

FOOD SECURITY AND LAND RIGHTS: EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

Joint Biennial Workshop of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)

United Nations Conference Centre (UNECA)
Addis Ababa, 31 January – 1 February 2012

KEY MESSAGES AND SUMMARY RECORD¹

INTRODUCTION

The OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality and the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality hold a workshop every two years to exchange ideas and share information on issues of mutual relevance and interest. The two groups represent the gender focal points and advisors of the United Nations system, bilateral agencies and the development banks. The workshop provides opportunities for examining emerging issues and sharpening the approach to gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

Focus of the workshop

- Increasing availability, access and affordability of nutritious food for women and families living in poverty, and supporting women's contributions to food security.
- Improving women's rights to access, use, control and ownership of land.
- Understanding and unlocking agricultural value chains so that the returns to women are maximised.
- Strengthening rural women's voice and leadership.
- Facilitating women's contributions to poverty reduction by strengthening their important role in the agriculture sector.

Purpose and objectives

The workshop aimed to:

- Help participants deepen their knowledge and understanding of issues related to women's access to productive resources and markets for food security and agriculture.
- Identify entry points for strengthening practice in both policy approaches and programming.
- Encourage the free exchange of information and collaboration amongst gender advisors, agricultural specialists and other development actors from bilateral and multilateral agencies, government partners and civil society.

Intended outcomes

- Inputs to the priority theme of the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges" (March 2012) and to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (June 2012).
- Identification of precautionary measures that could be put in place to prevent future adverse impacts of food crises on rural women, with special emphasis on the situation of women farmers.
- Examination of new approaches to rural women's economic empowerment.
- Identification of opportunities to scale up and replicate good practices on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of rural women.

1. All workshop material and PowerPoint presentations are accessible on GENDERNET's community space at <https://community.oecd.org/community/gendernet>.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 2012 JOINT GENDERNET/IANWGE WORKSHOP

Rural women fare worse than rural men and urban men and women against all the MDG indicators, with very few exceptions. This includes in areas as diverse as agriculture, nutrition, health, education, paid and unpaid employment and social protection. All actors need to step up efforts to support rural women's empowerment, rights, participation and access to services. Closing the gender gap in terms of access to resources and support for women in the agriculture sector also makes good economic sense. For example, it has been estimated that if women had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 per cent. This would raise total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4 per cent; and reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12 to 17 per cent.²

Against this background, and drawing on evidence from case studies presented in the workshop, **participants called for bilateral and multilateral agencies, and other development partners to:**

1. Recognise rural women as leaders and agents of change.

Rural women are agents of change at different levels in society, including in the household. Since rural women form the backbone of smallholder agriculture and are the main producers and processors of food in many developing countries, their voices must be heard. Civil society and decision-making processes at the local level can be important levers and women must be healthy and educated to participate effectively. Women working together in networks and associations both improve outcomes for women and deliver broader social and economic benefits for all.

Women are strong and resilient and should not be seen as vulnerable but rather as being in vulnerable situations. Gender power dynamics create vulnerability at the household level, for example in terms of women's decision-making about their sexual and reproductive health, caring for girl children, and nutrition and food security. Analysis and strategies to address underlying – often invisible – problems are critical to ensuring that women are healthy and able to claim and exercise their rights and further act as agents of change. It is important that development partners understand the full scope of rural women's lack of security, taking into account that women are not a homogenous group but subject to different kinds of vulnerabilities which vary over the course of their lives.

It is essential to work with men and boys to achieve gender equality, and ensure that they understand that the benefits of gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership are favourable also to them.

2. Strengthen rural women's rights to the access, use and control of property, including land.

Robust land laws are not sufficient – the gap between laws and practice has to be closed to improve women's equal rights to inherit, access, use and control land. Development partners need to improve their understanding of gender relations in the context of land-related investments and how multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination can negatively impact rural women's rights with respect to land. It is also important to recognise and address the specific land-related challenges in conflict and post-conflict situations, including gender-based violence.

Development partners need to facilitate rural women's access to markets/value chain development. This is key to women's ability to access broader and more profitable forms of trade and business opportunities and realise their potential.

2. FAO, 2010-11: The State of Food and Agriculture—Women in Agriculture. Closing the Gender Gap for Development.

3. *Ensure better results and impacts for rural women by building the evidence-base of what works.*

It is important to gather information about “what works” for rural women and use it as a basis for policy making and dialogue. For example, a better understanding of the full scope of rural women’s labour and time poverty, and of relations within the household, would help donors improve their programmes. At the same time, the collection of data and information is resource intensive. Development partners therefore need to make better use of what we already know by improving knowledge management, and identify what new information is genuinely needed before engaging in the collection of additional data.

In this process, both short and long-term development results for women should be recognised. Results which are challenging to measure, such as empowerment and confidence-building, must also be considered.

4. *Improve their practices and behaviours to support rural women by using the aid effectiveness principles.*

Development partners have endorsed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and linked agreements, committing to ensure accountability, strengthen co-ordination, and support country ownership and capacity development – including of national statistical offices. It is time to apply these principles to support for rural women’s empowerment.

Development partners can also increase their efforts to scale up and replicate innovative practices that work. This includes integrating gender equality dimensions into large scale investments such as national plans for agriculture and other sectors, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and into Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) frameworks.

5. *Use traditional practices and indigenous knowledge to support rural women.*

Local knowledge, traditions and community based approaches can be harnessed to improve support for rural women. For example, building on women’s traditional savings schemes is an effective strategy to strengthen development partners’ programmes. Women know what to do but must be supported.

6. *Ensure that the negative impacts of climate change on rural women are mitigated and that the benefits of green growth flow to women.*

Women often have the solutions to sustainable development challenges, and are the champions of sustainable agriculture and green growth. There are clear linkages between gender equality, women’s empowerment and the effects of climate change. It is important that development partners analyse and recognise these when designing and implementing their programmes.

7. *Invest in and for rural women.*

Development partners can further scale up their support for rural women’s empowerment.³ It is essential to track and monitor this funding, and ensure that it is appropriately targeted.

It is time to act. We know what to do and need to do it now.

3. In 2009-2010, 31 per cent of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) by members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in the sectors of rural development and agriculture was focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

DAY 1: 31 JANUARY 2012

WELCOME REMARKS

Annika Törnqvist, Co-Chair of the GENDERNET and **Moez Doraid**, Director of UN System Coordination Division, UN Women (on behalf of IANWGE).

Session chair: **Patti O'Neill**, Acting Head of the Policy Division, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate.

Patti O'Neill welcomed participants and emphasised the spirit of partnership and co-operation between the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET). The two networks have organised joint workshops for over 15 years. Ms. O'Neill commended the efforts of the two Secretariats in putting together a thorough and diverse workshop programme, with interactive sessions, field visits and contributions from a variety of presenters and highlighted the value of this cooperation and exchange. The most visible and far-reaching achievement has been the engagement with the aid development effectiveness agenda which began at the 2006 joint workshop.

Annika Törnqvist identified the workshop as an opportunity for multilateral and bilateral institutions to come together to discuss and deepen their knowledge on how to best empower rural women. Ms. Törnqvist highlighted the unique relationship between the two networks, noting that findings from the workshop will have an impact on both networks' respective work programmes. Women are major players in agriculture since they produce most of the world's food currently being consumed. Nevertheless, they still lack adequate access to productive resources and extension services.

Moez Doraid commended the close working relationship between the two networks and their role as champions of gender equality and women's empowerment. Mr. Doraid highlighted the importance of the workshops in addressing the challenges faced by multilateral and bilateral agencies in their support to Member States in delivering on international commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment. In relation to the specific topic of the workshop, Mr. Doraid underlined that the world's poorest people are women living in rural areas - women without any access to land, income, resources or services. There are, however, several important reasons to invest in rural women. For instance, more than 100 million people could be lifted out of poverty if rural women had the same access to productive resources as men. Mr. Doraid invited participants to enhance efforts to promote the participation of rural women in decision-making and to agree on key messages for the participant entities to effectively seize the opportunity provided by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, to strengthen attention on the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women for sustainable development.

Thokozile (Thoko) Ruzvidzo, Director of the African Centre for Gender and Social Development, UN Economic Commission for Africa, expressed UNECA's pleasure to host the workshop on empowering rural women. Some positive trends indicate that rural women can be agents of change rather than victims of circumstances. The following strategies can lead to the effective empowerment of rural women: investing in rural women; pursuing gender-sensitive economic growth models; ensuring that social protection schemes reach rural women; going beyond access towards adequate and non-discriminatory distribution of land; and creating an enabling environment where rural women's collective voice can actually influence decision-making processes.

PLENARY SESSION I: SETTING THE SCENE – FOOD SECURITY AND LAND RIGHTS: EMPOWERING RURAL WOMEN

Women’s contribution to food and nutrition security – challenges and opportunities

Boitshepo (Bibi) Giyose, Food and Nutrition Security Advisor, New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), stressed that women work two thirds of the world’s working hours and produce more than half of the world’s food; but they only earn 10% of the world’s income, they are famished and their voices remain unheard. Lack of education or resources does not equal lack of intelligence. Women play a critical role as the main nurturers, farmers and educators in the world’s most remote and vulnerable settings.

