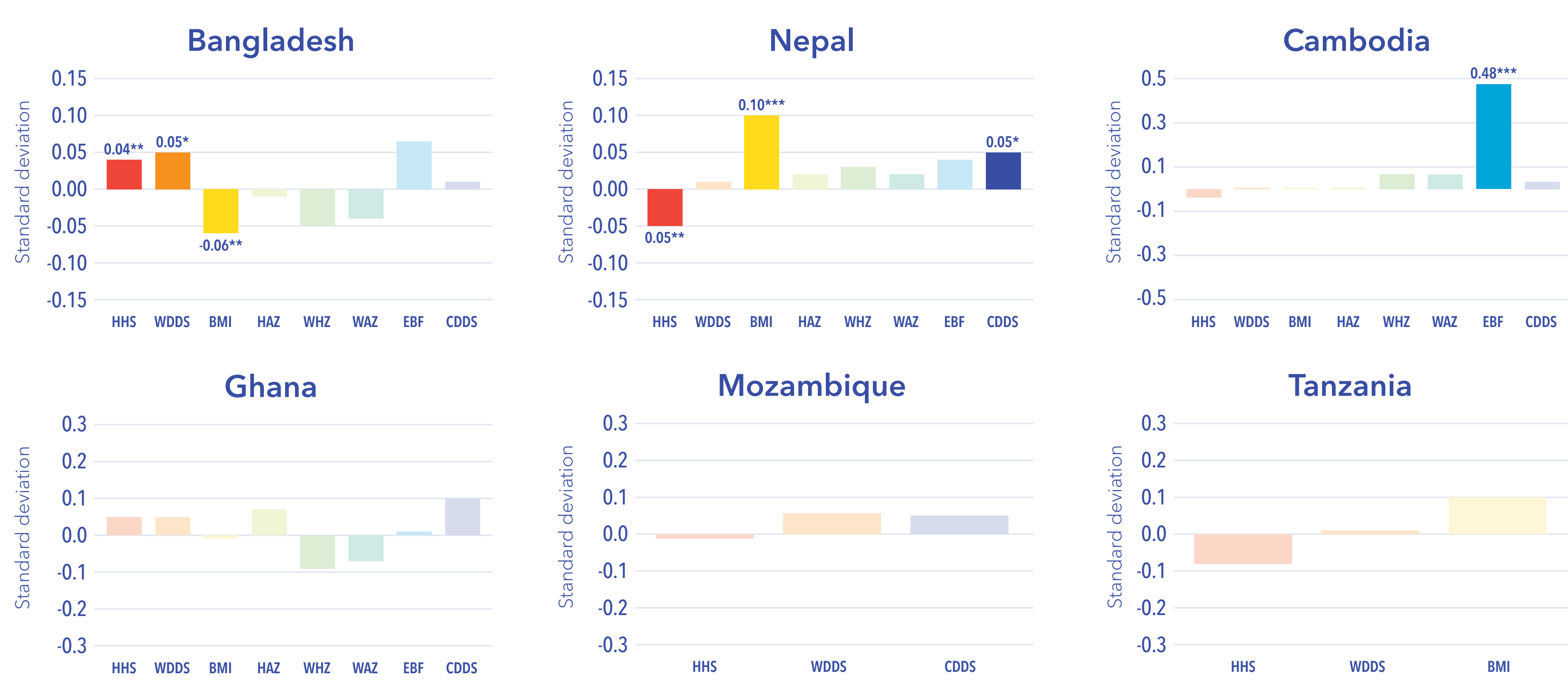


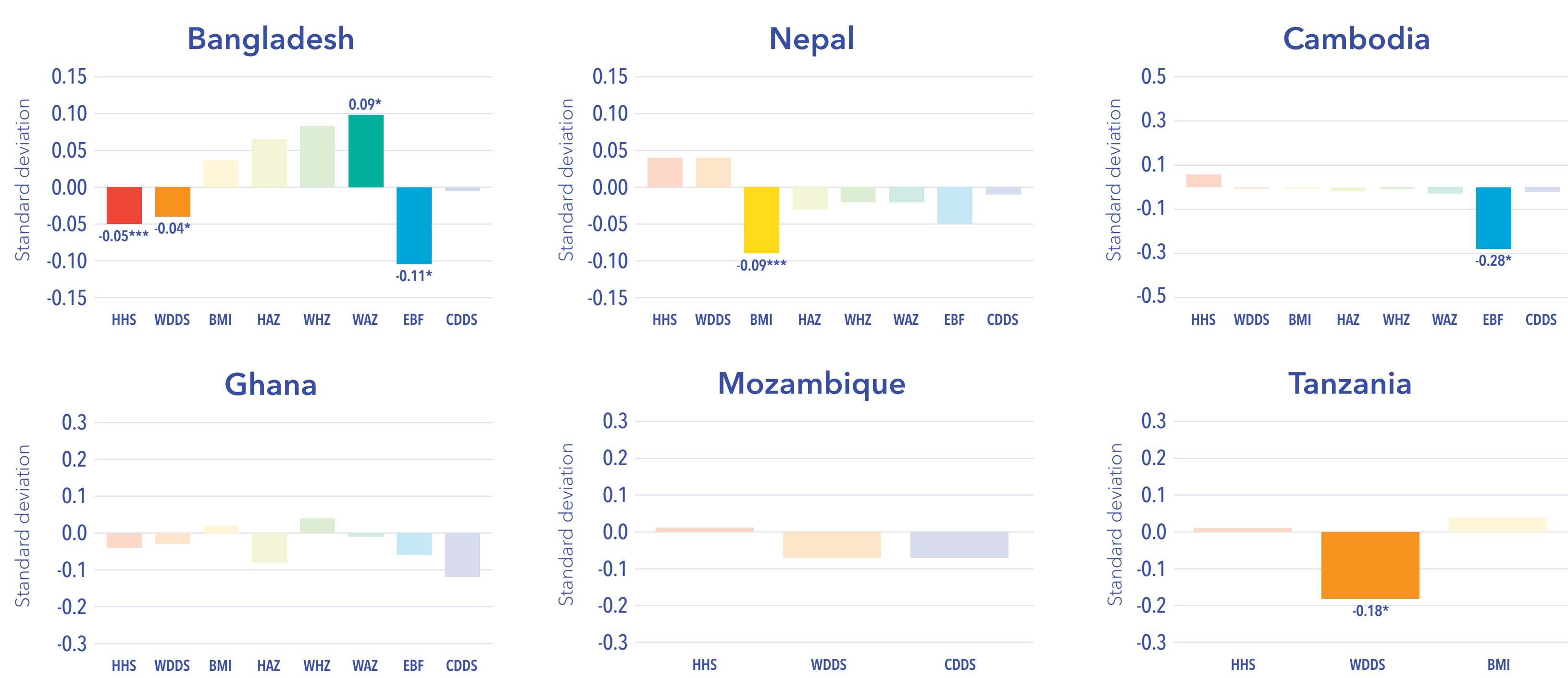
What dimensions of women's empowerment matter for nutritional outcomes? Evidence from six countries in Africa and Asia

Agnes Quisumbing, Kathryn Sproule, Elena Martinez, Hazel Malapit

There is no clear relationship between **overall women's empowerment score (5DE)** and nutritional outcomes. 5DE score was associated with some nutrition outcomes in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Cambodia.



Greater **household equality** (measured by the household inequality score) was associated with better nutrition outcomes, especially in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Cambodia.



Methods and Data

- Data from population-based Feed the Future surveys in 6 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Nepal, Mozambique, Tanzania
- Estimated associations between nutrition outcomes and women's empowerment using regression analysis
- Controlled for individual, household, and community characteristics

$$N_h = a_0 + a_1 \text{empowerment} + a_2 I + a_2 H + E$$

N_h = Nutrition outcomes at the household, woman, or child level

$Empowerment$ = Measures of empowerment derived from the WEAI

I = Vector of individual characteristics

H = Vector of household characteristics

What is WEAI?

