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REPORT

TO

THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

OF

THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ON

THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

OF

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

BY

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AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

The obvious place to start building an international network of women in agriculture is in an international organization of farmers organizations and cooperatives. The International Federation of Agricultural Producers is the only such independent international organization. Included in its membership are farmers from very different conditions and levels of technology from the highly mechanized wheat farmers of North America and the capital-intensive farmer of the European community to the ox-drawn wooden plough of Ghana and Indonesia. Even though the major financial support comes from countries with highly developed agriculture, approximately half of the membership of IFAP in 1975 came from the developing countries.

Women reached through IFAP will already be organized as farmers or farmer members of cooperatives and thereby in a position to transmit to other farm women new ideas and heightened awareness of women's role in food production.

The Secretariat of IFAP has worked to push concern for rural women both within the organization and with other international organizations. Dr. Guiseppina Pela, in the Rome office, is the permanent liaison representing IFAP to FAO, The World Food Programme and the World Food Council. She is strongly committed to the cause of women in agriculture and has worked with the Committee on Promotion of Aid to Cooperatives (COPAC) on a meeting devoted to "Women in Developing Countries in Cooperatives." Ms. Bernadette Vomwo, a Ghanaian, works in

the Paris office on special concerns of the developing countries. She also has promoted attention to rural women's concerns, and is knowledgeable on rural women in Africa.

The following list of persons to contact for beginning development of an international network of women in agriculture was assembled at the 22nd Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers in Helsinki, Finland June 14-23, 1977.

BANGLADESH

CONTACT:

Abdul Bari Chowdhury
Chairman,
National Cooperative Federation
for Rural Development

Chowdhury is a farmer and is a leader in his region in organizing farmers in rural development programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Nurjahan Kmal
Bangladesh Women's Cooperative
Society
9/D Motiyheel
Dacca, Bangladesh

Ms. Kmal is very informed, works with rural women and is involved in rural development.

INDONESIA

CONTACT:

M. Martono
President,
Indonesian Farmers Association
Jl. Sultan Agung67A
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia

Martono and his wife spoke English well. The organization is an umbrella organization including "rich and poor peasants, landholders, tenants and agricultural laborers, agricultural scientists, and professional people." He will be able to make recommendations of persons to attend conferences.

IRAN

CONTACT:

Mrs. Houra Yavari
Director General,
International Relations
Central Organization for Rural
Cooperatives of Iran
Ministry of Cooperatives and,
Rural Affairs
Pahlavi Avenue
Teheran, Iran

Houra, while a well educated government employee grew up on a farm, is a strong feminist and is deeply committed to both rural and agricultural development and betterment of the conditions of rural women in Iran. She, of course, speaks good English. Iran is no longer a poor country, but it is still a less developed country pushing hard for agricultural development.

RECOMMENDATION:

Miss Alleh Jameel Zedeh
Chief
The Organization for Rural
Cultural Houses
Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Development
Old Shemiran Road
Teheran, Iran

JAMAICA

CONTACT:

Courtney Fletcher
President,
Jamaica Agriculture Society
10-12 North Parade
P.O. Box 609
Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

Mr. Fletcher says that women are very active in farming and marketing of dairy products, citrus, bananas. They are active in leadership positions--most often as secretaries in 30% of the 13 parish organizations. Women are presidents in two and two cooperatives are led by women. There are a number of women he can recommend to attend a workshop.

KENYA

CONTACT:

J.H. Feingold
Executive Officer
Kenya National Farmers Union
P.O. Box 1225
Nakuru, Kenya

Mr. Feingold, formerly a European, is an intelligent and able spokesmen for African farmers. He is a good resource as a base to touch. Upon his return to Kenya, after the IFAP Conference in Helsinki, June 1977, he will send suggestions of women from farm and rural cooperative organizations to be considered to attend a workshop in the United States.

CONTACT:

E.K. Kinyua
Merchandise Manager
Kenya National Federation of
Cooperatives LTD
Plantation House
Haile Selassie Ave.
P.O. Box 49768
Nairobi, Kenya

Mr. Kinyua, a retired civil servant, is now a farmer. He has a large diversified farm which his wife helps manage. They produce milk, meat animals and poultry. He can recommend women in agriculture to attend a meeting and will send another suggestion after returning home.

RECOMMENDATION:

Mrs. Grace K. Kamau
c/o The Roost Limited
Kiambu, Kenya

Mrs. Kamau farms with her husband, Jackson Kamau on 400 acres in diversified agriculture growing tea, corn, potatoes, vegetables as well as raising chickens, pigs and dairy cattle.

Ms. Kamau is a leader in various cooperative government statutory Boards and farmers organizations so most of the farming responsibility is on her. She is active in various women's programs and is National Chairman of the Presbyterian Church Womens Guild in Kenya. She has a 22 year old daughter who works and boys in the University.

NIGERIA

CONTACT:

Chief Peter Igbinosun
Treasurer
Cooperative Federation of
Nigeria
No 24 Oza Street
Benin City, Nigeria

There are many women farmers in Nigeria--many of them cane growers. The Nigerian Cooperative Federation will pay half the cost of sending a representative to a women's meeting "if necessary".

PHILIPPINES

CONTACT:

Leonila V. Chavez
Chairman
Cooperative Rural Bank of
Nueva Ecija, Inc.
NGA Compound
Cabanatuan City, 2301

Mr. Chavez is herself no farmer but is an important leader and official in the rural cooperative movement This movement is government directed rural development device. Ms. Chavez pointed out in the conference that this strong pro-farmer program started after the "imposition of Martial Law in 1972." She is intelligent, seems competent, and is sympathetic to the "Women in Development" goals. Her opinions on rural development are sophisticated and perceptive.

She is obviously a person who is sent to international meetings because of her langauge and diplomatic skills. Her business card lists seven titles and organizations--she is a manager, a general manager, chairman, treasurer, director, and twice a president of various cooperatives.

She reports that women have an important role in the family farming pattern in the Philippines and are members of the cooperatives. Few of them speak English.

PORTUGAL

CONTACT:

Nicole de Preaulx Rosado-Fernandes
Member, Confederacao dos
Agricultores de Portugal
Rua Don Denis 2
Lisboa 2, Portugal

Nicole and her husband are land owners who farm with tenant laborers. She is very concerned with the condition of the women and particularly their poor nutritional patterns. Nicole's mission is to get for them some kind of extension education on nutrition and food preoduction. She is at a disadvantage being a landowner and looked upon with suspicion. The women are repressed by a macho dominated tradition. She seemed very sincere and earnest. She and her husband are progressive people but now are worried about the communist inspired anti-farmer pressure. She reports that Portugal is in a state of change and turmoil--no predictions on which way it will go or what pattern of land tenure and farming will emerge.

TRINIDAD

CONTACT:

S. Norman Girwar
Manager,
Trinidad Island-Wide Cane
Farmers Assoc., Inc.
President, Caribbean Cane Farmers
Association
TICFA House
19A Sutton Street
San Fernando, Trinidad, W.I.

Many cane workers are women. These women are low on the economic-social ladder.

There are also many cane farmers who are women and these women have more experience with responsibility and leadership. Mr. Girwar can recommend a woman or women from the Farmers Association to attend a conference.

These women speak English.

TURKEY

CONTACT:

Dr. Yusuf Mergen
Consultant (and Translator)
Union of Turkish Chambers of
Agriculture
Kucokesat Barkacid
Sokak 61/11
Ankara, Turkey

Dr. Mergen is an agricultural engineer and advisor to the Union. He says that 65% of the farms are family farms. Women have equal rights under the law but old custom still prevails. There are four women in Congress out of 400; 25 ran for election to the Congress.