In order to achieve women’s empowerment and improve their food and nutrition security, there is a need for strong partnerships and harmonised strategies that are gender-sensitive; a clear definition of priorities at all levels (moving from policy to action); availability of resources; replication of best practices; robust capacity development harnessing indigenous systems; and more advocacy for gender issues in food nutrition. Most solutions to the nutrition and food security challenges already exist. Immediate action is needed, as women can no longer wait.

Empowering rural women through agriculture and employment

Eve Crowley, Deputy Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, presented the findings from the 2010-2011 report on *The State of Food and Agriculture*. The agricultural sector is underperforming because of gender inequalities in the distribution of resources for agricultural development. Closing the gender gap or providing women with the necessary resources and opportunities to increase their productivity could lead to growth in agricultural output (from 2.5 to 4 per cent at the national level); food security gains (12 to 17 per cent reduction in the number of hungry – 100 to 150 million people lifted out of hunger); and, broader economic and social gains (better health, nutrition, and education outcomes for future generations). Good agricultural policy must therefore consider gender differences, ensure equality for women under the law and provide public services and technologies to free up women’s time.

Isatou Jallow, Chief of Gender Unit, World Food Programme, asserted that the WFP has moved from food aid to food assistance, expanding the focus on food beyond emergency situations in order to make it the key to sustainable development. The WFP now procures most of its food locally as part of the “purchase for progress” approach that targets women farmers in particular.

Gender inequalities are at the heart of the pernicious cycle of malnutrition. The fight against hunger and malnutrition will not be won without addressing gender inequalities first. The countries with the highest levels of hunger are also those that have the highest levels of gender inequality. Women are not vulnerable by nature, but they often live in vulnerable situations. These situations of vulnerability must not delude us into forgetting that women are, in fact, strong, resilient and key agents of change and progress. Men are partners in the struggle towards greater gender equality.

Implications of the aid and development effectiveness agenda

Áine Doody, Irish Aid, Co-Chair of the GENDERNET, introduced participants to the aid effectiveness journey that led to the Busan Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in November 2011. The *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation*, the overarching agreement emerging from HLF-4, reaffirms common principles such as ownership of development priorities by developing countries, focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability. Paragraph 20 of the Busan agreement called upon development partners to accelerate efforts to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment and recognised that reducing gender inequality is both an end in its own right and a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth. Ms. Doody underscored that if better development results are to be achieved, the core Paris,

Accra and Busan principles must underpin all work on gender equality, including support for rural women.

Plenary Discussion

Workshop participants emphasised the importance of securing investments for rural women and going beyond gender-responsive budgeting in order to focus on fiscal policies. Other key lessons that emerged from the plenary session included:

- Rural women are critical agents of change when provided with the resources.
- We need to strengthen our partnerships to support rural women.
- Culture and tradition cannot be excuses for gender inequalities such as higher food insecurity for women than for men in rural areas.
- Rural women's labour, like fetching water or fuel, needs to be recognised as productive work.
- We should harness and build on rural women's local traditions when supporting them.

PARALLEL BREAKOUT GROUPS (1)

a) Exploring approaches to support rural women in the agriculture sector

Facilitator: **Annika Törnqvist**, Sida

Working at the macro/policy level – an example from Tanzania and the Ministry of Agriculture

Lucy Tesha Merere, gender advisor, Irish Aid Tanzania, explained that since 2007 Irish Aid has worked with the Tanzanian Government on developing new gender guidelines, reports and documentation in order to strengthen the position of women and integrate gender issues into the agriculture sector. Irish Aid has also engaged in policy dialogue sessions with the government, development partners, civil society organisations and other private institutions.

Working through an NGO – supporting sustainable and fair agriculture for women and young people in Senegal

Pauline Ndiaye, Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), provided an overview of ENDA's work on promoting a healthier and more sustainable type of agriculture. In order to solve land and agricultural problems, development partners need to influence different target groups - traditional leaders, local and religious authorities; laws and rules; and to work at different levels (individual, family, community, national and international). It is essential to move beyond issues of women's participation towards demanding recognition of women as producers and managers of their income.

Empowering rural women to exercise their right to health by addressing socio-cultural determinants of sexual and reproductive health

Gayle Nelson, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), stressed that poor maternal health among indigenous women in Latin America is related to constraints such as poverty, malnutrition, low levels of education, cultural beliefs, discrimination and a lack of confidence in health care providers. In order to improve this situation, reproductive and maternal health policies should be shaped in a culturally sensitive manner with the input and consent of indigenous people (women and men), recognising the importance of traditional practices. Reproductive and sexual health and family planning must be seen as a choice - never as an imposition or societal target.