90%

5 Domains of Empowerment (5DE)

A direct measure of women's empowerment in 5 dimensions

Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

10%

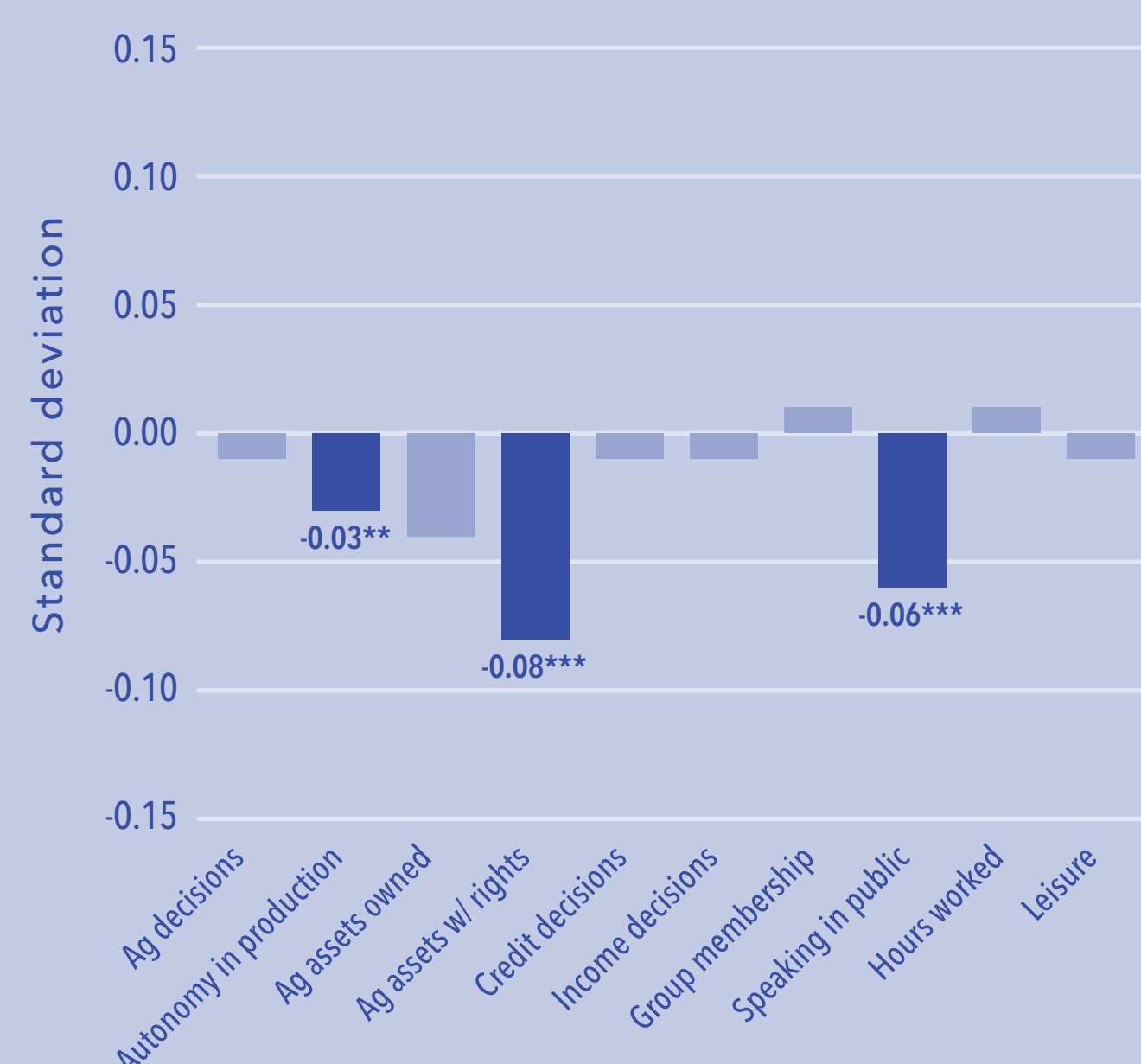
Gender Parity Index (GPI)

