

# **WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL GROUPS IN COSTA RICA**

**A background paper prepared for**

**A.C.D.I. / Costa Rica**

**by**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### Statement of the Problem and Summary

There is currently a need to develop income generating activities for rural women in Costa Rica. Women have been left out of traditional development schemes. As a result, they are denied access to grants or loans, technical assistance, and micro-entrepreneurial training offered by rural development agencies. Presently the contribution of women to agricultural production is understated and undervalued. Many activities of rural women are neither enumerated nor compensated. Thus their social and economic status remains at the lowest sector of the population. With the growing number of female-headed households, particularly in the lowland areas of Costa Rica, the economic development of the country can be more equitably advanced by aiding women's efforts to create remunerative employment.

Several international development organizations are responding to the economic pressures on women with funds and micro-entrepreneurial training, but remain for the most part in urban zones. Rural women have taken the initiative and have begun organizing themselves into productive groups. These groups are now seeking assistance.

Women's rural cooperative development projects are by nature small and require limited resource inputs to make a significant socio-economic impact. Research has found that women are more likely to spend income on the improved welfare of the family than men. That is, the increase in income is spent on local food stuffs and remains in the local economy. Thus any incremental increase in rural women's income affects a large number of people and contributes to the economic development of the region.

As an agricultural cooperative development organization, ACDI should work with these groups by helping them locate grants and credit funds, as well as by providing technical assistance in cooperative organization, financial planning, management, production and marketing.

## Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to provide ACDI with an understanding of the stage of maturation of rural women's productive groups, the activities they are pursuing, and the intermediary organizations working with these groups. The study also indicates the felt needs of the groups' members and provides the background for a concept paper.

## Why is ACDI Interested in Rural Women's Groups?

The development of rural women's production groups, in the immediate sense, provides an income generating activity near the home. This is particularly important in the rural setting, as travel to a central location is an option not open to women with family commitments. In the case of female-headed households, this activity may provide the only source of income for the family. The International Center for Research on Women found that, "...low income households where the only able-bodied worker is a woman are on the increase. Where data are available, the evidence is compelling that such households are at the lowest level of poverty."

With increased economic autonomy, women's traditional participation in the household is improved. That is, they earn a greater voice in how the family income will be spent. This has a substantial effect on the welfare of most low-income household members. Again, the International Center for Research on Women found by empirical evidence that: "1) Women, more than men, spend their income on their children's improved nutritional status; and 2) Women customarily use their earnings to obtain food and shelter rather than consumer goods."

Traditional agricultural development projects which provide production groups with funds and technology to modernize have, to a large extent, excluded women. Thus, membership in these integrated groups does not provide women with access to the additional training or education received by the men. Development projects targeted to the needs of women have "...reached more women; they were more likely to achieve their objectives; and they were more likely to have a positive impact on women." (AID-WID 1987) Projects targeting women which provide training in production modernization, and education in procedures of small business operation, contribute to the successful development of the region as a whole, and therefore to national growth. (Abdullah and Zeindenstein) Thus, ACDI should, as an international agricultural development agency, be interested in addressing the needs of women's productive groups, as these are vital and closely linked to national and local economic conditions.

## II ECONOMIC STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN IN COSTA RICA.

As modernization takes place in Latin America, the social status and economic independence of rural women increasingly erodes. Their participation in the formal sector of the rural economy has been squeezed, due in part to increasing male unemployment rates, as well as the introduction of technological innovations.

In Costa Rica the national unemployment rate was 5.9% in 1980 and 9% in 1983. Since 1983, national unemployment has diminished toward the 1980 figures. However, women did not participate equally in this recovery. In 1980, 32.7% of the unemployed were women; in 1987 the figure was 39.3%. (FLACSO).

The role women play in agricultural production is underestimated and undervalued. Some of the activities of rural women defy enumeration. Their economic activities may be intermittent or irregular and they are often not paid. (ICRW, AID-WID, FLACSO among others). A 1986 report by the International Center for Research on Women states that at least 10% of women considered economically inactive in rural Costa Rica were unremunerated agricultural workers. When salaries were paid, those of rural women lagged significantly behind those of rural men. In 1987 the salary of rural women in Costa Rica averaged 46% lower than that of rural men. (FLACSO).

This disparity is further aggravated by the growing number of households headed by single women. The 1984 Census indicates a rate of 30% in rural areas of Costa Rica. Other research has found that in some areas of rural Costa Rica 50% of women of childbearing age are single heads of household (Sherman).