Turkey is pushing hard to cooperate on world agricultural problems because it is becoming an exportor of wheat. The next IFAP Conference will be in Turkey.

RECOMMENDATION:

Mrs. Korkmaz Ulay
Leader of Farm Women
Union of Turkish Chambers of
Agriculture
Izmir Cad. 24
Yaprak Apt. 24/8
Ankara, Turkey

She attended the Conference is is well informed on women in Turkish agriculture--language is a problem as she speaks no English but a translator can accompany her to a conference.

ZAMBIA

CONTACT:

Joel K. Chitafu
Grain Member-
Commercial Farmers' Bureau of
Zambia
Managing Director Director
Mpulabushi (Farm) Ltd.
P.O. Box 947
Ndola, Zambia

Mr. Chitafu speaks English.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Lilian Chitafn
Mpulabushi Farm
P.O. Box 947
Ndola, Zambia
Central Africa

Ms. Chitafn farms jointing with Mr. Chitafu and his wife.

Mrs. Mela Chibumba
Woodlands Farm
c/o Mpulabushi Farm
P.O. Box 947
Ndula, Zambia
Central Africa

Ms. Chibumba farms 100 hectares (247 acres) in rural Luanshyan--20,000 laying hens, a few beef cows, fruits and vegetables. She is a member of Commercial Farmers Bureau for the Copperbelt East. Mr. Chitafu wishes preliminary contact go to through him. "She will prove very useful."

REPORT TO WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

The unique "World Parliment of Farmers", meeting in Helsinki, June 14th to 23rd, 1977 in a general conference of the 30 year-old International Federation of Agricultural Producers presented a common view on a variety of issues and on one point in particular. The universal plea from farmers in less developed and developed countries alike was for fair and stable prices--for their products, and in the costs of their inputs.

The instability and vulnerability of agriculture weighs heavily on all farmers, but most heavily on those in the less developed countries, where 80 percent of the people are engaged in agriculture--most of them poor and at least half of them women.

The status of women in most of these rural societies and the often adverse impact of development on them is a matter of record and is reported in the literature. Cultural discrimination in access to literary training, low social status, dependency patterns and other barriers to new opportunities compound their disadvantages. The picture that emerged at the Conference of world-wide agricultural distress means distress for the women farmers of the world.

For farmers in advanced exporting countries, the continuously rising spiral of costs of inputs and the recent collapse of world market prices create vulnerability and hardship, but

it is much worse for the LDC farmers. The special case of farmers from countries with a strong farm support/food self-sufficiency policy will be discussed later.

THE RECORD OF IFAP AND WOMEN

Perhaps the economic and social vulnerability of farmers, who are one of the more traditionalist groups in societies, has made them sensitive to the condition of the still more vulnerable persons in agriculture; or perhaps the members are responding to the growing worldwide acclaim for consideration of the condition and role of women. For whatever reason, IFAP in this conference devoted more attention to the role of women and their special problems than at any of the previous 21 General Conferences.

The 20th Conference in 1974 in Baden, Austria, the first to allocate any time to the special problems of farm women, allotted the day before convening to discuss ways to get farm wives more active in farmers' organizations and cooperatives. This was the first time that the topic had been addressed. The effort was seen as a way of achieving more active participation of farm women in economic and social development.

Recommendations from that meeting to member organizations called on them to:

Publicize the role of women on the farm and in their organizations;

Provide and support training programs for women in agriculture, cooperative organization and management, credit, marketing, consumer education, home economics, etc.

Encourage representation of women on committees and boards or make it mandatory; and

Eliminate existing regulations governing farmers' organizations and cooperatives that discriminate against women. See Attachment A.

On this day women presented previously prepared reports describing the activities of their respective organizations to activate farm wives--usually in an auxiliary--to more active participation. There was no mention of the more basic economic and social issues such as recognition of women's economic contribution to the joint family farm enterprise, women's access to land ownership and credit and their role in economic and agricultural development that did emerge in subsequent conferences.

The 21st General Conference held in Washington, D.C. in International Womens' Year, 1975, devoted a day during the Conference to women. The session reaffirmed the importance of the role of women as follows:

> "In many countries, women work on the family holdings alongside their husbands, and in some cases are fully legal partners in the enterprise. In other cases, especially in developing countries, the women bear the major portion of the work load and run the holdings. Even in cases where the farm wife restricts herself to household work, she is at the same time involved in the family farm operation. For these reasons, it is important that IFAP and its member organizations consider the situations and involvement of women."

The session addressed a range of substantial problems of farm women and recommended to the member organizations ways they

could improve the condition of farm women in their legal status, social security, and improved living standards as well as in participation in farmers' organizations. A copy of the recommendations is attached. See Attachment B.

At this conference there was real discussion about women's issues--social and economic as well as organizations. A woman from India wanted recommendations on conditions of all agricultural workers. She insisted that in India there is no difference in the status or conditions of men and women. Others argued to keep the discussion and recommendations directed to issues specific to women. The Indian representative had two men coaching her in her discussions. It seemed she was making a record for home delivery.

In planning the 22nd General Conference, the IFAP Executive Committee decided "to include consideration of the role and place of women within the general discussion on each item" and deemed the following agenda items of particular interest to women:

1. Economic and Social Situation of Farmers in the Mid-Seventies--with an evaluation of the situation of farm women and farmers' wives;

2. Benefits to Farmers of a New World Economic Order--with analysis of the effects of modernization and the development process of women's roles and conditions; and

3. Access to Land and Agricultural Development.

A member of the IFAP Secretariat responsible for women's issues prepared information for inclusion in the documents on each of these agenda items in order to have these issues

immediately at hand during the discussions. As so often happens to womens' issues, except in womens' organizations, all the information on women was lumped together and presented in a separate paper. Although that paper contained information and useful information relating to each of the topics of discussion, the paper came out seeming a bit disjointed and in a form easily put aside by the delegates as they considered the papers prepared for the agenda item at hand. See Attachment C.

In the session on "Farmers and Food", a women from Portugal protested heatedly that the session was almost over and not one word had been mentioned about women in spite of their crucial role in food delivery. The retired USDA economist on the panel in that discussion said he wanted at that point to go on record saying (with a broad grin), "I like women". There was general titter at this witicism, but there were also gasps of dismay and disbelief; and the session erupted with life. Almost every woman in the hall raised her hand for recognition and whispered caucuses broke out around the hall. Protestations were made that women had been ignored and that their role was too important to ignore. Many delegates rushed to disassociate themselves from the titterers, reporting on the role and conditions of women in their countries. The Swedish delegate was shocked at the laughter and said he though it showed the need for an educational program.

THE DELEGATES AT THE CONFERENCE

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers is the only independent international organization of farmers and rural cooperatives. These are the world's producers of food and fibre. In its membership are farmers from 1,000-acre grain farms in Kansas to virtually subsistence farmers in Niger and the collective farmers of Yugoslovia. There are farmers who farm with the highly capital-intensive agriculture of the EEC, and those who use the ox drawn wooden plow of Ghana and Indonesia.

The common link to the vast majority of IFAP members is commitment to the family farm. This is a farm which may be large or small depending on the crop raised and the level of economic and agricultural development of the country, but it is of a size that a farmer and his family, sometimes with some hired help, can manage and run.

The Kansas wheat farmer and the Bangladesh jute farmer have more in common than is usually seen by the observers unfamiliar with the facts of life for farmers. They share the common hazards of weather, disease and pests. Every crop is a gamble for them both. Each must sell his product in a wildly fluctuating "free market", yet buy his machinery, seeds, fertilizer and energy in a market of "administered prices".

