

# memorandum

DATE: December 3, 1979

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: AFR/DR, <sup>JW Kohring</sup> John Kohring

SUBJECT: Women in Development

TO: Distribution

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Attached we are sending you extracts from the Project Paper "Senegal Cereals Production-Phase II (685-0237)."

The project is a \$7,700,000 grant to the Government of Senegal. The grant will reinforce the extension efforts of SODEVA that have been developed and improved upon during the first 4-year phase of the project. Areas of concentration will be in (1) extension of peanut and millet production, (2) crop diversification, (3) livestock raising, (4) the role of women as producer and (5) applied research at the farm level. The project will seek the goal of contributing to agricultural productivity through extension, with emphasis upon cereals and other products beneficial to farm families in Senegal's groundnut basin.

We consider this project the best example we have seen so far of an attempt to incorporate our concern for enhancing the participation of women in the development process. The project addresses clearly identified needs of a well-defined target group, of which women constitute an important part.

The project includes support for an Evaluation and Analysis Section of the Senegalese implementing agency (SOEVA), which will establish a program to acquire, collect, and analyze baseline and on-going data useful in measuring project targets. This will include information and measures to track changes in (a) income to selected rural families participating in the cereals and crop diversification program and (b) food levels (by type and amount) of individuals in the families, and economic functions performed by family members, at Phase II take-off, mid-way point, and conclusion.

We expect that this Evaluation and Analysis Section will develop experience and procedures for systematically tracing the impact of our activities on the target population which can be replicated or adapted elsewhere.

The purpose of sending you this information on the Senegal project is to illustrate one way of meeting our special mandated commitment to women in the context of a broadly integrated development approach to rural problems.



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Extracts from "Senegal Cereals Production-Phase II" relating to Total Community Participation

Relevance of the Project to the Senegal CDSS

... The CDSS makes the argument that the viable, intermediate targets for AID are set in those regions which offer the most promise for production increases and where the majority of the rural poor are situated. The Groundnut Basin is principal among these regions.

The project addresses itself to several other factors which form essential components of AID policy and USAID Senegal's development strategy. First, the cooperative structure forms the major target group for the SODEVA extension effort. Farmer training, agricultural inputs, credit, all are transacted with the local cooperatives. Agricultural decision making is often collective, with decisions expressed by the cooperative.

Second, the role of the woman as producer is addressed. The project attempts to go beyond present efforts which often treat women as a separate producer entity, though provision is made herein to better equip women to deal with those aspects which are particularly within her domain. The project will attempt to put women squarely in the mainstream of agricultural production. The SODEVA Women's Unit will try to assure that women take a role in decision making, that they receive extension services and that the SODEVA extension agents are sensitized to the actual and potential role of women in agriculture.

Extension Recommendations

... The farmer of the Groundnut Basin is presently dependent on the main crops of peanuts and millet. A major emphasis of SODEVA in Phase II will be for greater diversification in the farming operations.

... In conjunction with the above extension themes, AID will assist SODEVA in the establishment of a women's extension unit. The unit will serve to integrate the family into the production process through lightening of the daily work load of women and children and through assistance in developing alternate sources of income to increase family incomes and improve diets.

Integration of Women into the Extension Process

Although women traditionally cultivate up to 23% of the agricultural land devoted to peanuts, because of the time-consuming household chores, lack of access to credit and thus agricultural inputs, their productivity has not kept pace with that of the men. Studies show that production on women's lands is as little as half that of men's plot.

To help alleviate these constraints, and at the same time taking into consideration the sociological setting of an agricultural and Moslem society, the project proposes to assist SODEVA in assuring that women who assume an important role in the production of peanuts and millet have access to regular SODEVA extension services to peanut and millet farmers, are relieved of some of their time-consuming, physically strenuous daily tasks (via millet mills, for example), and receive a minimum of village-level training in areas not covered by the regular SODEVA extension services. This would include training in income producing activities as well as information on family care and home economics:

There will be two interlocking categories of project inputs. At the SODEVA level, a women's extension unit will be set up to direct village extension programs, providing training and conducting surveys. At the village level, approximately 28 villages in the project area, i.e. 2 from each arrondissement (14), will participate in special programs including millet mills, sheep raising, wells and small vegetable gardens, and training materials.

a. SODEVA

(1) Women's Extension Unit. The role of the unit for women's extension services, which will be physically located at the Center at Pout will be to program, coordinate, and supervise all activities concerning women. More specifically this includes: designing and organizing training for male and female village extension workers to enable them to respond to the particular needs of women as agricultural producers and rural homeworkers, and assisting SODEVA in addressing the specific agricultural, technical and extension needs of women farmers in the project area. A major task of this unit will be to define the strategy to be used to ensure that women have access to the technical inputs (extension, fertilizer, seeds, small agricultural equipment) necessary to intensify and increase their production of peanuts and millet.

(2) Village Extension and Training Program. At the village level, the project will introduce a pilot program of training village women extension workers (vulgarisatrices villageoises (TV)) selected from village women's groups. The aim of this program is

the villagers. AID will participate with SODEVA and the GOS Hydraulics Service in the approval of well sites before funds will be released for construction.

(4) Vegetable Gardens. The aim of this component is to stimulate women to do small scale cooperative gardening during the dry season (1/4 hectare per village). Training in simple food preservation methods will be taught to enable the women to conserve any excess produce for the period when vegetables are scarce, especially during the rainy season when it is difficult to grow vegetables. It is expected that many groups will want to extend beyond 1/4 hectare after the first successful year of production and will find their own means to do so. This, of course, is one of the project aims. It is expected that free time created by the millet mills will make it possible for village women to produce more vegetables, to grow forage for their sheep, and to contribute to their training program in nutrition and food preservation by providing the necessary demonstration foods.

(5) Intermediate and Small-Scale Technology. There are a number of small technologies which are being or will be tested in Senegal over the next several years. These would include the testing and demonstration of efficient wood-burning stoves, fish dryers, hand pumps for wells, hand operated millet threshers and mills, food preservation techniques, etc. The SODEVA Women's Unit is a logical focal point for the extension of these devices to village women's groups, and every effort will be made to incorporate these techniques, as they are refined, into the SODEVA project.

(6) Training Materials. With the cooperation of SODEVA's training division, the unit will design simple and intermediate technology type training materials to be used in the villages by the VVs under the guidance of the Unit and with the assistance of monitrices working in the project area.

#### B. Economic and Financial Analysis

The Government of Senegal has for some years been pursuing a policy of increasing cereal production in order to lessen its import requirement. In support of this policy, Senegal has, over the past several years, taken several important steps to temper the demand for expensive imported rice and to encourage farmers to increase millet production.

to respond to a need for regular technical advice at the village level and to encourage village women to regard project inputs as a stimulus to self-help undertakings.

(3). Research and Evaluations. There is very little socio-economic data available on women in the project area; therefore in the initial year of the project a short socio-economic study will be made to provide the data necessary for the Unit to define its strategy. Another survey will be conducted near the end of the project in order to provide the data on which the final evaluation of the WID component may be based.

#### b. Village Inputs

The socio-economic studies will serve as a basis for selection of the participating villages and will more clearly define what is possible in each. From interviews held thus far, it is clear that women's groups want to concentrate on millet mills, sheep raising, village wells, and vegetable gardens. The project has budgeted funds to provide 28 villages with each of the above, though it is understood that village participation may be limited to one or several of the interventions, depending on the village situation and resources. It is entirely possible that other types of interventions will be preferred by the women's groups. The possibility of shifting of funds is essential if the flexibility demanded in these small women's activities is to be protected and if the project means to really respond to the needs of rural women.

(1) Millet Mills. The SODEVA women's unit will work with the women's groups where the mills are to be placed to establish an amortization plan and the selection of someone to run each mill after receiving training from the supplier.

(2) Sheep Raising. The sheep raising component is well within the local traditions and the capability of women's groups to handle, and is expected to provide a source of income. Here again, the SODEVA women's unit will assist in providing training for the women's groups in organizing the management of their sheep pens and in setting up an amortization/running costs scheme.

(3) Village Wells. As a necessary complement to sheep raising and small scale gardening, wells will be constructed or existing ones improved by local village well specialists under the supervision of field representatives of the Ministry of Equipment and Hydraulics. Emphasis will be placed on finding the most appropriate methods to be used in drawing water which can be easily used and maintained by

## D. Women's Development

### 1. Traditional Role of Women in Groundnut-Cereal Basin Agricultural Production

At the beginning of the 20th Century, the increasing importance being given the monied economy led to a considerably increased burden being placed on women in the traditional Senegalese society. Under the old system of production, based on the cultivation of millet with alternate years of fallowing, the agricultural calendar was sufficiently flexible to allow for a reasonable distribution of the work and did not require female labor. The agricultural work done by the women consisted of planting some manioc, a few acres of peanuts and some spices to improve the quality of the daily meals.