Key lessons learned from the discussion in the breakout group included:

- The integration of a gender equality perspective is a permanent process that never ends. Flexible and creative gender-sensitive strategies are needed, especially in rural areas.
- Tensions between traditional values and modern development approaches need to be addressed in innovative ways (e.g. ensuring that rural women are comfortable with the interventions when designing sexual and reproductive health programmes).
- We need to involve men and boys in our gender equality work and programmes.

b) Measuring what we do: data and funding for rural women's empowerment

Facilitator: **Christine Brendel**, GIZ

Analysis of data on the MDGs and rural women

Catherine Hill, Senior Gender Advisor, Inter-Agency Task Force on Rural Women, emphasised that rural women fare more poorly than men against all the MDGs. Much of the MDG data still pays little attention to specific rural realities and remains difficult to disaggregate by sex. In order to improve the quality of a revised set of MDGs, development partners will first need to identify indicators that are relevant to rural women's lived realities; move beyond households as the unitary model of analysis (to understand intra-household dynamics); develop indicators amenable to quantitative analysis (comparable across regions and countries); and include indicators on men's engagement and support.

World Bank support for women's empowerment through agriculture and rural development

Jeni Klugman, Director, Gender and Development, World Bank, and **Åsa Torkelsson**, Senior Gender Specialist, World Bank, Kenya stated that the World Bank Group's investment in agriculture and rural development is increasing to USD 6-8 billion a year from approximately USD 4 billion in 2008. The share of gender-informed agriculture and rural development projects also increased from 36% to 75% between 2006 and 2010. The Rural Sex-disaggregated Survey in Kenya is an example of a project funded by the World Bank together with the Government of Kenya. Gaps in access to rural data disaggregated by sex inhibited operations and dialogue on gender equality in country. To respond to this, a set of robust sex-disaggregated data was generated as part of the data collection of the Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Programme. Survey responses provided an evidence base on gender inequalities and also helped empower female survey respondents.

Measuring official development assistance for gender equality and women's empowerment in the agriculture and rural development sectors

Jenny Hedman, Secretariat of the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality, presented the "DAC gender equality policy marker," a tool used to measure official development assistance. The marker is used by all 24 DAC members. Each reporting agency assesses how far each aid activity targets gender equality as the principal (main) objective of the programme/project, or as a significant objective. Data generated by the marker shows that one third of total bilateral aid by sector in 2009-10 targeted gender equality. This is equivalent to roughly USD 25 billion per year. Most of this aid was allocated to the social sectors. Thirty-one percent of aid in the agriculture and rural development sector targeted gender equality. In order to better empower rural women, development partners need to step up their support for extension services, supply of seeds, agricultural equipment and overall agricultural policy and planning.

Lessons and messages distilled from the discussion in the breakout group included:

- There is a need for data on both *funding* for rural women's empowerment and on rural women's *situations*.
- Collecting data can be resource intensive but it is also an opportunity to empower the rural women that participate in surveys. However, clarity is needed on what data we *truly need and will use*.
- Statistics must not become an objective in themselves, they are only instruments.

c) Reinforcing rural women's rights and voice

Facilitator: **Johanne Lortie**, ITC/ILO

Leave No Woman Behind

Ane Etxebarria Atxutegi and **Berhanu Legesse** introduced the UNFPA-WFP joint programme 'Leave No Woman Behind,' that tests and scales-up pilot projects to empower women and enhance their opportunities to access income-generating and entrepreneurship activities in different regions of Ethiopia. The programme has improved livelihood opportunities for Ethiopian women through capacity development and facilitating access to credit which, in turn, increased women's assets, self-esteem and voice within their households and communities. In addition, the programme resulted in behavioural changes at individual and community levels, generated a culture of savings and encouraged women to seek out and use health services.

Empowering rural women through increased participation

Zemach Getahun, FARM-Africa, and **Etenesh Daniel**, farmer, presented two projects which link economic empowerment (provision of assets, seeds, small business development skills, training on livestock and agricultural techniques) with information sessions on women's legal rights. The programmes produced positive changes in women's status: greater female financial autonomy, decreased household conflict, improved women's participation in household decision-making and increased respect for women at home and in the community at large.

Good practices in promoting a human-rights based approach to the issue of gender and land rights

Gaynel Curry, Gender and Women's Rights Advisor, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), argued that, in order to ensure a human rights perspective in promoting women's access, use and control over land, the following principles and standards must be integrated into all policies and programmes: i) equality and non-discrimination; ii) participation; and iii) accountability and the rule of law. In Papua New Guinea, OHCHR has exposed the violations of women's rights and identified the root causes of land grabbing and displacement. OHCHR has also brought sorcery accusations to light, which are often used to take over the land of widows and single mothers. Ms. Curry identified the integration of women's human rights into all land-related law, policies and programs as essential. Monitoring progress, assessing efficiency and adjusting social interventions are crucial requirements for furthering gender equality.