The uniqueness of the organization suggests its limitations: they are financial. The operating funds come from member organizations, which in turn are supported in most cases only by their farmer members. There are no government funds

coming in IFAP, or to most of the member organization. The expense of sending delegates is a heavy burden for many members. Delegates from the LDCs often attend on grants from the most prosperous members. The Scandinavian farmers are particularly generous in this activity. In some cases the government of the conference's host country will give funds for delegates from the poorer countries.

In view of this situation, it is not surprising that there were not many women in attendance. The delegates were usually top staff persons or farmer leaders. Some delegations, whose governments were pushing to get their farm products into world markets and to adopt the latest technology, such as Turkey and Iran, had their expenses paid by their government, and women were members in both of those cases.

There were no women delegates from the advanced countries--the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Scandinavia, the EEC, New Zealand or Ireland. There were women observers, and there were wives who were invited to observe and participate.

THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Executive Committee Reports

The first agenda item within the scope of this paper was a review of the activities of the organization, including an enumeration of the 17 international conferences, councils and organizations at which IFAP has represented the interests and concerns of farmers.

A report of the present and possible services an international farm organization can offer to its member-organizations listed the following:

Disseminate information on world commodity situations and on the general situation of world agriculture;

Reiterate to governments that international action must be taken to assure orderly marketing of stocks at a price that will cover the cost of production;

Insist that food aid be authorized in physical and not cash amounts;

Encourage development of purchasing power of poor people through trade policies;

Attend to relations with consumer groups and trade organizations;

Project the appropriate public image of the farmer; and

Represent the farmer at international meetings.

The special services of IFAP to the farm organizations in the LDCs are:

Dissemination of reports and studies of post harvest losses;

Representation at conferences and information of schedules of meetings and conferences; and

Arrange meetings among them.

Proposed additional services were:

Collect data on prices received for products, costs of inputs, and prices consumers pay in the various local situations, and disseminate this information;

Improve communication between member organizations and the Secretariat;

Help to establish "twinning" of cooperatives in developed countries with co-ops in the LDCs; and

Promote the participation of farmers' organizations in the planning of agricultural development projects.

A document prepared by the Secretariat for this agenda item made the point that "... changes in government policies do not come about in any country without pressures. So long as farmers in developing countries are denied the opportunity to establish representative organizations, or true cooperatives, through which to put their case to their national authorities,

such pressures will not come about and unadapted policies will continue to be applied."[1]

In private discussions on this subject, the women delegate from the Philippines, a chairman (sic) of a cooperative rural bank and general manager of a marketing cooperative, asserted that cooperatives were not enough; that farmers need a general farm organization that admits members across commodity lines and is independent of management to give them a vehicle for social progress.

There was no discussion in the Conference on the importance of producers' organizations to women but a background document covered in a general way the special implications for women in each of the agenda items. See Attachment C.

General Situation of World Agriculture

In a loose way three categories of farmers emerged in the conference:

1. Farmers from countries with a protected agriculture, usually accompanied by a national policy of self-sufficiency in food;

2. Farmers selling on the "world market" at residual supply-clearance prices, and buying inputs at escalating administratively-determined prices; and

3. Farmers from LDCs with the problems outlined in

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[1]Document P 2/77, "Situation and Outlook for World Agriculture", Pg. 6.

category two but aggravated by underdeveloped infrastructure, scarce capital, backward technology, and weak domestic market demand.

In category one are the farmers of the EEC, the Nordic Countries, and Japan. These countries have been important agricultural markets for food and feed exporting countries. For these countries and their farmers, the shock of the various soybeans and grains export restrictions by the U.S. had a profound and traumatic effect on their economic planning. These countries have decided that security of supply and independence from fluctuating world markets are more important than profiting from depressing prices on the world market when supplies are plentiful. These countries are supporting their agriculture, which in some is high-cost, at relatively high prices to give their farmers a climate of stability and security and incentive to invest the capital resources needed to approach food self-sufficiency for the day when world supplies will be short again. The problem faced by farmers in these countries is to mount the political power to assure that the supported prices continue to keep pace with the seriously inflating costs of inputs.

Farmers in the second category--producers of basic foodstuffs (rice, wheat, maize, fats and oils, beef, poultry and dairy products, whose prices are dependent upon the export market) are suffering declining prices and increasing costs. Effective world demand (people with money to pay for food) has decreased due to the world recession. Even worse, need has never been translated into "demand" for the billions of the

the world's hungry. The current "surpluses" of food are bringing economic distress to the producers in this category--disaster to some.

In the third category, the less developed countries, all is not as well for farmers as the current price of coffee, tea and cocoa would seem to indicate. In many countries, producers have not benefited from the high prices because governments have retained the profits through export taxes. Moreover, sugar prices, a major crop of the LDCs, have collapsed, as have those for jute and sisal. Following are quotes from delegates in this discussion:

Kenya -- "The situation is depressing. Farmers' organizations pushed for increased prices, and the higher prices produced surpluses. Input prices are rising and the farmer is producing "surplus" products. Here every penny of the coffee price is going back to the farms but increased plantings may lead to overproduction."

Tunisia -- "Governments call for new and modern inputs. These are expensive and imported from abroad. Modernization imposes increased costs and is an imposition. A farmer is penalized when he sells at home and more penalized abroad. Incomes dwindle every day."

Denmark -- "If agriculture had a better economic climate, it would have a beneficial effect on the high unemployment."

U.K. -- "The National Farmers Union is a firm supporter of the

Common Market. The economic situation has worsened for the U.K. farmers because of an outrageous 20 percent inflation rate."

India -- "Prices are arbitrary and doesn't cover cost of production. The farmers sells surplus at throwaway prices."

Turkey -- "...needs IFAP to bring DCs and LDCs together. The rising costs are especially hard on LDCs."

Japan -- "...is determined to improve its ratio of self-sufficiency and will revive its domestic agriculture and encourage the reverse migration from the cities to farms that has started."

France -- "Purchasing power of farmers is reduced or stagnated. Prices should reflect and compensate human labor inputs."

A statement on the general situation of women in agriculture was prepared on the basis of this discussion and it presented the social and economic situation as follows:

"Women in Agriculture. The women's situation continues to require specific attention in spite of the efforts made in many countries towards the full integration of women in the economic and social life. In some countries they have to face discrimination, receive an inadequate education and are subjected to economic and social constraints. Very often farmers' wives are not considered partners with full rights even though they generally work side by side with their husbands, sharing all

risks and responsibilities for the family farm. In many parts of the world, it is essential to improve certain basic infrastructures such as drinking water supply, roads and means of transportation, or even the setting up of day care centers in order to improve living conditions for the rural population and in particular alleviate the hard work performed by farmers' wives. It is also desirable to include rural women in training courses and education programmes as well as to gather data relating to their effective role in the production, handling and consumption of food. Agricultural organizations such as cooperatives have sometimes underestimated women's constructive contribution to their work: therefore it is highly recommended to associate them with full rights on an equal footing with men. Thanks to such a full female participation, such organizations will benefit both on the technical and economic and social level from a valuable contribution which will increase their impact at the political level.

"The Conference has widely recognized the role of women as food producers, traders and processors, as well as their responsibility in family education and nutrition. Women have therefore to be involved in all stages of agricultural development programs in order to meet agricultural targets, improve the family's social and economic well-being, and ensure that appropriate use is made of the resources of both men and women in attaining national development goals.

"It has been recommended that IFAP and its member organizations in their own countries, give full consideration to the

involvement of women in agriculture. A sub-committee or a group should be established within IFAP to collect and coordinate an exchange of information on the status of farm women and farmers' wives, and evaluation of progress in different countries.