## III HISTORY OF WOMEN'S ROLES IN INTEGRATED COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.

Until recently, development projects have not targeted women on the assumption that all members of the family share in the benefits equally. There are many agricultural cooperatives in Costa Rica which are considered integrated. That is, as members of the family, women are considered beneficiaries and can occasionally work for the cooperative. (For example, at harvest times or other occasions of labor shortages) Previous research in Costa Rica (Gilliland) and elsewhere in the region (Wasserstrom and Arias among others) has found that integrated cooperatives, 1) do not allow women to take part in the decision making process, 2) do not provide women opportunities for additional training or education, and 3) do not give women greater participation in the distribution of the family's limited resources. (AID-WID 1987)

Copesilencio, a 400 hectare agricultural production cooperative near Quepos in the province of Puntarenas, was developed as an integrated cooperative with grants from IDA. The co-op has

planted all of its available land collectively. As a result, there are no individual family plots which would have traditionally been the woman's responsibility to maintain. The cooperative currently does not employ any women agricultural workers, nor do women sit on the board of directors. As such, of the 30 families in the co-op, none of the women have attended co-op meetings or workshops provided by INA. Thus, in this integrated co-op women do not participate in the decision making process nor do they receive any of the training provided by the project. Moreover, the women's traditional roles were undercut and participation in household affairs is less than they would otherwise be. (based on field survey )

Coopecalifornia, a palm oil cooperative in the same area, also has planted all of its available land in a group parcel system. Though the co-op has offered member families space for gardens and livestock grazing, and has made genuine efforts to provide women with technical training through INA and the University of Costa Rica, women remain excluded from the cooperative leadership.

Development schemes targeting women usually encompass traditional, home-bound child and family oriented activities and handicrafts. A 1985 study of the approximately 400 women's groups receiving assistance in Costa Rica found 64.5% were working with sewing and handicrafts as opposed to 12.5% working in agriculture or agri-business. (COF) Sewing and handicraft projects have often failed to generate income, and have left the women unprepared to enter the formal sector of the rural economy. In many cases, when techniques or technologies that increase production are introduced, men take over management roles. Abundant examples of this exist in the textile industry throughout the Central American region. Once demand reaches a level which will support a workshop outside the home, new sewing or knitting machines are acquired. "Men then take over the management or organizational aspects of this new micro-business, and women become employees." (Medrano) Moreover, given the rural setting, these traditional crafts are aimed at a limited and difficult market.

In Costa Rica, Apromujer, IAF, ANAI and other nongovernmental organizations (see chart in appendix V) are working with rural women's groups whose main goal is to produce handicrafts for the tourist market. In almost all cases, the lack of a handicraft design and production tradition, logistics and marketing continue to be a problem. Costa Rica's high labor costs have also contributed to the slow growth and low income of the handicraft projects.

The exclusion of women from the technical assistance offered in most agricultural development schemes weakens the results of the project. Long term success requires their support and participation, as well as their labor. On family farms in the rural zones

of the region, women have traditionally been responsible for small animal husbandry, as well as for maintenance of horticultural plots. Some successful rural development projects have built upon these traditions and target the women for training in the modernization of small animal production and horticulture. Where women already have these responsibilities, the new techniques are more likely to be implemented, and serve to integrate women into the development of the area's agricultural productivity as a whole. The development of women's agricultural productive groups is then seen by the farmers as part of the development of farmers' associations. As such, the project is more apt to succeed as it reduces intra-family conflicts typical of development schemes. (Wilcox)

Based on the above considerations, this study has concentrated on women's groups in rural Costa Rica that have produced, or are currently producing agricultural products, or that have shown an interest in developing an agricultural business.

## IV FIELD STUDY

### Methodology

This study was organized into three phases: 1) Establishing contact with development organizations, 2) Site visits, 3) Analysis of information gathered on site visits.

#### 1. Establishing Contact With Development Organizations

The primary objective of this phase of the study was to determine the extent of contact various development agencies have made with women's groups, and the location, size, and activity of such groups. A second objective was to interview Women in Development experts on the staffs of the development organizations.

The initial contacts were with development organizations listed with the Asociacion Costarricense para Organizaciones de Desarrollo (ACORDE) and the Federacion de Organizaciones Voluntarias (FOV), as well as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the U.S. Peace Corps. Later, Costa Rican governmental agencies such as Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadaria, Instituto Nacional de Aprendizaje (INA), Mujer y Familia in the Ministerio de Cultura, and the Department of Social Work in the University of Costa Rica were contacted. (See appendix V for complete list of contacts.)

## 2. Site Visits

Twenty groups were selected for site visits based upon activity and geographical location. This was a purposeful representative, non-random sample. With time and resources it is estimated that roughly 50 similar groups could be identified. (COF) At the direction of ACDI staff, the site visits concentrated on agricultural rural women's productive groups irrespective of legal standing or product. The locations were limited primarily to lowland areas of most need. The poorest parts of the country are: The northern zone, in which four visits were made; the southern Pacific region, in which six visits were made; and the province of Guanacaste, in which four visits were made. (Ministerio de Economia) The other six visits made were in close proximity to San Jose. The results of these visits are summarized in appendix I, II and III.

The objectives of the site visits were to ascertain the strength of the group, the solidarity or the sense of mutual interests of the group and the community, and the expressed needs of the women. In addition, the visits were intended to observe the results of the women's activities. to observe the remoteness and transportation problems of the location, and to gain an intuitive or subjective understanding of the dynamics of the group by meeting with them.

Determination of the organizational strength, solidarity, and the expressed needs of the women was done mainly through interviews. The weakness of interviews in social science research is well known. The answers to questions may reflect the interviewee's estimation of what the interviewer wishes to hear, leading to inaccurate conclusions. Taking this into account, the answers to formal interviews were qualified with observations, to better determine the overall strength of each group.

The strength of a group can be affected by the level of internal conflicts. In addition to those common to all productive groups, conflicts in women's groups can arise out of familial pressures. Are the husbands or other male relatives supportive of the women's association? Does the time spent at meetings or the productive activity conflict with the husbands' or community's concept of a woman's familial responsibilities? Are particular women in the group unable to work or become officers due to these conflicts? Does this disrupt the group's cohesion and productive capacity or are they able to work around the conflict? The questions posed to the women were designed to answer these concerns.

The strength of the group is also affected by its solidarity with

the community. To what extent are the interests and activities of the group and the other families mutual? Does the community see the activity as beneficial? Does the community offer support when needed? Does negative feedback and other external pressure distract the group from its objective? Questions posed to members of the group were designed to measure the level of community support they felt. When possible, members of the community outside the group were also questioned.

A series of questions were posed to identify key factors the women felt were hindering group and activity expansion. In what form should outside help come? What kind of help are they currently receiving?

Questions were also posed with the objective of determining the amount of previous intervention and stage of group maturation. How did the group get started? Where did the capital come from? Did they receive technical assistance? Did they feel it was enough? Did they feel the project had worked? If not, why not?

In addition to the interviews, the site visits served to qualify the responses by direct observation. Did our meeting take place with or without the presence of men? Did all of the women know about the financial and legal status of the group? Did any seem hesitant to speak up? Were the plants and animals well cared for? How well were facilities maintained? How well did all members understand the productive process?

All of these aspects were recorded and evaluated according to the criteria in appendix IV.

### 3. Results of Field Survey

The viability of any productive group depends not only upon profitability of the activity, but also on the strength and solidarity of the group. Women's productive groups face the additional constraints of time and energy commitments in the home, and lack of access to technical assistance. The 20 groups visited varied in economic viability and organizational strength, as did the abilities of the women to overcome these additional constraints and form and operate a business based on group production. (see criteria appendix IV) The groups listed as "strong" or "very strong" on the accompanying chart had worked out conflicts, familial and internal. Solidarity with the community was taken into account. In some cases the solidarity was high, with community members helping the women when needed. In other cases solidarity was low, but the group was strong enough to withstand this external pressure.

Time and energy constraints limit the range of possible production activities open to women. Individual and collective small animal production and horticulture have, in the past, been successful projects. The field survey results corroborated this. Items number 16 and 18 in appendix I are groups working moderate sized pig barns constructed in 1988 with a grant from UNIFEM. These continue to operate well, providing modest incomes to the women. The barns are located within 500 meters of all members' houses. This allows the women to tend the animals with minimal time away from the home. Individual or communal horticulture plots near the home were found to be successful for the same reasons.

All the groups felt that they could easily increase membership. However, due to limited production capital, the groups felt they could not afford to accept the additional women. Thus, the primary need expressed among all the groups was an injection of capital. Most see a need for a grant or soft loan for land acquisition or plant construction and equipment purchases. Some groups already have facilities and would seek a small loan for operating capital.

The group in Santa Rosa, Alajue wishes to process cassava and other tubers into flour for incorporation into animal feeds. (Item 3 in the summary, appendix I). The primary material (cassava seconds from an export packing plant) is available locally and would be relatively inexpensive. The local market is readily available, and the affiliate organization has access to export markets. However, the women lack a means of self-financing and are seeking a grant to construct a solar drying floor and simple flour mill. This would be similar to the UAPPY projects found to be successful in Ecuador. (Huffstutlar) The three groups in Guanacaste, which grow horticultural crops on collective plots (items 6, 7, 8 in the summary, appendix I) spoke of a relatively small grant to purchase a plot of land. The groups are currently operating on borrowed land which the women believe could be taken from them at any time. These women felt that owning the land was important, so that as capital allows, they would be able to make permanent improvements to increase production. In addition, all the groups felt they would need small, low interest loans, either individually as a rotating credit fund, or as a group.

Another common need expressed among all the groups was help in marketing. Some of the groups felt it was primarily a matter of access to markets. The remoteness of some of the groups make marketing of an agro-industrial product a time consuming and difficult task. The women at Casa del Maranon felt that once they found a market for the wine and dried fruit paste in the capital San Jose, they could sell all they produce. Presently such a market trip would keep them away from home for at least three days. None of the women are familiar with San Jose, nor do they have contact with an agent. Also, they did not feel it was plausible to be away from home for so long. Four of the 20 groups also expressed a desire for assistance in making international as well as local market connections and in commercializa-

tion of the product.

Most of the groups indicated that they would need technical assistance in different areas of management and organization, as well as in production and processing. Some of the groups have received training from INA, and other institutions, in accounting and small business management. However, none of the women thought that this was sufficient. The women indicated that technical aspects of production sometimes hindered the group's productivity and expansion. For example, both groups managing pig barns in Puntarenas would like to incorporate sows and rearing techniques, in addition to the feed lot they now have. They didn't feel they had adequate technical knowledge to do this.

An interesting result of this field survey is that most of the agricultural processing ideas (which emanated from the women themselves) use local products which would otherwise be wasted. Casa del Maranon (Item #9 in the summary, appendix I) processes cashew fruit into a dried paste and wine, both of which are more compact and less perishable than the fresh fruit. This cashew fruit, which is abundant in the region, would otherwise be wasted, due to the difficulty of transport to market. Another such example is the group in Santa Rosa (Item # 3) who wish to make flour out of the tubers which are cultivated for sale to the export market. About 50 to 75% of the harvest is rejected for export purposes. The women propose to grind these for incorporation into animal feed mixes. In this way, the women's rural production groups are contributing directly to the unrealized agricultural production of the country.

## V. CONCLUSION

In the short time given for the field study, 10 economically viable rural women's productive groups, in various stages of growth, were identified. Most of these groups are struggling due to an incomplete understanding of small business operation. There is also evidence of insufficient technical knowledge to modernize or expand the various installations. An agricultural development project targeting rural women's productive groups would help the women establish income generating activities near the home. Women customarily use their income to obtain food and shelter rather than consumer goods. As such, any increase in rural women's income would provide a significant improvement in the socioeconomic standing of the community. For an increasing number of female-headed households, these small group projects, involving varying degrees of collective and individual production, may be the only source of income. Such a development project would also provide the women with much needed training in both small business management and in agriculture. The expansion of traditional women's roles in agriculture would not only provide women with increased economic autonomy but would contribute to the successful economic development of the area as a whole and therefore to national growth.

#### **IV. APPENDICES**

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF SITE VISITS

Prepared for ACDI/CR by Sophia Wilcox

1. Location: Valli de Ujarraz, Cartago  
 Contact Organization: Coopechayote  
 Number of Women Organized: Now forming

The administrators of the cooperative are interested in setting up an orchid production arm to be executed by the wives of the members and workers of the co-op. This is a "top down" initiative not emanating from the women themselves. They are not organized.

2. Location: Cipreses de Oreamuno, Cartago  
 Contact Organization: Adapex  
 Number of Women Organized; 40

Wives of the associates have expressed an interest in growing spices and pickling some of the mini-vegetables produced by the cooperative. They have done some experimental pickling. The women are loosely organized but, the dynamics of the leadership combined with the activity would quickly form a strong organization.