With the development of peanuts as a cash crop, millet was replaced wherever the soil would permit, and as population pressures demanded, fallowing practices diminished and new land was opened to crop production. This led to the breaking up of the family farming area into autonomous plots which the heads of compounds ceded to each member of the compound in return for labor in his fields. Women contributed labor to the head of compound and other family plots. In exchange for labor, women began requesting plots for their own individual production of peanuts and in this manner, entered the new agricultural monetary economy. Thus, their burden of household tasks remained unchanged while their agricultural work load increased significantly.

According to several studies made of the project area by SODEVA and the Senegalese Economy and Social Council women cultivate up to 23% of the agricultural land, most of it in peanuts. Millet production is left primarily to the men. Women do receive help from the men to cultivate these fields, but often too late in the season to produce maximum results.

### 2. SODEVA's Experience with Women's Activities

Although SODEVA has been interested since 1972 in developing a women's extension program, its actions to date have been limited to small scale experiments. SODEVA's experimental program was tested in four villages in the Sine Saloum Department of Kaffrine. The program consisted of an initial socio-economic study of the sex roles in agricultural production and the organization of women's work including the time devoted to each type of work.

The sex role study indicated that men with slight variations according to ethnic groups, areas, crops and mechanization carry out all of the work considered to be heavy and physically strenuous such as building fences, levelling and working the land, training cattle, hoeing, and special treatments. The women apply fertilizer, irrigate, sow, weed, harvest, condition the produce and carry it from the fields. They are responsible for small scale selling of produce. Frequently, men and women work together planting the fields; the men use the mechanical means (seeders) while the women continue planting in the traditional manner.

The record made of how women in Kaffrine organized their work during the agricultural off-season showed that 49% of the work day (which begins between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m.) consists of preparing the millet and cooking, 39.7% in drawing water, 4.8% in collecting spices or other spices items for improving their meals and wood, 2.5% in doing the laundry, 0.8% in cleaning and maintaining their homes, and 3.2 % in caring for, reeding and educating their children.

SOEVA, in evaluating its WID experiments, cited millet mills, and wells with pumps or animal traction as being the major innovations which an extension program could provide to free women for participation in training or income producing activities. Easy access to water in particular, was determined to be the single most essential factor to both reduce the burden of non-productive labor and also for the success of any agricultural, livestock or hygiene and health program.

The content of the WID component proposed in this project has been discussed on several occasions with the Minister of Condition Féminine - Mrs. Maïmouna Kane - and her technical advisors, and it has met their full approval. Condition Féminine will coordinate any other WID programs it may supervise in the groundnut basin with what is being done by SOEVA. Also, the staff seconded to the project from Condition Féminine will serve as a liaison between SOEVA and Mrs. Kane's office, although they will be professionally responsible to SOEVA.

### 3. Major Problems faced by Women in the Project Area

In the course of interviews and through research done by SOEVA, both Serer and Wolof farm women in the project area indicated the following as their major difficulties:

a. Lack of Sufficient Water

Properly dug and equipped wells are expensive and most often beyond the means of villagers. The lack of sufficient water near places of living and working makes the women's workload heavier by requiring frequent trips to relatively far places to draw water. It also complicates hygiene and health problems. A number of women's groups have attempted to undertake small-scale vegetable gardening on their own, but have given up owing to the lack of sufficient water and the inefficiency of their methods of drawing water. A SODEVA study has indicated that the traditional means of drawing water provides only 2-3 liters every 1 1/2 minutes, if the water level is normal. However, a one ha vegetable garden for example, requires an average of 1 liter of water per second.

b. Household responsibilities

A study of Serer farmers indicates that women spend more than twice the number of total hours working annually compared to the annual rate for men.

The manual processing of millet flour alone requires 1 hour of work for 2 kilos of millet. A family compound of 20 people requires 9 kg of millet per day. A priority concern of farm women in the groundnut basin, where millet is the staple food, is finding the technical means to relieve them of the burden of grinding millet flour which is not only time consuming, but also extremely fatiguing. The use of a millet mill, alone, to grind the grain into flour decreases the total preparation time by half.

c. Limitation of access to income

The vast majority of women in the groundnut basin have their own peanut plots which average 6/10 ha each. Since the income from the plots goes to its cultivator, women try to produce as many peanuts as possible to supplement their budgets.