"IFAP will continue to collaborate with other international agencies both in supporting activities already underway and in developing joint actions aimed at integrating rural women into planning and implementing socio-economic development programs."

Benefits to Farmers of a New World Economic Order

In the document prepared for the discussion on the new world economic order, often described as the North/South debate, the following definition is given:

"Developing countries tend to believe that industrialized countries often use their technical resources and organizational capabilities for their own national advantage with little regard for the broader considerations of overall global economic stability and development. They have therefore called for a new world economic order, a set of international relationships which would ensure that their interests are given proper weight; called for equitable access to resources necessary for better standards of living for their people; and emphasized the need for the developing countries to play a greater role in the world economy."

The implications of this new order for the farming communities, according to this document, is that farmers are demanding precisely the same things from their own governments:

-- a greater say in the management of the economy;

-- fair and stable prices for their marketings;

-- increases in prices in line with the increases in costs of their inputs;

-- organized markets for commodities;

-- more cash to invest in their economies; and

-- a fairer share of the national wealth.

Delegates' comments supported the document's theses. Examples are shown below:

Kenya -- "Loans or aid programs cannot solve problems--level of prices and stability of prices is the only solution. A common fund and an integrated program as proposed in Manila is the only answer.

"Inflation has robbed the farmer even with the high prices as evidenced by the following relationships:

"In 1972, a tractor cost 3.5 tons of coffee; in 1977, a tractor costs 8.5 tons of coffee.

"In 1972, 1 ton of coffee bought 12 tons of fertilizer; in 1977, 1 ton of coffee buys 3 tons of fertilizer."

Jamaica -- "The problem is balance of trade. It is a matter of reciprocal action and interdependence--a problem of unemployment, need for foreign exchange and especially a need for good prices for raw materials."

Cameroon -- "The failure to reach an agreement between the haves and havenots is devasting. We just enumerate the failures. Africa has an immense handicap because its commodities

are dispensable--cocoa, coffee and tea are not basic food stuffs. We have a dialogue of deaf men. People withdraw into their camps. High prices are not helping farmers--middlemen get it. We have failed in Mairobe, failed in Paris. How can we move into the future?

"Women are making progress. They are working in all sectors of society. There are problems; there is a problem when a marriage breaks up, particularly in a polygamous marriage, of determining the woman's equity in the farm."

Nigeria -- "Farmers are exploited. It is a serious problem. Farm products are a source of foreign exchange so the government fixes export taxes on them. Prices of locally manufactured goods are higher than imported goods and farmers get farther and farther behind in purchasing power. Farmers get only one/third of the cocoa price. They need help from IFAP in collecting facts and figures to present to their governments."

Iran -- "...needs transfer of technology. High cost of agricultural inputs mean the government has to subsidize agriculture and there is a lack of skilled manpower."

Zambia -- "...is a land locked country. It has all the problems of the other LDCs and wonders what the answer is."

Tunisia -- "...wonders what the answer is."

Kenya -- "...proposes more cooperative societies, more self-help or Harrumby projects.

An assessment of the tone of the discussion about the situation of farmers in the LDCs is that it is bad and getting worse, due to wildly fluctuating prices for their products and steadily increasing costs of their inputs. Benefits of government-to-government agreements to help stabilize markets don't get down to farmers and the farmer's need their own independent organization to represent them.

There was little discussion in this session about the special problems of women because they were so absorbed with the bleakness of the overall situation. These delegates are in most cases farmers who are also employers of farm labor. Almost all the farmer delegates in this discussion were men; the distaff side was not presented in any concerted way.

The final comment was made by a delegate from the U.K. protesting the title of the document under discussion, "Benefits to Farmers of a New Economic World Order", proposing that it be changed to "Benefits to Farmers in Developing Countries etc..." because U.K. farmers did not see anything in the "new economic order" for them. U.K. farmers are employers and managers more than North American, Continental European, and Scandinavian farmers.

Commodities

Of the commodity discussions, that of the Committee on Sugar is the most pertinent to this paper because many of the

LDCs are sugar producers. The current devastatingly low prices for sugar, following so recently on an outrageously high price, is a dramatic example of the sugar producers' major problem--the volitility of the market. Competition from other sweeteners is another.

The discussion reflected the frustration from the recent failure to achieve an international sugar agreement, and indicated that a reason for failure was the insistance that producing countries hold stocks with no proposal for funding the stocks.

Many long-term bilateral arrangements have been worked out but these only add to the volitility of the residual market because any excess production becomes an even more enormous burden. The IFAP recommended that a new U.N. Sugar Conference be convened.

Agricultural Cooperatives

A proposal for a data bank on large cooperatives was submitted to the participants. The idea is to carry out this project in cooperation with an international institute: the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute, in Montpelier (France), which works on matters of economic development in rural areas, in close collaboration with OECD.

The delegates discussed collaboration between cooperatives in the international grain trade, in fertilizer production, and in the establishment of a system of cooperative international trade corporation to promote trade and investment between cooperatives.

Delegates from the LDCs proposed activities which IFAP could undertake on behalf of poor farmers such as direct services from the IFAP Secretariat to the organizations and aid by developed countries' co-operatives to those of developing countries.

The following comments were made by delegates from the LDCs:

Iran -- "All Iranian farmers are in cooperatives. Each primary society covers five to ten villages, but they are mostly credit and service cooperatives. Marketing cooperatives are just beginning and are limited to the sale of products in the domestic markets. There are production cooperatives that are helping to solve the problem of fragmentation of land by making more viable units. They have introduced a new computerized system of crop predicting services."

Turkey -- "Cooperatives are mainly in education and credit. The farmers are organized into a Union of Turkish Agricultural Chambers."

Kenya -- "...has gotten help from the Nordic Cooperatives which was sorely needed. Without these cooperatives, the farmers cannot get just returns."

Japan -- "...worries that an international grains agreement between governments will work to the detriment of farmers' cooperatives because governments are apt to discriminate

against cooperatives in favor of private traders. We propose increasing cooperative-to-cooperative trade."

Farmers and Trade

The discussion on trade ranged from the spread of bilateral trade agreements in the absence of adequate multi-lateral agreements to the role of and impact of farmers from the trading practices of multi-national corporations; the need to make trade concessions to poorer countries; the need for measures to expand trade in goods of labor-intensive manufacturing from developing countries; the special need of developing countries for access and stability of markets; the approval of the Lomé Convention* as an approach to the problems of trade, stability of export earnings, technical and financial cooperation and investment; and many technicalities of international agricultural trade.

Farmers and Food

A panel composed of a farm leader/agricultural expert from Tunisia, an agricultural economist formerly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an African agricultural development expert with the World Bank, and an agricultural economist from a U.S. farm organization discussed "the world food problem". To summarize briefly:

The USDA economist said there is great hunger, little

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*The Lomé Convention is an agreement between European countries and their former colonies in Africa and the Caribean which provides for favorable terms of trade among those countries both in their tropical agricultural products and manufactured goods.

earning power among the hungry, and poor countries should grow their own food.

The agricultural development expert said that investment in agriculture is down worldwide, development assistance is dropping, and agricultural assistance is even less in proportion to overall development effort. The greatest need is for meeting basic nutritional demands. After they are met, food for work projects and direct feeding programs should be started. The apparent conflict between aid programs to develop agricultural production and the growing world surplus of food was dismissed because of the time factor. Investment takes at least five years to have an impact on production so demand for food in poor countries will increase and a constant demand created for food not produced locally. The new economic order should be looked at as increasing wealth rather than as a transfer of resources.

