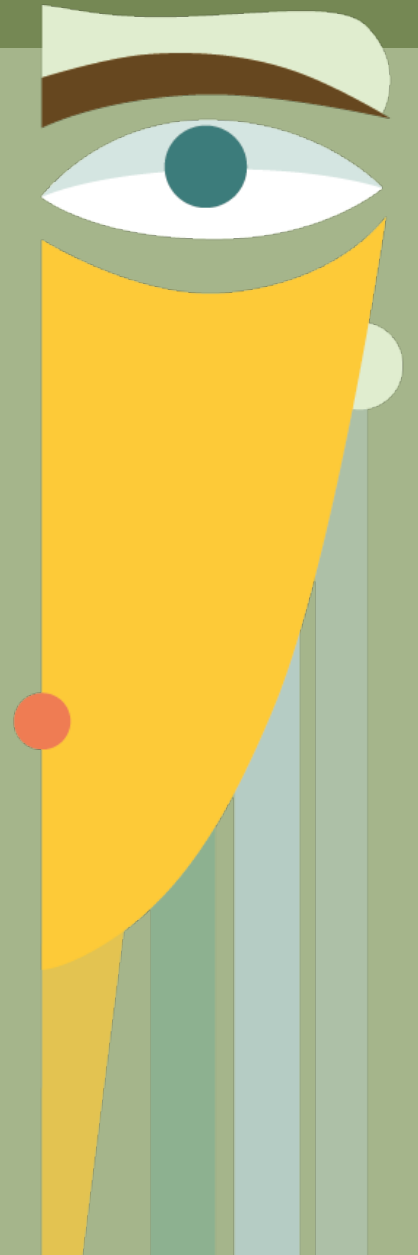


“Gender Transformative Approaches”? (cont’d)

i.e. Agricultural development agencies are increasingly trying to understand and apply gender-transformative approaches

- Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition (FAO, IFAD, WFP, EU)
- Securing Women’s Resource Rights through Gender Transformative Approaches (CGIAR and IFAD): <https://www.cifor.org/wlr/>

But what does it mean? Why has it become important?



Why 'Gender Transformative Approaches'?

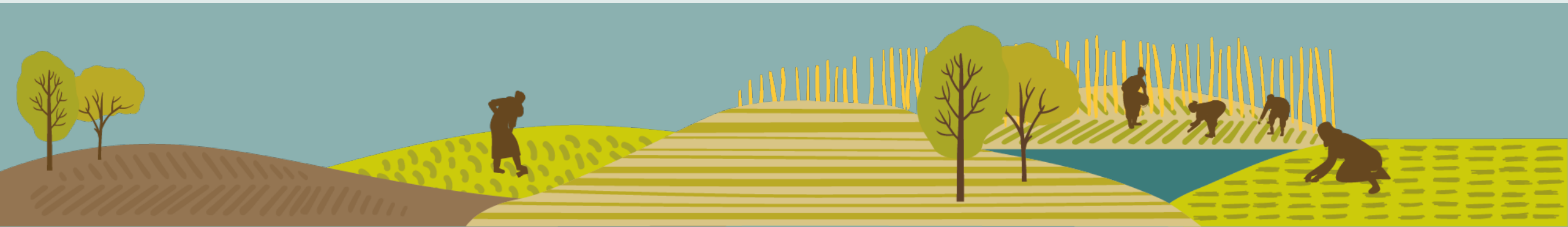


- Existing approaches to address gender inequality in general are limited:

- They sometimes reach women but do not lead to substantive or lasting empowerment; only temporary changes
- They have addressed visible gaps in women's access to knowledge, services, resources and markets – related to women's individual agency and access to resources.
- But they do not bring attention to or address institutions, **power relations** and gender norms, or any other underlying root causes of gender equality. This allows inequalities to persist and return.

- Existing gender accommodating approaches to securing women's land rights are also limited:

- Many countries have enshrined equal rights to land and resources in their legal systems
- But actual change is limited by the failure to implement these laws, in part due to prevailing social norms and beliefs at all levels, as well as customary practices in communities and households.
- There has been limited attention to the power and politics required to create, fund, and reinforce policies that would increase gender equal access to resources
- Have limited understanding of the lived realities and complexities of women's land rights, beyond legally codified rights



