Lecture 30

**Special women focused programmes in agriculture and rural development**

There are various special women-focused programs in agriculture and rural development that aim to empower women, enhance their participation, and address their specific needs in these sectors. Here are some notable examples:

Women in Agriculture Initiative (WAI): This initiative, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), focuses on improving women's access to resources, knowledge, and services in agriculture. It promotes gender-responsive policies and supports women's leadership and entrepreneurship in rural areas.

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI): Developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) with support from USAID, WEAI is a tool that measures women's empowerment and inclusion in agriculture. It identifies the areas where women face constraints and guides interventions to improve their participation.

Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE): RWEE is a joint program of FAO, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), and UN Women. It aims to enhance rural women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, leadership, and access to productive resources and services.

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD): AWARD is a career-development program that equips African women scientists and researchers with skills and knowledge to contribute to agricultural research and development. It supports their professional growth, mentorship, and leadership development.

Women's Farmer Producer Organizations (WFPOs): Many countries and organizations are supporting the formation and strengthening of WFPOs. These organizations empower women farmers by providing them with collective bargaining power, access to markets, training, and resources for sustainable agriculture.

Gender in Agriculture Partnership (GAP): GAP is a global partnership that advocates for gender equality in agriculture and rural development. It brings together organizations, governments, and stakeholders to promote gender-responsive policies, investment, and programs in the sector.

Women's Land Rights: Several initiatives focus on securing and promoting women's land rights, as land ownership is critical for their economic empowerment and social inclusion. Organizations such as Landesa, International Land Coalition (ILC), and Oxfam work towards strengthening women's land rights and access to land.

These are just a few examples of women-focused programs in agriculture and rural development. Many countries and international organizations have recognized the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in these sectors and are implementing various initiatives to address the specific challenges faced by women.