The Tunisian farm leader pleaded for involving farmers in development planning, saying that any model for development that didn't do so is doomed to fail. Food objectives are different from development objectives--the push is for food self-sufficiency or at least limiting the degree of food dependency. Tunisia will try to achieve this goal by the following agricultural development programs:

1. Developing irrigation to diversify crops;
2. Increasing yields with help of research work of developed countries;
3. Providing credit through cooperative

credit institutions; and

4. Marketing through service cooperatives.

A major problem in all countries is that rural people are getting older--and the young are leaving. The solution is to create employment opportunities and amenities in farm life to attract the young to farming. The essential amenities are water, electricity, recreation, training and credit. Since the future of the world food security and the protection of natural resources depends on young farmers, particular attention is required to establish them in farming and to modernize farm structures. New Zealand reports an increase in production of 25 percent when a young couple take over a farm from an old couple.

The American farm organization economist said it was a cruel hoax to tell the world's farmers that people were hungry so they should grow more food when surplus food is bulging out of warehouses everywhere. The moral leaders and the politicians, instead of exherting the farmers to grow more food, should attend to helping the hungry earn the money to pay for the food they need. The farmers can and will produce enough if they can earn the costs of their production.

A question was raised concerning the apparent incongruity in the situation that most of the world's hungry people live on farms. It was pointed out that even subsistance farmers need some money--to pay for even the simplest of tools, for improved seeds, and for fertilizer--and they must have customers who can buy and pay in order to get it.

A discussion of comparative advantage theories versus food self-sufficiency imperatives followed. Stabilized markets would diminish the urge for self-sufficiency, but the desire for the capability to produce the basic foods will continue, according to the USDA economist.

A major discussion on the role of women and food supplies and population control developed, revealing enormously varying levels of sensitivity to and understanding of the role of women. The African development expert said that motivation of rural women is essential. They must be involved in the planning.

A member of the secretariat staff reported that women's role in food preparation and preservation had forced world food planners to consider them because of the enormous problem of pre and post harvest losses.

Comments on this discussion from the delegates were:

Iran -- "...has established village centers where women receive extension classes in family planning, nutrition, etc. They also sell their handicrafts through these centers. The directors of the centers are women, most often from the local area, who have received special training for this work. In addition to helping the women improve their lives, they provide a good career image for the young rural women and girls."

Bangladesh -- "Women are considered key to the over-population problem. A widely publicized slogan exhorts them to "grow more food, less people."

Philippines -- "...has in the main a family farming pattern and the women control the budget in the family. Women are becoming involved in agricultural organizations. They have helped in the push for food self-sufficiency."

India -- "Women have equal opportunity in all fields and the law requires that the cooperatives have at least one woman representative on their boards."

Canada -- "The frontier woman's ability to preserve perishable food made possible the settlement of Canada."

The Conference called for stepped up research and development--both fundamental and applied--on ways to eliminate pre-and post-harvest losses and preserve perishable foods as well as development of educational extension programs to get available information to farmers--men and women.

The Conference attested that the present critical world food situation is the result of thirty years of neglect during which governments have taken abundance for granted and have given inadequate attention to the unsatisfied needs of a productive agriculture, neglecting the repeated warnings of IFAP. The current substantial price fluctuations could act as disincentives to producers and lead to new shortages.

The top-heavy and costly administration and the ineffectual nature of international groups such as FAO was discussed. Farmers are concerned with the poor cost/effective ratio they see in these organizations. The IFAP representative of FAO in Rome reported that there is a glimmer of hope in that

representatives at FAO are beginning to speak of agriculture--not in their usual abstract terms but now of farmers and to consider IFAP proposals.

Farmers and the Land

Non-farm demands for land, such as urban development, speculation, and highways, have created a market in which farmers cannot compete. Enormous amounts of the world's best agricultural land is being taken out of farming. Land investment is now a large source of farmers' income, as they borrow against rising land values to cover their current losses and sell off their land for retirement income. This situation creates special hardship on young farmers trying to get started or to expand.

A document prepared by the IFAP Secretariat titled "Women's Stake in Access to Land and Agricultural Development" is attached. (Attachment D). It presents in general terms information well covered in the literature on the subject:

-- women's lack of education and training handicaps them;

-- they have not been adequately considered in development planning;

-- some development has actually lowered their status, decreased their independence and increased their physical burden; and

-- there is a dearth of information and data on women in agriculture.

Delegate comments on this subject were:

France -- "...has decided to maintain a balance between urban and rural populations, to maintain the family farm. It has worked; these farms are productive."

Sweden -- "Nordic countries are facing the same problem as all the others--high prices for land, increasing degree of passive ownership, farmers becoming tenants. In Denmark and Norway at the present time, soon in Sweden and Finland, a policy has been instituted to insure that ownership and production go hand and hand. Good farm lands will be excluded from urban development and road building."

Ivory Coast -- "There is an inadequate sense of responsibility for the land in the farmer who works the communally owned land. Individual ownership would be better for the land, but it is difficult to change traditional patterns."

Argentina -- "Land is used by non-farmers as investment and a hedge against inflation. Taxation is a burden and is in no way related to the productivity of the land. Agrarian reform is usually a political gesture.. It is a failure in Chile and Peru, where production has dropped."

Portugal -- "Land reform is in a state of flux. Agricultural organizations want farm units to be an economic size.

The expropriated land must go to existing farmers to achieve economic units. Expropriated owners should be given the option to farm."

Kenya -- "...has three types of holdings:

1. The pastoral lands occupied by nomads, which is in a process of demarkation and assignment on a clan basis;

2. Small holdings of bits and pieces consolidated into a productive unit to which the farmer has title; and

3. Large-scale units owned by individuals; cooperatives or quasi-governmental identities. In these, each member has one hectare of his own and the remainder is farmed collectively. The transfer of land from expatriate owners to African owners has gone smoothly."

"A recent court case giving a women the right to own land for the first time has important implications."

Mexico -- "...was self-sufficient in food until the past five years. A new government-decreed formula called the "Production Alliance" has been instituted. The object is to increase production through rationalizing all resources and aids. It is democratic and popular."

Canada -- "...is considering a new land-use policy. Farmers feel that if land appreciation is controlled, they should be assured a fair return in farming."

U.K. -- "Great increases in land value have been brought on

by the development of institutional ownership as a hedge against inflation. This kind of ownership, nine percent of the total, has a great advantage over the farmer-owner who, when he sells or dies, must face a capital transfer tax not levied on institutions. This development may be a back door to nationalization..

"Any program to help start the young in farming has its dangers. There is the difficult question of how to pick which of the many young people who want to farm for the limited available opportunities.

"Questions that must be faced by a land use policy:

"Should the land market be influenced by excluding outside capital?

"On what grounds do you oppose outside investment in agriculture?

"Is the tenant farmer to be replaced with a manager?"

Ireland -- "Land reforms that replaced tenant farming with owner-occupants has produced stagnation because owners will not move on to make way for the young, and don't farm the land themselves. The taxation system, a policy of envy on the part of people who own no land, has created this situation. Taxes are based on market value and not on use or productivity value and inhibit ownership transfers. Capital taxes are heavy and land values are up 500 percent.

India -- "Land reform abolishing the absentee landowner

followed by fragmentation as the subsequent owners have divided their holdings among many heirs, has fractured the units to uneconomic size. New political devices giving land to landless peasants have created terrible credit problems and strain for rural cooperative credit societies which carry the brunt of the burden. These small units are not paying on their loans; cooperative farms have not worked; and the young are leaving the land for a better life and better income in the city."

Philippines -- "The first new policy under Martial Law in 1972 was land reform that allowed three hectares to a family. The price was determined by the average of the past three crops. Rural credit cooperatives have been established by the government. The program is working; production is up. Diversification is now being pushed."

