



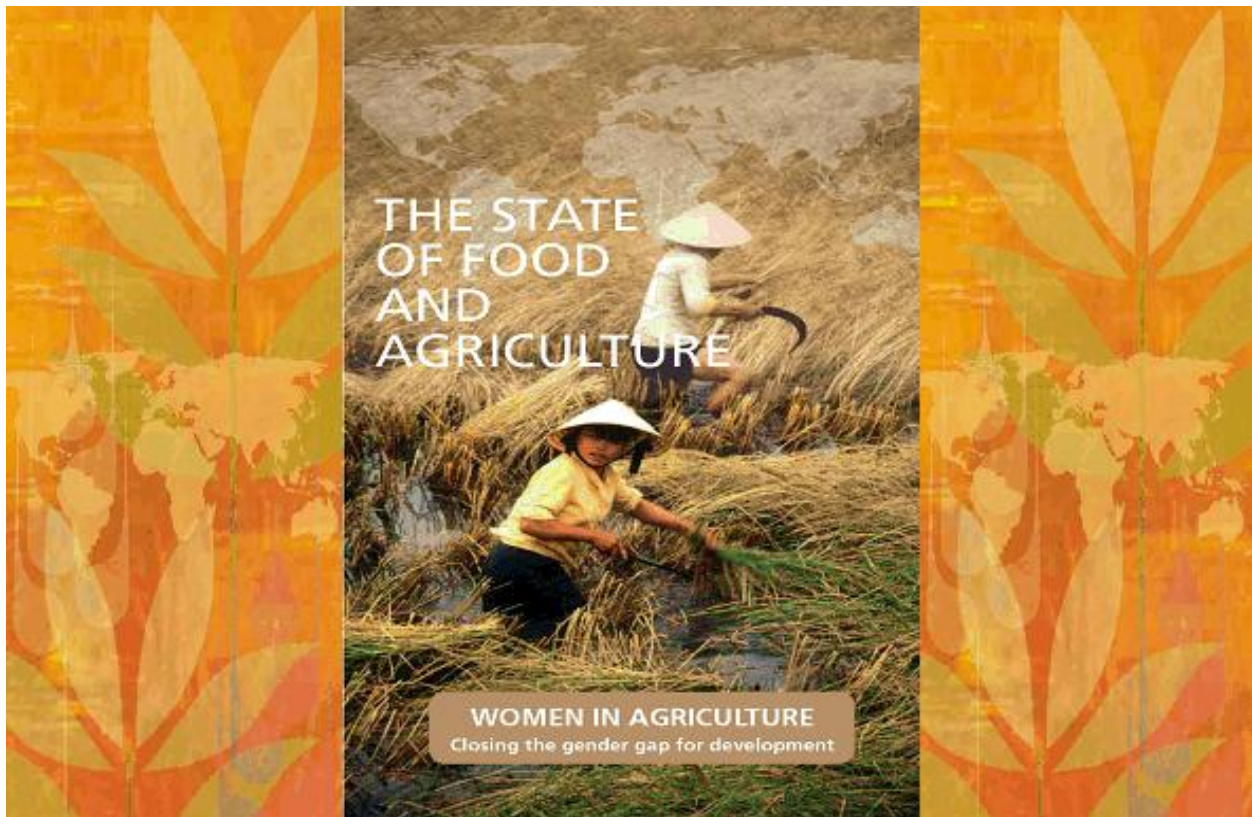
for a world without hunger



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty



United Nations
Department of Economic
and Social Affairs



Women in Agriculture: closing the gender gap for development

FAO's report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11

17 March, 10 am – 12 noon

Conference Room B, NLB

The State of Food and Agriculture 2010–11 (SOFA) calculates the costs of gender inequality for society and nations. For example, it shows that if women farmers had the same access to productive resources as men farmers, world hunger would be reduced by 100 to 150 million people. It makes a strong “business case” for addressing gender issues in agriculture and rural employment. Women make significant contributions to the rural economy of all developing country regions. Their roles vary widely by country and context, yet one finding is strikingly consistent: women in all regions face gender-related constraints that reduce their productivity and impose real costs on society.

Introductory remarks by Ms. Lila H. Ratsifandrihamanana, Director, FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations.

Moderator:

H.E. Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh), *Vice President, ECOSOC*

Speakers:

Ms Marcela Villarreal–Director - Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, FAO

Ms Winnie Byanyima-Director, Gender Team, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP **(TBD)**

Ms Joane Sandler – Deputy Director, UN Women

Who is who?

H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen is the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and Vice-President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Mr. Momen served as Chairman of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, Framingham State College, Massachusetts, as an Economic Adviser at the Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF), Ministry of Finance and National Economy as an American expert, from 1998 to 2003. His Bangladesh Government service includes Private Secretary to the Minister of Rural Development, Local Government and Cooperatives from 1973 to 1974; Private Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mineral Resources and Petroleum from 1974 to 1975; Section Officer, South Asia, East Asia and Middle East, Ministry of Commerce from 1975 to 1976; and Director, Office of the President's Advisor on Trade and Commerce from 1976 to 1978. Mr. Momen holds a Doctor of Philosophy in economics from Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts (1988); a Master of Business Administration in management science and international marketing from Harvard University (1979); a Bachelor of Laws in law and jurisprudence from Central College, Dhaka, Bangladesh (1976); a Master of Arts in development economics and international trade; and a Bachelor of Arts in economics, both from Dhaka University (1971 and 1969, respectively).

Marcela Villarreal is Director of the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). Since she joined the Organization in 1996, she has been Director of the Gender and Population Division, Chief of the Population and Development Service and Chief of the Gender and Development Service. Before joining FAO, she worked for UNFPA, ILO, Regional Employment Programme in Santiago (Chile), and for the Colombian Government. She has worked and published extensively in the areas of poverty reduction, gender issues, rural development, employment, social inequality, HIV/AIDS and food security and gender issues, inter alia. She has lead and/or participated in missions to some 40 countries.

Ms Villarreal has a PhD in Rural Sociology from Cornell University and a BA/MA in Systems and Computing Engineering from the University of Los Andes in Bogotá. She has been the recipient of awards and fellowships from the Hewlett Foundation, the population council and the Rockefeller foundation. She is fluent in Spanish, English, French and Italian. She is a national of Colombia.

Winnie Byanyima is the Director of the UNDP Gender Team, Bureau for Development Policy. Ms. Byanyima was elected three times to the Uganda legislature and was a founder of the Assembly's women's caucus. Before joining UNDP, she served as Director, Women, Gender and Development Directorate of the African Union Commission. She was also a founding member and first chair of the Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), a national NGO. Ms. Byanyima has served on many expert and advisory panels and as a consultant of the UNDP, UNIFEM and other UN agencies. She is a member of the Executive Board of the African Capacity Building Foundation and the International Centre for Research on Women. She was a member of the UN Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Education and Gender Equality. Ms Byanyima has several publications on issues of gender and governance, including a handbook she co-authored for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) entitled "Parliaments, the Budget Process and Gender," and "A Rising Tide," a biography of prominent Ugandan women politicians and activists. Ms. Byanyima holds an M.Sc. and a B.Sc. in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering from Manchester University (UK).

Joanne Sandler is the Deputy Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). She has worked with international organizations and women's groups worldwide for the past 27 years, with a focus on organizational development, strategic planning and economic justice. She has also served on the Board of Directors of a number of international and domestic organizations, including Breakthrough, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Gender at Work, and Women Make Movies. Ms. Sandler guides UNIFEM's efforts to implement rights- based, results- based programmes in support of women's empowerment and rights in Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Prior to her work with UNIFEM, Ms. Sandler worked as a consultant to international and U.S.- focused women's rights organizations, including many UN organizations, the Ms. Foundation for Women, the Global Fund for Women, the National Council for Research on Women, the International Planned Parenthood Federation- Western Hemisphere, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She also worked, for 11 years, for the International Women's Tribune Centre, concentrating on special projects and producing training manuals and workshops related to marketing, economic development and economic justice, and fundraising for women's organizations.