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Developmental Draft I

Brief informal report on existing professional networks that can be used to disseminate and retrieve information on women and food related development.

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Although women in the developing world account for at least 50 percent of food production, as well as a major share of food distribution, storage and processing activities, the role of women has not been substantially addressed in agricultural development activities. American women have always been underrepresented in professional agricultural research, education and extension work, and this underrepresentation has carried over conspicuously into international development activities. Home Economists have been involved in some international work, but they have often been restricted to food consumption areas, or non-food related areas. The lack of awareness of roles played by women in food production in many parts of the world is undoubtedly related to masculine dominance of our agricultural system, but it is only in the last decade, particularly since the publication of Boserup's Role of Women in Economic Development that the western world in general has had a clear view of the extent of women's food producing roles.

Whatever the historical reasons, the exclusion of women and women's roles from food related development planning is no longer acceptable. The Tacey Amendment calls for the integration of women into local economies, and AID has responded by developing policy guidelines for project design and implementation that call for the integration of women as both agents

and beneficiaries. (Handbook No. 1, IV-5)

Within the past 18 months two major activities have been undertaken by AID to address the integration of women into food related activities. The first was the Tucson Conference on Women and Food in the Developing World, funded by AID's Women and Development Office. This conference brought together 250 participants, a quarter of them from the developing world, for discussion and analysis of women's roles in developing country food systems. Many of the American participants were from institutions that were eligible for Title XII funding, institutions that are to be increasingly responsible for the provision of technical agricultural assistance through AID to the developing world. Because of the increasing importance of these institutions as technical resources in agricultural development, it seemed crucial that they be made more aware of the important roles played by women in many traditional food systems.

Therefore, BIFAD, the Title XII governing board, recommended, and AID funded, a three week training session in Washington on The Role of Women in Title XII. Participants were nominated by their institutions and training took place for women representing 34 institutions in August of 1978. Since returning to their campuses a number of participants have been instrumental in forming campus wide Women and Development committees, in rostering women for Title XII registers, in sponsoring seminars and workshops and in fostering the inclusion of women experts in university development activities.

The participants in these two conferences constitute a network of women dispersed throughout the world with considerable institutional responsibility, and a commitment to the inclusion of women's priorities in food related development activities. In addition, there are many other qualified women who would be interested in information on how to involve themselves in development activities. Some of them are in areas of particular importance to agricultural development such as agronomy, hydrology, animal sciences, economics and other social sciences. Many more are in fields such as nutrition, extension, program implementation and non-formal education, that are directly related to agricultural development activities.

The question is how to reach all of these women with relevant and useful information that will assist them in becoming more effectively involved in food related development work both on campus and overseas. This is obviously a large scale, long term task that will demand a variety of strategies. The present paper will address only one of those strategies, the use of existing networks to communicate information on women and food development issues. There are a variety of networks that would lend themselves to the dissemination of such information. Some are formal organizations, some are informal groupings within or between organizations, some are composed of individuals with like interests. Using already established networks greatly simplifies the task of communication by reducing the need to locate individual audiences. It is also

cost effective, because information can often be piggybacked onto other information being disseminated at the same time through conferences and newsletters. Even direct mailings to network members is inexpensive, because mailing lists are already compiled, and audience interest is assured.

The networks identified in this paper have a variety of organizational structures and a range of contacts with their members. In general they fall into four categories: (1) disciplinary networks among academics interested in women and food related development issues, (2) interdisciplinary networks among academics interested in women and food related development issues 3) networks interested in women and food related development that that extend beyond the academic community (4) professional networks among men in Title XII institutions that could be used to communicate on women and food related development issues. In some of these networks the primary interest is on food and agriculture related issues, with a secondary interest in Women and Development issues. In others the reverse priorities would obtain, but in all the networks I have listed, both interests are present to a significant degree.

1) Disciplinary networks among academics interested in women and food related development. In this category by far the strongest networks exist within the field of Home Economics. Communication is good within the various Home Economics disciplines, and there is strong interest in more international involvement in several of them. Schools of Home Economics are often well placed to influence the women and development planning

that goes on within the Colleges of Agriculture, if they have sufficient information. Fortunately there is a very active National Association, with its own international newsletter which can be very useful in communication. In addition there is a Home Economics Commission within NASULGC, and numerous more focused associations such as those of the Deans, and of the Extension Service. It is possible to reach such focused groups either through their annual meetings or through direct mailings. AHEA has offered direct mailings. AHEA has offered to make such mailings for the Deans, and Dr. Opal Mann at USDA has made a similar offer for a mailing to State Extension leaders.

Nutrition is a somewhat special case. Some nutritionists reside within schools of Home Economics, and can be reached in that way. Others are located in medical schools, and agriculture schools. As a result it is probably more efficient to communicate through their professional association, and through the informal network represented by the Nutrition CRSP, headed by Doris Callaway at Berkley.

Networks of women within agricultural disciplines are just beginning to form. The first caucus of women in both Animal Science and in Agronomy will take place this summer at the annual professional association meetings, convened by women scientists with a strong interest in international development work. In each caucus, a presentation will be made on the role of women in international agricultural development, and a roster will be made of women interested in having more information on development.

The Council on Social Work Education is in essentially the same circumstance. They had a first panel presentation on the subject at their March meeting, and a network of interested people is now being formed within the association.

It is possible that there are other disciplinary groups with an interest in women and food related development issues. Over a period of time it would be useful to seek them out, and engage in dialog with them.

2) Interdisciplinary Networks among academics interested in women and food related development. In general, these networks are more likely to be loosely connected groups of scholars with overlapping interests, rather than part of a well organized professional association with officers and regular meetings. As a result, communication among them often takes place at irregular topical conferences, such as those of the AID/WID research network, The African Women and Work conference, and the the Tucson Conference on Women and Food.

Alternatively, they may never meet, but be connected through a newsletter and information service such as the Non-Formal Education Center or the Development Communication Center. Since there are currently no journals focused consistently either on Women and Development Issues, or food related development issues, communication within these interdisciplinary groups tends to be very scattered and ad hoc around these issues. One strategy that has proved useful has been to fund an issue of a network newsletter focused directly around Women and Development.

Although this does not provide for continuing input and dialog, it does provide a substantial amount of information and resources at one time. Perhaps this strategy could be adapted to some of the disciplinary newsletters over time.

There are also some smaller and more closely connected interdisciplinary groups interested in women and food related issues. Some of these are at the campus level at schools such as Michigan State, Cornell, Minnesota, and Arizona. Others are beginning to evolve at the Consortium level, such as the efforts within MUSIAC. Many of these are a result of the WID/XII conference, and can be reached through that network. Others will need to be sought out and given access to information.

Still other small interdisciplinary groups exist in order to do interdisciplinary research. For example the Boston group is a group of African and Afro-American scholars doing research on socio-economic indicators of the impact of development on women. Within such groups there is a great deal of face to face contact, but they also need contact with others engaged in policy related research. To the degree that members of such small groups belong to other professional networks this need may be met, but it is useful for them to have contact within networks specifically related to women and food, both for the sake of what they can teach and what they can learn.

One last set of interdisciplinary groups need to be mentioned. These are the four area studies groups that sponsored the Wellesley

Conference on Women and Development. There seems to be considerable ambivalence within these groups about the degree to which they wish to engage in policy related research, and the degree to which they would prefer to do more purely academic research. Individual members of these groups have been quite active in the AID/WID network. Whether the regular communication systems of the four groups would be interested in dissemination of information on program and policy related activities would be worth exploring. Because of the delicacy of the situation and the press of time, I have not done so for this paper, but it is an area that should be explored over time.

3) Networks interested in women and food related development that extend beyond the academic community. Several kinds of organizational structures are represented within this group. Both AAUW and Bread for the World have very active information services for a large number of local discussion and action groups focused around the problem of world hunger. Useful information can be easily transmitted back and forth through these systems.

SID/WID and the Coalition for Women and Development are networks of women whose professional or voluntary work gives them a direct stake in either women's organizations or development work. They are both Washington based, and meet regularly to discuss policy related issues and political realities. Both groups have an interest in food related development issues, and can provide useful insights for women in the more

academically orientated networks. Some contact between networks is possible through attendance at their meetings, and such contact seems desirable. In order for this to happen, academic women need to be aware of these groups, their purposes and meeting times.

Still another kind of network that exists in this area is that of the personal or conference network. Essentially these are lists that exist as a conference roster or a series of organizational contacts. There is no regular contact among members, but part or all of the members can be contacted if the need arises.

Examples of this would be the list of participants in the Tucson Conference, or the women's representatives in the various national and international farm organizations. These networks can be most easily accessed by a direct mailing to the total group or phoning individual members for information and referral.

4) Professional networks among men in Title XII institutions that could be used to communicate on women and food related development issues. If the research and practical insights of the other three networks are to be turned into effective policy and programs, then the men who represent the overwhelming majority of administrative and technical personnel in agricultural development work will have to be educated. They will need information about the congressional mandates on the integration of women into development, and about the resulting program and policy requirements of AID. They will also need substantive information about

the roles of women in the food systems of specific areas where they are working, and sources where such information can be obtained. They will need access to personnel with the technical competence to assist them in their efforts to integrate women more successfully into agricultural development. There are currently no systems providing them with any of this information in an organized way. There are, however, strong professional networks delivering other development information that could be used to deliver a large part of the necessary information. Of the four such networks listed in the appendix, two, the BIFAD network and the NASULGC network have demonstrated a willingness to be helpful in this area, and ways should be planned to capitalize on their good will. I would assume the same good will on the part of the other two networks, although I have had no personal contact with them. In all four cases, it should be possible to disseminate information through their newsletters and annual meetings, as well as by personal contact between members of this network and the other three.

One last issue needs to be discussed. That is the question of international networks of people interested in women and food issues. There are some women from developing countries included in some of the networks listed, and that is a start. What is needed is a great deal more dialog and collaborative effort between American and developing country women on food related development problems. Both the Wingspread Conference and the Tucson Conference called for such collaboration. With

the institution of regional focus for Title XII institutions it should be possible for collaboration between American and host country researchers to become a reality at the regional and country level. As graduate students are exchanged between American and host country institutions, this collaborative effort can be strengthened through personal knowledge of both cultures by both parties. It is one of the most attractive features of Title XII legislation that such collaboration is mandated. In five years it would be hoped that a listing of networks such as this would display a much more international flavor.

1. Disciplinary Networks among Academics interested in women and food related development

I. Within Food related disciplines

A. Home Economics

1. American Home Economics Association

a) National President

Dr. Alberta Hill, Washington State University  
Dean, College of Home Economics, Pullman, WA 99164

b) Helen Straw

International Program Coordinator  
2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036 (202)862-8300

c) Mary Rainey

Director, Center for the Family  
2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036 (202)862-8300

2. Home Economics Commission of NASALGC

Phyllis Warden--Chairman  
Colorado State University--Assistant Director  
Cooperative Extension Service, CO, 80523  
Ft Collins

3. Home Economics Extension (potential interest)

Opal Mann, Assistant Administrator  
Home Economics Extension Service  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Washington, DC 20250

B. Nutrition

1. Title XII Nutrition CRSP

Doris Calloway  
Dept. of Nutritional Sciences  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720 (415)524-9133

C. Agriculture--Networks in Formation

1. American Society of Animal Sciences  
Barbara Dabol  
7219 Luana Place  
Tucson, AZ 85710 (602)298-9665
2. American Society of Agronomy  
Dr. Victoria Macarian  
Dept. of Plant Sciences  
College of Agriculture  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ 85721 (602)626-1400

II. Disciplines with a more general WID focus

1. Council on Social Work Education  
Judith Burke  
School of Social Work  
733 Clark Hall  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65201 (314)882-0320
2. Interdisciplinary Networks among Academics interested in women and food related development

I. Networks focused on Women and Development Issues in general

1. Women and Development Research Networks  
Arvonne Fraser  
AID/WID  
3243 New State  
Washington, DC 20523  
(202)632-3992
2. The Boston Group (an African Focus)  
Karen Fields  
Dept. of Anthropology, Brandeis University  
Waltham, MA  
(617)661-0239

II. Networks with specific interest in Women and Food

1. Women in Title XII  
Katheleen Cloud  
University of Arizona (on leave)  
24 Peabody Terrace #1404, Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617)547-7529

2. Rural Development Network  
Louise Fortman, Dept. of Rural Sociology  
Warren Hall, Cornell University  
Ithica, NY 14853

III. Networks with specific related interests

1. Non Formal Education Exchange  
Jean Chaffey  
Institute for International Studies  
College of Education, F13 Erickson Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824
2. Clearinghouse on Development Communication  
Jill Merrick  
Academy for Educational Development  
1414 22 St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202)862-1900

3. Networks interested in women and food related development that extend beyond the Academic community

I. Networks Specifically in interested food related issues

1. American Association of University Women Politics of Food Project  
Marie Banebrake--association topic chairman  
2023 Hunting  
Manhattan, KS 66502 (913)539-2012
2. Bread for the World  
Barbara Howell  
207 E. 16th St.  
New York, NY 10003
3. Participants-Tucson Conference on Women and Food  
Kathleen Cloud  
University of Arizona (on leave)  
24 Peabody Terrace #1404, Cambridge, MA 02138

4. National and International Farm Organizations-  
Women's Concerns

Martha Lewis  
3512 Portor St.  
Washington, DC  
(202)363-1431

II. Networks interested in Women and Development issues in general

1. Society for International Development

Women and Development  
Valerie Kallab  
Overseas Development Council  
1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Suite 501  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202)234-8701

2. Coalition for Women and Development

c/o Overseas Education Fund-League of Women Voters  
2101 L Street N.W. #916  
Washington, DC 20087  
(202)466-3430

4. Professional Networks among men in Title XII institutions that could be used to communicate on Women and Food Issues
  1. The BIFAD Board, The Joint Research Committee, the Committee on Agricultural Development  
all through: The BIFAD Office  
Woods Thomas, Executive Director  
2246 New State  
Washington, DC 20523  
(602)632-7937-8  
BIFAD Briefs--monthly newsletter
  2. The International Commission c/o James Cowan National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges  
1 Dupont Circle  
Washington, DC 20036 (202) 293-7126  
NASULGC International Newsletter
  3. Association of U.S. University Directors of International Programs (AUSUDIAP)  
Dr. Bruce Anderson, President  
C/D, PO Box A  
Logan, UT 84321  
(801)753-2801