Japan -- "...had land tenure problems. Size of farms are uneconomic and the farmer must become a migrant laborer or hold a job in the city. Land prices are high since the "oil shock" and zoning for land use is being instituted but there is great inconsistency between the planners and the tax offices."

Cameroon -- "...is at a cross road. The traditional patterns are giving way. Now 85 percent are small farmers. A village head can give a man a small plot without legal title to it; but if the man develops it he may get title to it. It takes time, however, and the government is

trying to simplify the procedure."

"The young are drifting and to keep them out of the cities, agricultural schools have been started to teach them farming and hard work. Credit to get them established is going to be a problem."

Because most of the delegates were farmers, there was, of course, a strong bias for farmer/owned land tenure patterns and for taxation policies based on productivity of the land rather than its market value. The problems of transfer of land to younger generations troubled all delegates, from rich and poor, developed and underdeveloped.

CONCLUSION

The delegates at the Conference showed a strong sense of responsibility for providing food for a hungry world, for preserving the rural environment, and for increasing the productivity of the land. They also showed that they believe that the rest of the world should do its share by according them a fair economic return for these efforts.

There is complete commitment by the member organizations which bear the financial responsibility for IFAP's support, to the economic and humanitarian needs of the farmers of the less developed countries, notwithstanding the possibility they will become competitors in a glutted world market.

The attention to the role of women in agriculture has gradually progressed in the past three conferences. For the first time, real discussion on the special problems of women in agriculture developed in the Policy Committee (a committee of the whole) in this Conference. In his final report, the chairman of the Policy Committee pointed out that "women are now a part of IFAP". Perhaps at the next General Conference, they will be represented by women delegates.

POLICY STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS
of the
20th General Conference of Intl. Fed. of Ag. Producers
Baden, Austria
May 20-25, 1974

ATTACHMENT A

CONCLUSIONS OF THE AD HOC MEETING ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN ON THE FARM AND IN CO-OPERATIVES

(Chairman: J. Munro, Canada)

1. There were 48 participants from 16 countries, as well as representatives from FAO, ICA, ACWW, and COPA (EEC).

2. There was general agreement on the need to promote more active participation of farm women in economic and social development through increasing membership of farmers' organizations and co-operatives. To this end, it was recognized that in many cases women lack the training to share tasks at the various levels. The diversity of conditions—legal, social, and cultural—around the world which have a bearing on the active participation of women in farm organizations, calls for studies which would be the basis for introducing improvements.

3. Attention was drawn to the special cultural and legal conditions prevailing in some developing countries which mitigate against women's full participation in farmers' organizations and co-operatives, and it was suggested that the Standing Committee on Agriculture in Developing Countries should give consideration to this aspect and give advice on appropriate IFAP action.

4. The meeting agreed on the following recommendations:

(a) *Recommendations to IFAP member organizations*

(i) Publicize the rôle of women on the farm and in farmers' organizations and co-operatives through the various mass media, including special meetings on the subject.

(ii) Provide and support training programs for women in subjects relevant to a more active participation in economic and social development, including training in agriculture, co-operative organization and management, credit, marketing, consumer education, home economics, etc.

(iii) Encourage representation of women on committees and boards of farmers' organizations and co-operatives. In some cases it may be recommended to be mandatory.

(iv) Appoint a correspondent to communicate with the IFAP Secretariat on the question of women's participation.

(v) Examine existing legislation governing farmers' organizations and co-operatives and, where necessary, propose amendments or revisions to eliminate any discrimination against women.

(b) *Recommendations to IFAP at international level*

Collaborate with other international organizations working toward the integration of women by:

(i) Supporting action, already under way by other international organizations, on a survey of legislation having a bearing on women's participation.

(ii) Supporting joint action on training programs at international level.

(iii) Joining with international organizations in programs and activities in celebration of the UN International Women's Year.

5. It is further recommended that IFAP send a message to the Secretary-General of the UN in support of International Women's Year, pledging co-operation in this important celebration.

The Involvement of Women in Farming and Agricultural Organizations

1. In many countries, women work on the family holding alongside their husbands and, in some cases are full legal partners in the enterprise. In other cases, especially in developing countries, the women bear the major portion of the work load and run the holdings. Even in cases where the farm wife restricts herself to household work, she is at the same time involved in the family farm operation. For these reasons, it is important that IFAP and its member organizations consider the situations and involvement of women.

Full Membership in Farm Organizations

2. With respect to the rôle that women play in farming organizations, in some member organizations the farm wife has full membership rights; others have women's divisions or sections and, in some of these, women are represented on the central council as ex officio members of their council or division.

3. Action should be taken to help women improve their self-esteem and, at the same time, improve the overall image of all farmers. Specific activities of women in an organization could be the improvment of the relationship between farmers and the non-farm sector. (e.g. public relations and consumer education programs), an active rôle in political and legislative work, and a strong voice in the policy making of the farm organization. Furthermore, within co-operatives women would normally exercise a beneficial influence as regards meeting the obligations of membership.

(i) Membership of farming organizations and farmer co-operatives should ensure that both husband and wife can be members, with the wife fully entitled to vote, attend all meetings, and hold office at all levels. It is recognized that with regard to co-operatives there may well be legal difficulties in implementing this recommendation and these must be overcome.

(ii) Women's groups or divisions should be set up within the framework of the farming organization. Women's divisions should not be so structured or used as to prevent or discourage the holding by women in their own right of full membership or of any office in the organization.

(iii) Wherever there is a separate women's section or division, its work and activities should be coordinated with the farming organization at the local branch, provincial, and national levels. A communication link should be established between the women's section at the national level and IFAP.

(iv) However, separate women's divisions can be only *an interim step* with the end goal being fully integrated membership and participation by women in the farming organization.

Legal Status

4. With respect to the different situations in various member countries concerning the women's right to hold property, family and matrimonial law, laws of inheritance, and access to credit:

(i) Farm organizations must play an active rôle in bringing pressure on their governments to amend laws wherever there is discrimination against women in these fields.

(ii) Furthermore, farming organizations, especially through their local units, should see that legal provisions are implemented and play an active rôle in informing members (especially women) of their rights.

Social Security

5. Although wives of farmers work alongside their husbands, social security legislation in many countries does not recognize the farmer's wife as a separately identifiable person for social security benefits and assistance.

6. Farming organizations should endeavour in their respective countries to seek amendments to legislation so that the farmer's wife and other family members are given separate recognition and become fully entitled to all relevant social security assistance.

Improving Living Standards

7. Many factors affect the standard of living in rural areas. These include the rate of literacy, the quality of educational and extension services, communications, health care services, assistance to the elderly, family planning, infant and child care, adequate housing for young couples, and the need for regional development and off-the-farm employment opportunities.

(i) It is necessary for farming organizations to work for more effective educational and extension services in their countries to provide for equal and relevant training of both sexes. In areas where the literacy rate is low, extension services should utilize media other than the printed word.

(ii) Farm organizations should also involve themselves in promoting the opening up of remunerative employment opportunities in rural areas (small industries, agri-business, processing and marketing organizations) in order to decrease and possibly prevent the exodus of rural people into the urban and sub-urban areas.

(iii) Moreover it is desirable for farm organizations and co-operatives to take an active rôle in implementing the establishment of infant and child care facilities (especially in peak seasons); in this connection support for and collaboration with UNICEF by farm organizations is particularly important.

Member-Secretariat Contacts

8. In order to ensure the follow-through to these recommendations, each member organization *is strongly urged* to appoint a person to keep closer contact with the Secretariat on all matters relating to women's problems and activities.