Women's land under peanut production averages from 14 to 23% of the total areas cultivated. There is, however, a considerable difference in the productiveness of the land cultivated by women using traditional means (daba - a short handled hoe and sor-sor - a short handled weeder) and that cultivated by the men with agricultural inputs. CNRA statistics show that traditionally cultivated fields average only 858 kg/ha, whereas the addition of some improvements such as fertilizer and mechanical planting and weeding increases production to 1.6 ton/ha. In N'Godiba, a SODEVA WTD test village in the Sine Saloum, men's fields averaged 1.1 ton/ha of peanuts and women's less than 0.7 ton/ha.

Women's fields benefit little from the technical improvements and extension programs which have a positive impact on agricultural production and which are available through the extension service. The main areas of improvement would include adequate supplies of fertilizer and timely and more efficient use of sowing and weeding equipment. Women benefit from the Head of Compound's equipment only after it has been used by everyone else: the Head of Compound, his sons and younger brothers, and seasonal laborers. As a result, sowing and weeding on the women's fields are usually done too late, resulting in less than average production. This delay also requires a more labor intensive undertaking to avoid a total production loss.

Further, women are seldom members of agricultural cooperatives and do not have access to credit and there is rarely sufficient fertilizer for use on the entire farm. Women, standing last in line for agricultural inputs, usually do not get fertilizer.

SODEVA's studies show that in areas where village women have begun small income producing projects, a major problem has most often been the infrequency of visits from the female community development workers (monitrices) who provide the organizational inputs and the training required to carry out the projects.

Also, when SODEVA extension agents visit the villages to give information on improving peanut production, the information is given to the men and little of it filters down to the women. Women interviewed in the project area expressed the need for extension services and for having someone available on a daily basis to provide the necessary technical guidance and supervision.

#### 4. Project Interventions

The aim of this component is to ensure that women who assume an important role in the production of groundnuts and millet:

- have access to regular SODEVA extension services to peanut and millet farmers,
- are relieved of some of their time-consuming, physically strenuous daily tasks (via millet mills, for example) - a pre-condition for them to participate in other diversified agricultural and family oriented programs which are particularly to women,

- receive a minimum of village-level training in areas not covered by the regular SODEVA extension services. This would include training in income producing activities as well as information on family care and home economics, and

- are assisted in building on traditional village women's associations to develop pre-cooperative producers groups; the project will provide financing to enable these groups to initiate their non-diversified agricultural programs.

There are two inter-locking categories of project inputs:

- SODEVA level - consisting of setting up the women's extension unit with a village extension program, providing training, and conducting surveys,

- village level - consisting of direct inputs in approximately 28 villages in the project area, i.e. 2 from Arrondissement (!4). These inputs will include millet mills, sheep raising, wells and small vegetable gardens, and training materials.

- designing and organizing for male and female village extension workers to enable them to respond to the particular needs of women as agricultural producers and rural home makers,

- assisting SODEVA in addressing the specific agricultural technical and extension needs of women farmers in the project area.

A major task of this unit will be to define the strategy to be used to ensure that women have access to the technical inputs (extension, fertilizer, seeds, small agricultural equipment) necessary to intensify and increase their production of peanuts and millet. The studies made by Claudine Vidal/SODEVA and Edna Loose/Purdue University both indicate that women's income goes mainly improving the family meals and quality of life in general.

Any plan of action established by the Women's extension unit will need to take into consideration several important points:

- (a) men benefit from credit for seeds, fertilizer and equipment through the cooperatives of which women are seldom members,

- (b) analysis should be made of the possibility of women's associations adhering to cooperatives as producer's groups, and any credit provided would be to the group as a whole. This would require the introduction of group cultivation of peanuts and millet to get the highest cost/benefit return from group-owned equipment and agricultural inputs, as well as to ensure a high reimbursement rate on credit.

### Staffing

The women's extension unit will be staffed by 3 women (including two rural development agents) who have had wide experience working with women in a rural setting, and who will be expected to spend a minimum of 10 days per month in the field. At least two of these women will be seconded to the unit from Condition Feminine.

The head of the unit, preferably a professionally trained sociologist, will be responsible for its organization and management, coordination and planning of activities with all other SODEVA units, supervision of field work, design and orientation of training programs with the assistance of the senior assistant rural development agent assigned to the unit, and general programming of project inputs. The two assistants will have the responsibility of coordinating and supervising the WID component activities at the departmental level. They will work closely with one Rural Community Technical Agent (ATCR) specifically

designated by SODEVA in each of its field offices to follow up on a day-to-day basis the extension activities of the women's unit. The responsibilities of ATCR's will include maintaining regular liaison with the village women's producers groups. The designated ATCR's will remain in direct contact with the unit in Pout and will keep it informed of any technical or other problems which may arise, such as break-downs in equipment, and requests for technical assistance.