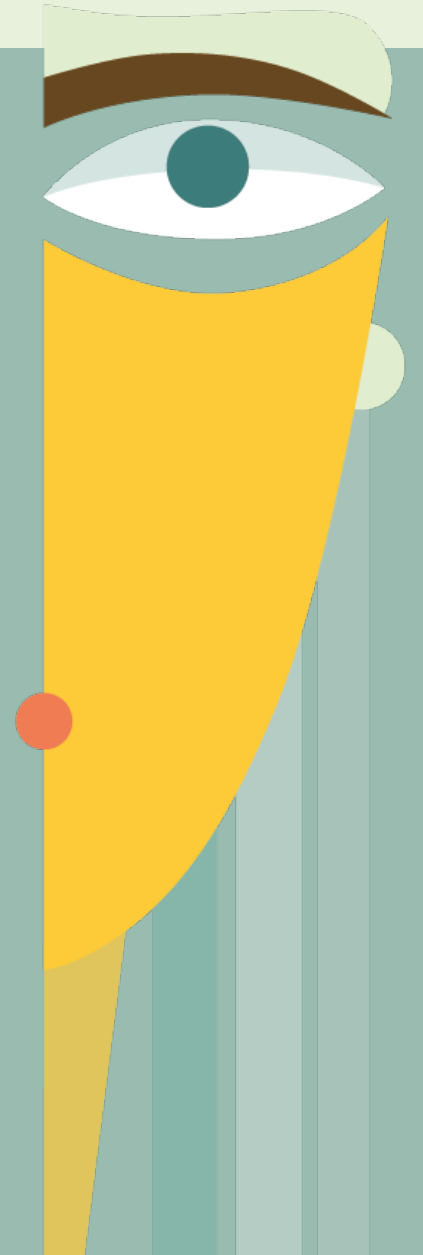
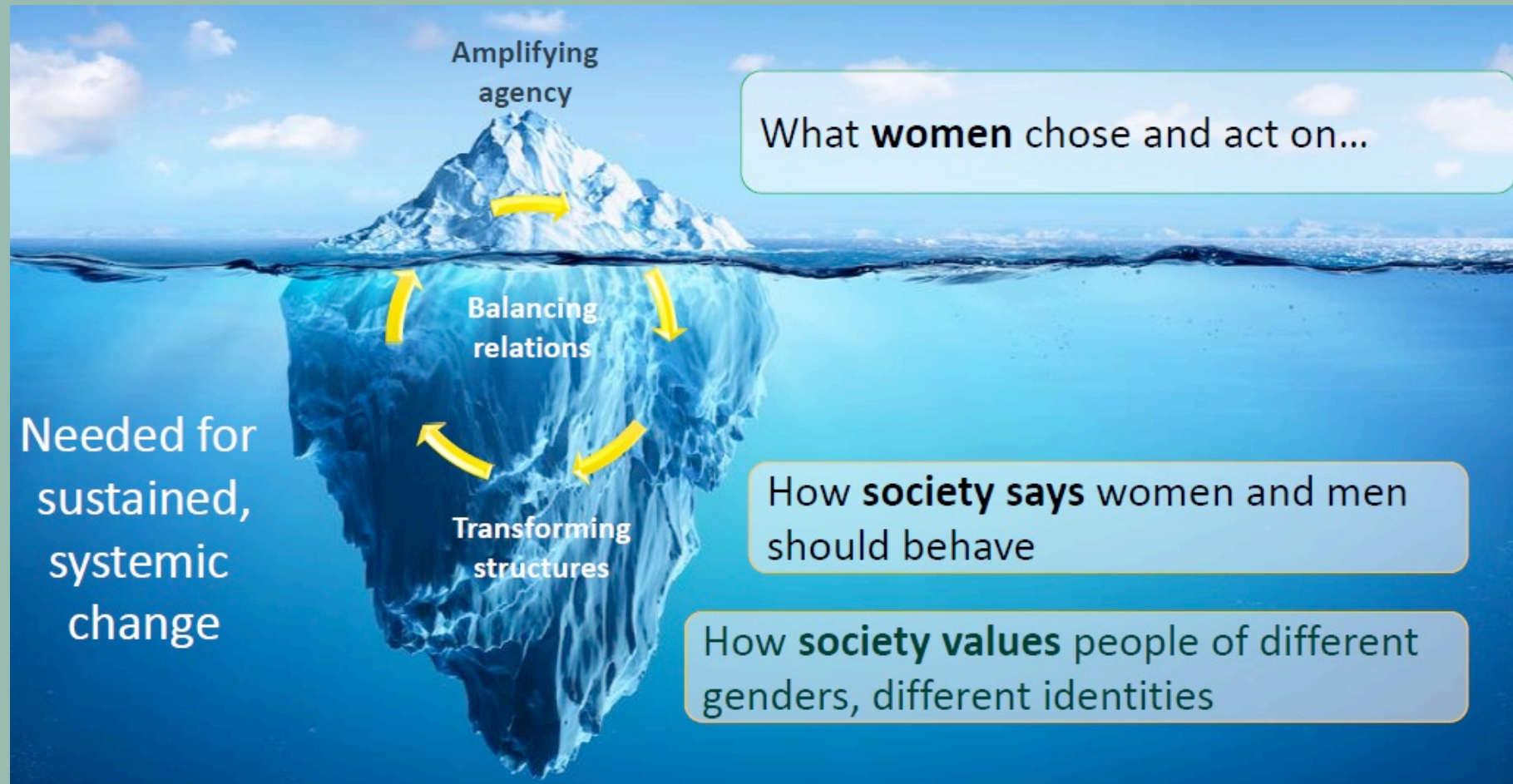