Conclusions from the breakout group included:

- In order to reinforce rural women's rights and voice, there is a need for holistic and long-term approaches that are based on country priorities and that take advantage of already established national systems.
- Economic interventions will not automatically empower women, unless gender equality and women's empowerment are effectively taken into account.

- Providing productive assets to women is a necessary - but not sufficient - step towards achieving full empowerment. Information, education, women's effective participation and men's support in sharing household chores are also key.

PARALLEL BREAKOUT GROUPS (2)

a) Using community-based approaches and local knowledge to increase access to food

Facilitator: **Martinus Desmet**, DAC delegate, Belgium

Binga women fish and income

Memory Zonde-Kachambwa, Programme Specialist, UN Women, elaborated on a Gender Support Programme in Zimbabwe which is participatory in nature, and which aims to enable women to realise their social, economic and political potential. The programme supports women's access to organised fish production that will, in turn, boost their income as individuals and collectively as a group. In order to do this, the programme first supported the purchase of a fish rig (production unit) and then facilitated lending and saving facilities for women in the fish market.

Food sovereignty – building on local knowledge to improve access to food in Ecuador

Christine Brendel, Director of the Regional Programme ComVoMujer, GIZ, presented the 'Sustainable Management of Natural Resources' programme which has promoted consumption of local products; increased appreciation for the role of women in production processes; and created space for exchange, dialogue and political advocacy through meetings where women from different indigenous groups exchange their ancestral knowledge, techniques and practices on how to increase income, ensure access to nutritious food and manage natural resources.

Working for a better life: a ONE UN joint intervention led by UN Women

Clara Anyangwe, UN Women, offered an overview of the Rwanda UN Joint Agaseke Programme that has created formal employment and economic security for 2000 women through handicraft production. Through the Agaseke project, cooperatives have been created to provide formal employment and access to local and international markets and resources to poor women. Life skills of the targeted women have also been enhanced through reproductive health care, gender/human rights discussions and kitchen gardening. Products sold through the cooperatives include baskets, earrings, necklaces, bangles, table runners, tables and grass mats made with untreated materials such as grass/sisal and raffia. Women have greatly benefitted from this programme, as they have increased their income through sales at home and abroad; improved their self-esteem (by making money and owning a bank account); and enhanced their national exposure through study tours, trade fares, and exhibitions.

Main messages and conclusions from the breakout group included:

- Community-based approaches are successful when they build on local knowledge and work with local (male) leadership to take processes forward.
- Programmes need to focus on both the *process* and *results*. The specific needs of women and girls need to be taken into account.
- More learning is needed on engaging men and boys in community-based initiatives and ensuring the sustainability of these programmes.

b) Strengthening ownership and access to land

Facilitator: **Patti O'Neill**, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

Land title registration in Rwanda

Markus Goldstein, World Bank, presented evidence from the evaluation of Rwanda's nation-wide Land Tenure Regularisation programme that formalised and legally recognised the rights of landholders through land title certificates. The results of the impact evaluation of this programme highlighted three main effects: i) significant investment impacts that are particularly pronounced for women; ii) improved land access for legally married women and an improved record of inheritance rights; and iii) a reduction in the probability of achieving documented land ownership for unmarried women.

Land rights for Maasai women in Tanzania

Ndinini Kimesera, Executive Director of the Maasai Women Development Organisation (MWEDO). MWEDO has the goal of achieving access to land and housing for grassroots women in Tanzania. As a result of MWEDO activities, village governments have issued Customary Certificates of Occupancy for land ownership and there has been an increased recognition of the important role of indigenous knowledge in land planning processes. The project made it possible to adapt existing land tools to improve women's access to land and their participation in policy formulation processes. Also, it has been widely recognised that poverty and hunger decrease at the household level when women have control over production and income.

FAO support to the gender aspects of land access and use in Mozambique

Marianna Bicchieri, Chief Technical Advisor, Land and Gender Project, FAO Mozambique, brought attention to FAO's long-term engagement in Mozambique since 1995. The 'Gender and Land Programme' was set up in order to mainstream gender equality and women's rights into paralegal training courses for citizens as well as into seminars for new judges. Some of the programme results include: women have become more aware of their rights; there is greater awareness regarding the issue of female land dispossession; and paralegals are helping rural women obtain their own land titles.