3. Location: Santa Rosa, Alajuela  
 Contact Organization: MAG  
 Number of Women Organized; 8

Wives of the associates of the "Union de Campesinos Agro-Industrial de Zona Norte" have been organized for three years. The women are interested in acquiring funds to set up a plant to mill the tubers (Tiquisque and Yucca) cultivated, packed and exported by the associates of the union, using only those tubers deemed unsuitable for export as a fresh product (50 to 75%). The flour would be for human consumption as well as animal feeds. Internal solidarity is strong and family conflicts minimal. More women from the community have expressed an interest in joining the group. The MAG extension agent is both knowledgeable and interested in this project.

4. Location: Cobano, Puntarenas  
 Contact Organization: Asociacion de Desarrollo de Cobano  
 Number of Women Organized; 6

Wives of the association are now a sewing co-op with the help of Mujer Y Familia. They wish to produce for export an organic dried fruit product using the local bananas and coconut. There is no familial conflict, and solidarity with the community is strong. More women from the community have expressed an interest in joining.

Appendix I (con't)  
Summary

5. Location: Hojancha, Guanacaste  
Contact Organization: Cemprodeca  
Number of Women Organized; 19

Cemprodeca provides organizational as well as technical assistance to a collective farm of 19 families, of which 5 are Nicaraguan refugees. The women form an important part of the labor force but are not independently organized. INA gave them sewing machines but no training. This would be a weak organization with which to start.

6. Location: Cruime, Guanacaste\*  
Contact Organization: World Vision  
Number of Women Organized; 9

A group of single women have been lent 1/4 hectare by the village. They plant and sell peanuts, tomatoes, sweet peppers, comote, and corn. Many more women from the village have expressed an interest in joining the group. Family conflicts are nonexistent and solidarity with the villagers is good.

7. Location: Montanita, Guanacaste\*  
Contact Organization: World Vision  
Number of Women Organized; 9

A group of women have been renting 1/4 hectare and planting vegetables for one year. Familial conflict is minimal; however, they have lost two members due to this problem. Solidarity with the community is strong. Other women have indicated an interest in joining.

8. Location: San Antonio, Guanacaste\*  
Contact Organization: World vision  
Number of Women Organized; 17

Wives of "Union de Trabajadores de Agricultura de Curitia" have organized themselves and are renting and planting 1/2 hectare with vegetables. Though no other women have approached the group to join solidarity with the village is good and familial conflict is nonexistent.

\* Note: These three groups could be considered under one project as they are close in location and the situation and product is the same. All three groups are strong.

9. Location: San Miguel de Puriscal, San Jose  
Contact Organization: ADRI  
Number of Women Organized; 4

"Casa de Marañon", is a group of women who are processing cashew fruit as well as running a bakery. They are affiliated with "Asociación de Desarrollo de San Miguel". They have been organized for nine years and would like to expand and process more kinds of fruits to have year around work and also to provide more women with jobs. Solidarity with the community is good though, it is eroding with inactivity. Familial conflicts are minimal.

10. Location: Guacimo, Limon  
Contact Organization: UPAGRA  
Number of Women Organized; 13

I was not taken to meet the women but talked at length with the "promotor". The group of women are producing medicinal plants. They wish to process some of the plants. It sounds like a strong group though I would not recommend working with UPAGRA. If we are interested I can follow up at a later date.

11. Location: Rio Frio, Limon  
Contact Organization: University of C.R.  
Number of Women Organized; 60

The "Asociación de Mujeres de Rio Frio" was funded by ACORDE to set up a rotating credit fund. The women have individual plots and plant tubers and ginger for sale to Fruta Rica, an international packer. There are no internal conflicts and solidarity with the community is good. There are more women interested in joining. Familial conflict is high. (One woman was almost killed for taking part). However the women are very strong and the group as a whole helps work out such problems. The group expressed interest in starting a pig and/or chicken operation.

12. Location: Silencio, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: ASPROQUEPOS  
Number of Women Organized: 25-30

The wives of the associates of Coopesilencio have been organized for 6 years. They have cultivated pepper for 2 years, which they sell to Coopefruta. INA donated 5 sewing machines but lack of skills keeps them inoperative. The women expressed an interest in setting up a pig farm and a chicken house. Apro-mujer was working with the cooperative, but due to aggressive approach, caused marital conflicts and was asked to leave. Now such conflicts are minimal. Solidarity is low and overall strength is low.

13. Location: Golfito, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: P.C.V. Liz Daily  
Number of Women Organized; 100-150

The women of Barrio Killometre 3 are organized with the help of Sra. Henriquez a social worker with the University of Costa Rica. They are affiliated with "Alianza de Mujeres de San Jose". They were producing dried, salted fish until the health department closed them down. UN gave them funds to set up a laundry. They would like to set up an oyster farm. Familial conflicts are extremely high and solidarity is low due to the "political undertones" of the group.

14. Location: Bambel, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: APIAGOL  
Number of Women Organized: 20

IMAS gave each member of Assiciacion Femenino de Bambel a 2 hectare plot on which they cultivated bananas, platano, cacao, and papaya. They wanted to start a chicken house but the organization fell apart due to lack of funds. They expressed a desire to re-organize.

15. Location: Ciudadela, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: APIAGOL  
Number of Women Organized; aprox 10

Apiagol has funded, with the help of ACORDE, a furniture making shop. The wives of the workers and other women in the community have approached APIAGOL to solicit funds to set up a chicken farm. Though the women are not organized the leadership is strong and the familial conflicts seem minimal.

16. Location: Berek, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: APIAGOL  
Number of Women Organized; 6

Six women have been organized and working for a year in a collective pig barn. The construction costs and some seed money were donated by the UN. The women now have 45 pigs with space for more. Familial and internal conflicts are nonexistent. More women from the community wish to join.

17. Location: Viquillas, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: APIAGOL  
Number of Women Organized; 8-15

Fifteen women formed a group and were given 1/2 an hectare to build a hen house. The group could not get funding and the project fell apart. The group met every 8 days and was working together for one year. All the women live 500 meters or less from the lot. INA gave them some technical assistance. Familial conflicts existed and they lost several members due to this problem. Strength is high. Solidarity is good.

18. Location: Esperansa de Sabalo, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: APIAGOL  
Number of Women Organized; 5

For three years a group of women have been running a pig barn funded initially by the UN. They are affiliated with the group in Berek. The two groups meet once a month. Familial conflicts existed, " but the men age getting used to the idea." Internal conflicts also existed but have been worked out. More women have expressed an interest in joining the group but solidarity is low. "Yes they gossip about us but, it doesn't matter to us. It is just words."

19. Location: Acosta, San Jose  
Contact Organization: ADRI  
Number of Women Organized: 60

Asociacion de Mujeres Acosta has been organized for 10 years. They currently produce marmalades for the national market. Presently there are 10 women working part time or 1/4 capacity. However they lack the capital for enough primary material. They started a bakery with funds from IAF. This is now rented. The proceeds from the bakery were used to build the jam factory. The current president has been to Switzerland to see jam factories and to Arizona for short courses in small business administration with grants from AID. The women have received some training from ASOENOGAF and INA. They are interested in producing jam for the international market.

Appendix I (con't)  
Summery

20. Location: Buenos Aries, Puntarenas  
Contact Organization: Peace Corps  
Number of Women Organized: 10

10 women have organized, with the help of a Peace Corps volunteer to cultivate vegetables on a communal plot. The land has been lent by the church. They have been organized for one year and will have product to sell on the local market this harvest. More women from the community have expressed an interest in joining. Solidarity with the community is good and familial conflicts though exist are minimum.

Map of Costa Rica

Indicating Site Visits to  
Rural Women's Productive Groups.

1991

GUANACASTE

ALAJUELA

HEREDIA

LIMON

SAN JOSE  
CARTAGO

JOSE

PUNTARENAS

7  
6  
8  
5

3

11

10

4

9

17

1

2

12

20

13

14

15

16

18

19

- 1: Valli de Ujarraz, Cartago
- 2: Cipreses de Oreamuno, Cartago
- 3: Santa Rosa, Alajuela
- 4: Cobano, Puntarenas
- 5: Hojancha, Guanacaste
- 6: Cruime, Guanacaste
- 7: Montanita, Guanacaste
- 8: San Antonio, Guanacaste
- 9: San Miguel de Puriscal, San Jose
- 10: Guacimo, Limon
- 11: Rio Frio, Limon
- 12: Silencio, Puntarenas
- 13: Golfito, Puntarenas
- 14: Babel, Puntarenas
- 15: Ciudadela, Puntarenas
- 16: Berek, Puntarenas
- 17: Viquillas, Puntarenas
- 18: Esperansa, Puntarenas
- 19: Acosta, San Jose
- 20: Buenos Aries, Puntarenas

## APPENDIX III

RESULTS OF SITE VISITS TO RURAL WOMEN'S GROUPS  
COSTA RICA 1991

	CONTACT ORGANIZATIONS	Product	No. of Women Organized	No. of Years Organized	Legal Standing	Product Sold in '90	Product to Sell in '91	Strength of Group	Potential for Expansion
1.	Coopechycote	Orchids	0	0		N	N	W	UK
2.	ADAPEX	Pickled Veg/spice	40	0	U	N	N	S	H
3.	MAG	Cassava Flour	8	3	U	N	N	S	H
4.	INA	Cloths/ Dried fruit	6	1	A	Y/N	Y/N	VS	G
5.	CEMPRODECA	Sweet Pepper	19	19	U	Y	Y	W	UK
6.	World Vision	Vegetables	9	3	U	Y	Y	VS	H
7.	World Vision	Vegetables	9	1	U	Y	Y	VS	H
8.	World Vision	Vegetables	17	3	U	Y	Y	VS	H
9.	ADRI	Processed Cashew	4	9	A	Y	Y	VS	L
10.	UPAGRA	Medicinal Plants	13	2	U	Y	Y		UK
11.	Univ. of C.R.	Tubers /Ginger	60	4	A	Y	Y	VS	H
12.	ASOPROQUEPOS	Pepper	25	6	U	Y	Y	S-W	UK
13.	Peace Corps	Dried Fish	100	7	A	Y	N	S	L
14.	APIAGOL	Fruits	20	2	U	N	N	W	L
15.	APIAGOL	Chickens	10	0	U	N	N	W	L
16.	APIAGOL	Pigs	6	1	U	Y	Y	VS	H
17.	APIAGOL	Chickens	8	1	U	N	N	W	G
18.	APIAGOL	Pigs	6	3	U	Y	Y	VS	H
19.	ADRI	Marmalade	60	10	U	Y	Y	VS	H
20.	Peace Corps	Vegetables	10	1	U	N	Y	S	L

1. Strength is based on criteria in Appendix IV

2. Author was unable to talk directly with the women.

U= Unincorporated, A= Asociacion, Y=Yes, N=No, W= Week, S=Strong, VS=Very strong.

Y/N=Unknown H= High, G=Good, L=Low.

APPENDIX V  
LOCATION, SIZE AND ACTIVITIES OF RURAL WOMEN'S  
PROJECTS IDENTIFIED  
COSTA RICA 1991

CONTACT ORGANIZATION (1)	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	# WOMEN	# YEARS
* 1. ADAPEX	Cartago	Processing mini-vegetables	40	Forming
* 2. ADRI	Puriscal	Processing cashew fruit	4-8	4
* 3. ALIANCA	Golfito	Dried fish, laundry	100	7
4. ANAI	Talamanca	Pejibaye, handicrafts		
* 5. APIAGOL	Golfito	Pigs & papaya	35	4
6. APROMUJER	Guanacaste Limon Palmar Norte	Restaurant Handicrafts, sewing Chickens and pigs	UK UK 30	UK UK 5
7. ASOCIACION PUEBLITO				
* 8. ASOC.DESARROLLO DE COBANO	Cobano	Fruit processing	6	Inactive
9. ASODELEFI	Acosta Alajuela Alajuela	Medicinal plants Vegetables Coffee	UK 35 25	5 5 5
*10. ASPROQUEPOS	Silencio	Melons, pepper, vanilla	15	2
11. CARE	Puriscal, Acosta, San Isidro	Training in revolving community credit	N.A.	N.A.
*12. CEMPRODECA	Ojanca	Sweet pepper	19	3
*13. COOPECHAYOTE	Cartago	Orchids	UK	Forming
14. FUDEPAC	Paquera Paquera	Handicrafts Fruit juice	60	Starting
15. IAF	Hotel de Cana Puntarenas Rio Frio	Ag.indust.secondary corn prod. Handicrafts Agricultural Credit	15 UK 60	1 UK 4
16. IDA	Nueva Guatemala Portegolpe Bataan El Patio Gamalotillo Santa Rosa Finca 2 Sonafluca Rincon de Osa Coto Sur Posa Azul	Basic grains Basic grains Tubers Tubers Community activity Handicrafts Basic Grains, Orchids Tubers, basic grains Pigs Packing platano Apiculture	4 27 10 10 17 15 15 30 17 30 11 10	3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4 3-4
*17. MAG	Santa Rosa	Tuber processing	8	3

