

**Expert group meeting: ‘Enabling rural women’s economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation’**

Accra, Ghana

20-23 September 2011

**PROGRAMME OF WORK**

<b>Tuesday, 20 September 2011</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>9am</b>	Briefing of experts (election of officers: co-chairs and rapporteur) <i>Closed meeting</i>
<b>10am</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening of the meeting</b> <b>Organization of work</b>
	<b>Ruby Sandhu-Rojon</b> , Resident Coordinator <b>Saraswathi Menon</b> , Director, UN Women Policy Division <b>Maria Helena Semedo</b> , FAO Regional Representative
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Security Briefing</b>
	Introduction of participants, review of programme of work, and information on working methods - <b>Sylvia Hordosch</b> , UN-Women
<b>11 am</b>	<b>Presentation of background paper and discussion</b> <b>Catherine Hill</b> , Consultant
<b>11:45 am</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Presentations by experts and discussion: Contextual framework on rural women’s empowerment</b>
	<b>Christine Okali, UK</b> – <i>Achieving transformative change for rural women’s empowerment</i> <b>Zou Xiaoqiao, CEDAW member</b> – <i>Trends in the implementation of Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i>  <b>Respondents:</b> <b>Francis Onyekachi Nwankwo, Nigeria</b> , ECOWAS Scientific Committee <b>Rosemary N. Okoh, Nigeria</b> , Delta State University
<b>1:15 pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>

<b>2:15 pm</b>	<b>Presentations by experts and discussion: Rural women's access to productive resources, technology markets and financing</b>
	<p><b>Nitya Rao, India</b> – <i>Women's access to land: An Asian perspective</i>  <b>Mildred Crawford, Jamaica</b> – <i>Rural women's role in agriculture</i>  <b>Eva Rathgeber, Canada</b> – <i>Rural women's access to science and technology in the context of natural resource management</i></p> <p><b>Respondents:</b>  <b>Getaneh Gobezie Workineh, Ethiopia</b>, ACDI/VOCA  <b>Alice Kachere, Malawi</b>, Smallholders and Farmers' Association; World Farmers Organisation</p>
<b>3:45 pm</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>4 – 6 pm</b>	<b>Presentations by experts and discussion: Decent and productive employment and income-generating opportunities for rural women</b>
	<p><b>Cathy Farnworth, UK</b> – <i>Gender-aware value chain development</i>  <b>Malika Martini, Algeria/Syria</b> – <i>Women in the rural labor force with a focus on agricultural employment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)</i>  <b>Gilles Cliche, Canada/Chile</b> – <i>Rural women's empowerment and non-farm employment: Issues for ICT initiatives and territorial policies in Latin America</i>  <b>Mirlinda Kusari, Kosovo</b> – <i>Economic empowerment of rural women through enterprise development in post-conflict settings</i></p> <p><b>Respondents:</b>  <b>Margaret Odeyk, Uganda</b>, National Farmers' Federation; World Farmers Organisation  <b>Prema Gopalan, India</b>, Swayam Shikshan Prayog</p>
<b>7 – 9 pm</b>	<p><b>Reception</b></p> <p><b>Minister of Trade and Industry (tbc), Ghana</b>  <b>Minister of Food and Agriculture (tbc), Ghana</b>  <b>Saraswathi Menon</b>, Director, UN Women Policy Division</p>

<b>Wednesday, 21 September 2011</b>	
<b>7 am – 2 pm</b>	<b>Field trips</b>
	<p>Option 1: Women farmers groups in Ada (outside Accra) – former FAO funded project. The group was supported in using low-cost water harvesting techniques, soil improvement and tested technical advice on agricultural diversification which boosted their economic activities.</p> <p>Option 2: Women’s group in Abokobi (in the Eastern Region). The group processes gari (a staple food made from cassava), and also manages a bread making factory. They will explain their book-keeping practices and how they ensure sustainability of their work.</p> <p>Option 3: Bortianor fish smoking groups (Ga District, Greater Accra Region) – Women will demonstrate their work and how they interact with the larger fishing community including fishermen. They will showcase environmentally friendly ways of smoking fish and the alternative economic activities they engage in during the lean fishing season.</p>
<b>2 pm</b>	<i>Lunch (Hotel)</i>
<b>3 pm</b>	<b>Reflections from the field trips</b>
<b>3:45 pm</b>	<b>Presentations by experts and discussion: Effective national and local institutions: an enabling policy environment that promotes gender responsive rural development and service-delivery</b>
	<p><b>Myrna Cunningham Kain, Nicaragua</b> – <i>Indigenous perspectives</i>  <b>Esther Penunia, Philippines</b> – <i>The role of grass-roots institutions</i>  <b>Patricia Biermayr-Jenzano, Argentina</b> – <i>The use of participatory methodologies to increase women farmers’ access to productive resources</i></p> <p><b>Respondents:</b>  <b>Hanna Sia Senesie, Sierra Leone</b>, National Federation of Farmers  <b>Carmen Griffiths, Jamaica</b>, National Network of Grassroots Women’s Groups  <b>Winrose Nyaguthi Mwangi, Kenya</b>, Grass-roots women’s organizer</p>
<b>5 pm</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Discussion on data and gender statistics</b>
	<b>Grace Bediako, Ghana</b> – <i>Filling data gaps – the use of gender statistics</i>

<b>Thursday, 22 September 2011</b>	
<b>9 am</b>	<b>Introduction to working groups by Chair</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Working groups</b>
<b>11 am</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Working groups</b>
<b>1 pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>2 pm</b>	<b>Working groups</b>
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Working groups</b>
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Plenary session: Reporting back from working group</b>
<b>Friday, 23 September 2011</b>	
<b>9 am</b>	<b>Working groups</b>
<b>11 am</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Discussion of findings and recommendations from working groups</b>
<b>1 pm</b>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>2 pm</b>	<b>Consolidation of findings and recommendations</b>
<b>4 pm</b>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Adoption of findings and recommendations</b>
<b>5 pm</b>	<b>Responses from the UN system: FAO, IFAD, WFP</b>
<b>5:45 pm</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b> <b>Saraswathi Menon, Director, UN Women Policy Division</b>