Women's achievement relative to the primary male in their household

Ranges from zero to one
Higher values = greater empowerment

CASE STUDY: Nepal

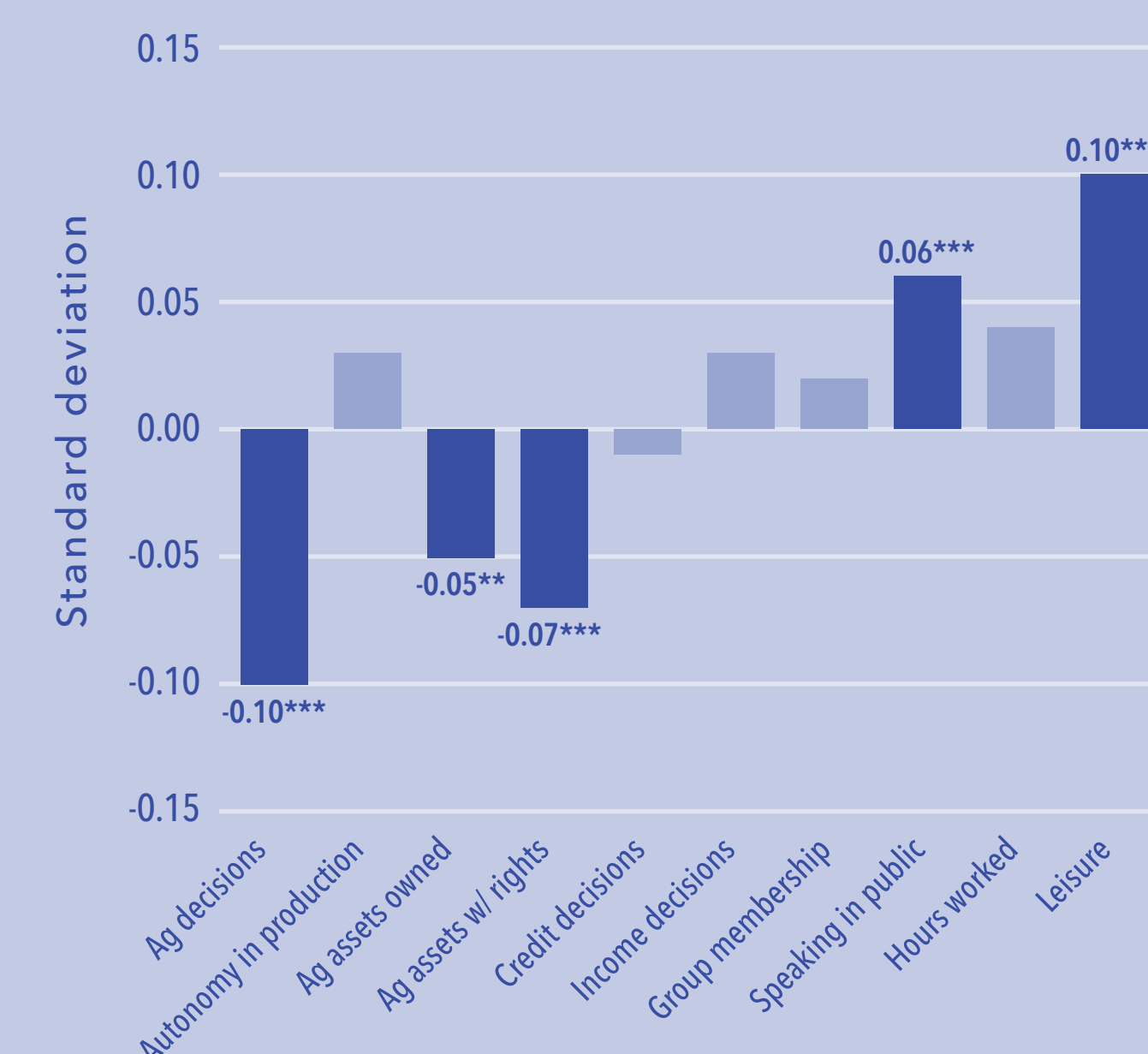
Different dimensions of women's empowerment are associated with nutrition outcomes in different ways; there seem to be trade offs involved.



Women's autonomy in production, asset rights, and comfort speaking in public are associated with lower household hunger score.



Hours worked is negatively associated with women's BMI.



Satisfaction with leisure time is positively associated with women's dietary diversity.

Reference

Alkire, S., Meinzen-Dick, R., Peterman, A., Quisumbing, A., Seymour, G., & Vaz, A. (2013). The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index. *World Development*, 52, 71-91.