Case study (cultural and structural constraints)

García-Morán and Yates (2022)

- Mexican case study on how women experience and face masculinist land control in collective land governance, long after women's land rights are legally formalized (since 1992).
- It demonstrates how cultural and structural constraints for women landowners mean that women often have ownership without practical use or management rights and are marginalized from decision-making and governance on land.

Going 'under the surface'



Under the surface: social norms



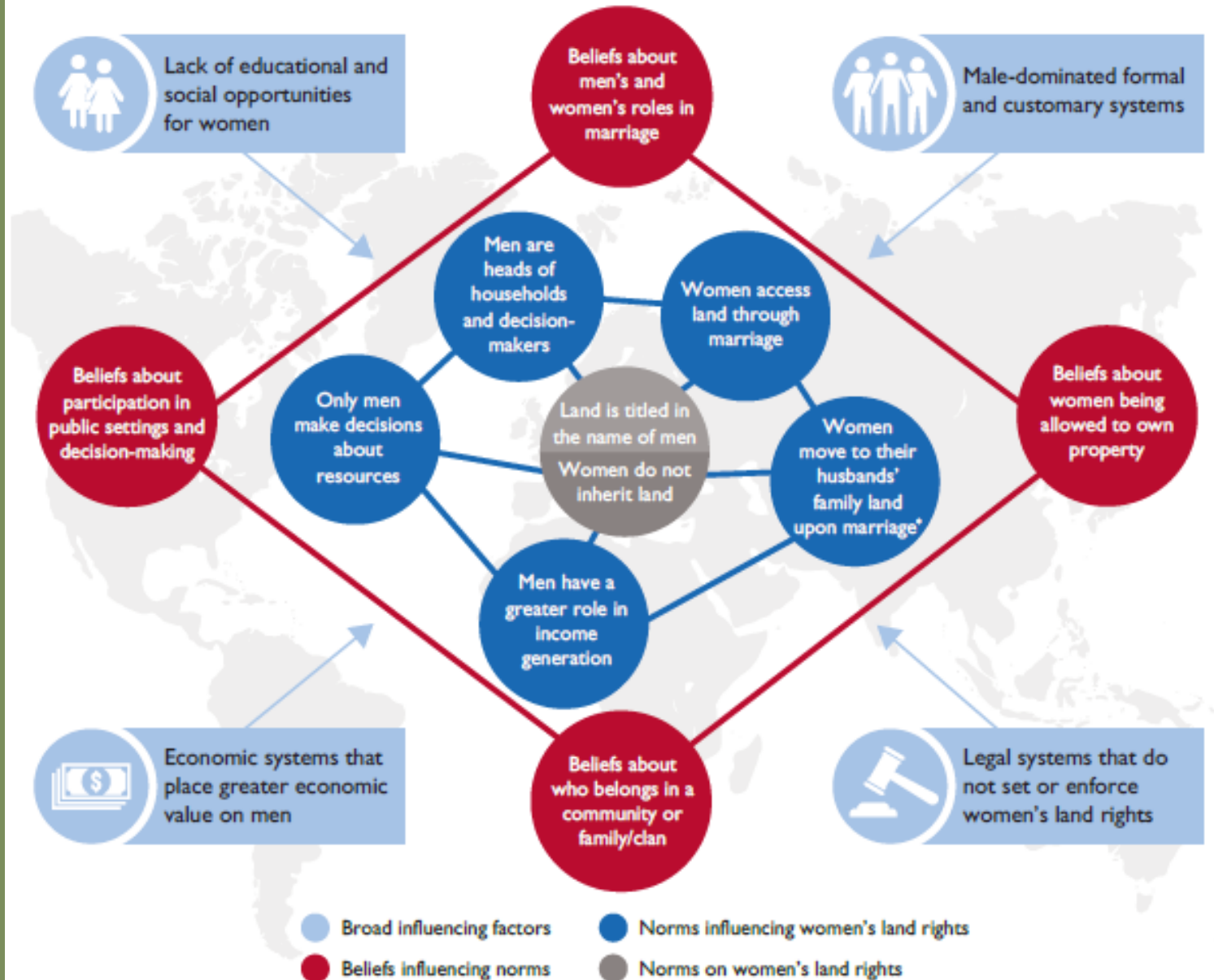
Examples of social norms influencing women's land rights:

- Extent to which women are viewed as legitimate property owners
- Extent to which women claim legal property rights
- If women are viewed as property themselves
- Married women moving in with their husband's family
- Women's involvement in land only happens when men are weak
- Women not seen as farmers or producers
- Women viewed as 'caregivers' and not 'decision-makers'
- Dowry for daughters in movable property (cash or jewelry, not land)
- Who is responsible for upholding women's land rights
- Preference for traditional or customary dispute resolution mechanisms
- *etc*



Gender norms and women's land rights

Figure 1: Gender norms and women's land rights (Lowery 2021)

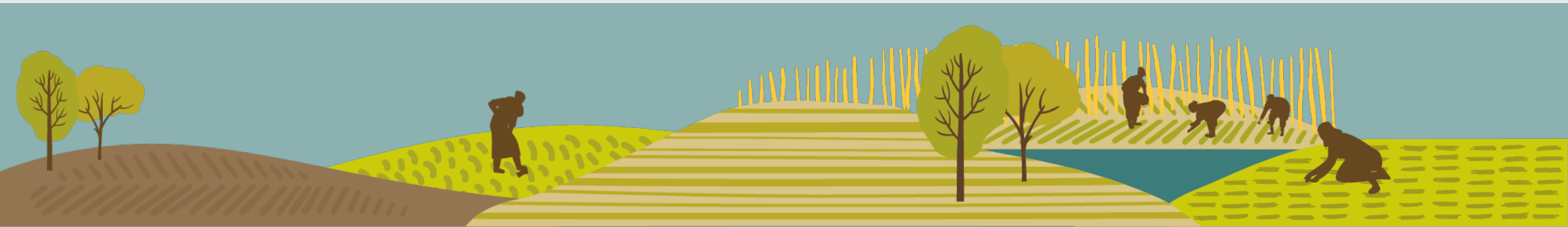


*In patrilocal systems, which are the most prevalent arrangement. In matrilineal systems, men move to their wives' family land upon marriage.

What are “Gender Transformative Approaches”?



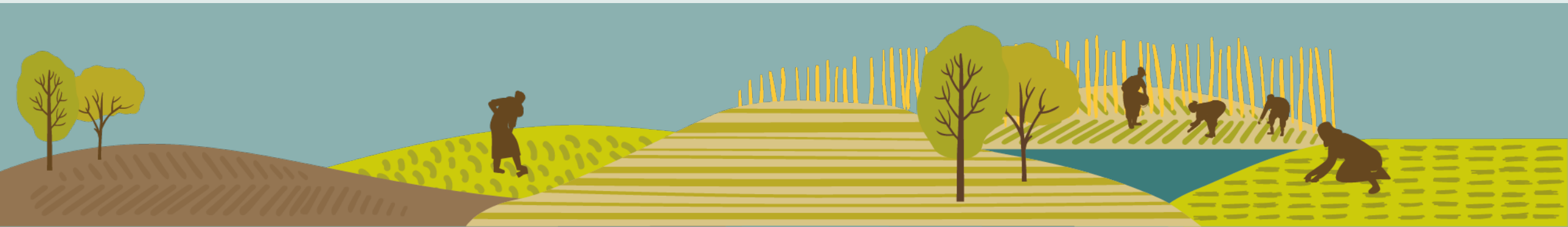
- Seek to go beyond addressing the symptoms (or ‘surface’) of gender inequality to address the **underlying and structural causes** of gender inequalities, including:
 - Formal institutions: discriminatory policies and institutions
 - Informal institutions: discriminatory customary laws and practices, restrictive social and cultural norms
- Strive to change power relations and structural barriers at and across **multiple levels** (individual, household, community and systems/institutions); importance of being led by local, **collective activism** and leadership
- Recognize that women often experience multiple and **intersecting** forms of discrimination
- **Facilitate trust, ownership, visioning and critical reflection** with stakeholders to challenge and change deep-rooted gender attitudes / norms / behaviours, unequal power dynamics and discriminatory social structures



