Report of the Expert Group Meeting
Enabling rural women's economic empowerment: institutions, opportunities and participation
Accra, Ghana, 20-23 September 2011

THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE EGM, ACCRA, SEPT 2011
UN WOMEN in cooperation with, FAO, IFAD and WFP

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This report presents the findings of the EGM Accra, Sept 2011. It is based on the papers presented at the meeting and the ensuing discussions. Recommendations adopted by the meeting.
INTRODUCTION

- The impact of **economic policy choices** on gender equality
- The impact of the **financial and food price crises** on gender equality
- Rural women in **agricultural and non-farm work**: Farmers, producers, workers and entrepreneurs
- Rural women’s **access to and control over land**
- Rural women’s **access to research and technology**
- Effective national and local **institutions**
- Enabling **legal and policy environment**
Recommendations
**Economic Policies, Growth and Equality**

- Ensure that **economic policies fully prioritize decent work and employment generation**
- Facilitate an **institutional and policy environment** that promotes decent work for rural women
- **Increase investments in infrastructure**
- **Policies** and programmes that support rural women’s, farmers’ and producers’ org.
- Promote rural and **indigenous women’s knowledge**
Develop and implement policies, programmes and incentives to enable rural women’s active and effective engagement in the global value chain.

- Tax systems

- Develop and adopt measures that offset the negative impact of global and regional trade agreements.
Equal access to and control of land and other rural productive resources

- Ensure that national laws and policies guarantee women’s right to land, and laws and policies on land are implemented
- Support the development and implementation of gender-sensitive land and property laws
- Promote changes in customary law
- Ensure that the option of joint titles is provided during land reform and records updates
Take measures to require the consent of each spouse for the sale of land, or its use as collateral

Registration of land for collective use: include the names of all ♀ and ♂ members users

Institute and enforce policies that limit the quantity of national land that foreign countries and corporations can buy. Hold Governments accountable for “land grabbing”

Protect the rights of rural women affected by land expropriation
Ensure that changes in land administration or changes in land tenure systems do not cause environmental damage, negative impact on household food and nutrition security

Prepare resettlement plans

Enable small-holder farmers and agricultural workers, in particular women, to become more productive, competitive and profitable through strengthening provision of, and linkages to, affordable and labour-saving technologies, inputs, services and access to capacity development, and enhance their market access by identifying and addressing gender specific constraints

Recognize and support women as actors in climate change adaptation and mitigation
PROVISION OF AND ENTITLEMENT TO SERVICES

- Necessary space and infrastructure rural women’s access to information, education and training
- Mechanisms that empower rural producers’ and women’s organizations
- Promote South-South exchange and use of knowledge, technologies,
- Ensure that access to essential services for poor rural communities is free from cost recovery and user fees
- Increase rural women’s access to financial services
- Support community-managed financial services
- Invest in off-farm care services for children, elderly and persons with disabilities
- Recognize and invest in community health insurance
Leadership, Decision-making and Voice

- **Awareness** about rights, policies and the gov. roles and duty
- Strengthen **gender-responsive accountability mechanisms** to influence policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring at all levels
- **Quotas**, to promote rural women’s participation in DM processes
- Enhance the **economic empowerment** of rural women
- **Gender units** established and/or strengthened at senior levels
- Free-of-charge access to **personal identification documents**
- **Develop the capacity of rural♀’s, ♂’s** to be more inclusive
- **Assist informal rural women’s groups**
- **Promote knowledge sharing**
- Support regional level **dialogues** among rural women farmers’ organizations
Monitoring and Evaluation

- Data collected **disaggregated** by sex, age, and other variables
- Promote **time-use surveys** and facilitate their use
- **Measurement of ec. Growth** / include the contribution of rural women and men (paid and unpaid)
- Data and information widely **disseminated and accessible**
- **Develop the capacities** of rural women and their organizations
- Provide training in **participatory methods** to scientists and policy-makers at different levels and in different disciplines.
Allocate adequate **financial resources** in national budgets for the economic empowerment of rural women

Ensure **financial support** for rural women’s organizations, including for awareness-raising on rural women’s rights
Gender equality and diversity commitments

Improve gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age and other variables

- establish **multi-disciplinary teams**
- promote **south-south exchanges**
- strengthen **dialogues between users and producers** of data in different sectors
CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Hard work on ♂ remains with you
- More on partnership between UN agencies and member states
- **Challenges:**
  - Climate change, food security, food price crises
- **Opportunities:**
  - Good governance, increased accountability for ♂, the impact of the Arab Spring on gender relationships
- Inclusiveness - Green economy - Social capital
- Strengthening rural organizations
- Unlock budgets and finance institutions for women
- Hold your respective governments to their obligation to consider these recommendations.
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This report and all documentation relating to the meeting (see Annexes II and III) are available online at:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION