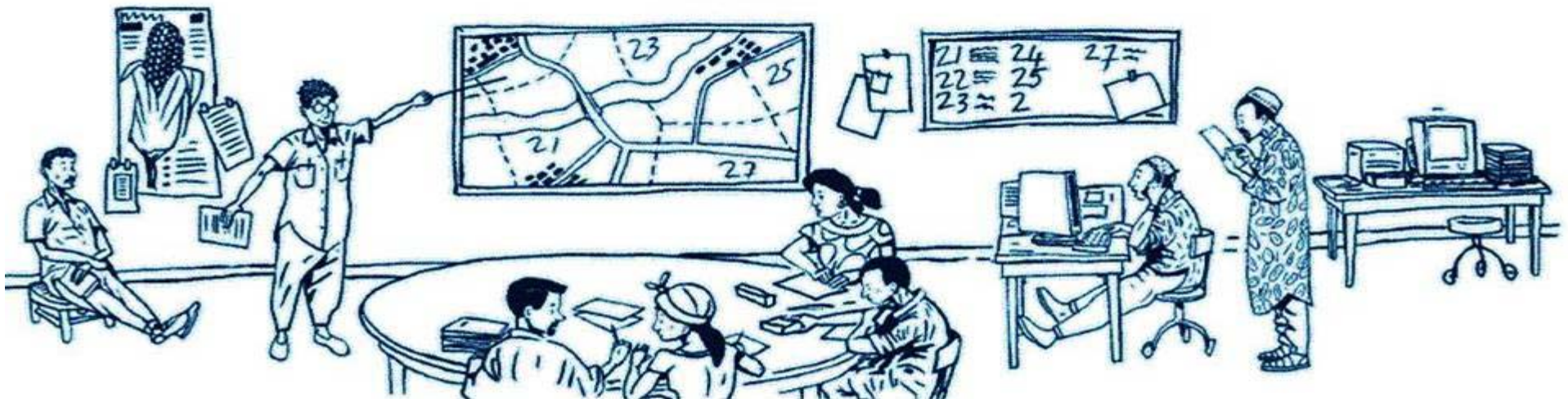


## New ICTs for networking: Opportunities and Challenges

# Rural women, dynamisation of networks and fight against HIV/AIDS in rural areas

Brussels, Belgium 13-17 June 2005  
Sophie Treinen, GILF - FAO



## Overview

- New ICTs
- Advantages and opportunities
- Constraints and challenges
- How to deal with new ICTs
- Food for thought



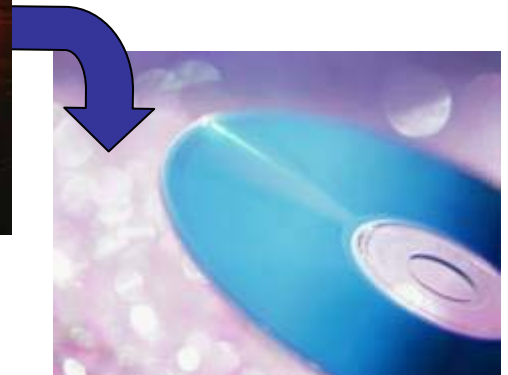
## Definition of new ICTs

ICTs are considered as electronic technologies for the storing, processing, transferring of information and communication. They allow quicker more efficient exchange / processing of information.

Internet, e-mail, PCs, PDAs, mobile phones, digital cameras, networks, databases, portals and software



# New ICTs for networking: Opportunities and Challenges





# Information management

Information management covers the various stages of information processing from production to storage and retrieval to dissemination towards the better working of an organization or a community; information can be from internal and external sources and in any format.



## Advantages and opportunities

- Two-way, horizontal and vertical communications
- Connects geographically dispersed people
- Provision of readily accessible information
- Supports communication in various forms
- Presents information in variable formats
- Manage large volumes of data quickly and cheaply
- Avoid duplication
- Facilitate informed decision-making



## Constraints and challenges

- Costs of technologies, maintenance and access
- Lack of accessible telecommunication infrastructure and electricity
- Use of proprietary technological solutions
- Lack attempts to integrate existing media and communication methods and channels
- Poor and non-participatory planning
- Lack of stakeholders involvements especially women and youth
- Need for capacity building




# New ICTs for networking: Opportunities and Challenges

## New tasks, new players, new skills

Joan Rose,  
Author


Paul  
Chukwu,  
Computer  
Systems  
Officer

 New jobs Webmaster,  
Chief Information Officer,  
Information Management  
Specialist

Gertrud  
Schmidt,  
Librarian

Ming Qiao,  
WEBMASTER

Ajsha Cook,  
Publications  
Officer

 Different jobs  
computer specialists  
hardware specialist  
software application,  
data analyst

 Same jobs  
Librarian





## Food for thought

- Local or appropriately localised content
- Share costs appropriately
- Build on existing systems
- Address diversity
- Build capacity
- Ensure equitable access and empowerment
- Build knowledge partnerships
- Use realistic technologies:  
focus on benefits not technology



# New ICTs for networking: Opportunities and Challenges

## Dgroups for Dimitra network

[www.dgroups.org](http://www.dgroups.org)

[www.dgroups.org/groups/fao/dimitra](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/fao/dimitra)