### (2) Village Extension and Training Program

At the village level, the project will introduce a pilot program of training village women extension workers (vulgarisatrices villageoises, VV) selected from village women's groups. The aim of this program is to respond to a need for daily technical advice at the village level and to encourage village women to regard project inputs as a stimulus to self-help undertakings. It is expected that the training provided to the VV will largely compensate for the lack of sufficient female rural development agents and will meet the basic requirements for regular presence in the village of someone with minimum training, and access to higher levels. It is also expected that village women will be more receptive to new information and technical changes introduced by one of their group members. The work of the VV will complement that done by SODEVA extension agents in their routine extension activities. In addition to their regular training program, the extension agents will be trained to provide technical assistance to the women's groups in cooperation with the VV's. The women's extension unit at Pout will work closely with the Training Division to design an appropriate training program for the SODEVA extension agents.

The candidates for training as VV will be selected by each participating women's association according to the criteria set by the SODEVA women's extension unit.

During the first year of training only, the project will bear the cost of a monthly allowance of 7,000 CFA for each VV which will include any charges for transportation from the VV's homes to the training site. After the first year, each women's group will determine the monthly allowance it will provide to the VV from the group's treasury.

### (3) Research and Evaluations

There is very little socio-economic data available on women in the project area; therefore, in the initial year of the project, a short socio-economic study will be made to provide the data necessary for the WID Unit to define its strategy. Another survey will be conducted

near the end of the project in order to provide the data on which the final evaluation of the WID component may be based. These surveys will be conducted by temporary "enquêteurs/enquêtrices" under the direction of SODEVA's research unit.

#### b. Village-level Inputs

The socio-economic study which is to be carried out by SODEVA women's unit will serve as a basis for selection of the villages to participate and will more clearly define what is possible in each of the villages. From interviews held thus far, however, it is clear that the women's groups want to concentrate on several interventions, namely, millet mills, sheep raising, village wells, and vegetable gardens. The project has budgeted funds to provide 28 villages with each of the above though it is understood village participation may be limited to one or several of the interventions depending on the village situation and resources. It is entirely possible that other types of interventions will be preferred by the women's groups. These might include chicken or goat raising, both of which are prevalent in the area and can be profitable. Other interventions and small technology devices can be developed and introduced into the project area. The possibility of shifting of funds is essential if the flexibility demanded in these small women's activities is to be protected and if the project means to really respond to the needs of rural women.

##### (1) Millet Mills

The villagers interviewed (both men and women) in the project area, considered millet mills to be a major necessity, given the importance of millet in the daily diet and the considerable amount of time required for its preparation.

The SODEVA Women's Unit will work with the women's groups where the mills are to be placed to organize the establishment of an amortization plan and the selection of someone to run each mill after receiving training from the supplier. A condition for the installation of the mills will be the provision of an adequate shelter by the villagers. Running costs will be initially provided in the project budget, and receipts from milling charges will cover future costs.

##### (2) Sheep raising

Women in the project area have had some experience with raising sheep. Traditionally, they allow the sheep to roam in small herds, guarded by their children. After the harvest, the sheep feed from millet and groundnut stalks left in the ground, then are penned in the village to be fattened.

The Women's Extension Unit with the help of SODEVA's technical services will call on local government livestock and veterinarian specialists to provide technical assistance. These livestock services are already available in the project area and are part of the regular duties of the livestock specialists.

The sheep raising element is well within the local traditions and the capability of women groups to handle and is expected to provide a sure source of income. Here again, the women's extension unit assists and provides training for the women's groups in organizing the management of their sheep pens and in setting up an amortization/running costs scheme.

### (3) Village Wells

As a necessary complement to sheep raising and small scale gardening, wells will be constructed by local village wells specialists under the supervision of field representatives of the Ministry of Equipment and Hydraulics. Prior to selecting sites for well construction, the GOS Hydraulics Service will be consulted and will assist in the technical programming of well construction or improvements of existing wells. Where feasible, project funds will provide an improved system of drawing water through the use of animal traction or manual pumps. Emphasis will be placed on the use of intermediate technology which can be easily used and maintained by the villagers. AID will participate with the Hydraulics Service in the approval of well sites before funds will be released for construction. The women's extension unit will be responsible for the coordination of all participating efforts in the well construction program. It will also work with the women's groups to see that an amortization scheme be established for intermediate technology provided from project funds.