Future Actions

9. Member organizations' continuing support for IFAP's activities on the status of women is strongly requested. Inadequate data and analyses of the conditions and attitudes of rural women make it hard for policy-makers to draw up and carry out relevant and effective programs.

(i) Therefore, IFAP will endeavour to collect and co-ordinate an exchange of information, in particular to obtain from members (especially from developing countries) case studies on how farm women have begun to organize themselves and are becoming integrated into the farm organizations.

(ii) IFAP will seek ways and means of closer collaboration with other international organizations and local member organizations to conduct an enquiry into the status and number of women involved in farm and co-operative organizations.

(iii) IFAP will also collaborate with other international agencies both in supporting activities already underway and in developing joint actions aimed at integrating rural women into planning and implementing socio-economic development programs. In particular, IFAP should participate in international meetings of interest, especially those of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

(iv) IFAP will also continue to hold sessions on women's activities as part of its general conferences in order to evaluate the activities carried on by IFAP itself and its member organizations between conferences. Each organization should report to the next General Conference on the advancement of farm women in their countries.

(v) It is recommended that IFAP and all its member organizations give continuing publicity in their periodicals to women's rôles on the farm and in farm organizations and co-operatives.

(vi) Finally, the possibility should be investigated of including a woman as a full member of the Executive Committee.

[ATTACHMENT C]

Appendix B
to
Document P 2/77
June 1977
Original: English

IFAP

TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

Helsinki, Finland

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE
- Issues for Consideration by the 22nd General Conference -
(Prepared by the Secretariat)

(Reference: Item 2 of the Draft Agenda of the Policy Committee)

Economic and Social Situation of Farmers in the Mid-Seventies

1. It is recognized that all the problems, policy trends, technology and the economic and social aspects of agriculture concern men as well as women. That is especially so in the farm family where working life and the household are closely tied up.

2. Women, however, still require specific attention, in spite of the efforts made by many countries towards the full integration of women in economic and social life. Women have to face discrimination, inadequate education and economic and social constraints that are peculiar to their sex. Men's attitudes in this respect vary greatly, from full support and encouragement to passive acceptance, and even open conflict.

3. For farmers' wives there is even a problem of identity: very seldom are they considered as farmers with full rights, more often they are subordinate partners, or even unpaid workers without any recognition, even though they often work side by side with men sharing all responsibilities and risks.

4. Farmers' organizations have become concerned with this question, and in some countries they themselves - or their Women's Committee - have collaborated for the amendment of laws (as in Italy), or have themselves presented bills to the government, as recently occurred in France: the Women's Committee of the French National Federation of Farmers' Union (FNSEA) has put forward a proposal aimed at giving legal recognition to farm women as equal partners of their husbands in the administration of the family farm, and which sets out clearly the legal status of the farm couple.

5. Several farmers' organizations have continued their action to favour the participation of women by giving them full right to vote and to stand for election, and by many different actions aiming at the improvement of their status. In certain countries they have put forward or collaborated in drawing up bills of law to eliminate discrimination (Canada, France, Israel, Italy, U.S.A.), to give women full property rights - though in different ways and by means of different laws (family, matrimonial, inheritance, etc.) and with some limitations concerning for instance property administration or access to credit. Implementation of the law, is often much too slow, and continuous pressure has to be exerted; without mentioning those countries where women are still considered as goods, bought or sold in exchange of dowry.

6. Certain farmers' organizations (e.g. in Italy and New Zealand) have completed national surveys on farm and rural women's conditions in collaboration with other national institutions, fully evaluating their situation, accomplishments and aspirations, and providing a solid base for planning. In many countries, of course, where women suffer from backward conditions and lag behind national development itself, the existence of these problems is not yet even recognized.

Women and Land

7. In many countries women have no right of property over the land, and since in many developing countries land is the major source of material wealth, it implies that women are in a dependent position with respect to their partners: the men.

8. Therefore, in this field women face difficulties which are peculiar to their sex. And this not only in developing countries, but also in the developed ones.

9. In U.S.A. only in eight States are homemakers recognized as joint owners of property acquired during marriage, but only in five of them have women recently won joint rights of management, and farmers' wives are often recognized only as homemakers.

10. Tax provisions on transfers of property between husband and wife at death are often to the detriment of women.

Women and a New World Economic Order

11. Women too expect some benefit from a new world economic order. "New" does not necessarily mean "better". Policy makers and development planners who work towards the creation of a new economic and social order have to study the possible effects of changes on women's conditions in great detail. Much could be gained by systematic evaluations of the differential impacts of various stages in the development process on the rôles of men and women.

12. The main reason why some people fail to benefit from the modernization process is the unequal exchange due to disparities in labour productivity, economic power, institutional and political power. This unequal exchange operates between rich and poor countries, between urban and rural areas, and between classes of household. It also operates between the sexes, or more specifically between husband and wife (wives).

13. Few realize that each change in practice requires a wider change in attitude and mentality and in some cases even sacrifices - personal sacrifices, not just those of other people. The New Economic Order might begin with the elimination of all discrimination and injustice within the primary cell of society: the family, and the farm family in particular where working and economic interrelationships are so closely linked.

14. There are three elements in the process of modernization which continually interact: monetization of production, market incorporation (commercial sales) of production, and the creation of supporting institutions.

15. Since woman's work in the home and in producing food for her family are still not calculated in terms of money and therefore are considered to be of low value, the inequality of exchange as regards the relative labour productivity of the sexes will doubtless increase.

16. It is inevitable that monetization and market incorporation give rise to new institutions. Markets require certain facilities, while productivity changes involve the channelling of credit and information. Whether these institutions are called co-operatives or marketing agencies, they have, in virtually all cases given prominence to the male head of the household as the sole agent in the domestic unit. This can even eliminate any minor trading which had been very convenient for women in their work routine in previous production and exchange relations.

17. In this way "modernization" can result in increasingly unequal distribution of institutional and economic power between the sexes, operating to the detriment of women.

18. It was long assumed that any improvement in agriculture in general would benefit all those active in the field, be they men or women, farmers or agricultural workers. Now it has been widely recognized that deliberate development actions have to be undertaken if all strata of the rural population are to benefit from the development process.

19. Women, though they don't form a separate class or a homogeneous group, have often been ignored by development planners. A nation's well-being, as well as that of its women, depends on development policies, programs, and research that fully utilize women's potential.

20. Some kinds and stages of development appear to have lowered women's status, decreased their independence and/or increased their physical burdens. For example, women's status suffers if men are given greater access than women to education and modernization. When agriculture is mechanized women often lose their traditional independent source of income (as when power milling of rice is introduced). When men move into new income-generating activities such as cash cropping, women may have to assume the whole burden of food crop production in addition to their household and family responsibilities.

21. The need for inclusion of farm women in formal and non-formal education and training courses can never be over-stressed, as well as the need for research and data collection on their actual and potential rôle in production, handling, and consumption of food.

22. While the final goal is the integration of rural women in their societies, sharing equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities with men, in some instances special programs will be needed as a transitional measure towards enabling rural women to play their full part.

Women and Food

23. In many developing countries, especially in Africa (including Cameroun, Niger, etc.), but also in Asia, there is a "male" farming system where food is produced by men, with help from women who often do most of the actual agricultural work. Women are, moreover, given small plots that they farm alone or with the help of their children. That not only gives women a certain economic independence but also rouses their interest in increasing the productivity of their land as it is so small. Women therefore want to get acquainted with better tools, new techniques and inputs.

24. It happens, however, that the plots allocated to women by the male head of the family are the poorest and most distant. This is also due to the fact that men recognize and assume women's capability in improving yields on poor land.

It has been noted that women's food production does receive real support in periods of shortage - their aspirations corresponding to those of the community - such as during the critical drought period in sub-sahelian countries.

25. In other countries, including developed ones, the number of farms run by women is increasing as men leave the land in search of more remunerative jobs. In many cases they are less productive and efficient than farms headed by men, the two main causes being poor education and agricultural training of women, and the fact that most of the women concerned are elderly.

Women's Involvement in Development - International Action

26. Development projects which don't take women specifically into account have brought them very little or no benefit, and often this has been the cause of the failure of the project itself. This has been widely recognized in many national and international fora and has led to a change in policy and approach to development programs and plans. United Nations Agencies are holding Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meetings to co-ordinate their action for the integration of women in development. In addition, individual UN organizations have changed their policies or introduced specific directives.

27. FAO. The status and participation of women in agriculture and rural development was specifically mentioned by the Director-General of FAO in his introductory statement to the 70th Session of the Council in November 1976. He announced that an Inter-Divisional Group on "Women in Development" had been established. This Group has the task of advising the Director-General on relevant policies and programs to facilitate the integration of women into agricultural and rural development efforts in order to meet agricultural production targets, improve the family's social and economic wellbeing, and ensure that appropriate use is made of the resources of both men and women in attaining national development goals. The Group has drawn up Guidelines to investigate, design, plan, implement, and review proposed programs and projects with a view to promoting the integration of women in the development process. These Guidelines are intended to assist FAO Country Representatives and officials (i) to find out what is the actual situation of women's participation in different types of country projects, and (ii) to indicate specific areas in planned and ongoing projects where the component of women's participation can be strengthened or added. Guidelines have also been distributed to all FAO Divisions and Regional Offices for the inclusion of women aspects in the preparation of the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 1978-1979.

28. ILO. The "basic needs" approach to development presented by the ILO Director General to the World Employment Conference in June 1976 gives recognition to the contribution of women in providing the essentials of life, and to the fact that these tasks are time-consuming and arduous. The basic needs strategy for women in developing countries is seen under two aspects. One is to enable them to contribute more effectively to the satisfaction of their families' basic needs, within the framework of their traditional responsibilities. The other, which is a fundamental need of the women themselves, is to ease their work burden while furthering their economic independence and their more equitable integration into the community, beyond the narrow circle of the family.

29. WFP. The World Food Programme has undertaken various activities for the advancement of women. In particular those related to family planning and nutritional development, greater involvement of women in food-for-work projects and in the actual planning and formulation of projects, and encouragement of WFP development planners to undertake greater consultation with women in the planning and implementation of projects. Guidelines have already been issued

to field and headquarters staff, to ensure that in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of WFP-assisted projects, greater emphasis is laid on women's participation. In May 1976 the Executive Director of the WFP established an Inter-divisional Working Group on Women in Development: action has already been taken with regard to the need for reflecting in reports and documents a complete breakdown of data by sex, the necessity of sending practical and concrete instructions to WFP staff on how to implement the guidelines referred to above, and the importance of reviewing the recruitment procedure so as to ensure that well qualified women candidates be offered attentive consideration in order to have a more balanced representation of women both at headquarters and/or field level.

ATTACHMENT D

Appendix III
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IFAP

TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE

Helsinki, Finland

WOMEN'S STAKE IN ACCESS TO LAND, AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

(prepared by the Secretariat)

(Reference: Item 9(a) of the Draft Agenda of the Closing Plenary Session)

In many countries women have no right of property over the land, and since in many developing countries land is the major source of material wealth, it implies that women are in a dependent position with respect to their partners: the men.

Therefore, in this sector also women have to face difficulties which are purely due to their sex. And this not only in developing countries, but also in the developed ones.

Even in the U.S.A., only in eight States are homemakers recognized as joint owners of property acquired during marriage, but only in five of them have women recently won joint rights of management, and farmers' wives are often recognized simply as homemakers. Tax provisions on transfers of property between husband and wife at death are often to the detriment of women.

Farming Systems

In many developing countries, especially in Africa (Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, for instance), but also in Asia, there is a "male" farming system run by men, with help from women who often in fact do most of the actual agricultural work. Besides, women are given small plots that they farm alone or with the help of their children. In Niger, for instance, men's and women's plots are even called by different terms: "gandu", the man's plots, cultivated by all the members of the family according to well defined traditional rules; "gayamna", individual plots cultivated by women who keep the income themselves. That not only gives women a certain economic independence but also rouses their interest in increasing the productivity of their land as it is so small. Women therefore want to get acquainted with better tools, new techniques and inputs. It so happens, however, that the plots allocated to women by the male head of the family are invariably the poorest and the farthest. This is also due to the fact that men recognize women's capability in improving the yield of poor land by using organic manure.

In other countries, even in developed ones, there is not such a clear cut division between "male" and "female" farming, but we can take farms run by women as examples in point. Their number is increasing as men leave the land in search of more remunerative jobs.

The 1969 census showed that in Kenya about 525,000 households were headed by women; some 400,000 of them had male "heads of household" living in towns. In Italy, from a sample of 1,490 farms studied in the survey carried out by the National Confederation of Small Farmers (Confederazione Nazionale Coltivatori Diretti) in five different areas of the country, it results that 34.4 per cent of farms are headed by women, to them should be added a good number of those 21.8 per cent headed by men who don't receive social insurance as farmers, as they are engaged in other non-farming activities.

Farms headed by women are smaller and generally less well equipped, especially those on tenancy. They have fewer animals with the exception of chickens and rabbits. Furthermore, they have fewer machines and less access to economic resources.

The causes of this situation are many, they range from traditional attitude to the fact that most of the women concerned are elderly. One of the most important causes is, however, poor education and training. The need for increased participation of women in education and agricultural training courses can never be stressed enough, as well as the need to reorient research and extension services towards improving the status and rôle of rural women in the household and in farming.

Women and Agricultural Development

Up to recent times it was assumed that any improvement in agricultural sectors in general would have benefited all those active in the field, be they men or women, farmers or agricultural workers. Now it has been widely recognized that deliberate development actions have to be undertaken if all strata of the rural population are to benefit from the development process.

Women, though they don't form a separate class or a homogeneous group have often been ignored by development planners. The nation's well-being as well as that of its women depends on development policies, programs and research that fully utilize women's potential.

Some kinds and stages of development appear to have lowered women's status, decreased their independence and/or increased their physical burdens. For example, women's status suffers if men are given greater access than women to education and modernization. When agriculture is mechanized women often lose their traditional independent source of income (as when power milling of rice is introduced). When men move into new income-generating activities such as cash cropping, women may have to assume the whole burden of food crop production in addition to their household and family responsibilities.

While the final goal is the integration of rural women in their societies sharing equal rights, opportunities, and responsibilities with men, in some instances special programs will be needed as a transitional measure to enable rural women to play their full part as contributors and beneficiaries in the development of their societies and the establishment of a new more just economic order.

One of the main factors hampering programs and activities aiming at the promotion of rural women is the almost complete lack of information and data. This was clearly pointed out at the IWY Conference. The need for a new approach has been widely recognized: the guidelines laid down by FAO for the country reports that will be the basis for discussion at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (in July 1979), specifically request all relevant data by sex.

It is evident that most farm organizations, especially in developing countries, have not sufficient means to carry out such research and to collect data on the status of farm women. They can however give their contribution by collaborating with the specialized institutes in order to fill in gaps and correct misinterpretations. At the same time they will be preparing themselves for an active rôle in mobilizing farm women who can play an important rôle in the organization itself. This would also serve to silence those voices which, from different parts, insist on the creation of institutions specifically directed to women as food producers, and not just as procreators and homemakers.

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