

# Gender and food insecurity: Looking within the agrarian household

Rosalind Ragetlie  
Ph.D. Candidate in Geography, Western University



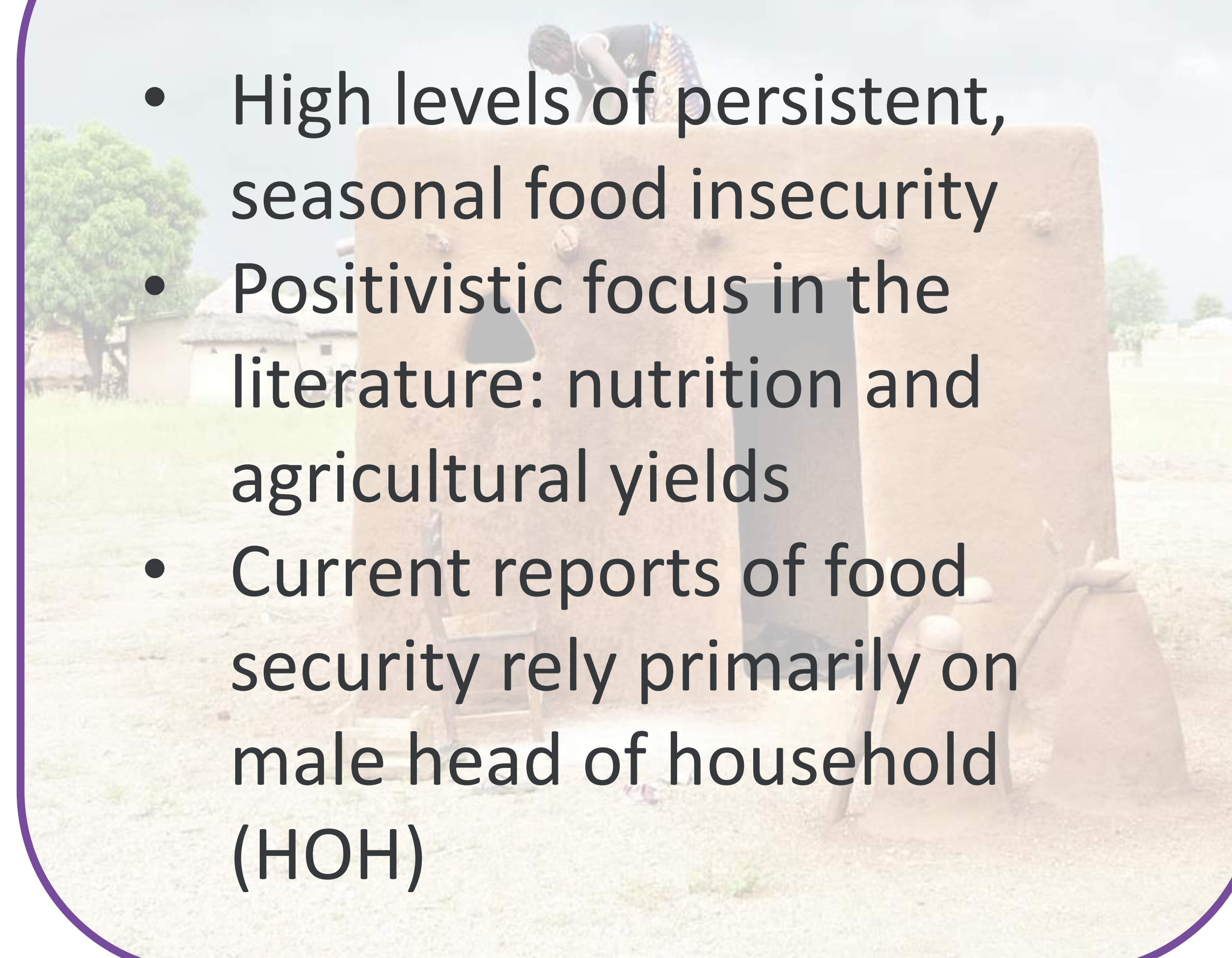
## Study Location



## Methods

- Mixed-methods approach
- Community-level focus groups (n=12)
- Semi-structured interviews (n=40)
- Household survey (n=600)
- Intrahousehold approach
- Nuanced power dynamics
- Gender-sensitive approach highlighting women's voices
- Aimed to ensure no one partner silences the other

## Study Context



- High levels of persistent, seasonal food insecurity
- Positivistic focus in the literature: nutrition and agricultural yields
- Current reports of food security rely primarily on male head of household (HOH)

