

CTA Perspective on HIV/AIDS and agriculture - a key issue for ACP countries

Isolina Boto, Head of the CTA Brussels Office

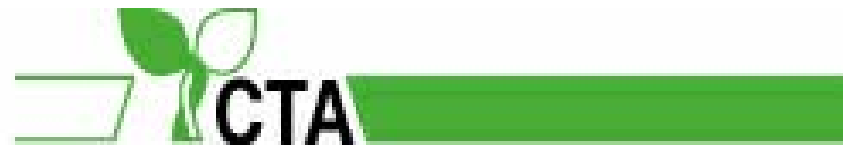
Rural networks and HIV/AIDS

CTA-Dimitra/FAO workshop

13-17th June 2005

Centre Technique de Coopération Agricole et Rurale - ACPEU

Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation - ACPEU



Why CTA is addressing HIV/AIDS?



- Africa with 10% of the world's population is the most affected by the pandemic with 83% of deaths and 9 out of ten new infections
- The pandemic is undermining all the development efforts made in the last 40 years (life expectancy, economic performance)
- HIV/AIDS has a special impact on agriculture and affects agricultural workers
- Most of infected people live in rural areas

Why CTA is addressing HIV/AIDS?



- Information and communications tools and strategies can make a difference in increasing awareness on the pandemic
- CTA can sensitize and/or support efforts from ACP partners and beneficiaries at national and regional level
- CTA interventions can support existing programmes by donors
- HIV/AIDS is a cross-cutting issue

Agriculture, rural livelihoods and HIV/AIDS



- Shift of HIV/AIDS from cities to rural areas (especially Sub-Saharan Africa)
- Agriculture and fisheries are affected at multiple levels:
 - Production
 - Processing, marketing, transport
 - Commercial farming, markets, trade
 - Economic effects on agri-food enterprises
- Rural livelihoods are affected in many ways (environment, social structure and values, safety and social protection, transfer of skills and knowledge...)

Cross-cutting issues: gender and youth

The woman's face of AIDS

Biological factors, gender inequalities (Socio-cultural factors, Feminization of poverty, Unequal or unfavorable laws), Violence against women (Partner violence, Sex work trafficking and migration, HIV testing and Disclosure, rape (wars and conflict situation))

Youth

One third of all affected are young (15-24)

- Lack of access to information and preventive services
- Youth-headed households (heaviest asset-loss)
- Lack of schooling
- Violence



Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in development



HIV/AIDS is not just a health issue

- HIV/AIDS has to be addressed through support to agriculture in countries where agriculture contributes a significant proportion of GDP
- Links between AIDS and food security, rural livelihoods and agricultural systems have to be monitored
- Relation to poverty, power, gender and youth relationships, availability and access to basic services, sexual customs and traditional practices have to be explored
- Need for a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach
- Need for political commitment

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.

Urgent actions and challenges

Research is needed on:

- Impact of HIV/AIDS on production factors
- Impact on non-infected relatives and community
- Policy-oriented sector studies on the future social, economical and political impact of HIV/AIDS
- Innovations and changes caused by HIV/AIDS
- Agricultural research linked with affected communities and with other sectors
- Mapping of rural vulnerability through statistics and data-collection

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.

Information and HIV/AIDS

- Effective communication of valid and appropriate information is the specific remedy for infection rates attributable to a lack of information and misinformation around the epidemic.
 - Information on prevention, heavy treatments, effects, comfort of life, hope of longer survival

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.

Information and HIV/AIDS

ICT offer the opportunity to:

- Provide information and overcome misinformation leading to silence, denial, stigma and discrimination
- Enable advocacy, mobilization, networking and capacity building (eempowerment of community-based organisations)
- Provide alternative methods of communication where free speech is limited
- Change attitudes and behavior

Information and Communication tools

Combination of audiovisuals, sound and print technologies-

- Radio and TV, video and digital cameras
- Personal computers, internet access, e-mail
- Phone (affordability of prepaid mobile phone)
- Training packs and kits
- Internet health care services (e-medical publications, e-consultations, drug supply)
- CD-ROMs
- Printed material (posters, cartoons)

Information and Communication strategies

Promoting investment in technology and infrastructure

- Public and private investments (telehealth applications, legal advice, civil register)
- Cell phone subsidies, low cost satellite internet access
- Free software with technological solutions to enable access
- Handheld computers to facilitate field surveys in rural areas

Information and Communication strategies

Promoting education and awareness raising

- Prevention through education of highest risk groups- distance education
- Population research and epidemiology
- Education of health workers
- Advocacy and lobbying:
 - affordable prevention measures
 - the treatment access struggle
 - budget lobbying

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.

Information and Communication strategies

Networking and capacity-building for local groups

- Building and investing in local, national and regional institutions and initiatives for the development of innovative ICT solutions suited to local contexts
- **Twinning of NGO's (in developed/ developing countries; urban/rural)**

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of overlapping colored squares (yellow, red, blue) and a black crosshair.

Information and Communication strategies

Knowledge sharing

- Inclusion of marginalised groups to describe needs and tools (local content, language)
- Community dialogue and involvement in defining, implementing and evaluating IC programmes
- Development of collaborative mechanisms between Governments/donors and these communities

Information and Communication strategies

Transmission of knowledge

Regularity and clarity of health information provided

- Disseminate best practices (community coping mechanisms, community initiatives and organisations)
- Disseminate discipline-specific web resources and on-line training materials
- Disseminate research results in appropriate format

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of a vertical black line intersecting a horizontal black line. To the left of the vertical line are three overlapping squares: a yellow one at the top, a red one in the middle, and a blue one at the bottom. The horizontal line extends across the width of the slide, positioned below the title.

Urgent actions and challenges

- Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into ICT initiatives and educational services
- Targeted increased access to ICT
- Allocation of funding to priority sectors
- Governance and accountability on HIV/AIDS
- Strengthening local initiatives and institutions



Actions by networks

- HIV/AIDS Education in partnership with Society of Women and Aids (SWAN)- Stella Williams- Youth clubs, secondary schools- Awareness on fighting stigmatisation
- Cultural barriers – example of Sud Kivu Adeline (Congo) and on the land tenure systems



Actions by networks

- Targetting young women-especially in secondary schools on sexual rights and decision taking. Isabelle, Profemmes Kigali-
- Traditional land tenure systems- access to credit, inappropriate technologies; polygamy- Lubinda- Zambia
- Use of traditional herbs and medicinal plants-
Commercila and medicinal use. Nutrition
Sex for food, pressure on rural communities.
Rose, Canrop, Caribbean



Actions by networks

- Positive changes Enda Pronat, Sénégal. Pandemic not seen as a malediction, public debate taking place, involvement of religious authorities, ownership of the problem by the communities, increased involvement of men on discussions about sexual relations
- Impact of armed conflicts – 90% of sexual abuse are done by soldiers. Displaced and rural people victims. Poverty/commercial sex. No political will. Elise, Conafed, Congo



Actions by networks

- Low prevalence and national programme. Mobilisation of the civil society and creation of networks Faten, Credif, Tunisie
- Training, participatory methods amongst rural networks/illiterate groups and older people, Mourad, Amsed, Maroc



Actions by networks

- Response targeting only urban areas, role of migration, Volohomihaja, ONE, Madagascar
- Web page disseminating information for women and girls, WOUGNET, Uganda