### (4) Vegetable Gardens

The aim of this segment of the project is to stimulate the women to do small scale cooperative gardening during the dry season (1/4 hectare per village) to supplement daily needs. Training in simple food preservation methods will be taught to enable the women to conserve any excess produce for the period when vegetables are scarce (especially during the rainy season when it is difficult to grow vegetables). Also, some of the produce from these gardens will be used during nutrition and food preservation training sessions. The project budget will provide all initial inputs. Future costs will be borne by the women's groups through income acquired from the millet mills and sheep production (after amortization and running costs are allowed for), sale of garden produce,

and group contributions from individual millet and peanut sales. It is expected that many groups will want to extend beyond 1/4 hectare after the first successful year of production and will find their own means to do so. This, of course, is one of the project's aims.

The training received by the VVs will address the need for a basic technical understanding of vegetable gardening and preservation. SODEVA agents will provide technical instruction and back-stopping. This element of the women's component is an integrated part of the whole: the additional free time created by the millet mills will make it possible for village women to produce more vegetables, to grow forage for their sheep, and to contribute to their training program in nutrition and food preservation by providing the necessary demonstration foods.

#### (5) Intermediate and Small-Scale Technology

There are a number of small technologies which are being or will be tested in Senegal over the next several years. Several of these are being financed by AID. These would include the testing and demonstration of efficient wood-burning stoves, fish dryers, hand pumps for wells, hand operated millet threshers and mills, food preservation techniques, etc. The SODEVA Women's Unit is a logical focal point for the extension of these devices to village women's groups, and every effort will be made to incorporate these techniques, as they are refined, into the SODEVA project.

#### (6) Training Materials

With the cooperation of SODEVA's training division, the WID unit will design simple and intermediate technology type training materials to be used in the villages by the VVs under the guidance of the Unit and with the assistance of monitrices working in the project area. These materials will be used in demonstrations of improved nutrition, food preservation methods, village hygiene, intermediate technology (simple water filters, food drying equipment, fuel-saving cookers, etc.), tie-dyeing, sewing, knitting, weaving and pottery. For example, UNESCO, UNICEF, and ENDA (Environment Training Program) will be consulted to benefit from their past experience in the design of simple training materials for village use.

### 5. Village Selection

An important factor in the success of the village inputs is the choice of participating villages. Some of the criteria to be considered in the selection to be made are:

a. 1 village from each Arrondissement should have already been exposed to SODEVA's extension services and the second village should preferably not have benefited from those services,

b. one Wolof and one Serer village from each Arrondissement should be selected wherever possible,

c. there should be no millet mills or other elements on the same scale as those proposed in the Women's Extension component,

d. there must be a dynamic and well organized traditional women's association in the village which is willing to designate one of its members for training as a VV,

e. the village elders and men, along with the women, must be interested in and support the project proposed by the women's unit, and prepared to contribute the land, effort, and time necessary to make it succeed.

Item e. raises an important point which the women's extension unit will need to take into consideration. Any extension program for women, in order to succeed, will need to be understood and accepted by the men before the women will be willing to participate. A considerable amount of initial groundwork will need to be done with the cooperation of SODEVA's regular extension unit to sensitize the men and get their support and participation where necessary. Both SODEVA and USAID/ Senegal (in the Tivaouane WID project, in the Casamance women's garden projects) have experienced the necessity of initially sensitizing the men, and it has been seen that where this was adequately done, the women were more enthusiastic about the project, because the men supported, assisted, and encouraged them.

...

Attitude of Farmers Towards Innovations which the Project will Promote

...

Women

The women in the project zone are very receptive to "women's projects". Moreover, SODEVA is increasingly interested in integrating women into their general extension activities. It is clear that women, particularly in polygamous families, play an important role in cereal and peanut production. Women should be regarded as an integral part of a family production and consumption unit and treated accordingly. SODEVA is seeking to create an institutional approach which will be better equipped to reach women. This effort is fully described in the Technical Analysis, Annex E.

One should avoid seeking male-female relationships in this area as essentially antagonistic and exploitative. Men are willing to reduce the time-consuming water, firewood, and millet threshing work of women. Although they will not share the burden themselves and do what is considered to be "women's work", they have no objections to getting wells, easy access to firewood, and millet threshers for the women provided that they will not have to make too many financial sacrifices to get them. The men see the improvements in women's income and productivity in a positive light since it contributes to the well-being of the entire family unit. Hence, the men as well as the women are highly receptive to innovative women's projects.