What are “Gender Transformative Approaches” (2)



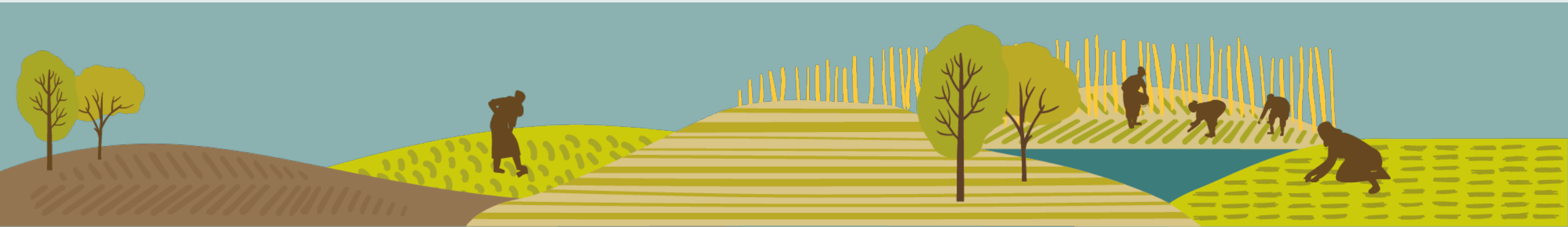
- Foster more equitable gender relations within households, communities and organizations and promote the relative position of women and girls in society
- Explicitly **engage with men and boys** as allies for change and advocates for gender equality
- **Engage with influential norm holders**, such as traditional and religious leaders, local authorities, elected representatives and members of legal structures



What are “Gender Transformative Approaches” (3)



- Use **participatory and experiential learning** methodologies
- Be explicit about **supporting the safety of ‘disruptors’**
- **Be flexible and adapted to different contexts**, embracing the complexity and context-specificity of gender relations and norms
- **Bring attention to our own politics** and practice of power – ourselves and our organisations, networks etc.





Case study (emerging evidence)

Hillenbrand et al (2022): compared gender-sensitive and gender transformative approaches in Burundi.

- Found that gender-transformative approaches catalyzed at least three types of significant gender outcomes:
 - Reductions in underlying barriers (attitudes to partner violence);
 - Improvements in decision-making and division of labour; and
 - Contributions to other desired outcomes such as nutrition and health.
- Investing in these types of approaches build critical consciousness and collective agency that seem to produce more sustainable impact, deeper social and economic change, and respond more effectively to community needs and interests than more typical gender-sensitive approaches.
- It required more investment but had much better results.

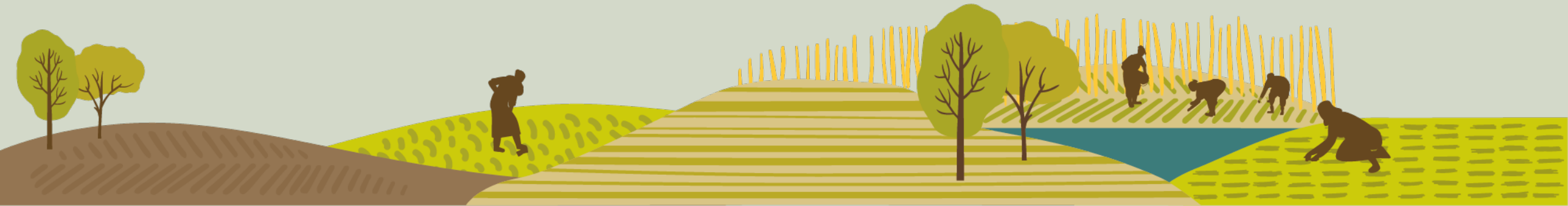
“Transformative” in women’s land rights?



Land tenure security involves not only the rights that women hold but the extent these rights are secure.