## Research Findings

### Paper 1

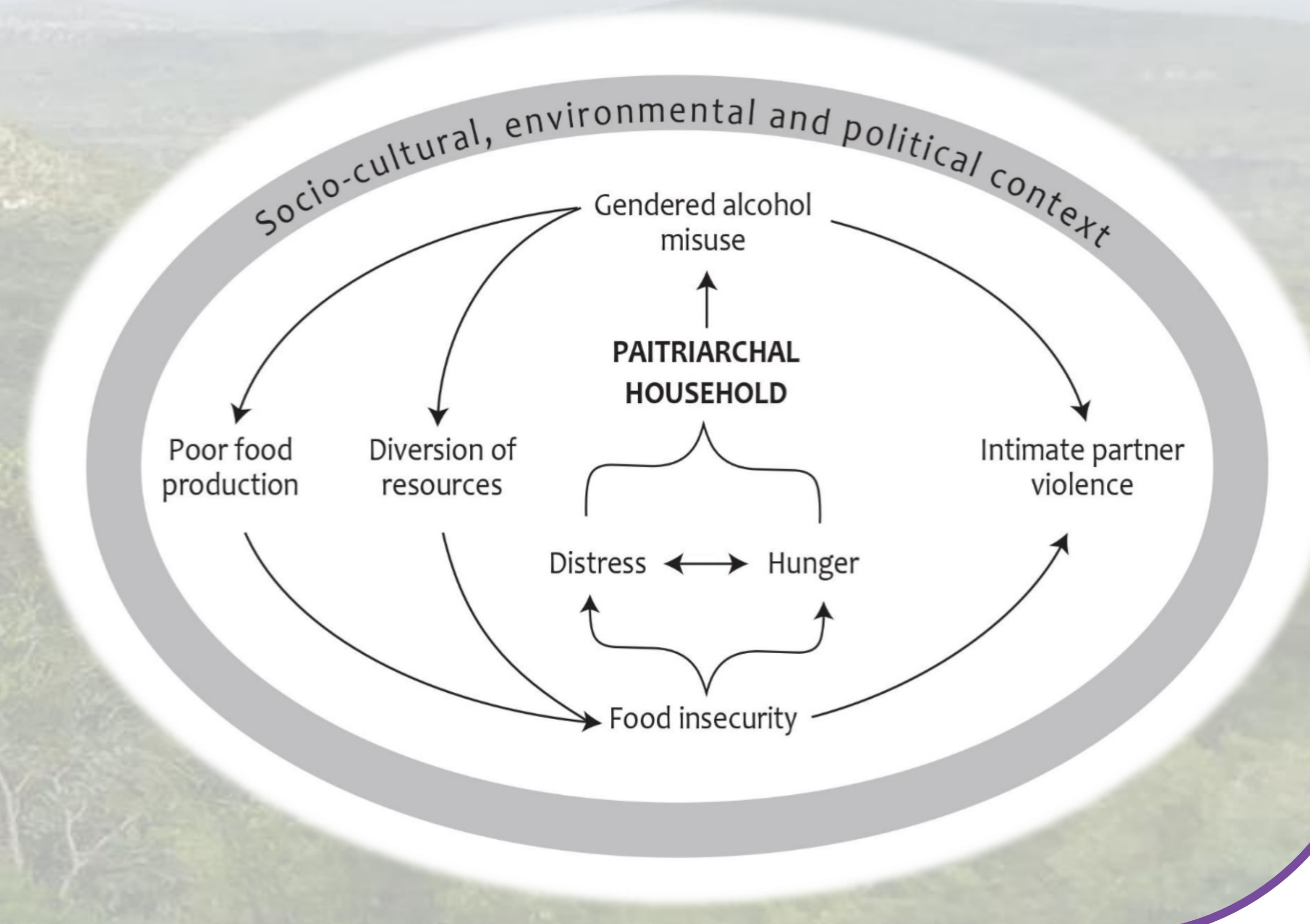
- Food insecurity is shaped by rigid gender norms
- Men's identities as breadwinners are tied to food and farming
- Women are frustrated with growing burden of labour
- Marital conflict and violence is exacerbated

### Paper 2

- Physical, emotional and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) is widespread
- Poor food production is associated with increased risk of IPV
- Pathway: stress, tension and marital conflict caused by poor food production

### Paper 3

- Alcohol is being used as a coping mechanism
- Dual drivers: hunger and distress



## Future Research

- Intrahousehold approaches
- Research on gender and food led by African feminist scholars
- Research asking 'which men' and 'which women'?

## Thank you

- Supervised by Dr. Isaac Luginaah
- Funding: OGS, SSHRC, IDRC