APPENDIX V  
 LOCATION, SIZE AND ACTIVITIES OF RURAL WOMEN'S  
 PROJECTS IDENTIFIED  
 COSTA RICA 1991

CONTACT ORGANIZATION (1)	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	# WOMEN	# YEARS
19. SAVE THE CHILDREN	San Carlos	Environmental education	N.A.	N.A.
20. TECHNOSERV	Puriscal	Vegetables	N.A.	Organizing
*21. UPAGRA	Guacimo	Tubers, vegetables and medicinal plants	13	UK
*22. U. de C. R.	Rio Frio	Agricultural credit	60	4
*23. WORLD VISION	Santa Cruz	Vegetables	30	1-3

(1) Names with underline are local women's organizations. Technical assistance providers are not underlined

Other organizations contacted but not currently active with rural women's groups: COF, CRS, FINCA, MUJER Y FAMILIA FUNDACION MUJER.

TOTAL PROJECTS: 39  
 Agricultural 30  
 Other 9  
 TOTAL WOMEN PARTICIPANTS: 770

\* Indicates site visits made (see Chart Appendix III)

## Appendix VI

### Abbreviations Used In This Report

ACORDE	Asociacion Costarricense para Organizaciones de Desarrollo
ADAPEN	Asociacion de Desarrollo Agricola para la Exportacion
ADRI	Asociacion de Desarrollo Rural Integral
AID-WID	Agency for International Development Office of Women in Development
APIAGOL	Association of Small Industrial Producers and Artisans of Golfito
APROMUJER	Programa Nacional de Asesoría y Capacitación para la Mujer
ASOPROQUEPOS	Asociacion Pro-fomento Proyectos Productivos Subregion Quepos
CEMPRODECA	Asociacion Centro de Promocion y Desarrollo Campesino
COF	Centro de Orientacion Familiar
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
FINCA	Foundation for International Community Assistance
FLACSO	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales
FOV	Federacion de Organizaciones Voluntarias
FUDEPAC	Foundation for the Development of the Pacific Region
IAF	Inter-American Foundation
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
IDA	Instituto de Desarrollo Agricola
INA	Instituto Nacional de Aprendizaje
MAG	Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganaderia
UNIFEM	Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer

## Criteria for Determining Overall Strength in Rural Women's Groups

Costa Rica, 1991

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Very Strong</u>	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>
<b>Organization</b>			
The group has been organized for:	three years or more	one to three years	less than one year
Organizational meetings are:	frequent and regular	infrequent and regular	when needed
Records are kept in a:	standard manner	organized but non standard manner	disorganized manner
Elections are held:	every two years	when needed	not held
The group established itself with:	little or no external support.	grants and/or credit but are now independent.	external funds and continue to be dependent.
A business plan	was formally stated	informal set of ideas	not thought about
<b>Strength</b>			
Of the women questioned about the operation of the organization:	all were knowledgeable	some were knowledgeable	only the directors were knowledgeable
of the women present:	all spoke	some spoke	only one or two spoke
Internal conflicts seem:	to be nonexistent	to be minimal	to cause secession
The husbands help when needed:	always	sometimes	never
The husbands interfere when not needed:	never	sometimes	always
The meeting took place with:	no men present	one or two men present	many men present

## Appendix IV (con't)

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Very Strong</u>	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>
<b>Strength(con't)</b>			
Marital conflicts	are nonexistent	are minimal	cause secession
<b>Solidarity</b>			
The group receives community help:	voluntarily	when paid for	never
The community sees the activity as:	mutually beneficial	beneficial for the women only	unnecessary
Community feedback is:	positive	not given	negative
Solidarity with the community	is high	is average	is poor
<b>Product</b>			
The primary material is available;	locally	within a two hour bus ride	only in the capital
presently the local market is:	not fully exploited	sufficient	deficient
Commercialization of the product:	is good	needs work	no product yet
<b>Financial Status</b>			
The women receive payments for their labor:	always	sometimes	not yet
The group is able to build up capital for growth or improvements:	yes	some	no
<b>Observations</b>			
The capital plant:	was well maintained	was not well maintained	has fallen to disrepair
The plants and animals were	healthy	needed improvement	sick and underfed

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