Key lessons learned from the discussion in the breakout group included:

- When women have access /control, land is used for production purposes and not for sale.
- Women are more powerful when organised in groups and networks.
- When women have control over production and resources, poverty and hunger decrease at the household level.
- The advantages of gender equality can also be beneficial to men. More work with men is needed.

c) Supporting women's access to markets and value chain development

Facilitator: **Åsa Torkelsson**, World Bank Kenya

Research on integrating small-scale farmers into rural markets in Mozambique

Gabriella Rossetti (University of Ferrara) and **Roberta Pellizzoli** (University of Bologna) asserted that, in order to effectively integrate small-scale women farmers into rural markets, it is imperative to reduce pressure over land, depolarise power relations, strengthen producers' associations and incorporate gender equality dimensions into programmes supporting Public Private Partnerships (PPP). There is an increasing need for formal agreements between the private sector and local

producers, as both sides need to clearly understand each others' expectations in terms of quality, cost, price and support.

Agriculture Support Programme: using household-based approaches to empower women in Zambia

Torsten Andersson, Sida, emphasised that conceptualising “extension” as a technical and value free activity is a serious mistake. Extension services take place in complex environments and are structured *a priori* by gender relations which affect the ability of extension staff to deliver their messages effectively. Household approaches have undoubtedly strengthened women’s voice and status at the household and community levels. Nevertheless, more effective knowledge management strategies and proper sex-disaggregated data are still needed.

The “grow to sell” approach and the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project

Florence Khaemba Mangoli, Horticultural Crops Development Authority, Kenya, presented the “Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project,” which has developed suitable concepts and approaches to empowering smallholder farmers. For instance, the ‘Arranged Marriage Forum’ is an innovative idea that allowed farmers (women and men) to meet and network with different vendors, transporters, input suppliers and representatives from banks and agro-business companies. The project clearly illustrated that the best results will be achieved when women and men work together during training, market surveys and crop selection. An average net-income increase of 106 per cent per farmer was achieved in Kenya.

Messages and lessons distilled from the discussion in the breakout group:

- Gender-sensitive Public Private Partnerships (PPP) initiatives can promote employment and empower women’s organisations.
- Food security must be a whole-of-household responsibility, not only the responsibility of women.
- It is important to encourage and create synergies among different agriculture stakeholders.

DAY 2: 1 FEBRUARY 2012

PLENARY SESSION II: ENHANCING CO-ORDINATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY TO SUPPORT RURAL WOMEN – KEY FACTORS FOR SCALING-UP SUPPORT

Session chair: **Eve Crowley**, Deputy Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, FAO

Áine Doody, Ireland, Co-Chair of the GENDERNET, gave a brief overview of the discussions and key issues raised during the first day of the workshop.

Creating synergies: UN inter-agency co-ordination

Moez Doraid, Director, UN System Coordination Division of UN Women, highlighted that UN Women have designed a Coordination Strategy that aims to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women through four main outputs: i) enhanced UN system coherence and mobilisation of joint actions; ii) increased system-wide gender mainstreaming; iii) development and system-wide application of accountability frameworks focussed on performance; and iv) improvement in gender balance and the status of women within the UN system. Coordination is essential to the empowerment of rural women and gender equality, as it allows all to jointly define and commit to measureable goals, targets and results. The effective implementation of women’s rights cannot be addressed nor achieved by one single organisation or agency working in isolation. Working in a joint fashion (each entity within its respective mandate) has the potential to enhance national capacity and

ownership to enable national partners to formulate gender-responsive laws and policies and to scale up successful strategies to deliver on national commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. Coordination is needed to strengthen the coherence between global and regional intergovernmental processes and operational activities in the field, and to achieve synergy between and synchronisation of the UN system's work on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The bilateral perspective

Natalie St. Lawrence, Senior Advisor and Manager, Gender Equality, CIDA, asserted that, from its active engagement with Programme Based Approaches (PBAs), CIDA has learned that: i) integrating aid with developing country plans and priorities makes sense and ii) working closely with other development partners creates synergies and produces a greater impact. Some of the results from CIDA's 2010 country programme survey also show that: it is important to define clear gender equality results and indicators within the PBA framework; local gender advisors play key roles; and progress on gender equality/women's rights at the national level requires a multi-faceted approach.

IFAD experiences of scaling-up for gender equality and women's empowerment

Claire Bishop-Sambrook, Senior Technical Adviser, Gender Empowerment and Social Inclusion Policy and Technical Division, Programme Management Department, IFAD, introduced IFAD's strategic framework for scaling up initiatives. Scaling up for gender equality and women's empowerment requires funding, realistic targets for women's participation, the collection of sex disaggregated data, gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation systems and a strong sense of commitment on the part of project staff, counterpart institutions and implementing partners.

