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REVIEW OF PPC/WID DOCUMENTS:
LESSONS LEARNED IN AGRICULTURE

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LESSONS LEARNED IN AGRICULTURE

In reviewing PPC/WID's 22 documents on agriculture, some interesting findings, lessons, and statistics have emerged. Bear in mind that this is by no means a scientific survey nor an exhaustive search of all the literature that exists on the topic. There are, however, some conclusions and recommendations that can be drawn from this sample, as well as indicators of where further research is needed.

I. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

(1) Working with contact groups rather than individual farmers has proven to be effective with women farmers. The advantages are cost-effectiveness, the benefits of group dynamics, and the shared use of expensive equipment. And, groups allow socially acceptable contacts with male agents, a supportive environment, a chance to develop leadership and management skills, and the use of more effective communications methods.

This finding appears in three of the documents reviewed -- both in the African and Asian contexts -- and is particularly well documented in a case study of the North-West Development Project in Cameroon.¹

(2) When they receive agricultural extension advice, women are more diligent in following recommended practices. In a survey in Cameroon, women were twice as likely to follow the recommended planting densities and were more likely than men to use fertilizer as a result of extension advice. Women are responsive to new technologies provided they are appropriate and beneficial to them.

Technologies should be simple, cheap and time-saving.

This finding appeared in two of the documents, both in an African and Asian context.²

(3) In order to increase female participation, extension services should arrange for training sessions to be village based, and organized in short sessions, or during times of least agricultural activity to enable women with families to attend. It's difficult for women to leave the family to attend a residential course.

This was noted in two of the documents.³

(4) Research at one agricultural center in Nepal suggested that greater efforts need to be made to recruit older mature women, particularly for work in their own villages. Most of the women attending leader farmer courses at the Lumle Agricultural Center were young, and their impact in their villages and households can not be expected to be as great as that of an older, respected woman.⁴

(5) The support and cooperation of their husbands is essential for the success of female farmers. It's important not to alienate the men.

This finding appeared in two of the documents, once in a Latin American context and once in an Asian context.⁵

(6) A need exists to increase awareness among district level and village level officials -- where implementation actually takes place -- on the importance of training women as an essential human resource for agricultural development and to provide timely production inputs such as capital, seeds, fertilizers and information.

This conclusion was reached in only one of the documents in the context of Nepal, but is worth noting.⁶

(7) The use of television and radio for dissemination of agricultural information could have a large beneficial impact on women.

This finding appeared in two of the documents, in an Asian and African context.⁷

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- Only 19% of the agricultural extension staff worldwide are women.⁸
- A survey of extension services worldwide revealed that in 10 African countries where data were available, only 2.6% of the extension staff overall were women, and in no African country did women represent more than 9% of the staff.⁹
- In comparing female-managed with jointly-managed farms in Kenya, one study found that jointly-managed farms were 4 times more likely to have a household member trained by an extensionist and 14 times more likely to have detailed loan information. [Staudt, 1978]

II. AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

(1) Women tend to obtain credit from the informal rather than formal sector. From interviews with rural Malian women, it has been shown that the reliance on friends and their ability to mobilize necessary capital is the foremost factor in providing women with access to credit.

This finding appeared in four of the documents.¹⁰

(2) In responding to the credit needs of rural women, it is important to build upon individual and group strengths, roles and organizations already in place. This approach has proved effective in reaching women where previously they were ignored.

For example, when extending agricultural credit to one women's association in Mali, the scheme was built upon the managerial and financial capabilities of the women as decision-makers, rather than instructing the women in operation of the agricultural equipment, which women traditionally do not do. The overall management and financial arrangements were the responsibility of the women, while the operation of the equipment was conducted by the men.¹¹

(3) Flexible repayment plans have proved to be effective. Again in Mali, IFAD, Unicef and Oxfam have received prompt reimbursement when repayment schedules are flexible (short and medium term) and adjusted to the season. OXFAM, when extending agricultural credit to one women's association, asked that repayment begin one year after the harvest. A year earlier than expected, the women returned half of the loan recovered with funds gained from renting out the equipment.¹²

(4) Female credit groups or cooperatives tend to pay promptly, and have been documented as highly efficient. This appeared in three of the documents.¹³

(5) Broadening the concept of collateral to include security and guarantees by reference of community members also proved an effective way to improve women's access to capital. Payment of taxes, political dues and "a show of village solidarity" were the major criteria to be considered for access to credit.

This finding was mentioned in two of the documents.¹⁴

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- In Botswana, a survey of women- and men-headed households found that 75% of the women-headed households borrowed money, compared with 50% of the male-headed households, but that only 8% of the former households borrowed from formal credit systems, compared with 26% of male borrowing households.¹⁵
- In Zaire, the Bandundu study [Eele and Newton, 1985] found that for men formal sources of credit provided 22% of the total amount of loans compared with only 4% for women. Women obtained 60% of their loans from informal revolving credit societies, rather than from the formal sector.¹⁶
- In CARE Guatemala's Agroforestry and Integrated Aquaculture projects, less than 6% of WID credit groups defaulted on part of their loans.¹⁷

III. INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES FOR RURAL WOMEN

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

- (1) Future income-generating and credit activities should require regionally specific market studies

of their most common products prior to start-up. In the WID initiative in CARE Guatemala's Agroforestry and Integrated Aquaculture Projects, certain constraints to income-generating activities were anticipated at the outset, such as land, money, attitudes, etc. But one constraint that was not identified by WID was that of markets. By focusing almost exclusively on the production side of the equation, WID neglected the market constraints such as volatile price swings, inflation, middlemen and transport. These factors affected WID credit groups the most, and also impinged upon nursery groups producing flowers, ornamental plants, and other products.

The need for market studies is mentioned in two of the documents.¹⁸

(2) Certain labor inefficiencies have been found in group projects carried out among women living in scattered settlements. Again in the Guatemala case, women participants must walk up to an hour to reach the group nursery, cash crop field or livestock pen. This is an inefficient use of time and may contribute to drop out rates. In cases where this can be avoided, such as small livestock raising, it may be best to decentralize production to individual households once women are able to master basic production techniques.¹⁹

(3) Time constraints impede women's ability to take advantage of income generating projects. Rural women in developing economies work longer hours than both their urban female counterparts and rural men. Women's time allocation patterns are also less fixed than those of men, changing with the number of children in the household and the annual cycle of agriculture and schooling. One study in Nepal found that women begin work at about 4 am and finish at about 9 pm. Thus, any new activities may overburden them. Children's welfare may suffer when women's workload increases with income generating projects. Time constraints are mentioned in at least six of the documents.²⁰

The solution is not to leave women out of income-generating activities. Two recommendations are proposed in the documents for addressing women's time constraints:

- By introducing labor-saving devices, women will have more time to engage in income generating activities. It is suggested that women's labor can be saved in the following ways: by providing drinking water facilities by setting up taps or digging wells; setting up village level child care centers; installing more rice mills and grain grinding mills in the rural area; and, encouraging farm households to plant firewood trees on the border areas of their kitchen garden or within the farmstead along with an introduction of modern woodstove.²¹
- Combining domestic and childcare responsibilities with income-generating activities is another way of addressing time constraints. The increased provision of on-farm employment, particularly activities that can be combined with a woman's domestic responsibilities contribute to increasing women's productivity and income without involving the possibly high social costs involved when women must leave the farm. In artificial flower manufacturing in Thailand, for example, the industry involves primarily women, and has increased their income and employment opportunities while allowing them to stay on the farm.²²

(4) Some income-generating activities for rural women fail for the following reasons:

- There are common misperceptions about women's lives and what is good or appropriate for poor rural women. Projects often concentrate on stereotypical Western female tasks, such as sewing and embroidery, because they are perceived to be simple and familiar to poor rural women when in fact they are largely unfamiliar to poor rural women.

- Most welfare-oriented projects are designed to help groups of women identify their felt needs in a participatory fashion and arrive at group decisions, while economic programs require centralized decisionmaking for successful implementation. The participatory style of women's projects is conducive to the implementation of social rather than economic objectives. The preference for this working style, therefore, helps explain the survival of projects that are financial failures.

- Projects are often staffed by female volunteers with limited technical qualifications. The lack of technical expertise of women advisers in areas such as agricultural extension, accounting, and marketing is a major hindrance to the success of projects directed toward increasing women's income.²³

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- In parts of East Africa, women work up to 16 hours a day doing housework, caring for children, preparing food, and growing between 60 and 80% of the food for the family.²⁴
- Rural Javanese women work 11 hours a day, compared to 8 1/2 hours for men.²⁵
- A study of rural women in one panchayat in Nepal concluded that women perform a large proportion of household and farm work, beginning work at about 4 a.m. and finishing at about 9 p.m. Women cook three times a day -- for each of the two main meals cooking takes about two hours.²⁶
- In Malawi, women, who often spend as much time in the field as men, spend an equal amount of time gathering firewood, collecting water, preparing food, and taking care of children. Approximately 49% of all households are at least two kilometers away from the nearest potable water supply, and 33% are similarly situated with respect to the nearest source of firewood.²⁷

IV. GOVERNMENT POLICY IMPACTS ON WOMEN IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

(1) Women are among the primary beneficiaries of commercial liberalization. This finding appeared in three of the documents. In Senegal, for example, liberalization of the millet market has allowed women to become more actively involved in millet trading, increasing market efficiency and rural incomes.²⁸

(2) Mechanization subsidies generally harm women by lowering demand for women's labor and

reducing competitiveness of women's productive activities. (Numerous studies have shown that mechanization has displaced women and reduced their income and employment.) This appeared in two of the documents.²⁹

(3) Structural adjustment and other policy reform programs have produced a number of unforeseen problems because the role of women in various economic activities has not been taken into account. Agriculture, for instance, is typically targeted by short- and medium-term structural adjustment programs to increase production of exports or import substitutes to improve a country's balance of payments. For example, structural adjustment programs typically include measures to increase price incentives for export crops. But increasing the relative profitability of export crops may force women to work more hours, recruit the help of their children, or accept a decrease in their real incomes. Each of these options may have a negative impact on the family, on national food security, and on the long-term success of structural adjustment policies. To be effective, structural adjustment and other policy reform programs must be structured to assist women, not only men, respond to price and other incentives. This finding was mentioned in two of the documents.³⁰

(4) Direct impacts of policies in the agricultural sector on women tend to be less than impacts on other groups (men and corporate farms) because women are less integrated into the market economy and government-sponsored organizations through which these policies work and are less likely to grow the crops or use the inputs at which policies are aimed (unless informed to do so).³¹

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- In Indonesia, mechanical rice processing eliminated about 1.25 million women days of labor in Java alone -- the equivalent of \$50 million in annual earnings.
- Scott and Carr (1985) estimated that the displacement of landless labor due to rice mechanization in Bangladesh reduced the incomes of the poorest 5% of women by 55% annually.³²

V. WOMEN'S ROLE IN AGRICULTURE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

The following are some general themes regarding women's role in agriculture in the developing world which recur throughout the documents.

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

(1) Agriculture provides the key source of income for the majority of women in the developing world. Although agriculture represents a steadily declining source of employment for both men and women in developing countries, it still provides on average two-thirds of women's paid jobs.³³

(2) Women are the food producers in the developing world. It is estimated that women's labor accounts for more than half the food produced in the developing countries, and they contribute as much as 60 to 80 percent of farm labor and management for food production in some places.

Women are responsible for 70% of staple food production in Africa. In Malawi, where women have traditionally assumed responsibility for the cultivation of food crops, 85 percent of the women living in rural areas are involved full time in subsistence farming.³⁴

(3) The lack of political power has a number of important implications for women in the agricultural sector. It limits their access to certain essential resources. The uncertainty of women's access to inputs such as land, water, and market information have tended to have negative impacts on agricultural production by women. (This is noted in three of the documents.)³⁵

(4) The number of female-headed households is growing in rural areas of the developing world. Female-managed farms earn less than half the income of male-managed farms.³⁶

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- 94% of all Zairian women in 1982 were engaged in agriculture compared with 56% of Zairian men.³⁷
- In Lesotho, 2/3 of households are female-headed (1/3 headed by male migrant workers who leave their wives as de facto heads and 1/3 is de jure female-headed, primarily by widows).³⁸
- In Yemen, various studies report that because of male emigration, women constitute 1/2 to 2/3 of the total rural labor force.³⁹

VI. AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH:

(1) The document on structural adjustment in Senegal was written in 1987 when the measures had only recently been implemented. Further research is needed to determine the long-term effects of structural adjustment on women.

(2) It would be interesting to find out more about women's successful involvement in millet trading in Senegal as a result of commercial liberalization.

(3) Further research should be undertaken to understand intra-household decision making.

(4) Given that women are among the key participants in the movement of goods in many African market systems, strategies based on the development of market towns and cities need to examine their specific interests. In urban markets where women predominate, there is a need to explore the provision of childcare centers, clinics and school located in the market.

(5) In Zaire, research is required to determine whether regulatory policies oblige women traders to obtain credit through men and to what extent limited access to required collateral reduces their ability to obtain credit.

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39. Warnken, Philip F. and Charles F. Nicholson. IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC. Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., February 1989.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE ✓	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Balakrishnan, Revathi. REPORT ON GENDER/WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY: CID/WID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT. Corvallis, Oregon: Oregon State University, October 14, 1988.

COUNTRY: Nepal

ABSTRACT:

This document summarizes the technical assistance provided to USAID/Nepal under CID/WID - USAID Office of Women in Development Cooperative agreement. The report covers gender/women's issues in a development agenda for Nepal; technical assistance to the IAAS/USAID workshop on "Women in Farming" held in Rampur in October 1988; recommendations for follow up actions; and, scopes of work identified for CID/WID technical assistance. The document also includes discussion papers presented at the "Women in Farming" workshop on such topics as "Labor Saving Technologies for Farm Women", "Extension Approaches to Reach Farm Women", and "Career Options for Women Professionals in Agriculture."

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

At the district and village level where implementation takes place a need exists for effective coordination and monitoring to improve implementation of the projects. Particularly a need exists to increase awareness among district level and village level officials on the importance of training women as an essential human resource for agricultural development and to provide timely production inputs such as capital, seeds, fertilizers and information.

A gap in linkage is found in the professional integration of WID specialists and field workers. There should be a second generation of talents to strengthen WID agenda at all levels in Nepal. The workshop was partially instrumental in identifying such talent.

But, continued leadership in WID needs to be strengthened in Nepal to sustain and expand WID/Gender in Development agenda. It is suggested that efforts should be made to identify and develop such talents from various line agencies and research and educational institutions to create second generation of WID/GID expertise in Nepal.

Further efforts are needed to strengthen the information base on WID. It is suggested that collection and documentation of published and unpublished documents/books can be undertaken by IAAS, to develop an information resource center in another region and in an institution that has a mandate to develop manpower for agriculture development.

Regarding the Institute for Agriculture and Animal Sciences (IAAS) at Rampur, a need exists to expand the awareness among faculty, students and staff that training women farmers is essentially a manpower training issue. The interest, communication channels and visibility generated through this workshop should be sustained through appropriate follow-up actions.

[Several discussion papers were presented at the "Women in Farming" workshop. Included in this summary are any conclusions from those papers deemed valuable at this time.]

Sharma, Bimala. EXTENSION APPROACHES TO REACH FARM WOMEN.

A study on "Planning Extension for Farm Women" found that women overwhelmingly prefer female extension agents to male extension agents. The study also indicated that women preferred to be contacted in informal groups by the extension agents and concluded that the ideal agent to contact farm women could be identified as a grass-roots level worker who is female, able to work within local bureaucratic structures, educated but not with too high ambitions, from the local area, and reputable in terms of age and marital status. The author suggests that a viable extension approach which aims to reach and benefit farm women should incorporate these factors in its strategy.

Adhikari, Nirmaia. LABOR SAVING TECHNOLOGIES FOR FARM WOMEN.

To a large extent, agricultural productivity in Nepal depends on the level of the skill and knowledge of women farmers and the amount of time they devote to agricultural activities. On the average, women's labor contributions ranges from 50-60% of the total labor involved in crop farming depending on the ecological regions they dwell in and the ethnic group they belong to. Similarly, women's labor represents more than 80% in total labor required for livestock farming.

A woman on an average works 16-20 hours a day, of which 4-6 hours are spent on household activities. Depending on the time of year, a woman devotes about 4-12 hours per day on crop farm operation mainly on carrying compost to the field, weeding, transplanting, harvesting and storing. Moreover, a woman spends about 3-6 hours a day for raising livestock.

The following is a partial list of recommendations to be taken into consideration in order to save rural women's labor and to make it more productive:

- provide drinking water facilities by setting up taps or digging wells, etc.
- install more rice mill and grain grinding mills in the rural area
- set up village level child care centers
- encourage farm households to plant firewood trees on the border areas of their kitchen garden or within the farmstead along with an introduction of modern woodstove, which is fuel efficient.

- set up village level marketing centers specifically in these areas where women are mostly involved in marketing operation

Shakya, Chamei. **THE TRAINING NEEDS OF WOMEN FARMERS.**

In the farm enterprise, women put in substantially more time than men -- 9.9 hours as compared to 5.98 hours each day.

Women are the managers of the family, yet they lack the management skill. The mass illiteracy and lack of training opportunities have hampered their ability to perform their role efficiently. Therefore, they need training in: production management, accounting and record keeping, local market economy, functional literacy.

Department of Agriculture Extension and Rural Sociology, IAAS. **CAREER OPTIONS FOR WOMEN PROFESSIONALS IN AGRICULTURE.**

Despite the government's priority to uplift illiterate and very poor farmers operating subsistence agriculture, the services are afforded mainly to the male population ignoring the female population who constitute about 70% of the farm output.

The trained technical female power to assist rural families consists of 1.2 percent and the enrollment in the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science of female students is extremely poor -- 1.1 percent, thus showing minimal chances of involvement of trained female professionals in agricultural development programs.

Fear of association with males in any organization and problems of communication with refined language are also some of the factors that affect women's involvement in agricultural development programs.

Special provisions must be made to motivate women for their involvement in the area of agricultural development such as female quotas with additional scholarship facilities to increase female enrollment at the agricultural colleges and training institutions.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- In Nepal's economy of subsistence agriculture, women are responsible for 70% of the farm work. In the farm enterprise, women put in substantially more time than men which is 9.9 hours/day versus 5.98 hours/day.
- Only 19% of the agricultural extension staff worldwide are women

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A need exists to increase awareness among district level and village level officials on the importance of training women as an essential human resource for agricultural development and to provide timely production inputs such as capital, seeds, fertilizers and information.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

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Rampur, Chitwan

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Bremer-Fox, Jennifer and Rekha Mehra, Laurene Graig. **THE POLICY INVENTORY: A MANUAL FOR RAPID APPRAISAL OF POLICIES AFFECTING THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WITH DISAGGREGATION OF IMPACTS BY GENDER.** Washington, DC: Abt Associates and Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., May 31, 1988.

COUNTRY:

ABSTRACT:

This AID-funded manual provides guidance to agricultural economists, development economists, and policy analysts in the use of the policy inventory, a rapid appraisal method for analyzing policy incentives affecting the agricultural sector. It represents a departure from other work on policy in that it incorporates a method for disaggregating policy impacts by gender. The manual serves two closely related purposes. First, it is designed to provide guidance in how to carry out a policy inventory. Second, the manual demonstrates a technique for examining how policies affect USAID's target beneficiary groups. The manual is designed for use by individuals who will conduct the analysis, rather than for users of the end product; as such, it assumes extensive familiarity with agricultural and macroeconomic policy problems facing developing countries and with economic analysis techniques and issues. The policy inventory can be a useful tool in all stages of programming for women in agriculture, from strategy formulation and policy dialogue to project design, implementation, and evaluation. (87 pp + appendices)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Why Disaggregate by Gender?

1. Women play an important role in agricultural production, particularly food production; policies that affect women's production may therefore have a significant effect on total production and specifically on food production and

availability.

2. There is considerable evidence that changes in women's incomes have a much greater impact on nutrition (particularly children's nutrition) than equal changes in men's incomes.
3. Women farmers and entrepreneurs constitute an important subgroup within the agricultural sector of most developing countries, a group that differs from men farmers (particularly market-oriented farmers) with respect to both resources and constraints and a group that is generally concentrated in the lower-income strata; women therefore deserve special consideration on equity grounds.
4. Women farmers and entrepreneurs share many characteristics with other low-resource farmers (and may constitute a majority of such farmers, particularly in Africa); because it is methodologically simpler to disaggregate data collection by gender than by resource status; these shared characteristics make women farmers and entrepreneurs a potentially useful proxy for low-resource farmers as a group.

The manual presents a three-step approach to disaggregating policy impacts by gender. The three steps are as follows:

1. Description of the production and consumption activities of women farmers and entrepreneurs (crops they grow, technologies they use, etc.)
2. Identification of the policies that affect these activities at the macro, sectoral, and subsector level
3. Determination of how these policies affect women's production and incomes, including income from their own plots and other activities as well as income earned from family or paid labor

Field tests of the gender-adapted policy inventory in Senegal and Zaire suggest three overall findings regarding the impact of policies on women. These findings, while still only hypotheses, have important implications for both policy reform and gender-relevant programming:

Three Hypotheses Regarding Policy Impacts on Women in the Agricultural Sector

1. Direct impacts of policies in the agricultural sector on women tend to be less than impacts on other groups (men and corporate farms) because women are less integrated into the market economy and government-sponsored organizations through which these policies work and are less likely to grow the crops or use the inputs at which policies are aimed.
2. Consequently, women may have benefited less from policies that help agriculture but may have been harmed less, at least directly, by policies that work against expanded production and incomes in the sector.
3. The indirect impacts of policies on women may be substantial, however, and often run counter to the intended effects of the policies, tending as a result to reduce or even reverse the impact of the policy interventions on the sector as a whole.

Examples of Differential Policy Impacts on Women in the Agricultural Sector

Commercial regulations: Often fall heavily on women, who may play the lead role in trading and commerce but who are generally less able to overcome negative effects of government-imposed restraints on trade (e.g. less able to become registered because women entrepreneurs are often illiterate); conversely, women are among the primary beneficiaries of commercial liberalization.

Agricultural credit policies: Women rarely benefit from subsidies because are excluded from formal credit; government intervention may reduce women's access to credit by linking it to requirements that women cannot meet, e.g. land title, membership in men-only cooperatives.

Seed policies: Seed systems are rarely designed to include women's crops (e.g. traditional food grains), which may be an advantage or disadvantage depending on the implementation of government-sponsored programs.

Mechanization subsidies: Generally harm women by lowering demand for women's labor and reducing competitiveness of women's productive activities (generally relying on labor-intensive technologies because of inability to gain access to subsidized machinery).

Food policies: Women-headed households may benefit relatively more from well-targeted consumer subsidies, but not from programs favoring middle-income groups such as government employees (overwhelmingly male in most countries).

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- It is estimated that women's labor accounts for more than half the food produced in the developing countries, and they contribute as much as 60 - 80% of farm labor and management for food production in some places.
- In Botswana, a survey of women- and men-headed households found that 75% of the women-headed households borrowed money, compared with 50% of the male-headed households, but that only 8% of the former households borrowed from formal credit systems, compared with 26% of male borrowing households.
- A study of Botswana agriculture in 1984 found that women contributed 70% of the value of agricultural production, but received the benefit of only 15% of government expenditure.
- Although agriculture represents a steadily declining source of employment for both men and women in developing countries, it still provides on average 2/3 of women's paid jobs.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

Ross, Clark, Philp Boyle, Don Harrison, and Charles Nicholson. THE EFFECTS OF STRUCTURAL

ADJUSTMENT IN SENEGAL. Report submitted to A.I.D.'s Bureau for Africa by Robert R. Nathan Associates. Washington, DC: RRNA, August 1987.

Sines, Richard, Christopher Pardy, Mary Reintsma, and E. Scott Thomas. IMPACT OF ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM: A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT. Report submitted to A.I.D.'s Bureau for Africa by Robert R. Nathan Associates. Washington, DC: RRNA, August 1987.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE	ENE	<u>ALL</u>		
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Buvinic, Mayra and Rekha Mehra. **WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE: WHAT DEVELOPMENT CAN DO.** Washington, DC: ICRW, 1990.

COUNTRY:

ABSTRACT:

This overview of women in agriculture looks at women's roles in Third World agriculture; the research evidence on women's roles in farming systems; the impact of new technology on women farmers; projects for rural women; and, an agenda for the 1990's. This paper was supported by a Ford Foundation grant to the International Center for Research on Women. (22 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

A study of female-headed households in rural Botswana found that girls and boys in women-headed households received more education than in male-headed households [Kossoudji and Mueller, 1983]. Similarly, another study found a significantly higher level of child nutrition in Zambia at any given income level in women-headed households than in jointly-headed and polygamous households. [Kumar, 1985] In southwestern Kenya, a study found that children from women-headed households did significantly better on long-term measures of nutritional status. [Kennedy and Cogill, 1987]. These unexpected positive findings from resource-poor, women-headed households are best explained by hypothesizing that there are gender differences in expenditure preferences and that women's greater preference to invest in children can be realized more effectively or easily in a household situation where women make more decisions and face fewer intrahousehold conflicts over the use of household resources.

Overall, microenterprise projects have proven to be a successful vehicle for helping poor women. A distinctive feature of these projects, which in part accounts for their relative success, is that they are directed to women and men who are already integrated into market production and need only to strengthen their productivity and

earnings rather than join the market economy. The more successful or better performing projects are run by specialized agencies that focus on a particular task and provide the single missing ingredient rather than integrated services. In these projects, individual clients carry out familiar or easily mastered tasks, they are not required to engage in collective production, and they undertake an economic activity for which there is a shortfall in supply and an established demand.

NEGATIVE:

Women's time allocation patterns are less fixed than those of men. Men's use of time does not vary much during their adult working lives. In contrast, time allocation by women and children is flexible, changing with the number and ages of children in the household and the annual cycle of agriculture and schooling. As the demand for childrearing time and for cash income increases over the household's life cycle, the burden of meeting this demand falls primarily on the wife and, as they grow older, on the children.

In comparing female-managed with jointly-managed farms (that is, farms with a man present and sharing farm management decisions) in Kenya, one study found that jointly-managed farms were four times more likely to have a household member trained by an extensionist and fourteen times more likely to have detailed loan information. [Staudt, 1978] Over time, the extension services' preference for targeting male over female farmers negatively affected the productivity of females and increased the income gap between the sexes.

In Botswana, the largest proportion of woman-headed households is in the rural areas; they are also poorer than male-headed households. A study of female-headed households in rural Botswana [Kossoudji and Mueller, 1983] found that 36 percent of the households in a rural income distribution survey were female-headed with no man present, because males had migrated to work in the South African mines. The female-headed households were smaller and had a higher child dependency burden; lacking a second adult worker, they faced acute shortages of labor; and their income was less than half that of male-headed households, even when transfer payments were included in total income. Male-headed households owned three times more cattle than female-headed households. Having fewer oxen for plowing, female-headed households had less than half the value of equipment and cultivated less land than male-headed households. The women worked 20% more than men and had 20% less leisure time. The women were poorer because they had similar economic burdens but less access to the productive assets -- land, cattle, labor -- needed to increase agricultural production and income.

Only a few studies have addressed changes in women's roles associated with technological innovations and farm output. One study concluded that the production increase due to irrigation in the Gambia was not as significant as it might have been if women's expertise in dryland rice production had been tapped. [Dey, 1981]

Numerous studies have shown that mechanization has displaced women and reduced their income and employment. Von Braun's study of the production of nontraditional vegetable crops for export in Guatemala showed a loss of economic independence among women as they substituted farm for off-farm income-generating work. [Von Braun, 1989]

Structural adjustment and other policy reform programs worldwide have produced a number of unforeseen problems because the role of women in various economic activities has not been taken into account. For example, structural adjustment programs typically include measures to increase price incentives for export crops. But increasing the relative profitability of export crops may force women to work more hours, recruit the help of their children, or accept a decrease in their real incomes.

During implementation, many income-generation projects for rural women "misbehave" and many of the

production goals are gradually replaced by welfare activities, which deliver information or free handouts to poor women in their roles as wives and mothers. There are common misperceptions about women's lives and what is good or appropriate for poor rural women. Projects often concentrate on stereotypical Western female tasks, such as sewing and embroidery, because they are perceived to be simple and familiar to poor rural women. But in the Third World these activities are largely unfamiliar to poor rural women, who have difficulty performing them effectively. Badly executed activities lead to loss of motivation among project participants and economic failure.

Most welfare-oriented projects are designed to help groups of women identify their felt needs in a participatory fashion and arrive at group decisions, while economic programs require centralized decisionmaking for successful implementation. The participatory style of women's projects is conducive to the implementation of social rather than economic objectives. The preference for this working style, therefore, helps explain the survival of projects that are financial failures.