How ‘transformative’ changes will be depends on:

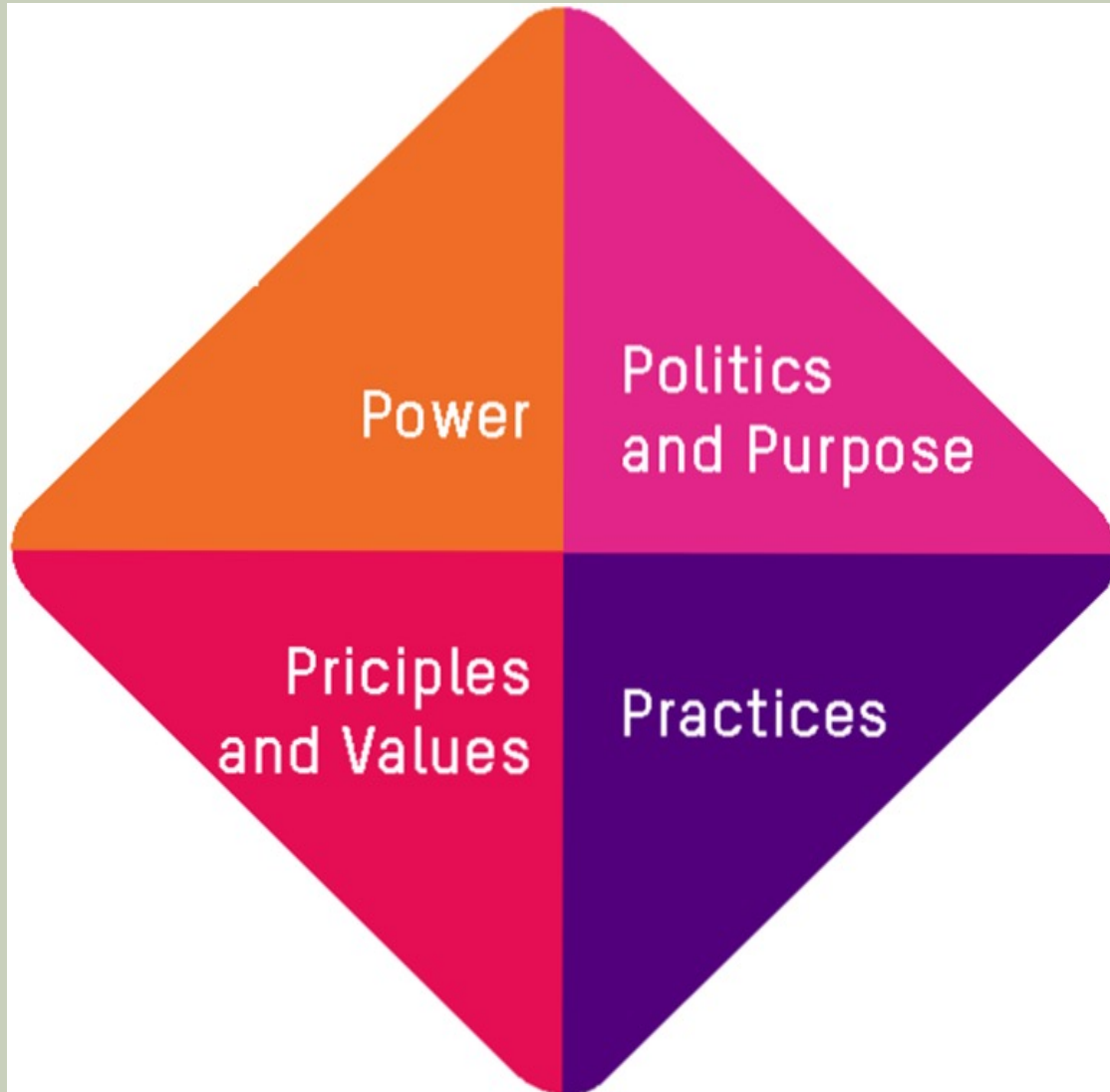
- **Completeness of the bundle of rights:** to what extent are the various rights held by one person or persons?
 - Rights to use, including rights of access and withdrawal of resources
 - Rights to change, including management and transformation rights
 - Rights to make profit and loss; economic owner
 - Rights to prevent others from using a resource (exclusion)
 - Rights to transfer the land, whether temporarily or permanent
 - Right to inherit or other rights that can be realized in future (future interests)
- **Individual or shared rights:** To what extent are rights held individually or jointly? What are the relationships among rights holders?
- **Robustness:** Are the rights known by the holders, accepted by the community and enforceable?
 - Cultural and legal legitimacy (recognized by statutory law, customary law, family, clan and community)
 - **Exercisability:** women are informed of their land rights, understand the meaning and value and how to obtain or document them.
 - **Enforceability:** women can access their rights, have the ability and means to present a claim, be guaranteed their cases will be heard and the decision will be implemented
- **Resilience and durability:** to what extent are women’s land rights vulnerable to changes in social status or family structure?



Starting points for applying to women's land rights



- May enable a deeper analysis of the barriers to women exercising their land rights, as well as the appropriate mechanisms and strategies to enhance their exercise of rights in a particular context
- May help to identify a wider range of strategies to support more secure land rights for women
 - Some approaches may be new, some may be tried and tested. Important to build on good practice
 - Support complementary actions among partners and stakeholders that cross scales and address formal and informal systems.



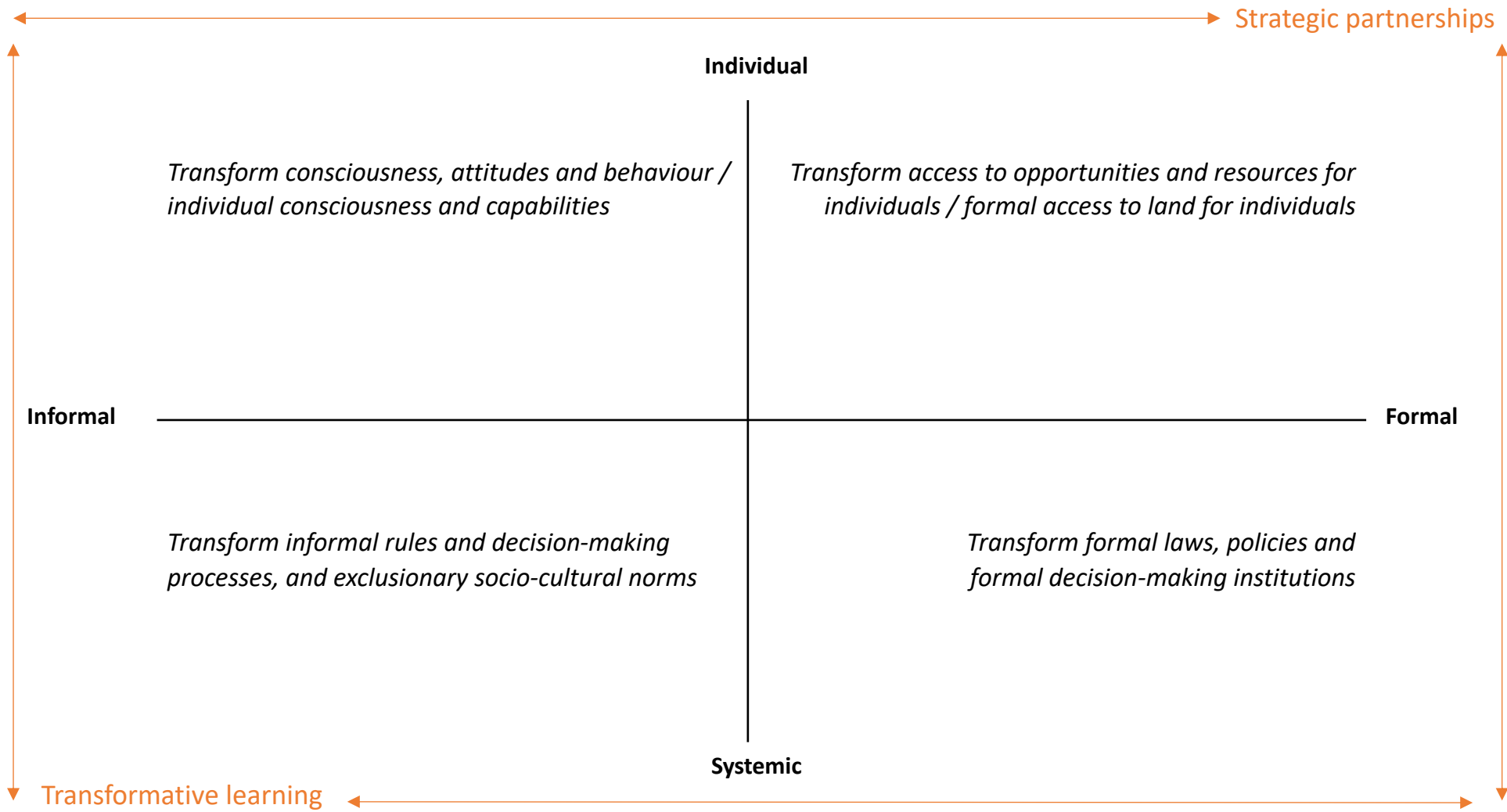
Oxfam's approach

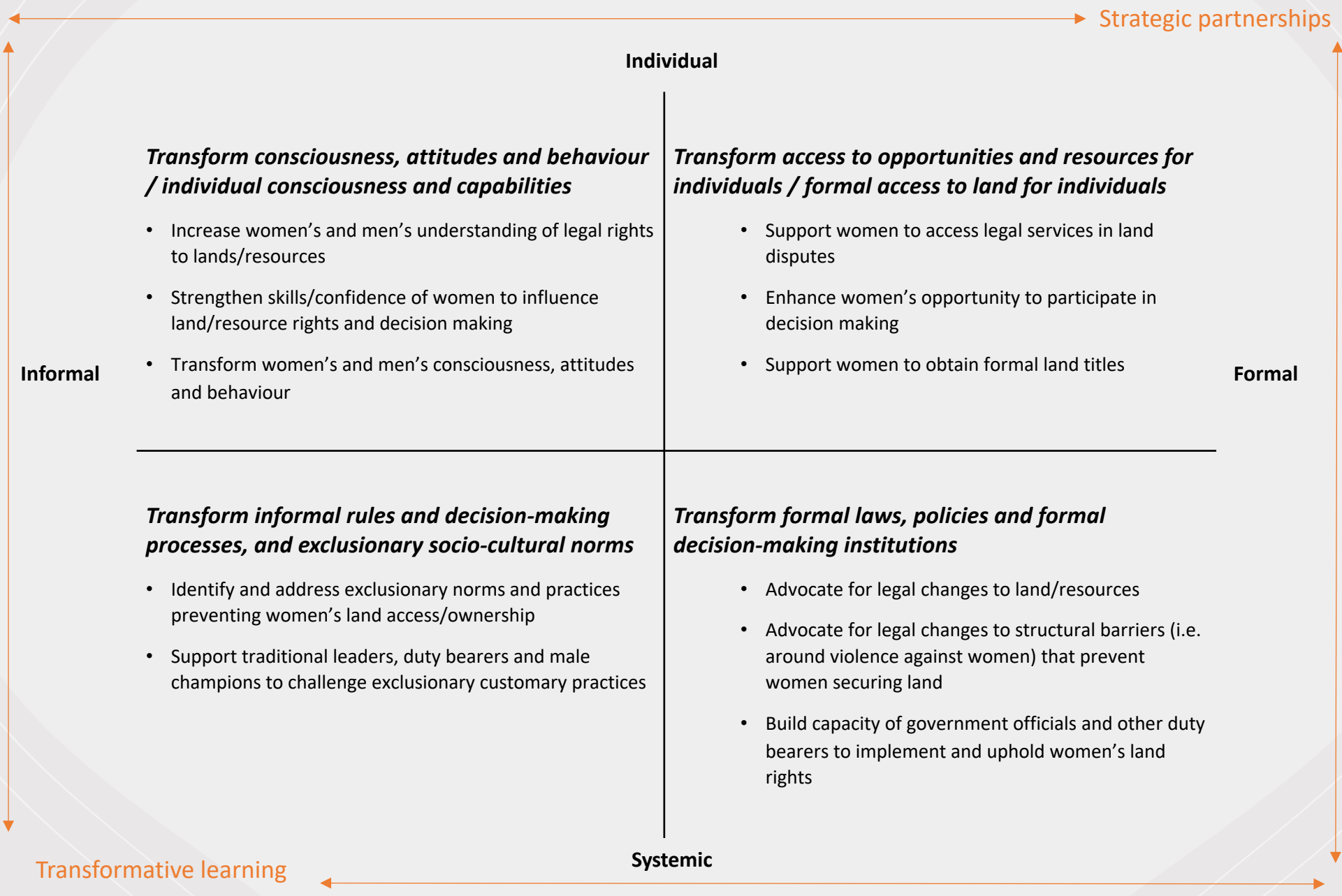
Oxfam's Transformative Leadership for women's land rights

- Respecting the dignity of people they work with and being led by women;
- meaningful consultation with women;
- tackling structural barriers and challenging power;
- changing attitudes and behaviours;
- increasing representation of women in leadership positions to increase decision-making power

The Feminist Leadership Diamond
THE 4 P's: EMBEDDED IN THE SELF

From Srilatha Batliwala's, Clearing the Conceptual Cloud: Transformative Feminist Leadership. CREA, 2011





Strategic partnerships

Informal

Formal

Transformative learning

Systemic

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- García-Morán, Ana, and Julian S. Yates. "In between rights and power: Women's land rights and the gendered politics of land ownership, use, and management in Mexican ejidos." *World Development* 152 (2022): 105804.
- Oxfam (2019) 'Keepers of the Land': Transformative Leadership for African Women's Land Rights. A Training of Trainers [Manual](#).





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