Plenary Discussion

Workshop participants questioned the wisdom of project replication as an objective of its own. Development partners must think carefully about what remains in a community once a programme has run its cycle. Other key lessons from the plenary discussion included:

- We must remain vigilant and ensure that existing effective strategies and lessons learned are used to support strong gender equality results.
- Women's organisations and women's ministries need to be included in dialogue processes at the country level, including with development partners.
- We need to include women not only in our programmes or strategies, but also in our budgets.
- Funding for gender equality needs to be explicit and constant.

PARALLEL BREAKOUT GROUPS (3)

a) Fostering innovation and research to support rural women in the agriculture sector

Facilitator: **Jean D'Cunha**, UN Women

Gender considerations in participatory research: the Farmers Research Group Project

Fisseha Zegeye and **Yeshi Chiche**, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, elaborated on the Farmers Research Group Project which aims to meet farmers' needs by combining scientific and indigenous knowledge. Considerations for gender equality have been mainstreamed into the project, leading to the following results: i) women's increased incomes and savings; ii) women's increased confidence in new technologies; iii) improved relationships within the household; and iv) improved access for women to business opportunities.

Empowering small-holder farmers in Senegal

Ronit Golovaty, Israel's Agency for International Development, presented a project based on the concept of the "African Market Garden" — a small-scale horticultural production package. The project aims to empower rural women by decreasing labour requirements for irrigation and weeding. The project has also led to: i) increased food security, as more crops with high nutrition value are being produced; ii) enhanced capacity building and the financial empowerment of women; and iii) the possibility for women to engage in other occupations through reduced labour requirements for irrigation and weeding.

FAO's work on the gender equity implications of large land-related investments

Libor Stloukal, Population Policy Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, FAO, discussed findings from the Gender and Land-based Investment Programme in Tanzania, which showed that land-related investments have different implications for men and women. These include: i) land-based investments do not automatically improve the quality of jobs for women; ii) unless specifically targeted, investments may increase women's workloads; iii) women with few resources may not significantly benefit from out-grower contracts (binding arrangements through which a firm ensures its supply of agricultural products through individuals or groups of farmers); and iv) socio-cultural obstacles to women's rights are not necessarily removed by innovative investments. However, not all implications of land-based investment lead to women's disadvantage, and therefore government-backed gender sensitive regulation of investment is crucially important.

Conclusions from the breakout group included:

- Development initiatives based on gender-sensitive research are likely to produce better outcomes.
- Successful land-based investments must be integrated with gender equality considerations.
- Further ensuring the dissemination of time and labour saving technologies is crucial to the empowerment of rural women.

b) A community-led approach to gender sensitive value chain development in Uganda – an interactive session with Oxfam Novib/IFAD

Facilitator: **Thies Reemer**, Project Leader "Women's Empowerment Mainstreaming and Networking", Oxfam Novib. Resource persons: **Clare Bishop-Sambrook**, IFAD, **Cathy Farnworth**, independent consultant and **Judith Ruko**, District Livelihoods Support Programme, Uganda.

The distinctiveness of household-based approaches to training and extension is that they bring about changes in gender relations "from within", rather than being imposed "from the outside." This interactive session included three case study presentations and a hands-on exercise to demonstrate household-based approaches.

Case study 1: The Gender Action Learning System was piloted in the coffee value chain in Uganda. It led to significantly improved coffee quality and quantity because women and men worked together rather than separately all along the coffee chain.

Case study 2: The District Livelihoods Support Programme in Uganda is using household mentoring approaches that involve the visit of a mentor to several households in order to share knowledge, skills and information that will contribute to the personal, social, and economic growth of all household members.

Case study 3: The Agriculture Support Programme promoted 'farming as a business' in 44,000 households across Zambia. It used household approaches to diversify farm systems and create market linkages.

The messages emerging from this interactive session included:

- Findings from household evaluations showed that working on gender relations within the ‘black box’ of the household can significantly contribute to gender justice objectives and wealth creation in value chains at various levels.
- The constraints that women face critically undermine household food security, productivity and income. Typical constraints include: men commanding women to work on men’s land before they work on their own; lower input and technology use on women-managed farms; and women not being able to make key farming decisions without their husbands.

c) Promoting sustainable development for food and land

Facilitator: **Isatou Jallow**, WFP.

Janet Kabeberi-Macharia, UNEP, provided an overview of the role of women in greening agriculture to achieve food security. Green and organic products provide opportunities for less developed countries to diversify and have access to global markets, in particular from Europe and the United States. Experience has shown that rural women can make a significant contribution to the production of organic products. Uganda and Tanzania are leading examples in Africa. Nevertheless, rural women continue to be marginalised in acquiring equal access to and control over productive resources. Effective interventions demand an understanding of the gender-related interactions within the household. It is important to critically analyse women’s decision-making roles in how their income is being used and shared, whether women are paid fairly for their work, and who makes the decisions within the household.