Projects are often staffed by female volunteers with limited technical qualifications. Women are usually called to staff these projects because of the largely untested belief that women work best with other women. The lack of technical expertise of women advisers in areas such as agricultural extension, accounting, and marketing is a major hindrance to the success of projects directed toward increasing women's income. The misperception that women can work only with women, combined with the lower costs of women's organizations and the lower status of working on women's issues, often leads to project misbehavior.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- In parts of East Africa women work up to 16 hours a day doing housework, caring for children, preparing food, and growing between 60 and 80% of the food for the family.
- Rural Javanese women work 11 hours a day, compared to 8 1/2 hours for men.
- In the rural Philippines, fathers' time spent in domestic chores is 1 to 2 hours daily, whether there is one child or 7. Filipino women spend about 2 1/2 hours per day in market production and 7 to 8 hours in home production. Older children often substitute for father's time in home chores and care of siblings. When there are 7 or more children, men actually reduce their child care time (to about 10 minutes a day) and increase their leisure time.
- Women's subsistence activities in some rural areas of Botswana, Cameroon, and Nepal amount to 54 to 70% of total household income; domestic activities contribute another 30%.
- In rural Malaysia, subsistence and domestic activities contribute 56% of household monetary income.
- Studies have repeatedly shown that the earnings of adult women are proportionately more important in poor than in better-off families. In the sierra region of Peru, women from landless peasant households provide 35% of the total number of family labor days devoted to agricultural production, while women from the middle class and rich peasantry provide only 21%.
- Estimates of women-headed households in Kenya vary from 22 to 40% in rural areas.
- Scott and Carr (1985) estimated that the displacement of landless labor due to rice mechanization in

Bangladesh reduced the incomes of the poorest 5% of women by 55% annually.

- In Indonesia, mechanical rice processing eliminated about 1.25 million women days of labor in Java alone -- the equivalent of \$50 million in annual earnings.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- There is a need for empirical work that disaggregates the effects of technology adoption by sex, measures effects on labor use, wages, and degree of control over income, and integrates the intervening variables of intrahousehold dynamics and social stratification into analyses of the social and economic impacts of technological change.
- Interventions aimed at the family are not effective in alleviating rural women's poverty nor, in most cases, the welfare of children. One of the most effective ways to attack rural poverty and increase rural women's incomes is to increase the productivity of smallholders, provided that such efforts benefit female as well as male farmers. Agricultural projects, therefore, must be oriented toward smallholders and should use a targeted approach within farming systems that takes into account women's roles as farmers and resource managers. This approach would focus on individual farmers (men and women) within farm households rather than on the household as a whole.
- International donors can influence the nature of investments in agricultural research at international and national levels, the adoption of appropriate national agricultural policies, and the implementation of reforms in agricultural institutions so that women can have access to agricultural technologies, training, credit, and extension. Governments should be encouraged to implement land tenure reforms that will benefit all small farmers, men and women. There is a need to examine carefully the implications of land tenure laws and regulations for women.
- There is a case for balancing policy reform (such as structural adjustment) with effective sectoral strategies for raising the productivity of women's work in agriculture and microenterprises. Agricultural extension efforts should help women improve food production while allowing them to shift more of their labor to export production.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

Dey, Jennie. 1981. "Gambian Women: Unequal Partners in Rice Development Projects." Journal of Development Studies 17, no.3 (April 1981): 109-22.

Kennedy, Eileen T. and Bruce Cogill, 1987. "Income and Nutritional Effects of the Commercialization of Agriculture in Southwestern Kenya." Research Report, no. 63. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

Kossoudji, Sherrie and Eva Mueller. 1983. "The Economic and Demographic Status of Female-headed Households in Rural Botswana." Economic Development and Cultural Change 31, no.4 (July 1983): 831-59.

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- Von Braun, Joachim. 1989. "Effects of New Export Crops in Smallholder Agriculture on Division of Labor and Child Nutritional Status in Guatemala." In Women's Work and Child Welfare in the Third World, edited by Joanne Leslie and Michael Paolisso. AAAS Selected Symposium 10. Boulder, Colo: Westview Press.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Downing, Jeanne. **HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE GAMBIA: WOMEN'S CONSTRAINTS TO AND INCENTIVES FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION.** Washington, DC: AFR/MDI and PPC/WID, 1990.

COUNTRY: The Gambia

ABSTRACT:

This paper is part of a prefeasibility survey which was sponsored by AFR/MDI in collaboration with PPC/WID in three West African countries to determine how to establish credit sources and mechanisms in selected local financial institutions for qualified women to obtain loans for domestic and export-oriented fresh produce. Ghana, Liberia, and The Gambia were selected for the survey. [37 pp + Appendices]

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Within the last 15 years, the horticultural sector in The Gambia has expanded rapidly -- a reaction to declining prices of groundnuts on the world market. Expansion in horticulture can be seen in the Western Division, where numerous gardens, sponsored by donors and the government, as well as large commercial farms are specializing in fruits and vegetables. Major donors have given most assistance to gardens in the peri-urban area of the Western Division.

There are a number of incentives for women to participate in garden schemes. They make relatively substantial earnings from their gardens, and these women, who are largely illiterate and without investment capital, have few if any other income generating options. Barrett and Browne (1988) write that participation in horticultural projects has given women much needed cash to invest in their homes and families and -- to some

for the first time -- economic power.¹

So far, women have had no problem maintaining control over their earnings. In fact, as their husbands have been losing their sources of income (as groundnut prices have fallen and wage labor jobs have dwindled), women have assumed responsibility for expenditures that have traditionally been men's. Men have not, as yet, tried to take control of women's new income generating opportunity.

NEGATIVE:

There are numerous constraints to women's horticultural production. Time is a constraint. Women's workload has increased enormously with their involvement in donor-sponsored gardens. Also, according to reports from Save The Children, children's welfare has suffered as a result of women's increased involvement in gardens. Women spend less time feeding and caring for their children, and child nutrition has deteriorated. Women need farming technologies that will alleviate the labor intensity of gardening.

The lack of appropriate technologies is another constraint. Experience has shown in The Gambia that a balance is needed between technologies that are cost-prohibitive to maintain and those which are low cost to maintain but do not reduce labor inputs.

Seasonal gluts, low prices, and high spoilage rates are also constraints to women's horticultural production. Between February and April, there is a glut of vegetables at the market. Prices are low and spoilage is high. Early planting, however, which would even out supply, means starting nurseries during the rice harvest when women's labor demands are greatest.

At present, there is no source of credit to which smallholders have access. Without credit, women who are not part of gardens subsidized by donors have difficulty amassing start-up capital. Funds are needed for well and fence construction, land clearance, and production inputs.

Despite women's substantial contributions to agriculture, the Department of Agricultural Services (DAS) directs less than 10 percent of extension efforts towards women farmers' productive activities.

The lack of access to markets, market information and storage facilities are also constraints. All gardens have experienced problems with marketing their produce. Transporting perishable fruits and vegetables in the heat and by public transportation is difficult, time consuming, and results in spoilage. The lack of storage facilities either at the gardens or at the local markets, adds to post-harvest losses -- estimated to be as high as 60% in horticultural crops. Women need access to the tourist hotel and export markets to be profitable as the local market cannot absorb the quantity of vegetables produced during seasonal glut. As of yet, their ability to penetrate these markets has been limited, according to some reports, because the quality of their produce does not meet standard and, according to other reports, because women growers have not been able to produce sufficiently early to take advantage of the tourist season and the European market.

Citroproducts, a parastatal, has the potential for being the largest exporter of horticulture in The Gambia. Their contracts with women's gardens have all been verbal and agreements have not been consistently held to by either party.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTION TO HORTICULTURAL EXPORTS:

- Improve Citroproducts outreach to growers, dependability as a buyer and overall business operations;

¹ Barrett, Hazel and Angela Browne. "Women's Horticulture in the Peri-Urban Zone, The Gambia." Geography. June, 1988.

- Train women garden leaders in the scheduling, quality, and contracting requirements of exporting;
- provide labor-saving devices to reduce the heavy labor demands of gardening;
- monitor women's labor and time constraints;
- provide child care facilities at gardens;
- provide literacy and numeracy classes to women gardeners to ensure that women understand market information, including weights and prices; and,
- promote employment opportunities for men.²

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- Despite the fact that women farmers contribute more than 50% of agricultural labor in The Gambia, less than 10% of the Dept. of Agricultural Services extension efforts are currently directed toward women farmers' productive activities.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

- USAID/Banjul
- Barrett, Hazel and Angela Browne. "Time For Development: The Case of Women's Horticultural Schemes in Rural Gambia." Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Vol. 105, No. 1, April, 1989.
- Margaret Luck, Save The Children.

² The concentration of donor assistance on women, given men's declining economic opportunities, may be setting the stage for intra-household conflicts. Efforts should also be made to increase wage labor jobs for men.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Downing, Jeanne. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPORTING SPECIALTY CROPS IN LIBERIA: WOMEN'S CONSTRAINTS AND INCENTIVES. Washington, DC: AFR/MDI and PPC/WID, 1989.

COUNTRY: Liberia

ABSTRACT:

A prefeasibility survey was sponsored by AFR/MDI in collaboration with PPC/WID in three West African countries to determine how to establish credit sources and mechanisms in selected local financial institutions for qualified women to obtain loans for domestic and export-oriented fresh produce. Ghana, Liberia and the Gambia were identified for the survey. The seven-step survey consists of the following components: market survey, transport survey, venture capital survey, credit survey, legal viability survey, and forward contracting surveys (production analysis and analysis of packing and shipping).

[21 pp. + Appendix]

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Although women's time more than men's is dictated by the demands of rice production, women have tended to be more receptive than men to additions to the agricultural cycle -- that is, as long as such additions complement the rice cropping calendar, filling slack periods with new activities.

Nimba County has the advantage of an effectively organized market women's association which receives assistance from Partners for Productivity/Liberia (PfP/Liberia). With access to the vehicles PfP has purchased at least partly for their use, market women will be able to play an even more significant role in the food distribution system, including more extensive marketing in Monrovia. Their knowledge of farmers, roads, and markets could be very useful to an exporting scheme.

NEGATIVE:

Labor constraints in rural Liberia are significant as a result of severe rural-urban migration. With increasing rural-urban migration over the last 25 years, labor scarcities in the rural areas have forced more and more women to assume tasks that are traditionally male.

The majority of women farmers appear to have limited access to institutional credit. Rather, they rely on informal savings and loan societies to meet their financial needs.

There are no female extension agents. Moreover, little if any advice or support is given to horticultural production, and the advice that is given for women's crops, i.e. swamp rice, is generally directed to men.

Marketing is the most often cited constraint of farmers and marketers who have limited access to markets due to inadequate roads that can become impassable during the rainy season. The lack of interest in increasing horticultural production may relate to the constraints to marketing. The limited ability of the local market to absorb surpluses, the costs of transporting to Monrovia, as well as the severe post-harvest losses likely dampen production. Until these constraints are mitigated, there may be little incentive for increasing horticultural production. The lack of cold storage in Nimba County markets is also a constraint to expanded marketing.

The Liberian Market Women Associations need training in literacy, numeracy, and accounting. They need office space and staff. The lack of funds for staff and office operations hinders the effectiveness of the associations.

Women comprise only 35% of the agricultural working groups (AWGs). Most AWWs are made up of a mix of males and females, with women being in the minority and having little decision-making power. Recently, however, all women-AWWs have formed. Women farmers are more apt to obtain a loan for their own use if a member of an W-AWG (all women). So far, there are only five W-AWWs, and they have received few loans, most of which have been for swamp rice production.

The critical constraint to an export scheme will be the business climate. Unless President Doe readjusts his policies to make investments by foreign firms possible, then there is little chance for being successful.

STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE:

Recommendations are made below for project activities that could improve women's ability to participate in and contribute to commercial agriculture, in general, and a future export scheme:

- strengthen present and promote future formation of women's agricultural working groups (W-AWWs);
- improve W-AWWs' access to credit;
- encourage savings among W-AWWs;
- target extension services to women farmers;
- provide technical advice on horticulture;
- strengthen the input delivery system and women's access to inputs; and,
- strengthen Liberian Market Women Associations through PfP/Liberia.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

- USAID/Monrovia
- Basil Longy, Marketing Specialist, FAO/Monrovia
- Carter, Jeanette E., assisted by Joyce Mends-Cole. **LIBERIAN WOMEN: THEIR ROLE IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND LEGAL STATUS.** Prepared for USAID/Liberia, 1982.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Henderson, Helen K., WID Coordinator, University of Arizona. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT ADVISEMENT REPORT FOR THE GAMBIA MIXED FARMING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT. Tuscon, AZ: CID/WID, 1980.

COUNTRY: The Gambia

ABSTRACT:

The report highlights data on women's agricultural work in rural Gambia for the purpose of assisting development planners on the Gambia Mixed Farming and Resource Management Project. The data are organized under agricultural topics relevant to women's work, aiming when possible to link these topics with certain key components of the project such as improved crop and forage production and management, livestock management, improved rural technology, and agricultural education and extension programs. The report includes an annotated bibliography, a suggested list of women in development consultants for Gambia, and women contacts within The Gambia. (9 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

[NOTHING OF MUCH VALUE IN THIS DOCUMENT]

NEGATIVE:

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR ✓	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC ✓	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Johnson, Kirsten and Silvana Castillo. **EVALUATION OF THE WID INITIATIVE IN CARE GUATEMALA'S AGROFORESTRY AND INTEGRATED AQUACULTURE PROJECTS: 1988 TO 1990.** New York, New York: CARE, October 1990.

COUNTRY: Guatemala

ABSTRACT: In October 1988, with the support of a \$60,000 grant from USAID, CARE Guatemala's Agroforestry and Integrated Aquaculture Projects initiated an 18-month effort to increase women's participation in their respective programs and to assemble a base of experience and information providing lessons for future project design and implementation. This document represents a final evaluation of this effort. Most of the data generated for this final evaluation were collected between January and March of 1990, although WID sponsored activities continued through June, 1990. The evaluation includes an assessment of the effort's success in reaching its objectives; an evaluation of the strategies chosen to implement WID activities; conclusions identifying factors contributing to success and failure; and, recommendations for future WID-related programming for the ANR sector. (34 pp + appendices)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

With the exception of the integrated package in five pilot sites, all WID strategies were implemented effectively, given limitations of time and budget. Sixty-four WID groups carried out their chosen activities with a large measure of success and hundreds of other women were incorporated in the ongoing activities and benefits of the two projects. The results of the evaluation survey and other monitoring information suggest that, despite its short duration, the WID initiative produced dramatic improvements in women's participation in both projects. These improvements are not limited to simple increases in the number of

women participants. Evidence points to qualitative improvements in their involvement in project activities and enhanced access to its benefits.

WID credits and incentive donations addressed capital constraints adequately. The great majority of groups that received WID loans and donations were able to put them to good use and achieved their stated goals of increasing household income and/or sources of food. Donations to WID groups enabled over 1200 women to experiment with new practices and production technologies without undue risk. Sustainability was promoted whenever possible by setting up revolving funds and by using donations as incentives to integrate activities with short and longer term benefit streams.

WID assigned substantial funds and specialized personnel to orient male field staff and provide ongoing backup for their efforts with women's groups. The WID initiative had considerable success in orienting and training field staff who were predisposed to work with women. The best techniques included informal group discussions, specialized workshops and exchange visits among sites. Perhaps the most convincing strategy is to take field staff on trips to sites where WID groups are functioning well. These become potent examples for the rest of the project staff.

WID's resource delivery system (credits, donations, and specialized technical backup) worked very well. The WID credit strategy can be measured as a success in terms of four important criteria. First, it responded effectively and efficiently to a latent demand among rural women for productive capital to carry out high priority activities. Second, the great majority of loans were repaid promptly and in full. Third, loans were targeted to activities that were profitable. Fourth, wherever possible, advanced WID credit groups are being graduated to another CARE project specializing in Village Banks.

Although WID did not impose either segregated or mixed forms of organization, there is ample evidence from field staff observations and women's own choice suggesting that in a majority of cases women prefer to work by themselves. This choice is culturally appropriate in many settings and also appears to foster self-confidence and leadership among women participants. Groups comprised of married women tend to have higher levels of participation and commitment.

Despite higher rates of poverty, monolingualism and illiteracy, Indian women's groups are well organized, highly motivated and capable of learning new techniques. No significant differences were found between the success rates of Indian and non-Indian WID groups.

NEGATIVE:

While the constraints anticipated at the outset (land, money, attitudes, etc.) were all borne out over the 18 months, one constraint that was not identified by WID was that of markets. By focusing almost exclusively on the production side of the equation, WID neglected the market constraints such as volatile price swings, inflation, middlemen and transport. These affected WID credit groups the most, and also impinged upon nursery groups that received WID incentive donations of tools, seeds and training in the production of perishable crops.

Questions remain regarding whether or not some of the capital intensive small livestock activities are really appropriate for small-scale producers who are vulnerable to market forces and who cannot afford to operate at a loss.

In some instances, WID's resource delivery system was viewed as preferential treatment by some male participants and thus created resentment and opposition.

The small WID team consisting of a coordinator, a part-time technical assistant and a part-time consultant, provided valuable assistance, but were unable to backstop all extensionists who needed them. One should consider the training provided to field staff during the 18 months of the WID initiative as a first step taken in a longer term effort.

The WID data base, along with field staff observations, suggest that certain social and cultural features do affect WID outcomes. The most important of these include differences of religion and marital status which, when they occur in the same group, contribute to instability and tensions. Heterogeneous groups tend to be less stable than homogeneous groups.

Given strong cultural norms and prevailing patterns of resource control, women-oriented programs that alienate men will probably not outlive the life of the intervention.

Changing ingrained attitudes must be viewed as a long-term process. Ultimately, this requires changes in the structure of national institutions and a commitment to affirmative action so that more women extensionists and agronomists can be trained and hired.

In selecting activities, women exhibited a tendency towards selecting non-forestry and non-aquaculture activities. Small livestock raising, and not fish farming, predominated when WID Integrated Aquaculture groups selected activities. To the extent that this happens, WID groups tend to marginalize themselves from the major focus of the ongoing projects.

Ultimately, most women who had no access to farmland were unable to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by WID.

Weaknesses of the WID credit strategy concern the fact that per diem returns are low in relation to household needs and also in terms of risky exposure to volatile markets.

Certain labor inefficiencies were found to be implicit in group projects carried out among women living in scattered settlements. In many cases, women participants must walk up to an hour to reach the group nursery, cash crop field or livestock pen. This is an inefficient use of women's time and may contribute to drop out rates. In cases where this can be avoided, such as small livestock raising, it may be best to decentralize production to individual households once women are able to master basic production techniques.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- According to a March 1988 census, the Agroforestry Project had 1,647 female participants, equivalent to 11 percent of total project participants. At that time, 91 agroforestry groups (or 25% of total project groups) included women. By January 1990, the number of women in the project rose by over 50% to 2,505. More significant, perhaps, is the fact that agroforestry groups that now include women have also gone up in number to 139, a 50% increase.
- The census also indicates that women have improved their levels of access to project decision-making and benefits. By early 1990, over 80% of female participants received fruit saplings and forest seedlings, close

to 90% had participated in some form of training activity, and fully 91% had a voice in group decisions. Half of the project's women also received income from nursery plants.

- According to base line information, 66% of women contribute up to half of their household's (cash and non-cash) budget and 13% are their family's sole support. While miscellaneous activities such as crafts and domestic work are of some significance, agriculture provides the key source of income for 79% of the women surveyed.
- In a diagnostic survey conducted prior to WID implementation, 35% of the women surveyed identified the lack of land and money as major constraints to greater involvement in productive activities of the sort offered by the two projects.
- At the time of the final evaluation, 21 (out of a total of 34) groups had repaid their loans in full. Another 11 were in the process of paying off their installments, with final payments all due by September 1990. Of 34 WID credit groups, only two defaulted on part of their loans, in other words, roughly 6% defaulted .

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- WID should attempt to foster mixed male-female groups in situations where this is culturally appropriate, but should not compel women to work with men when all-female groups function well.
- Field staff should be oriented to the potential risks of organizing groups that mix members of different religions or single and married women.
- Future income-generating and credit activities should require regionally specific market studies of their most common products.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

For more information, contact Kim Johnston, Deputy Regional Manager, Latin America, CARE, 660 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Kanyangwa, Joyce. **SORGHUM PRODUCTION AND ITS USE: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.** Washington, DC: CID/WID, August 1988.

COUNTRY: Lesotho

ABSTRACT: This report presents the preliminary analysis of sorghum production and consumption patterns in the southern districts of Lesotho. The study was conducted during the period June to July 1988. The objectives of the study were to determine factors leading to the declining production and consumption of sorghum, and whether improved processing methods of sorghum would lead to increased consumption. Altogether, 248 households were interviewed in three districts: Maseru, Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng. (33 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Sorghum consumption could be increased with better processing and the introduction of different methods of utilizing sorghum. There is no evidence to support the hypothesis that sorghum beer is being displaced by lager beer, although there is an indication that the urban population preference is for lager beer. The hypothesis that the labor demands involved in sorghum production and threshing are discouraging growers does not seem to be supported by the data.

NEGATIVE:

There is evidence to support the hypotheses that sorghum is being displaced by both maize and wheat and that the current processing and preparation methods are inhibiting the consumption of sorghum. There is evidence to show that land under sorghum production is being taken up by maize and that production is

declining rapidly due to the lack of use of improved farming techniques in sorghum. Data available on consumption of cereals indicates that sorghum consumption is declining faster in the urban areas than in the rural areas and that consumption of sorghum for the whole country is likely to decline even further with rising income.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

(This document is not very useful)

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Luery, Andrea. **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OPERATION HAUTE VALLEE ZONE, MALI.** Tucson, AZ: CID/WID, May 1989.

COUNTRY: Mali

ABSTRACT: The objective of this research was to respond to in-country assessment of credit needs of rural women. CID/WID conducted a study of women's economic resources and credit opportunities in the Operation Haute Vallee zone. (? pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

In the case of women, it is important to build upon individual and group strengths, roles and organizations already in place. This approach has proved effective in reaching women where previously they were ignored. In 1986, Oxfam Bamako provided the women of Nyagadina with three plows, 2 sowing machines, and six oxen totaling 600,000 fcfa, approximately US \$2000. Although women use agricultural equipment, traditionally women do not operate agricultural equipment. In this case, the intent was not to instruct the women in operation of equipment, but to build upon their managerial and financial capabilities as decision-makers. It was impressed upon the men, for their part, to cooperate in providing the operation as they too would benefit from use of the equipment on their fields. Overall management and financial arrangements were the responsibility of the women, while the operation of the equipment was conducted by the men. (see page 26)

Flexible repayment plans have proved to be effective in several examples. IFAD, UNICEF and OXFAM have received prompt reimbursement when repayment schedules are flexible (short and medium term) and adjusted to the season. OXFAM, when extending agricultural credit to Nyagadina's women's "ton" (local association) in 1986, asked that repayment begin one year after the harvest in 1987. A year earlier than expected, the women returned half of the loan recovered with funds gained from renting out the equipment. A year later the women reimbursed OXFAM with the remainder. Impressed with the scheduling of repayment, Oxfam reinvested the money in the women's farming system. (see pages 12 and 27).

Broadening the concept of collateral to include security and guarantees by reference of community members also proved an effective way to improve women's access to capital. At the time of this report, 120 villages in the Segou region were participating in receiving credit from IFAD. Payment of taxes, political dues and "a show of village solidarity" were the major criteria to be considered for access to credit. IFAD is expanding the traditional definition of collateral--thus allowing women to be eligible for credit--to include guarantees by community members. (see page 26).

NEGATIVE:

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

From interviews with rural Malian women, it has been shown that the reliance on friends and their ability to mobilize necessary capital is the foremost factor in providing women with access to credit. In contrast to the high rating granted friends as a credit source, husbands ranked lowest as a financial outlet for women. (see page 13).

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Building upon individual and group strengths, roles and organizations already in place has proved to be an effective way of reaching women
- Flexible repayment plans and broadening the concept of collateral have proved to be effective in increasing women's access to capital

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

There are some interesting credit projects described in this document. How are those projects doing today? Have others followed their example?

Contact:

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
OXFAM
National Cooperative Business Association

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other ✓
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Moncrief, Dr. Jacqueline. **LEGAL CONSTRAINTS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN HORTICULTURAL EXPORT ENTERPRISES IN GHANA AND THE GAMBIA.** Washington, DC: AFR/MDI and PPC/WID, March 1990.

COUNTRY: Ghana and The Gambia

ABSTRACT:

It is the intention of this paper to analyze the legal status of women, particularly as it pertains to rural women, in realizing their rights to land, credits, earnings, services and markets. The paper compares the legal rights of women in Ghana and The Gambia and examines the impact of its common judicial legacy on women's current status. The paper offers recommendations for guiding project planners in designing and implementing legal rights strategies that will enable women greater participation in horticultural export activities. [37 pp. + bibliography]

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

There are no legal restrictions in Ghana or The Gambia prohibiting the formation of cooperatives. In The Gambia, women growers whose gardens are located on the periphery of Banjul are often organized into cooperatives. Women leaders who were in Ghana adamantly defend the right of women to control the finances of their cooperatives. They point out that when women are not allowed, or do not take the initiative to manage the finances of their cooperatives, they run a substantial risk in losing their enterprise to men, especially if the business becomes lucrative. They quickly add that they believe men should not be ostracized from participating in a women's cooperative, but it is critical that women control it.

NEGATIVE:

In both countries, the coexistence of several different systems of law makes the advancement of women through legal reform difficult. Conflicts of law hinder the advancement of women.

Legal reform benefits women who are educated and live in cities more than those who are illiterate and live in rural areas under customary and/or Islamic laws.

Legal inequities create conditions that perpetrate women's inequality and marginality.

Because most women in The Gambia have a Muslim marriage, the majority of women are governed by Islamic law as it pertains to the family, excluding rights to land, which is the jurisdiction of customary law.

Under present conditions, women's subordinate legal status is a significant barrier to women's economic participation. Legal reform has done little to benefit rights of rural women since customary laws, which sanction women's unequal status, often take precedence over enacted statutes.

Women lack title deed to land as a form of collateral -- a major barrier to credit. Moneylenders provide small amount of capital at high interest rates for women farmers.

Leasing land is one form of land tenure which is sometimes used by small-scale women farmers. Uncertainty regarding land tenure rights is an impediment to long-term sustainability of women's horticultural export schemes.

Illiteracy as a justification for exporters in The Gambia to enter into oral, rather than written, contracts with women growers is a violation of their fundamental rights under constitutional law. An oral contract may not be in the best interest of women farmers since it is not consonant with modern business practices.

Because the military government in Ghana has seized assets of cooperatives in the past which it considered to be mismanaged, it is uncertain whether government intervention will happen again, though cooperatives are still legal. There are no legal provisions protecting women from men seizing control of their cooperatives and businesses so long as it is not done violently.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations are provided for guiding USAID project planners in designing and implementing legal rights strategies that will enable women greater participation in horticultural export activities:

- **FOSTERING RIGHTS AWARENESS AND ACTION**
-informing women of the laws and teaching them how to use the legal system will enable more women to exercise and protect their legal rights.
- **ENCOURAGING LEGAL REFORM**
- encourage governments to continue legal reform to enhance women's equal rights; utilize agricultural extension programs as channels for disseminating information about the need for legal reform and the enactment of new provisions affecting women's rights in the family and in business.
- **PROTECTING WOMEN'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**
- encourage exporters to use written, rather than oral, contracts with small-scale women farmers.
- **ENHANCING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OF RESOURCES**
- encourage review and reform of land tenure laws that will benefit women; support the establishment of alternative credit schemes such as women's banks, cooperatives and economic associations.
- **ANTICIPATING BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION**
- USAID planners should be informed of the implications of laws and women's legal status before

planning horticultural export programs for women in Ghana and The Gambia.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

Jarosz, Lucy. **THE TRAFFIC IN WOMEN: BUYING AND SELLING LABOR POWER IN AFRICAN CONTRACT FARMING.** Report prepared for the Africa Bureau, USAID, 1987.

Esther Ocloo, Director, Ghanaian Professional and Business Women's Association, Legon, Ghana.

Barbara Jense, WID Officer, USAID/The Gambia.

Joanna Laryea, WID Officer, USAID/Ghana.

Asante, Samuel K.B. "Over a Hundred Years of a National Legal System in Ghana." Journal of African Law 31, nos.1 and 2 (1987).

Kate Abbam, Executive Director, International Association for the Advancement of Women in Africa (ASAWA), Accra, Ghana.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED ✓	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Mwonya, Rose A. and Margaret J. Lewis. **FACTORS AFFECTING CAREER CHOICES OF FEMALE STUDENTS ATTENDING EGERTON UNIVERSITY.** Tuscon, Arizona: CID/WID, July 1989.

COUNTRY: Kenya

ABSTRACT:

As part of a Career Development Project for female undergraduates, this is a summary report of research on female students conducted at Egerton University from May through July 1989. The purposes of this study are to examine key factors influencing females in the choice of agriculture as the field of study; to investigate their expectations regarding work and job opportunities; and to determine their needs in terms of career development materials. (28 pp + appendices)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

The report recommends: providing information to females in primary and secondary schools and their parents to inform them about job opportunities in agriculture; insuring that girls have the opportunity to take science courses in secondary schools; preparing career development materials, such as how to write a resume, fact sheets on jobs in agriculture, etc.; and, offering a workshop for third year students on how to get a job.

NEGATIVE:

The results of the student questionnaire indicated that there was not much awareness of future job and study opportunities.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

It would be interesting to find out if any of the recommendations were implemented and if so, what the impact has been thus far.

Contact:

Dr. Rose Mwonya, Department of Home Economics, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya

Consortium for International Development, Tucson, Arizona

Lewis, **GIRLS EDUCATION IN KENYA: PERFORMANCE AND PROSPECTS**. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, 1986.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Reintsma, Mary and Paola Lang. *THE IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN MALAWI*. Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., February 1989.

COUNTRY: Malawi

ABSTRACT:

This case study was written under the auspices of the Agricultural Policy Analysis Project (APAP), funded by AID's Bureau of Science and Technology and AID's Women in Development Office. This paper presents the results of a study undertaken for the WID Office, to examine the impacts of economic policies on women in the agricultural sector in Malawi. The research was undertaken between June and September 1988. The study relied entirely on secondary data sources as well as interviews with people knowledgeable about the economic policies of the country and the roles of women in the agricultural sector. (65 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Ninety-two percent of women live in rural areas in Malawi. Of these, 85% are involved full time in subsistence farming. Women have traditionally assumed responsibility for the cultivation of food crops and appear to be increasingly involved in the cultivation of cash crops.

Men are generally responsible for clearing land and preparing soil for planting, while women are responsible for the post-harvest activities, such as seed selection for next year's planting and storage.

In terms of total labor input, women are contributing more than men towards smallholder crop production, the gap being widest in the case of food crops.

Studies on wage employment in the estate sector indicate low pay scales, with women earning an average

of two-thirds that of men.

Women, who often spend as much time in the field as men, spend an equal amount of time gathering firewood, collecting water, preparing food, and taking care of children. (see Valuable Statistics below)

The immediate needs of most women farmers are bypassed by the agricultural extension services. There is a disproportionate number of male extension agents to female agents, and women farmers have virtually no contact with the male extension workers.

The number of female-headed households is growing, probably due to male migration, high divorce rate and the matrilineal inheritance system.

POSITIVE:

Although the impacts of liberalizing trade appear to be clearly detrimental to the poorest smallholders in the short run (see section below), the long-run effects may be less severe. Increased competition among traders in agricultural crops has the potential to bring higher prices to smallholders and to improve overall efficiency and allocation of resources through the market-price system.

The streamlining of ADMARC (Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation), including divestiture of unproductive subsidiaries and stocks, which were previously financed by taxes on smallholder trading activities, should clearly have a beneficial impact on the smallholder sector.

The process of obtaining inputs such as fertilizer, seeds, and credit -- traditionally distributed through predominantly male farmers' clubs -- has always excluded female-headed households. However, this situation is beginning to change as more women are becoming involved in farmers' clubs, and the number of clubs for women only is increasing. Furthermore, the government has reduced the minimum package size of fertilizer from a 50-kilo bag to a 10-kilo bag, enabling very small farmers to purchase this input. During the past year there was a major increase in the demand for fertilizer, which is probably due in large part to the increased accessibility of small farmers. This clearly has the potential to increase smallholder productivity and income substantially.

The Government has recently made some positive moves in the direction of reaching the smallest farmers, particularly women farmers who constitute over 70 percent of all full-time subsistence farmers. These measures include: 1) an effort to direct the extension provided by Farm Home Assistants to issues of particular concern to women farmers, most notable specific agronomic issues; 2) the reduction of credit packages to a size appropriate for very small holdings; and 3) the incorporation of a special section into the new credit manual published by the Ministry of Agriculture which specifically encourages the provision of credit to women.

NEGATIVE:

Malawi's export-promotion strategy favored the growth and development of the estate subsector at the expense of smallholders. Smallholders in general, and the poorest smallholders in particular (a group that includes a disproportionate amount of female-headed households), have clearly been the net losers from the export-promotion policies.

More recent liberalization policies have, in the short run, led to higher prices of smallholder crops, probably to the detriment of the poorest smallholders who are net consumers of food crops. This group includes a high percentage of the smallest farmers who do not have enough land to produce an adequate amount for domestic requirements and rely on off-farm work to purchase additional food. A disproportionate number of female-headed households fall into this category.

Another major impact of the trade liberalization relates to the closing down of a number of ADMARC's [Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation] less profitable buying stations. In the past, ADMARC purchased the smallholders' marketed surplus through its network of buying stations. The farmers in the affected

areas are quite likely to be faced with no outlets at all for their marketable surplus. Here again, female-headed households are particularly vulnerable since their ability to transport goods long distances is extremely limited.

Unequal access to inputs and services is a major contributing factor to the abysmal performance of the smallholder sector. In contrast to other developing countries, in Malawi the smallholders are less productive than the estates and the smallest small farms are less productive than the larger ones.

There is an urgent need to divert far more resources towards improving productivity and food security of those smallholders who have been neglected in the past -- particularly women.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO MISSION

The following are some brief recommendations for mission activities that could support the effort to incorporate women more effectively into the development process in Malawi:

- the training of extension personnel to (a) increase the participation of women in courses provided by the extension service, (b) make the courses responsive to the needs of women farmers, and (c) train more female extension agents.

- the provision of credit packages that are specifically designed with the constraints of the average female-headed household in mind, i.e. very little land and seasonal labor shortage.

- the government is currently studying several issues, including the impacts of adjustment policies on different sectors of society and the possibility of removing the restrictions on the production of certain crops by smallholders. Clearly women are likely to be affected by the outcomes of these studies, and it would be useful to lend support to them.

- it might be useful to undertake a study of the major constraints faced by women, including land shortage, labor shortage at critical times of the agricultural calendar, and lack of access to critical resources such as credit, extension or markets. An informal survey of women farmers in different economic categories and in different geographic areas, which would reveal their own perceived constraints, would be most useful.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- 92% of women live in rural areas in Malawi. Of these, 85% are involved full time in subsistence farming.
- Women constitute less than 8% of the permanent work force on the estates, and may contribute only up to 25% of the casual labor needed during the peak seasons.
- Approximately 49% of all households are at least two kilometers away from the nearest potable water supply, and 33% are similarly situated with respect to the nearest source of firewood.
- Some 17% of all women above the age of 15 are able to read and write as compared to 40% of all men.
- Approximately 28% of smallholdings in Malawi are headed by women. Over 70% of female-headed households have land less than one hectare.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

As this research is from 1988, it raises the question of whether the Government's efforts to reach the small farmers, efforts which were new at the time of this report, have had any impact on women in the agricultural sector. Are the Farm Home Assistants more successfully addressing the concerns of women farmers? Do women have better access to credit, fertilizer and seeds as a result of the efforts mentioned in this paper? Have any of the recommendations to the mission been implemented thus far?

Contact:

Agricultural Policy Analysis Project (APAP), AID Bureau of Science and Technology

Abt Associates Inc.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE ✓	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Reintsma, Mary and Paola Lang. **THE IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN THAILAND.** Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., February 1989.

COUNTRY: Thailand

ABSTRACT:

This paper presents the results of a study undertaken for the WID Office of USAID to examine the impacts of economic policies on women in the agricultural sector in Thailand. Given the extremely limited time available and the relatively broad terms of reference, the study relied entirely on secondary data sources as well as interviews with people knowledgeable about the economic policies of the country and the roles of women in the agricultural sector. (60 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

The economic status of women in Thailand compares extremely favorably with that of women in many other developing countries. There appear to be few impediments to women succeeding in business, as evidenced by the number of women who own large enterprises, including some major exporting firms.

Women are in some cases better able to exploit opportunities provided by the private sector than those provided through government channels, as a result of their relative strength in the economic sphere and weakness in the political. When agricultural inputs and services have been provided through the private sector, women have been major beneficiaries.

One example of this phenomenon was the provision of chickens for broiler production by the C.P. Company. A number of women farmers are engaged in broiler production and receive extension services as well as 10,000 to 20,000 chickens from the company, which repurchases them after seven weeks, allowing production of up to six batches per year. This has been a major source of income and employment for women in some areas.

Another example of the benefits women have gained from private sector involvement in agro-industry is artificial flower manufacturing. In recent years, a very successful cottage and small scale industry has developed as private firms have begun to provide the parts for the flowers as well as specific training, resulting in a more

specialized and commercially viable production. The industry involves primarily women, and, as in the case of broiler production, has increased their income and employment opportunities while allowing them to stay on the farm and combine domestic and childcare responsibilities with income-generating activities.

Women in the rural sector do stand to benefit from the government's shift toward promotion of export-oriented enterprises and rural industry, both as laborers and as entrepreneurs. The growth of rural industries is especially beneficial to women, making it easier to combine off-farm work with domestic and agricultural responsibilities.

Women appear to be deriving considerable gains in the dairy industry. A number of women entrepreneurs are starting up dairy herds and operating successful dairy operations. In addition to benefitting from the increased income and employment, women are also likely to be primary beneficiaries as consumers, since they and their children are responsible for the greater part of consumption.

NEGATIVE:

While relatively strong in the economic sphere, women are weak in the political sphere, being greatly under-represented. The lack of political power has a number of important implications for women in the agricultural sector. It limits their access to certain essential resources, when these are provided through government channels rather than through the private sector. For example, when agricultural inputs such as silkworm cocoons are provided to a village, either freely or at subsidized rates, the principal recipients tend to be those persons who are influential in the village. This system is detrimental to women who have less opportunity to gain political power. Furthermore, they are rendered more dependent on men, and women heads of households would appear to be particularly vulnerable.

A second area in which women are relatively disadvantaged is the provision of services by the government agricultural extension services. Relatively few women are direct recipients of the training courses that are provided, or indeed of any extension assistance. The lack of direct access to extension services and the need for women to rely on their husbands or others to obtain agricultural extension services clearly constrains their productivity.

The combined effects of two government policies--encouraging rural industrialization and agricultural intensification, in part through mechanization--are potential areas of concern for women. There appears to be a danger that the mechanization of agriculture will lead to labor displacement, particularly of women since the new techniques are undertaken almost universally by men. As women are displaced, they may be forced to seek off-farm employment in rural industries where the potential for the exploitation of these women is evident. (The informal-sector industries are the least controlled in terms of health and safety provisions and pay wages below the legal minimum).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increasing the number of women in agricultural extension, research, and administration would help to ensure that all aspects of the farming system are understood and beneficially affected by agricultural projects and programs.
- The use of television for disseminating agricultural information could have a large beneficial impact on women.
- Increased provision of on-farm employment, particularly activities that can be combined with a woman's domestic responsibilities (such as the artificial flower production) contribute to increasing women's productivity and income without involving the possibly high social costs involved when women must leave the farm.
- A number of studies that would provide a clearer understanding of the problems of women could be undertaken by Thai researchers.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- Women account for 45% of the rural labor force.
- Close to 80% of rural women in the 24-44 age bracket are literate.
- Within agriculture, women provide about 2/5 of the total labor input for crop production.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Women are in some cases better able to exploit opportunities provided by the private sector than those provided through government channels

III. FOLLOW UP**LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:**

It would be very interesting to find out more about women in the dairy industry as mentioned in this paper and the artificial flower production. In addition, have the potential benefits and dangers identified by the authors in 1988 been realized? Is television being used to disseminate information to rural women?

Agricultural Policy Analysis Project, AID Bureau of Science and Technology

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Riley, Pamela J. **THE EFFECT OF NEWLY INTRODUCED TECHNOLOGY ON WOMEN AGRICULTURALISTS IN LESOTHO.** Logan, Utah: Utah State University, 1989.

COUNTRY: Lesotho

ABSTRACT: The report is a summary of research activities conducted in Lesotho over a four-month period in late 1988 and early 1989, with support provided by the LAPIS Project with the cooperation of CID/WID. Two-hundred and fifteen Basotho farmers and farm laborers were interviewed to determine the potentially positive, negative or mixed impacts of irrigation technology and mechanized dryland agriculture on women. The farmers interviewed irrigate both individually and as members of small irrigation associations or participate in a very large irrigation association. They are all associated with donor projects. The focus of the study was to ascertain the following: the degree to which women farmers and laborers participate in the schemes; the appropriateness of the technology for the women involved; constraints women face in participation; impacts of the projects on diets; and, the potential of the projects to generate income for women. (54 pp + Tables)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Women tend to be the majority of participants in these projects, both as farmers and laborers. The projects have definitely provided employment beyond previous levels; this is likely due to the fact that herbicides are not being used and thereby not displacing women from weeding. Farmers report that a large number of women in the local villages come to the farm gate to purchase vegetables to resell. These irrigated commercial vegetable production schemes have the potential to create significant opportunities for additional income generation for rural women. Irrigation is such a labor intensive operation that jobs are generated not only on project fields but also on farmers' other rainfed fields. Diets are probably improved given that the majority of farmers and laborers have more, and a broader range of, vegetables in their diets.

Overall, the women report seeing extension agents frequently and respond that they find them helpful. A common concern in the WID literature is that extension agents working with women tend to be men. This is not the case with these projects where most of the agents are women. A large number of the women farmers have received at least some training.

NEGATIVE:

Many women are presently experiencing strain as a result of the shift to a cash-based economy. Men are far more likely to have access to cash or wages than women. Economic stress is exacerbated in the case of single and uneducated women, particularly if they do not have access to land. Many women rely on brewing beer as their main source of cash income. The assumption that kinship networks will assist women who are widowed or deserted is not supported in this study. It is imperative that additional avenues of income generation be developed.

Despite the fact that jobs have been provided, the M2-3 (about .80 - \$1.20 U.S.) that the average laborer earns per day -- well below the poverty level -- is insufficient for survival and additional modes of income generation remain to be found. This is particularly true for those involved in the dryland schemes because the work is so seasonal.

Women tend to see irrigation as "men's work" and about half of the women farmers expressed a problem with moving pipes. But no reason was found other than prevailing attitudes which should prohibit women from using the technology. However, a very real problem is that the labor intensive demands that women in the culture are subject to makes irrigation an additional burden on their time. Most women complain that they have inadequate time for children and other domestic responsibilities. While women tend to be the majority of participants in these projects, men consistently chair the committees which represent the membership.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- About 1/3 of Basotho households are headed by male migrant workers who leave their wives as de facto heads and another 1/3 is de jure female-headed, primarily by widows. (i.e. 2/3 female-headed)
- On average, 40-60% of the married women in Lesotho are wives of absent husbands.
- In about 30-35% of all rural households in Lesotho, all agricultural decisions are made by women

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- By not using herbicides, women were not displaced from weeding.
- The use of female extension agents proved to be helpful.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

As this study was conducted in early 1989, it would be interesting to explore how these women are doing today. Has the potential for income generation been realized? Or, has the demand on women's time become too burdensome? For further information, one could try contacting the Lesotho Agricultural Production and Institutional Support Project (LAPIS), Maseru, or Martin J. Hewitt, PPC/WID contact.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Ross, Clark et. al. **THE EFFECTS OF STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN SENEGAL.** Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., September, 1987.

COUNTRY: Senegal

ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this study is to assess the impacts of Senegal's donor-supported structural adjustment program with focus on those reforms undertaken in the agriculture sector. Emphasis is placed on the incomes and welfare of the rural sector, although urban households are not neglected. The study relies heavily on anecdotal evidence, USAID and other donor reports and assessments, field trips to irrigated rice perimeters in the Fleuve and the Peanut Basin, and meetings with a wide variety of people from USAID, other donor organizations, the Government of Senegal, parastatal agencies, the private sector, and PVOs. Consideration of gender is integrated throughout. (Agricultural Policy Analysis Project buy-in to include gender analysis of APAP work) (46 pp + appendices)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

The structural adjustment reforms having the largest effects on women's contribution to economic activity are the liberalization of coarse grain (millet, sorghum, maize) marketing and the increases in producer prices for peanuts and millet.

Recent policy changes under structural adjustment have liberalized the market for trading in cereal grains, removing licensing and transportation restrictions. These changes benefit women to the extent that their access to markets for such crops (particularly millet) is increased. Discussions with various individuals during the fieldwork suggested that the market liberalization had significantly increased women's ability to market millet, with some women setting themselves up as small millet traders. Liberalization of the millet market has allowed women to become more actively involved in millet trading, increasing market efficiency and rural incomes.

The government of Senegal maintains producer price supports for peanuts, cotton, millet, and rice.

These price supports directly benefit women to the extent that they produce and sell these crops, and have equal access to markets for them. The relative levels of producer prices influence production decisions for both men and women farmers. To the extent that price policy encourages a shift from peanut production to millet (millet is less labor intensive) women may benefit from reduced demand for their labor. On the other hand, women may be negatively affected by increased workloads if the price levels lead men to significantly increase acreage planted or cultivate more intensively (thus increasing the demand for women's labor). The net of all effects is probably positive for women, increasing both their production of these crops and the income received from sale.

Some efforts are being made by the government and PVOs to provide extension support to women's activities, particularly women's vegetable gardens, but the government's policy continues to favor male production activities. The government is currently making some efforts to provide credit to women through the Caisse nationale de Credit Agricole du Senegal, which has a small lending program. In addition, some PVOs and NGOs are establishing credit programs for women's groups and providing additional training.

NEGATIVE:

Little support is given to crops grown by women, such as vegetables or paddy rice. The lack of input support (fertilizer, seed, equipment) for women's crops and livestock -- a policy that has changed little over the years -- undoubtedly has some negative effect on their production, and thus on women's incomes. In addition, the uncertainty of women's access to other inputs such as land, water, and market information (which can be more directly influenced by government policy) have tended to have negative impacts on agricultural production by women, thus also decreasing women's incomes.

The introduction of irrigated perimeters has created a land access problem for some women in the Fleuve region. The perimeters were generally assigned to men, regardless of the previously existing land distribution or usufruct rights. The increased productivity of lands brought about by the availability of water has also caused the return of many male migrants, displacing women who had cultivated such lands. Access to land can also be a particular problem for divorced or widowed women.

Irrigation projects have also contributed to uncertain water access for women. Pumps are frequently controlled by men, who may shut them down after the men's crop is harvested, limiting production of dry season crops by women. Thus, the development of rainfed agriculture appears to benefit women more clearly than the development of irrigation systems.

Currently, little credit is available to Senegalese farmers, men or women. Recent reductions in the regional development agencies' credit operations has further curtailed women's access to credit sources.

Most research and extension activities undertaken in Senegal have concentrated on men's crops: peanuts, rice, cotton, and millet. Most extension services are provided by male agents, and their effectiveness in the face of the restructuring of the regional development agencies is uncertain. The effects of such an extension policy are decreased access to extension services for women, lower productivity on women's fields (even for men's crops), and decreased women's incomes.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The development of rainfed agriculture appears to benefit women more clearly than the development of irrigation systems.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

At the time that this report was written (1987), many of the structural adjustment measures had only recently been implemented. The situation has probably changed by now. It would be interesting to find out more about the government and PVO efforts to provide extension support and credit to women as the author only mentions this briefly. In addition, women's successful involvement in millet trading and fish processing as mentioned in the paper would be worth exploring further.

Contact:

- Bureau for Africa, Office of Development Planning, USAID
- USAID/Dakar

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Saenz de Tejada, Sandra. **FOOD CONSUMPTION AND ITS RELATION TO PRODUCTION: A SURVEY IN LESOTHO.** Tucson, Arizona: CID/WID, May 1989.

COUNTRY: Lesotho

ABSTRACT: A food consumption survey was conducted during the post-harvest season in four areas in Lesotho. One of the objectives of the AID-funded study was to assess the impact of the LAPIS irrigated horticultural project on the diet of the targeted farmers and the community in general. The report documents the dietary patterns of 140 farming households in Lesotho. The purpose of this report is twofold: to assess the impact of project participation on the diet of farmers, and to document dietary differences among household types. It has been documented that women often face specific constraints in crop production. This study was an attempt to uncover how these constraints are reflected in food consumption and dietary adequacy. (175 pp.)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Basotho women play a key role in the economic and social life of their country. As in most of sub-Saharan Africa, women are the main food producers. Basotho women have one of the highest literacy rates in Africa -- significantly higher than men's. Twice as many women as men are literate, more girls than boys complete primary school and more women than men hold professional positions in the government and participate in local politics. This participation, however, is usually restricted to the lowest levels.

Women are recently being trained in agriculture and other trades and are encouraged to join cooperatives. An all-women credit cooperative has been established with encouraging results, but its success is not well publicized and is known basically only at the village level.

NEGATIVE:

Wage-earning opportunities in Lesotho are very limited. This situation has forced most Basotho women to be highly dependent on their menfolk for cash because wage-employment opportunities both in Lesotho and in South Africa are by and large restricted to men. Women are involved in several income producing activities, most importantly, brewing beer. Women's cash earnings are usually only a fraction of male migrants', but among many women-headed households with no access to remittances it is the only source of cash.

The pattern of male absence has not increased women's access to resources. Women usually can secure access to land only through their male kin.

Training and rural extension for rural women has focused on "nutrition education."

All-women cooperatives are not encouraged, despite the fact that all-women networks have been documented as highly efficient.

Female-headed households are not a homogeneous group. Younger women, whether widows or divorced, tend to have fewer resources and constitute the poorest of the poor.

Controlling for wealth, and contrary to expectations, it was found that the most vulnerable group were not female-headed but those headed by migrants. ("migrant" households refer to those de facto female-headed households where the male head is working away from home, usually in the mines in the RSA). This type of household produces very little food and needs to depend on infrequent and/or unreliable cash remittances. The targeting of these households for project participation is to be encouraged.

Time constraints faced by women are an important consideration which needs the attention of planners. Within any given household, women tend to share domestic chores, but young married women bear an unproportionate amount. The presence of older women or adolescent girls usually allows for the release to the labor force of the most productive female members.

Malnutrition could be related to mother's conflicting time demands. If this is found to be the case, because horticulture is labor intensive, project participation might put an increased demand on mothers' already busy schedule. If no child caretaker is available, this in turn might result in reduced child care and negative nutritional consequences.

Female-headed households have more dependents and frequently no alternative sources for child care. Additional income generating activities, while beneficial in many respects, will probably overburden these already very busy women. The answer is not to deprive them of participation, but to encourage the introduction of labor-saving devices, from water taps and local grain mills to the creation of nearby woodlots and home gardens.

While LAPIS has made considerable efforts to ensure equal access for women to the resources being provided, a reduction in the workload of women through provision of fuel, water, and grain mills at low cost and through appropriate labor-saving devices is strongly recommended. The possibility of finding adequate alternative child care for working women when child care is incompatible with agricultural production should be consulted and discussed with Association members and its hired laborers.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- Given the male migrant labor pattern in Lesotho, over 1/2 of households are actually headed by women.
- In Lesotho, from 40-60% of the adult male population migrate to work in South Africa.
- Over 60% of households are women-headed and over 50% of farm households are managed by women.
- Basotho women have one of the highest literacy rates in Africa -- significantly higher than men's.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The report finds that female-headed households are by no means a homogeneous group and should not be lumped together. The report distinguishes between those female-headed households which are de jure and de facto heads, and suggests that "migrant" households be targetted for assistance.
- The report repeatedly raises the issue of time constraints faced by women and questions whether project activities and additional income generating activities will overburden these already overworked women. It does not recommend depriving them of participation in these activities, but rather advocates the introduction of appropriate labor-saving devices that will decrease their workload. It also recommends that the problem of alternative child care be addressed.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

AID/S&T/N; CID/WID; Also, see Riley, Pamela J. THE EFFECT OF NEWLY INTRODUCED TECHNOLOGY ON WOMEN AGRICULTURALISTS IN LESOTHO. Logan, Utah: Utah State University, 1989.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Sines, Richard H. and Christopher R. Pardy, Mary Reintsma, and E. Scott Thomas. **IMPACT OF ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT.** Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., September 1987.

COUNTRY: Zaire

ABSTRACT:

This report is a preliminary assessment of the impacts of Zaire's economic reform program on agricultural production, transport and marketing, as well as on import substitution and export promotion in the agricultural sector. The report also assesses, to the extent possible, the distribution of benefits and losses attributable to the reform program, including the division by gender of labor and income. A special annex, annex E, provides a description of women's roles in the Zairian agricultural sector and an analysis of how agricultural policies affect women. (Agricultural Policy Analysis Project buy-in to include gender analysis)
(27 pp + appendices)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Women are important in all aspects of the food marketing chain. Women farmers appear to be selling more as a result of price liberalization. The impact on their nutritional status is unclear at this time.

Price liberalization has had a positive impact on the number of women traders. Abolition of prohibitions on inter-regional trade has had a positive impact on women as they are free to benefit from price differentials between regions.

NEGATIVE:

In Zaire, women provide a major source of labor in food crop production. The accrual of the gains made

under policy reform by women depends to a large extent on intrahousehold decision making. To the extent that this process is disequitable to women in individual households, women will not share equitably in any production or income increases.

Women account for only a small proportion of those involved in plantation agriculture. Policy reforms which favor this sector will not have as large a positive impact on women as those favoring the traditional sector.

Policies which require a husband's permission before women can obtain bank accounts and sometimes credit have a negative impact on married women's access to banking services. These policies have had a negative impact on the operations of women traders.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- 94% of all Zairian women in 1982 were engaged in agriculture compared with 56% of Zairian men.
- 60% of women questioned in the Bandundu small farmer study [Eele and Newton, 1985] said that their spouses made budgetary decisions compared with only 34% who said that they were responsible.
- In Haut-Zaire, Thibault-Normand (1986) estimated that 77% of agricultural sales activity was carried out by women in 1984, and that 70% of women were selling agricultural commodities.
- The Bandundu study [Eele and Newton, 1985] found that for men formal sources of credit provided 22% of the total amount of loans compared with only 4% for women. Women obtained 60% of their loans from informal revolving credit societies, rather than from the formal sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

1. Further research should be undertaken to understand intra-household decision making.
2. Further research needs to be done to determine the extent and manner in which men influence the agricultural production and consumption decisions of female-headed households.
3. As production of food crops becomes more profitable, men appear to become more involved. The equity implications of this process should be investigated.
4. Women's contribution to agricultural marketing is substantial. Interviews suggest that women's input may be more important in the informal marketing sector. The reasons for this phenomenon and the equity implications of this observation need further research.
5. Research is required to determine whether regulatory policies oblige women traders to obtain credit through men and to what extent limited access to required collateral reduces their ability to obtain credit.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

The authors raise some important areas for further research. Since this report came out three years ago, has more research been conducted among women in Zaire's agricultural sector? If so, what are the findings? The authors mention that rural household surveys were scheduled to be carried out by the World Bank in several provinces in Zaire. What did those surveys conclude about the benefits to women's income from policy liberalization?

E. Scott Thomas, Africa Bureau, Office of Development Planning, USAID

World Bank/UNDP -- Planned Assessment of Social Dimensions of Structural Adjustment

The report lists sources of existing and on-going data surveys (Annex C) such as the Center for Zairian-Canadian Cooperation.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE ✓	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Spring, Anita, Ph.D. and Lillian Trager, Ph.D. **GENDER ISSUES IN RURAL-URBAN MARKETING NETWORKS.** Washington, DC: WID, May 1988.

COUNTRY:

ABSTRACT:

This technical paper was prepared for USAID's Office of Women in Development for the Eleventh Conference on Housing and Urban Development in Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Malawi May 17-19, 1988. The paper considers women's roles in agricultural production briefly and then focuses on gender issues in agricultural marketing systems. Recommendations are offered to assist in the planning of agricultural intensification, infrastructure, market location, transportation, credit and microenterprise programs, and regulatory policies. (13 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Women play key roles in many crucial aspects of agricultural marketing systems. In some parts of Africa (eg. Ghana, Nigeria), they largely control and organize the internal trade in basic agricultural commodities. In other regions, they dominate the trade in certain crops, or at specific levels of trade (eg. Burkina Faso). Even in those regions where women's role is minimal in rural trade and in the movement of produce from rural to urban areas (eg. Uganda, Tanzania), they play important roles in urban retail trade and in food processing and the sale of prepared foods. Finally, in all areas, women's trade activities are central to the incomes they earn.

NEGATIVE:

Market places may be moved in favor of large-scale commercial development, and in most cities, street vendors are prohibited from selling in central city locations. As a result, market traders and street vendors -- especially women -- find themselves being harrassed by authorities and unable to earn incomes from these activities. When urban housing is constructed, little attention is paid to the income-earning activities of women, particularly their need for space for trade, food processing, and renting rooms.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The planning for increased development of market towns and secondary cities to enhance links between rural and urban areas must consider gender issues in agricultural production and marketing. Given that women are among the key participants in the movement of goods in many African market systems, strategies based on the development of market towns and cities need to examine their specific interests.

- (1) Collect sex-disaggregated data on the farmers and commodities produced, the recipients of extension services, and the types of traders and the goods marketed;
- (2) devise strategies to enhance and insure women's involvement in urbanization projects and make certain that formal sector and rural commercialization interventions do not have differential and negative impacts on men and women;
- (3) in urban markets where women predominate, explore the provision of childcare centers, clinics and schools located in the market;
- (4) provide storage facilities and insure access by women traders and retailers;
- (5) recognize the continuing need for market places in central city locations and do not allow their destruction in favor of large-scale commercial development;
- (6) in the construction of urban housing, make provisions for locales for income-earning activities of women and/or improve their access to existing locales;
- (7) transport needs to be affordable, readily available, and safe for women;
- (8) women should have access to programs that provide capital for transport such as the purchase or rental of vehicles;
- (9) target specific groups (i.e. women who are small scale and commercial agricultural producers, intermediary traders based in smaller cities, and street food vendors) for credit and other microenterprise programs;
- (10) regulatory policies aimed at banning street vending need to be changed and acceptable locales for street trading, especially in central city locations, need to be found;
- (11) services that can enable street vendors to provide better quality and more sanitary produce --e.g. access to water supply or training courses in hygiene--are needed; and,
- (12) change policies that inhibit women's access to tenure of land and ownership of market stalls, shops, and other commercial establishments.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- In Ziguinchor, Senegal, women comprised 53% of the street food vendors, whereas in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, they were 94% ["Women and the Urban Street Food Trade: Some Implications for Policy." London: Development Planning Unit, 1986.]

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The planning for increased development of market towns and secondary cities to enhance links between rural and urban areas must consider gender issues in agricultural production and marketing. Given that women are among the key participants in the movement of goods in many African market systems, strategies based on the development of market towns and cities need to examine their specific interests.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

Have any of these recommendations been considered in the planning of agricultural intensification, infrastructure, markets, credit programs, etc. in Sub-Saharan Africa?

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR ✓	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE ✓	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL	TECH ✓	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Tisch, Sarah J. **REPORT OF THE CID/WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANT.** Pullman, Washington: Consortium for International Development/Washington State University, September 9 - October 8, 1989.

COUNTRY: Nepal

ABSTRACT: This document contains Dr. Tisch's report on her technical assistance visit to the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Tribhuvan University in Nepal in preparation of the Second Annual "Women in Farming Systems" Workshop; the proceedings of the workshop held on September 27-29, 1989, sponsored by the IAAS and USAID; ten field-based research papers concerned with gender issues in agriculture that were presented at the workshop; the workshop program; and, the list of participants. (95 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. "Gender Differences in Farm and Household Activities During the Maize Cropping Cycle, Shivanagar Panchayat"

This study of time allocation during the summer maize crop concluded that women are responsible for the lion's share of agricultural labor, and their combined agricultural and domestic tasks constitute a huge work burden. Perhaps the most interesting finding is the high proportion of joint agricultural decisionmaking, indicating that men and women are sharing this responsibility.

2. "Gender Participation in Irrigation System Activities in the Hills of Nepal"

This paper concludes that the low prestige attached by society to wage employment of women is the major sociocultural factor restricting employment opportunities for women. However,

introduction of a "piece wage" system with a concept of "equal pay for equal work" would allow equitable opportunities and distribution to rural people in development projects. When they were motivated to organize and were provided the opportunity to work, women performed quality skilled labor such as construction of a random rubble masonry work. However, their role in irrigation management is weak as is their role in improvement activities.

3. "Agricultural Credit to Women for the Agricultural Development of Nepal"

A pilot study of two Small Farmer Development Projects, Taklung and Budhanilkantha, indicates that the credit activities of women helped to generate income and make a substantial contribution to their family incomes. From the women's side, this credit program can be considered successful, as those who borrowed money, with some exceptions, made income and profit. From a purely financial point of view, the Agricultural Development Bank is incurring losses rather than making profit by extending loans to women. Evidence shows that the net financial benefits to women from the loan programs are substantial in both projects, but the net financial returns to the Agricultural Development Bank from this loan program are still negative.

4. "Productivity Differences Between Male and Female Agricultural Labor in Nuwakot"

This paper concludes that the Marginal Value Product (MVP) for female labor (the expected increase in the value of production through the addition of one more hour of female labor) is relatively higher than the MVP for male labor. There may be a possibility for increasing farm income by increasing female labor input in farm activities. Rice returns could be raised by using more female labor. Furthermore, small farmers could reallocate use of female labor for other uses, since it is currently used at an inefficient level for corn and wheat.

5. "Comparative Analysis of Women's Role in Farming Systems in the Hill and Mountain Districts of Mechi Zone"

This study of women's time use in the Ilam and Taplejung districts found that almost all females are active in farming. The women in both districts contribute their labor in manuring, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, drying, and production. Though women labor hard in farm activities, their role in agricultural decision-making is relatively low in both districts. The study also found that their contributions to agriculture are undervalued, and they are paid less than men for the same work.

6. "Reaching Out to Forest Users: Strategies for Involving Women"

This paper concludes that women's involvement will come only under conditions suitable to them, not to those of project planners. To achieve this necessitates an understanding of the constraints -- social, economic, and temporal -- that hinder them and leave them behind in the fast race for "development." Women must be seen as the true economic producers that they are instead of merely as objects of social welfare. Only then will they receive the attention and respect that they deserve from governmental and development agency planners and field workers. It is high time that forestry professionals take to heart the need to target their main users -- women -- with programs of assistance to alleviate problems of fodder and fuelwood shortages. As community forestry programs gear up to adjust policies and activities to work with user's groups instead of Panchayat committees, it will no longer be possible to ignore women.

7. "Training and Extension for Women Farmers in Lumle Agricultural Centre's Extension Command Area"

The paper recommends that greater efforts need to be made to recruit older mature women, particularly for work in their own villages. Most of the women who have attended leader farmer courses at Lumle have been young, and their impact in their villages and households can not be expected to be as great as that of an older, respected woman. Women leader farmers should be given training as agricultural assistants in their villages so that they can be available to women farmers for consultation. Extension services should arrange for training sessions to be village based, and organized in short sessions, or during times of least agricultural activity to enable women with families to attend.

8. "Women in Farming Systems: Factors Influencing Participation"

This paper recommends that local women must be consulted and their suggestions entertained while making recommendations regarding planting, manuring, weeding, harvesting, food processing, and seed and foodgrain storage activities. More field testing with both local male and female farmers and their inclusion in technology recommendation teams will contribute to the success of transferable technologies. Few farm women are involved in government extension programs. Many training participation targets are fulfilled by including school girls and urban women who enjoy training and extension tours but seldom spend time in the field. Better selection criteria based on program objectives would be useful, involving rural women who are actually engaged in agricultural production. Women in farming systems should be viewed from women's relationship with livestock, agriculture, forestry, cottage industries, and household chores and with their factors of production, marketing, and consumption.

9. "A Study of Rural Women in Tankhuwa Panchayat"

This study concludes that women perform a large proportion of household and farm work, beginning work at about 4 am and finishing at about 9 pm. Women cook three times a day -- for each of the two main meals cooking takes about two hours. Water for drinking and cooking is brought from the spring by women. Crop production is performed by women and men, though each perform different tasks. Women dry, winnow, mill and grind grain. They are also largely responsible for transplanting rice and millet seedlings and carrying farmyard manure to the fields. Both men and women contribute to the household income, but the wage rates of women are much lower than those of men. Currently, few women attend training courses because there are not many that are appropriate; women do not know about the courses; and it is difficult for a woman to leave her family to attend a residential course. To increase female participation, training courses must be held in each panchayat.

10. "Women in Extension: The Experiences of The Pakhribas Agricultural Centre"

The paper concludes that hill women farmers are responsive to new technologies provided they are appropriate and beneficial to them. However, during June/July very few women attended training courses. It is advisable not to organize courses for women during these months due to their heavy involvement in farm activities. For the success of the female programs, the support of their husbands is essential. Care should be taken while developing the program to ensure that women development programs are not separate from programs for men, and that both are supportive to each other. Technologies should be simple, cheap, and time saving. For example, jam, jelly and candymaking were not popular due to their long process and unavailability of raw materials.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- A study of rural women in Tankhuwa Panchayat concluded that women perform a large proportion of household and farm work, beginning work at about 4 a.m. and finishing at about 9 p.m. Women cook three times a day -- for each of the two main meals cooking takes about two hours.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Women's involvement in forestry programs will come only under conditions suitable to them, not to those of project planners.
- Greater efforts need to be made to recruit older mature women for leader farmer courses, particularly for work in their own villages. An older, respected woman can have a greater impact in the village and household than a young woman.

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

Contact: Dean Thakkan Mallik or Dr. Nanda P. Joshi, Asst. Dean
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Dr. Michael Calavan, Project Officer, PPD, USAID/Nepal

Dr. Sarah J. Tisch, Washington State University

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR ✓	LAC	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR ✓	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

Walker, S. Tjip. **INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION FOR WOMEN: A CASE STUDY IN CAMEROON.** Washington, DC: The World Bank, June, 1990.

COUNTRY: Cameroon

ABSTRACT:

This paper is a case study of the North-West Development Project in Cameroon's North West Province and its unusual success in reaching the province's women farmers. The field work for this report was conducted in August 1988 and included interviews with staff of: the Ministry of Agriculture at the national, provincial and local levels; the North West Development Authority (MIDENO) and its executing agencies; donors; and others involved in agricultural development in Cameroon. Discussions were also held with three women's farming groups and numerous other individual farmers. Raw data were also collected from MIDENO, the Provincial Delegation of Agriculture, and the FONADER agency in Bamenda. (46 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

OVERVIEW

Women are responsible for 70 percent of staple food production in Africa, but agricultural extension is still geared to men. The North-West Development Project--a five-year effort initiated in 1983--demonstrates that this scenario of neglect is avoidable.

The project, implemented by MIDENO, had four sources of financing: a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a grant from the European Development Fund, a grant from the German aid organization Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, and a contribution from the Cameroonian Government.

The project design team that set out to improve agriculture in Cameroon's poor Northwest Province did

not extend extension and credit to women for ideological reasons. Food crops were a primary concern, and women were growing them.

Despite stiff academic requirements, the ratio of female extension workers increased to 18% for workers and 14% for supervisors. Before the project, the few female workers had been restricted to home economics and kitchen gardens. After three months of intensive training, female agents did as well as men.

The project worked more through contact groups than contact farmers. The advantages: cost-effectiveness, the benefits of group dynamics, and the shared use of expensive equipment. And groups allow socially acceptable contacts with male agents, a supportive environment, a chance to develop leadership and management skills, and the use of more effective communications methods.

Maize credit was given to producer groups whose membership is 90% female. The members have collective liability for the loans and achieved virtually 100% repayment each year.

The short-term strategy of "gender targeting" was often used. Groups were initially contacted by same-gender extension agents. Once trust and credibility were established and farmers knew the system, the same-gender agent could turn an area over to an agent of the other gender.

These and other techniques used in Cameroon are widely replicable, providing three principals are observed: focusing on small farmers, redressing male biases, and recognizing women's roles.

MIDENO's success provides a much needed example that extension can be made to work with women using a little creativity and not necessarily at great cost, while MIDENO's experience provides a number of general, viable, and replicable lessons about what will work to bridge the gender gap in extension and other agricultural delivery programs.

SUCCESS IN REACHING WOMEN FARMERS

MIDENO's innovative strategies have benefitted women farmers. A 1987 survey of 402 men and 148 women farmers revealed that all could correctly identify the name of their Village Extension Worker (VEW). For every food crop-related indicator, a higher percentage of women than men had received advice. For maize, advice had been received by 92% of women farmers, of whom 99% had adopted and 92% of adopters had increased yields. Recent estimates show that full-adopters attain a marginal increase of 1.5 tons/hectare, or an increased income of about F CFA 70,000 (US\$233) per hectare, throughout the province.

Evidence from surveys also revealed that women farmers are much more diligent in following the recommended practices. Women were twice as likely to follow the recommended planting densities and were more likely than men to use fertilizer as a result of extension advice.

Coinciding with this increased efficiency in reaching women farmers have been improved road access to markets and a decline in coffee and cocoa prices. The increased production and expanding commercialization of food crops, which now provide more cash income than traditional cash crops, has increased women's income.

LESSONS LEARNED:

It was in terms of extension strategy that MIDENO's programming was most innovative. The strategy has had three main elements: reliance on groups, application of gender-targetting where necessary, and adopting a technical orientation toward issues of gender.

(1) VEWs in the North West Province work principally with groups of farmers, with ten groups consisting of between 20 and 40 farmers. This group approach was adopted for several reasons: working with a group compared to working with individuals is more cost-effective, group dynamics increase the diffusion effect that more eager farmers have on the more cautious, and the shared use of expensive equipment like sprayers or coffee pulpers is facilitated. Among women, there are palm oil consumer cooperative groups, farming groups, church-sponsored groups, community development groups and others.

(2) During the initial stage of the project, when the emphasis of both the extension service and the extension agent was on developing credibility and earning the trust of the farmers, a strategy which might be called "gender-targetting" was applied where deemed necessary. During this crucial introductory stage, women VEWs are assigned to work with women's groups and male VEWs are assigned to work with men's groups. Once the extension system is entrenched in an area, and the VEW has established the credibility and trust, the gender targetting is phased out. The reason for gender-targetting is to try to redress some of the problems that arise in many African cultures from extension agents and farmers being of opposite sexes. For example, women in many tribes have been socialized to be deferential to men by not speaking, not asking questions and certainly not demanding solutions to their problems. This submissive behavior does not lead to the type of give-and-take that is the foundation of a successful extension program.

This strategy is not a retreat to a separate -- potentially unequal -- women's extension service. The women extension workers had the same qualifications and received the same training as their male counterparts so the advice they give is as technically rich as that offered by the male VEWs. Above all, gender-targetting is only temporary. Before implementation of this project, very few extension agents were women. And, as frequently happens in Africa, these women extension agents were restricted to providing advice on home economics and kitchen gardens. The project has hired almost 200 new extension agents, one quarter of whom are women. The overall representation of women in the extension service is now 18.3%, one of the highest among developing countries. Newly recruited and existing VEWs, men and women alike, underwent a three-month intensive training program in groups of about 45 at a time. The training included basic agriculture, cash and food crop productions, and extension methods, and also modules on rural sociology and farming systems. Thus the VEWs were given an appreciation of the complexity of traditional agriculture and a fuller understanding of the relationship between agriculture and tribal customs and institutions.

In short, targeting allows women to overcome barriers to fully benefit from technical services available to men; separate women's programs exclude women from the technical services available to men.

(3) A major stated aim of the extension service has been to reach women farmers. This aim stems directly from a recognition that women are the major growers of food crops in the province. And as food crops are a major concern of the MIDENO project, the extension service has done what it can to reach them. In this it has adopted a technical, pragmatic strategy based on efficiency criteria rather than ideology. This technical strategy can be an effective, pragmatic approach. The rational, even-handed image that the extension service projects engenders support by local people and national decision-makers alike. A more vociferous orientation toward "women-first" would receive far less support from the village to the national level. In all likelihood, it would lead to classifying the service as "women's extension" with all of the marginalizing tendencies associated with that notion.

The techniques used in this project are widely replicable, providing three principals are observed: focusing on small farmers, redressing male biases, and recognizing women's roles.

1. Focus on Small Farmers

Resource-poor, illiterate farmers cultivating subsistence crops on smaller than average holdings are less likely to receive the attention of the extension service. Among these small or poor farmers are a disproportionate share of women-headed households and women-managed farms. At the same time there is ample evidence that small farmers, women and men alike, produce most of the food in Africa and much of the cash crops as well. Thus to improve agricultural productivity, it is imperative to remove the bias against small farmers. The MIDENO project shows that this can be done by adopting an integrated extension service that deals with food, as well as cash crops. It can be done by utilizing an extension strategy that relies on extension groups rather than on individual contact farmers or that uses aural or visual communication rather than written. And it can be done by concentrating, at least initially, on those improved practices that do not require much additional inputs of either scarce labor or scarce cash and focuses on the crops grown by small farmers, be they

male or females. **Integrated extension is important for reaching small farmers because small farmers themselves generally farm in an integrated manner, mixing food and cash crop production, often on the same plot.**

2. Redress Male Orientation

There is frequently a male bias at two levels in agricultural development programs: most extension programs still operate on the assumption that agricultural activity is only performed by men; and, distinctions are made between male and female agents, with women agents given less rigorous training and relegated to working with women on kitchen gardens or home economics. All of MIDENO's activities have made considerable efforts to redress the male bias on both levels.

Separating the focus of women and men agents cannot work because it is based on the same erroneous assumption that men farmers do most of the work and women play only a supporting role. Moreover, separating the tasks of men and women agents almost always means that the "women's service" receives less organizational and financial support. In short, separate is not equal or equitable.

3. Recognize Women's Roles in Rural Society

For extension or other rural service delivery programs to reach women, women's numerous roles in rural society must be recognized and incorporated into programming. Women are responsible for rearing children and feeding the household. They have clear, often deferential, roles to play toward men. They usually have assigned roles and divisions of labor in economic activities. Women's child care responsibilities, for example, may preclude them from attending residential training programs. The introduction of new technology that reduce the male's burden, such as animal traction to clear and prepare land, may increase the burden on women whose roles as planter, weeder, and harvester do not benefit from the new technology. Projects will be most effective if they identify ways to use existing roles constructively, as in the creative use of groups. The existing single-sex and mixed-sex groups of the North West Province have proven an efficient way for extension agents to reach women farmers. Groups provide women with an opportunity to interact and to develop skills in a supportive and egalitarian environment that is consistent with social roles.

A crucial element in the success of MIDENO's strategy in agricultural services was the availability of high quality baseline data. Making intelligent interventions into the farming systems of small farmers and in creatively responding to women's role required a thorough understanding of the agricultural and social environment.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- A survey of extension services worldwide revealed that in 10 African countries where data were available, only 2.6% of the extension staff overall were women, and in no African country did women represent more than 9% of the staff.
- In Cameroon's North West Province, the overall representation of women in the extension service is now 18.3%.
- A 1987 MIDENO survey showed that almost 92 % of the women farmers had received advice on maize, that 99% of them had adopted the extension package, and 92% of those received increased maize yields.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Projects will be most effective if they identify ways to use existing roles constructively, as in the creative use of groups
- Gender-targetting is an effective extension strategy initially, and should be phased out once trust and credibility are established.

- An integrated extension service -- one that deals with food as well as cash crops -- is important for reaching small farmers.
- Making successful interventions into the farming systems requires high quality baseline data

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

MIDENO is registering considerable success in reaching women farmers with extension services and agricultural inputs. Substantial increases in food crop production and incomes from production are the result. The sustainability of this success depends on whether the women farmers participating in the program will continue to implement the recommended practices and whether an effective extension service can be maintained.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC ✓	APRE	ENE			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Warnken, Phillip F. **THE IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN GUATEMALA.** Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., February 1989.

COUNTRY: Guatemala

ABSTRACT: This case study was written under the auspices of the Agricultural Policy Analysis Project (APAP), funded by AID's Bureau of Science and Technology and AID's Women in Development Office. Using a rapid appraisal technique called the policy inventory, the study assesses the impacts of national economic and agricultural policies on women in Guatemala's agricultural sector. The analysis focuses on the effects of macroeconomic and sectoral policies on women's agricultural production, income and employment, trade and consumption within the context of women's roles in traditional export crop production, small-farm food crop production, and nontraditional horticultural production and processing.(58 pp + appendices)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Most of Guatemala's policy-induced agricultural resource and output market distortions are history; recent changes have reduced or eliminated the negative effects of previous policy measures. Thus, in general, the current set of economic policies only nominally affects agricultural resource and output markets. It appears that the net effects of current policies are generally positive for agriculture and for women in the agricultural sector.

Guatemala's economic and agricultural policies do not have effects uniquely specific to women. Clearly, some policies affect women more than other policies, but this is because proportionally more women are involved in some activities than they are in others. In Guatemala, women are disadvantaged or benefitted when policies

affect any given subsector in which they are involved; they are proportionally more disadvantaged or benefitted if they make up a proportionally large share of that subsector. Women have clearly defined and important economic roles in agriculture. But it does not appear that these roles are sufficiently unique that economic or sector policies -- short of blatant legalized discrimination -- could deliberately be tailored specifically to benefit or to disadvantage women.

The government's general agricultural development strategy has emphasized rural employment creation by encouraging the production and processing of non-traditional horticultural products. Implemented through international assistance programs, this strategy has had a highly positive effect on rural employment, especially women's employment. Women employed in the production and processing of non-traditional crops have contributed significantly to increases in household income. With greater household income, expenditure patterns have changed positively, and caloric consumption and nutritional levels, especially for women and children, have improved.

The most discernible and powerful tool used by the government to influence the direction of agricultural development, and more specifically, to direct resources to rural employment creation is the control and guidance of foreign agricultural assistance. Rural employment creation has been stimulated by: emphasis on labor-intensive, non-traditional export crop production; emphasis on the development of labor intensive agro-industry oriented to the production of value-added non-traditional exports; and, emphasis on the maintenance of competitive capability of labor-intensive traditional export crop production. These employment-creating emphases positively affect employment opportunities for women.

It is known that women constitute a relatively high proportion of net new labor employed in non-traditional, export-oriented agricultural production, and virtually all additional labor employed in the processing of these commodities. Women unquestionably dominate the labor force of the agricultural processing industry. Men may be employed in initial stages of industrial food processing -- hauling, washing, cleaning -- but women make up almost 100% of the labor force involved in line work and final packing. Research conducted on the effects of this employment indicate that salary levels for women in processing and packing plant work equal urban male blue collar wages. Given that few, if any, other employment opportunities in highland Guatemala pay wages, let alone even remotely equivalent salaries, the economic effect (and a number of other important impacts) of these jobs has been extraordinary. No phenomenon in rural Guatemala over the past several centuries has had a greater impact in influencing change in the role of agricultural women.

In sum, the gender and aggregate impacts of the government's non-traditional crop production and processing emphases are highly positive with regard to income and employment, subsistence food production, and caloric and nutritional intake. Although not examined, other likely important impacts include greater equality in sector (and gender) income distribution, improved national diets, and increased foreign exchange earnings.

Women have been beneficiaries of policies regarding fertilizers and chemicals (herbicides, pesticides, fungicides). The general policy of the government has been to stimulate the use of fertilizers and agricultural chemicals. In addition to preferential treatment through favorable exchange rates during the early and mid-1980s, all imported fertilizer and agricultural chemicals were exempted from import duties as of 1981. Two types of chemical-intensive enterprises -- cotton and non-traditional crops -- have especially benefitted from these policies. Cotton is produced as a plantation crop, and non-traditional crops are grown by small farmers. Because women are heavily involved in both cotton production and non-traditional crop production and processing, they are beneficiaries of these policies.

NEGATIVE:

Rural women who are classified as "economically inactive" by the census actually contribute to raising family output by four principal means: income conservation; agricultural field work, paid and unpaid; artisanal production, especially backstrap weaving; and petty commerce, especially vegetable marketing.

The impact of monetary policies on women in agriculture is mixed. The primary negative effect derives from loss of employment in traditional export crops. The reduction in production of traditional export crops, especially cotton -- in part a result of perverse monetary policy -- has had a significant impact on the income and employment of women. This has affected migrant and farm-resident women laborers employed directly in production activities and women deriving income indirectly from activities associated with export crop production. Women make up an estimated two-fifths of the labor force directly employed in cotton production. Estimated from the average 1979-81 peak period to the low year, 1986-87, the total days of women employed in cotton production fell from about 4.4 million to 1.2 million, a 70 percent drop.

The direct impacts of credit policies on women in agriculture parallel the overall sector impacts. No activities in which women are engaged yield specific gender effects of credit policy. Women are engaged in small farm agriculture proportionally more than in commercial export-oriented agriculture. Small farm agriculture has had far less access to credit than commercial agriculture, and thus women are among the most disadvantaged in terms of access to credit. Also, women are among the poorest of the small farm agricultural economy, and for all practical purposes, the poor obtain no institutionalized credit. Thus, most women do not obtain credit not because they are women, but because they are poor. If women, like men, are highly creditworthy, institutional credit appears to be available -- subject to general policy objectives -- without discrimination.

International trade policies have had a negative impact on women. The anti-export effects of trade policies on women during the 1980-88 period appear to parallel those of agriculture in general. Employment opportunities for women and men laborers in traditional export crop production dwindled as profitability and production of these crops fell and producers shifted to more capital-intensive systems. Apparently, women laborers did not bear a greater job loss impact than men. In Guatemala, rural women's artisan work -- primarily textile weaving -- is an important source of cash income. Some of the raw materials such as cotton thread are imported. Not all of these materials were granted the favorable import quota or exchange rates provided to many raw material imports. Hence, artisanal output was economically disadvantaged relative to competing industrial goods.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- Women contribute more than 1/3 of the total field labor required to produce non-traditional, agro-industrial crops and virtually all labor used in processing these for export.
- In 1986-87, women made up 24% of the economically active population, accounting for 41% of the non-agricultural labor force and only 7% of the rural labor force. This marked difference in labor force shares in agriculture is explained principally by the conceptual difficulties in defining women's labor on farms headed by men (the so-called "invisible" labor force). In Guatemala, the difficulty is compounded because of the large proportion of subsistence or near subsistence farms; women in agriculture are predominantly involved in unremunerated domestic production and marketing activities.
- According to the 1981 population census, women account for slightly over half of the rural population and, as reported by the 1979 agricultural census, head about 7% of the rural households. The total and the rural female populations are heavily skewed toward the young: 55% were younger than 20 in 1986-87.

- Women make up an estimated 2/5 of the labor force directly employed in cotton production.
- For the entire Western Highland region, there are a total of 70 extension workers -- one per 3,000 farms, or roughly one per 20,000 people.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

Thelma Pereira, Executive Director, Foundation for the Assistance of Women, Guatemala City (Fundacion para el Desarrollo de la Mujer)

Blanca de Sanchez, Director, National Office on Women, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Guatemala City

Ferguson, Anne, and Marina Flores. "Resource Guide to Women in Agriculture: Guatemala." Bean/Cowpea CRSP Women in Agriculture Series. East Lansing: Michigan State University, March 1987.

Von Braun, Joachim, David Hotchkiss, and Maarten Immink. "Nontraditional Export Crops in Traditional Smallholder Agriculture: Effects on Production, Consumption, and Nutrition in Guatemala." Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute, May 1987.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Sector	AGR ✓	PRE	ED	ENR	HPN	Multi	Other
Region	AFR	LAC	APRE	ENE ✓			
Audience	TR	POL ✓	TECH	EXT			

I. ACTIVITY

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: Warnken, Philip F. and Charles F. Nicholson. **IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC.** Washington, DC: Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., February 1989.

COUNTRY: Yemen Arab Republic

ABSTRACT:

This study examines the impacts of national economic and agricultural policies on women in Yemen's agricultural sector. Of central concern are the effects of macroeconomic and sector policies on rural women's agricultural production and income and, in turn, the significance of these effects on the agriculture and the general economy. Yemen cannot be considered a representative nation in terms of the array of policies or the effects of the policies on rural women. As a case study, the findings apply only to Yemen. (65 pp)

II. FINDINGS

KEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

POSITIVE:

Male emigration and structural changes in agriculture resulting from increased remittance income has probably increased women's roles in agricultural production and marketing.

Another impact of male migration and remittance has been the adoption of labor-saving technologies (such as gas stoves that eliminate the need for fuel collection) and investment in infrastructure (such as village water systems that reduce time spent in hauling water). Such technologies could significantly affect women's time allocations, especially in the absence of male household members.

Decision making by women and the number of female-managed farms have undoubtedly increased with high rates of male absence, but regional and land tenure differences are important.

Although markets are a public place from which women are generally excluded, there are some parts of the country such as the Central Highlands and the Tiham where women are present at weekly markets, selling items of their own production -- chickens, eggs, dairy products. It has been noted that women of Jabal Sabir, south of Taiz, in the southern highlands realize important profits and gain a great deal of economic

independence from harvesting and marketing qat. Male emigration has probably also increased the participation of women in marketing activities.

The effect of agricultural taxes is minimal and appears to favor women.

NEGATIVE:

Yemen's macroeconomic policies have had generally negative impacts on the economy, on the agricultural sector, and on rural women. Because women make up a majority of the rural population and the agricultural labor force, women have been more affected than men by these policies. The foreign exchange policy encouraged and stimulated labor emigration from the rural areas, depressed domestic agricultural production incentives, slowed growth of agricultural incomes, reduced agriculture exports and contributed to rapid growth of agricultural imports.

Monetary and fiscal policies exacerbated the negative effects of exchange rate policy by adding to inflationary pressures in the general economy and agricultural sector. Although women have been affected negatively by macroeconomic policies, it cannot be said that these policies have discriminated specifically against women.

The activities of the Marib Poultry Company -- a poultry and egg parastatal -- puts women's household poultry and egg production at some competitive disadvantage. The parastatal has access to government-granted privileges such as subsidized credit and low-duty feed imports that are obviously not available to rural women with a flock of ten hens.

VALUABLE STATISTICS:

- Various studies report that because of male emigration, women constitute 1/2 to 2/3 of the total rural labor force.
- In the southern regions of the country, 95% of the working women are in the agricultural sector, nearly all working as unpaid family laborers.
- a survey conducted in 1983 calculated that the average woman works in crop agriculture 4 to 5 hours per day, 7 days per week, for 4 months a year.

POLICY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

III. FOLLOW UP

LEADS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RELATED MATERIALS:

It would be interesting to find out more about the effects of male migration on women.

Contact:

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