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REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
APPROPRIATE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR FARM WOMEN

NEW DELHI: December, 1988

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The conference provides a striking example of a recent phenomena in developing countries; a major governmental effort to integrate attention to women's economic roles into the mainstream of their development and implementation institutions. It was sponsored by two powerful and prestigious institutions; the Indian Council on Agricultural Research, which sets national research policy and distributes its resources, and the International Rice Research Institute, which developed and disseminated the high yielding rice varieties responsible for the green revolution.

Participation was a command performance: universities and ministries had been asked to develop background papers, deans were asked to survey faculty for examples of research and successful programming. As a result, over two hundred papers were reproduced and distributed during the conference. Everyone in the agricultural establishment of India attended. They had planned for three hundred; more than five hundred attended, the majority male. Even on the last day, the sessions were full.

The conference was opened by the Prime Minister, Raj Ghandi, who, noting the lack of women on the conference planning committees and as major speakers, said, "This, my friends, is our problem; women themselves must be in the decision making roles. Men must no longer speak for women." He suggested that women no long put up with this, but engage in "sweet rebellion," a phrase that was repeated frequently during the week.

Time was divided between large plenary sessions and smaller, more focused panels discussing particular areas, such as livestock production, or social science research. Presentations included a large number of general statements on the importance of farm women's economic roles, and in somewhat smaller proportions, presentation of research and examples of programs for delivery of resources to farm women.

It was, to a large extent, a consciousness raising effort linked to a shift in government policy. The last day's sessions were completely devoted to presentation of recommendations synthesized from the discussion, and senior ministry officials were present to listen and respond. The written recommendations run to eighteen pages; nine addressing issues of research priorities, services delivery, public policy, organization and management, international cooperation, and responsibility for follow-up. A second section addresses actions necessary in specific areas; field crops, livestock and fishery production, post harvest processing and storage, horticulture and forestry, home and homestead technologies and the linkages between research and development.

There was richness and diversity in both presentations and discussions, but several themes emerged clearly throughout the conference.

- Women's multiple roles and responsibilities. Indian women are not only wives and mothers, they are also paid and unpaid farm workers, livestock producers, entrepreneurs and employees in off-farm enterprise. Yet only the first role is reflected in social norms, law, data collection procedures, technology development, and delivery of resources. During the opening sessions Ella Bott reported on a major new study documenting the enormous numbers of self-employed women who are unreported in national census figures because the categories are constructed to reflect only a single work role. Conference papers documented in detail women's responsibilities in differing farming systems, demonstrating that women make constant trade-offs of their time and resources among multiples enterprises, many of which are agriculturally based. There is a need for more data on these activities, as well as research priorities and delivery systems that reflect reality, particularly in the areas of poultry, dairy and horticultural production, and post harvest processing.

- Women's need for income. Most families depend on both men and women's income, as well as their unpaid labor. This imposes on women a double burden: unpaid household production and child care, and often unpaid agricultural labor, as well as employment or self-employment which generates an income. Diversification of agricultural production is one way to increase income opportunities for farm women, but in order to do so successfully, women's paid and unpaid labor must be separated analytically, and efforts focused on technologies that reduce women's labor, and/or increase its returns. In agricultural development, some displacement of paid labor is unavoidable but as much as possible, job destruction and job construction should be simultaneous.

-- There is need to blend traditional and frontier technologies for farm women. Conference presentations included several examples of illiterate women successfully working with frontier technologies in commercial seed production, in biotechnology, in tissue culture, in artificial insemination for their dairy cooperatives. Conference recommendations call for the creation of technology blending centers "giving priority to technologies which lend themselves to decentralized production supported by a few key centralized services."

- There is a major role for the agricultural universities, and for their schools of Home Science. The conference called for a reorientation of curriculum in both agriculture and home science to reflect the multiple roles of women more adequately. They were charged to work in collaboration with one another, and with other regional institutions to diagnose the needs of rural women, particularly their need for income, and to design and disseminate technologies which would meet these needs. Attention to horticulture, dairy and intensified intercropping systems were recommended. They were urged to explore examples of successful agricultural programs for women, such as the extension programs sponsored by Danita in three

southern provinces, and the work of numerous small voluntary organizations. Finally, they were urged to train more women in the agricultural sciences, and to utilize them in decision making and management as well as work with rural women.

The conference was closed by Dr. Shastri, the Minister of Agricultural Research and Education, who said, "We will take note of these recommendations. We promise action, not rhetoric. The findings will be incorporated into the Eighth National Plan." Now comes the hard part.

Copies of the Conference Program, Conference Resolutions, and many of the conference papers are available for use in the Office of Women in International Development, 318 Coble Hall, University of Illinois. There will be a conference publication: for information contact Dr. C. Prasad, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), Indian Council on Agricultural Research, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, 110001, India.

Dr. Prasad may also be contacted for information on the International Federation for Women in Agriculture, which was founded at this conference. Dr. V. S. Swaminathan is serving as the first President, and Dr. Prasad as first Executive Secretary.

KATHLEEN CLOUD

TRIP REPORT

INDIA: NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 12, 1988

The trip had two primary objectives. Under funding from AID/India I participated in a major Indian conference on women in agriculture, and explored present and potential Indian institutional activity in this area. Under AID/UIUC Program Support Grant funding, I met with colleagues from M.S. University, Baroda, to finalize funding and planning for our second joint workshop on Women, Households and Development, to be held in Baroda July, 1989.

The trip came at an opportune moment. The government has announced its intention to shape the next National Five Year Plan to address women's roles in the economy, and to assure that more of the government's resources reach women. A draft plan has been developed by the women's ministry and circulated for comment. Many elements are being hotly debated, and soon decisions will be reached on exactly which provisions are included in the national plan. The timing of the agricultural conference is linked to this process, and its high visibility is due to Raj Ghandi's determination to move on the issue. The Prime Minister faces elections soon, and it has come to his attention that women vote.

November 26-27: Arrived in Delhi, briefed by John Becker, AID agricultural officer. Flew to Hyderabad.

November 28: Visitation to National Academy for Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), at the invitation of V. K. Raman, Director. NAARM is a relatively new but very influential institution providing short courses in research management for both new researchers and those with substantial management responsibilities. The curriculum includes two courses on management of Home Science Research. They also give some short courses on curriculum improvement for faculty of agricultural universities.

I met with the department heads as a group, and after a briefing on their activities, I raised the question of how they were incorporating the increasing body of research on gender roles in agriculture into their curriculum. The short answer is that they don't, but they expressed interest in doing so in the future. They were very aware of the upcoming conference and several mentioned research by colleagues which was to be presented there. There seemed to be a realization that the issue is moving toward the center of the national policy agenda.

In the afternoon I spent time with Dr. Devesh Kishore, the curriculum director, to explore the issue further. NAARM does a great deal of case teaching, and he expressed interest in the idea of using the Harvard cases, and the new gender relevant farming systems cases being developed by IRRI and by Ford. I supplied him with points of contact. In particular, he was

interested in participating in any case teaching or case writing workshops that might be held in conjunction with these cases. This point became relevant later, in my conversations with the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

He was also interested in obtaining and utilizing our Women, Households and Development teaching modules, and in attending at least part of the Baroda workshop. I passed this information on to the Baroda team. Their decision was to invite him to present at the workshop, and to share the modules with him at that point, if it seems appropriate.

November 29: I spent the day at the College of Home Science of AP University, Hyderabad, as the guest of Dean Gearvani. I met faculty, saw facilities, and gave a talk on current research on women and development for the faculty and student body. In contrast to the rest of the university, which is on a large rural campus, Home Science is in the middle of the city, which limits their ability to interact effectively with rural programs and people. Yet when I asked for a show of hands, at least a third of the students were from rural families. Again with a show of hands, most expect to marry but than half also intend to be earning income in five years. The faculty reflects this concern to give women marketable skills, for use either in small enterprize or paid employment. The faculty is highly motivated to make education relevant to students and to society, and they are struggling with their limitations, but they lack both material and intellectual resources. It appears that money for materials, transportation, training and technical assistance could make a substantial difference in the content and quality of the education offered.

November 30-December 6-Delhi: My primary activity was participation and presentation at the conference on Appropriate Agricultural Technologies for Farm Women co-sponsored by the Indian Council on Agricultural Research, and the International Rice Research Center. At the invitation of the sponsors I presented a paper on Women and Agriculture: Trends in Socio-economic Research, and with Devaki Jain, co-chaired another social science session. The conference was an extraordinary event; opened by the Prime Minister, with more than 500 attendees from Asia, the majority, men in positions of substantial authority: Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, University Vice Chancellors and Deans of Agriculture as well as Deans of Home Science, researchers, and a sprinkling of farm women. To my knowledge, there were only three Americans present, John Becker, of AID, Kathleen Kilkelly, an AID consultant, and myself. Following the conference Zarina and I gave a seminar to staff of the AID Mission. A fuller report of the substantive content of the conference is attached.

I also had a number of other productive contacts.

Ford Foundation

In the absence of Peter Berman, Karen McGuinis and Anthony Botrell met with Amita Verma and me twice to discuss possible funding for both the Baroda workshop, and follow-on activities. They were encouraging, but the final decision on funding was to be made after Berman returned. (In early January we received a telex from Dr. Verma informing us that Ford is supporting the workshop with funding at the level of US\$ 25,000-30,000.)

Botrell is responsible for the Ford Farming Systems Network, which has a strong emphasis on gender, and he encouraged us to invite members of that network to the workshop. Jane Gleason's Indian project is a member of this network, and Nancy Axion is providing technical assistance to the group, so we have friends within. Botrell also invited us to a post-conference workshop where Network members presented their work. They explored with Thelma Parris of IRRI the possibility of developing some of their research into teaching cases for the IRRI case series on women in rice production systems. The organization and analytic framework for the series is based on my work in the Harvard cases, and in the follow-on FSSP/Pop Council Farming Systems Cases, which made the discussion especially interesting, and gratifying for me. The IRRI cases are slated for publication next year.

Home Science Deans and Faculty

Throughout the conference I was approached by Deans, Department Heads and Faculty of Home Science from all over India, as well from Malaysia, who expressed a fervent wish to be involved with us, or other US universities, in the kinds of faculty exchange and collaborative work we do with M.S. University. Given the recommendations of the conference for strengthening of Home Science capabilities, and the recommendation that they work collaboratively with the agricultural faculties in addressing farm women's multiple roles, broadening and deepening the collaboration between American and Indian universities in this area seems an idea worth pursuing. What, if anything should we at UIUC be doing about this?

Ministry of Women's Affairs

Dr. Verma and I arranged to see Ms. Sujayo, the head of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, to ask for her support for the Baroda workshop, as well as for the proposed Women's Studies program at Baroda. Among other functions her office is responsible for obtaining government clearances for the funding to pass from outside donors such as Ford to M. S. University. She is also in a position to recommend deserving projects to donors for funding. She was very supportive of both the workshop, and the idea of an on-going collaboration, and she recommended a series of Nordic donors whom Amita should approach if Ford did not come up with all the money.

Because she recognised my name from the Harvard Case book, she also held a 30 minute conversation with me on the nuts and bolts of case writing and case teaching. The Canadians had sponsored one very successful gender analysis workshop for top people of the Indian Administrative Service utilizing the Harvard cases, and the women's ministry now wants to initiate a gender analysis workshop series utilizing Indian cases. Two of their people have gone to Canada for a training of trainers workshop, but they feel they need more technical backup than CIDA is able to provide as they go foreword in writing and teaching their own cases.

Sujayo arranged for me to meet with Nandini Azad, who heads their training office, for further conversation. During this conversation, I recommended that they draw heavily on Indians familiar with case writing and teaching, who might be interested in learning more about gender analysis. In particular, I recommended that they contact Dr. Devesh Kishore from NAARM,

and seek to involve him. Later Nandini, her assistant and I met with Zarina Bhatti, the Indian AID /WID officer to discuss the possibility of my working with the Ministry during late July on a case writing workshop. I have agreed to do this if the money can be found, and Zarina is looking for the money. If it works out, I would go to Delhi before and after the Baroda workshop for preparation and execution of the workshop. Further than this, I have not committed myself, but if they go forward as planned, UIUC might want to consider developing some institutional capability in case teaching.

December 7-10, M.S University, Baroda: I spent two and a half days going over plans for the upcoming workshop with the Baroda faculty team. Given the earlier decision to target faculty of the agricultural colleges for participation, and the momentum created by the conference, some time was devoted to adjusting the language in the announcements and invitations to highlight the attention to women's multiple role within the household, and particularly their roles in agricultural production and processing. It was also decided to seek outside funding to produce a high quality workshop brochure, and to distribute it widely, in order to give high visibility to Baroda's institutional capability in this area.

Participation of Illinois faculty was also discussed. The USIA grant will cover travel for two UIUC faculty. It was agreed that Baroda would include travel funds for several additional Illinois faculty in their final proposal budget. There was general agreement that the conference would be held in late June, early July, but before the exact date could be established, further consultation was necessary with the Illinois team.

The conference schedule was reviewed, and it was decided to run two module sessions simultaneously each day, giving each a longer time slot. It was also decided that the modules would be reproduced and given to each participant, as they had been in Illinois, and the proposal budget would be adjusted to reflect this expense.

It is clear that these modules are a very valuable resource, given the current interest in women's issues, and the Indian team wants very much to see them published quickly. Some time was devoted to discussion of how this might be done, and a tentative strategy emerged. Three outside readers could be selected to review all the modules, and select the ten most immediately publishable. Before, during and after the Baroda workshop these would be edited and rewritten, and the ten modules, with an introductory article placing them in context, would be published in one volume, either by a commercial publisher who distributes internationally, such as Sage, or internally at the two universities, as the household case studies were published and distributed through UIUC's Office of International Agriculture. In any case, editing and publication would demand outside funding. The idea needs further discussion.