Flora Minja, ILO, presented two ILO projects which aim to contribute to the achievement of national strategies for poverty reduction through integrating the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, in a life cycle approach to Decent Work. Ms. Minja elaborated on the experience of an ILO project in Tanzania that facilitated rural women’s access to registered Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies, demonstrating that poor women have the capacity to organise themselves, mobilise savings and receive loans. Furthermore, income earned by women has direct impact on the welfare of the family, including children’s education and health, the reduction of child labour, better housing, and overall family nutrition and well-being.

Elizabeth Atyang Eilor, Social Affairs Officer, African Centre for Gender and Social Development, UNECA, discussed the gender dimensions of food security within the context of climate change in Africa.

Key lessons and conclusions from the breakout group included:

- Climate change and environmental degradation are critical areas of concern, as they have devastating effects on women’s nutrition, food security and poverty. Development partners should address gender equality perspectives in climate change discussions.
- Development partners will need to support rural women in the transition from conventional to organic/greener production, particularly by facilitating women producers’ access to certification processes.
- Empowering rural women involves much more than simply granting them access to productive activities and employment. It involves understanding the status of women, power relations and women’s bargaining power within households.
- Development partners should focus on comprehensive interventions with a life-cycle approach, acknowledging the particular situation of rural women, their multiple productive roles in society, and the inter-generational transmission of poverty and exclusion.

PARALLEL BREAKOUT GROUPS (4)

a) Advancing rural women's right to education and a better life

Facilitator: **Melissa Stutsel**, Director, Gender Policy and Co-ordination Section, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid).

UNiTE campaign to end violence against women in rural areas

Jennet Kem, campaign manager, Africa UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa, UN Women, underlined that the overall objective of the campaign is to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in Africa, where genital mutilation, breast ironing, rape, early marriage and sexual exploitation are still very prevalent.

Education for rural women and girls

Jane Freedman, UNESCO, argued that educating women benefits the whole family, as women are more likely than men to allocate resources to food and health care for children. Girls and children from poor households and rural areas face a much greater risk of being taken out of school. This, in combination with factors such as language, ethnicity and disability, creates multiple barriers to school entry and continued schooling. For instance, in Northern Nigeria, girls from rural households complete an average of six months of school, whereas urban boys average 10 years. Formal schooling often fails to connect with the needs of rural communities. Improving nutrition, food safety and food security for the most vulnerable women and children, introducing nutrition and food safety education into primary and secondary schools, and increasing public awareness on food safety and nutrition are some of the strategies that can make a difference to enhancing girls' access to education and to the full realisation of their rights.

Main messages and conclusions from the breakout group included:

- Addressing the issue of gender-based violence is fundamental to achieving sustainable rural development as well as the MDGs.
- Further efforts are required in order to increase not only access to but also the relevance of education, particularly for women and girls in rural contexts.

b) Supporting access to food and productive resources

Facilitator: **Janet Kabeberi-Macharia**, UNEP

Rural women, land rights and food security

Somali Cerise, OECD Development Centre, presented the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), noting that understanding how discriminatory social institutions affect rural women and agricultural production is critical for enhancing aid effectiveness. SIGI findings show clear linkages between women's access to resources/decision-making power and food security. For instance, in Ghana, a 1% increase in property owned by rural women has led to a 2.8% increase in the monthly expenditure on food. Similarly, from 1980 to 2009, cereal yields have increased by 60% in countries where women now have equal access to land, compared to only 6% where women have few or no rights to land.

Implementing Belgium's indicative cooperation programme with Rwanda – working with Farmer Field Schools

Saskia Ravesloot, Belgian Development Agency, advised that the Farmer Field Schools have trained 36,000 farmers in Rwanda, 50% of whom are women. The schools are based on a participatory

extension approach that aims to empower farmers by developing their farming, technical and critical skills through season-long trainings in the field.

Food and nutrition for rural women

Boitshupo (Bibi) Giyose, Food and Nutrition Security Advisor, NEPAD, provided details on pillar III of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which focuses on improving resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.

Key lessons learned from the discussion in the breakout group included:

- Underlying discrimination against women must be taken into account in the design of agricultural and rural development programmes.
- Participatory approaches to empowering women should be further explored.

CLOSING REMARKS

Ms. Annika Törnqvist, for GENDERNET, and Mr. Moez Doraid, for IANWGE, closed the meeting by summarising the seven Key Messages from the workshop – see pages 3 and 4 of this document.

Joint Biennial Workshop of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)

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31/1/2012 - 1/2/2012

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in Ethiopia)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia