



Dimitra Newsletter

RURAL WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT



- 🎯 **Communicating gender for development**
- 🎯 **Community listeners' clubs in the DRC and Niger**
- 🎯 **Capitalisation of good practices in West Africa**

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Editorial

Dear readers,

At the end of 2009, despite the international commitments made to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, over a billion people are going hungry and 70% of those women and men who suffer from hunger live in rural areas. These alarming results inevitably raise questions as to the effectiveness of the development policies being implemented and strengthen our determination to continue with our participatory communication actions. Thus, amidst the turmoil of the financial and economic crisis which is severely affecting all countries, we present issue 17 of the Dimitra Newsletter.

Over the past months, Dimitra has been building the capacities of its partners in the area of gender and communication. A training module called 'Communicating gender for development' has been developed and tested in Senegal, the DRC and Niger. Its main goal is to clarify what 'gender' is all about and how it is used concretely in communication activities. This training module is intended for our various stakeholders and partners: representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Family or Gender, Rural Development, Education, etc., as well as farmers' organisations, NGOs, the media (particularly community radio journalists), and so on.

Community radio listeners' clubs are a door to the economic, political and social empowerment of rural populations, especially women. They are also a very positive factor for local good governance practices in the framework of decentralisation policies in progress in many African countries. Three new radio listeners' clubs have been created in Katanga (DRC) and a large number are being formed in Niger, in cooperation with literacy centres and community radio stations. We shall also be presenting Radio Bubusa, a community radio station operated for and by rural women, which has been broadcasting in the province of South Kivu (DRC) since January 2008.

This issue of the Newsletter also introduces readers to the FAO project 'Capitalisation of

Good Practices in Support of Agricultural Production and Food Security'. This project is one of the components of the 'Knowledge Management and Gender' programme in the FAO-Belgium partnership, and covers four West African countries: Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. The aim of this programme is to ensure systematic and transversal integration of gender issues through participatory communication and improved information sharing.

The AfricaAdapt network is also working on capitalisation and shows how improved knowledge sharing would enable local communities to exchange practices for adaptation to climate change and increase their own resilience.

In addition, you will find out how micro-gardens can improve the food and nutrition security of poor city-dwellers who have no (or difficult) access to land.

This issue's "Women's Portraits" series features Mrs Maïmouna Djermakoye, President of the NGO Doubani, who works to promote women in Niger.

This year's King Baudouin International Development Prize was awarded to the Indonesian radio news agency KBR68H, a network of over 630 radio stations working for democracy, tolerance and development.

Finally, MIJARC explains how it implements its specific gender objectives, and how "women are empowered at all levels with regard to their rights and their participation as leaders".

Numerous other exciting reports and resources await you in this issue. Happy reading!

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Design: Atelier voor grafische & aanverwante toepassingen, Ghent
Printed by Parys Printing, Evergem-Ghent



FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

With the financial support of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (DGDC) Belgium and of the King Baudouin Foundation.

The content of the articles does not necessarily reflect the views of FAO.

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'Communicating gender for development': Dimitra's new training module

For the past few months, Dimitra has been developing a training module on gender-sensitive communication. A word of explanation...

Further to requests from its partners, Dimitra began to develop a training course which emphasised the links between 'gender' and 'communication for development'. The course is also rooted in Dimitra's own experience.

Through the implementation of its many activities over time, Dimitra identified a need among its partners in this field. Staff at the ministries and many other parties involved in Dimitra's activities wanted to improve their communication methods, information tools and gender knowledge to raise the profile of and better explain the challenges related to gender equality, especially in the area of agriculture and rural development.

The gender concept and approach

The concept of gender is complex and often misunderstood, it carries many stereotypes and raises numerous questions. Despite the amount of information available on the subject, few social actors truly understand gender-equality issues. Although the media have a major part to play in information diffusion, awareness-raising and social extension work, particularly at local level, they show little interest in gender issues. Furthermore, the communication capacities of NGOs working for rural development are often limited. Ministries too often confuse 'gender' and 'women' and find it difficult to integrate gender into their national policies.

One of the keys to reducing and removing persistent inequalities between men and women is access to information. Such access enables men and women to understand the issues at stake and seize opportunities for changes in behaviour at the social, economic, technical and political levels. However, such change can only take place if both men and women are involved in the transformation process.

Principles of the training course

The goal of the 'Communicating gender' training course is to contribute to development efforts for gender equality by promoting information and communication that take gender issues into account.

Its general aims are to:

- build the capacity of government personnel to transversally include gender issues in agricultural and rural development policies and measure their differentiated impact on men and women, including vulnerable groups and female-headed households;
- ensure equal access for men and women to resources, goods, services and decision-making in rural areas;

- help governments to formulate agricultural and development policies that take gender equality into account, exclude no one and are participatory.

At the end of the training course, all participants will have:

- basic knowledge of gender issues and communication;
- increased their ability to analyse a communication situation from a gender perspective and develop a strategic vision of communication;
- been encouraged to change their behaviour in the workplace and ensure that their communication actions are more gender sensitive.



The 'Communicating gender for development' training course aims to contribute to development efforts for gender equality by promoting information and communication that take gender issues into account.

'Communicating gender for development' training course

THREE PILOT WORKSHOPS IN SENEGAL, THE DRC AND NIGER

A key stage in the development of the 'Communicating gender for development' module, the organisation of pilot workshops in MBour (Senegal), Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Niamey (Niger) has finalised Dimitra's innovative training module. Almost 60 participants from ministries, the media, grassroots and international organisations gathered with two purposes: increasing their gender and communication capacities and testing the training module. The training courses were facilitated by Agnès Le Magadoux and Yannick De Mol.

Senegal: the first step

Last June, the Dimitra team launched its series of training courses by organising a workshop on 'Communicating gender for development' at the Enda Made Sahel Centre in MBour. This first step confirmed the importance of anchoring gender training in practical and concrete experience. Although this training module is, in many ways, an introduction to gender concepts and the basics of communication, using examples drawn from participants' everyday lives is clearly a good way to proceed. Drawing from participants' experience and especially from awareness-raising campaigns they conducted in Senegal, the trainers ensured that all were able to participate actively.

DRC: at the request of and with the support of the Katanga Ministry of Agriculture

In early September, the second training course was set up in Lubumbashi, Katanga Province, in cooperation with REFED-Katanga, Dimitra's partner there, and the Provincial Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, Stockbreeding and Rural Development. Most of the participants worked for the provincial Ministry of Agriculture but the national ministries for Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development also participated, each sending two participants. Provincial Minister Mumba Gama demonstrated his interest in the workshop by opening the course and supplying staff and equipment to help out with the organisation.

The programme was adapted so that the participants could acquire basic gender approach and analysis skills through the step-by-step creation of a communication activity, such as a video forum or a series of radio announcements on issues they work on every day. It is very important to adapt the content to the local context.

Niger: the conclusion

The last pilot workshop was organised in Niamey at the end of September by Dimitra's partner organisation ONG-VIE, which works mainly in the field of informal education and literacy. Although quite similar to the one organised in Katanga, the main differences were related to the composition of the group – this workshop attracted a higher number of gender experts – and the improvement of the teaching materials. The group was particularly diverse, which influenced its dynamics. But, again, the development of a communication activity as a group, proved to be the appropriate approach. Positive feedback from the participants confirmed the fine-tuning of the teaching materials in line with the needs identified during the previous workshops. The contents of the training course will be used during the coming months by ONG-VIE within the scope of its project 'Creation of radio listeners' clubs for empowerment and leadership among rural women and young people in literacy centres'. (see page 7).

Lessons learned

Generally speaking, the organisation of this series of pilot training courses made it possible to confront theory with practice and fine-tune a number of components, in particular by listening to participant feedback, during both the training courses and the final evaluation session. Here are the main conclusions:

- The effectiveness of the selected **teaching approach** was demonstrated: based on the principles of participatory communication, and integrating gender concept acquisition into communication activities that most participants experience/have experienced in their professional lives. This makes it easier to understand the direct link between gender issues and real life. Reflecting on simple, taken for granted concepts as well as on stereotypes and prejudices is indispensable.
- As far as **content** is concerned, the use of examples and case studies proved extremely useful. The composition of the groups has



The training is anchored in practice, using the concrete experiences of participants, notably by working on existing awareness-raising campaigns. The use of examples and case studies proved extremely useful.

Communicating gender for development: some basic principles

a significant influence on the synergies, and therefore the content, of the training courses. The dynamic varies widely according to area of expertise, especially when the participant is specialised in the areas of communication or of gender. Finding the right balance between communication and gender was a challenge faced during each of the training sessions.

- Concerning **logistics** and **organisation**, it is crucial to have two trainers (a man and a woman) to fully take into account the sensitivities and viewpoints of both the men and women attending the training course. It is also very important to create a good group dynamic. Ideally, the training courses should be residential and specific activities should be organised (games, events, outings) to foster this dynamic. It is useful to target those working in the field.

In the course of each workshop, the Dimitra team was surprised at the participants' level of commitment beyond the training course. It is therefore particularly important to give participants the opportunity to think of the post-training period and how their new skills will translate into their professional activity. The commitment displayed by individuals and groups shows just how timely the development of the Dimitra training module is and provides invaluable indicators for evaluation and follow-up.

The future: training courses and the publication of a teaching guide

The interest shown by the authorities and by development actors also augurs well for the future. Dimitra is already considering cooperation with several ministries so that the training courses can be replicated on a larger scale.

In the coming months, within the scope of other projects by FAO and international organisations, Dimitra will be able to implement and adjust the module in the coming months, notably by working with community radio staff.

As with all its activities, Dimitra capitalises on its achievements and experiences. Over the next few months, the training team and Dimitra will be developing a guide to be used as a reference on the subject of gender and communication in rural areas. The content will include the key components of the training courses so that others can use them, whether for training or other development activities.

- * For more information on the training courses, please contact the Dimitra team: dimitra@dimitra.org

Taking the gender dimension into account in a communication activity requires that the interests, problems, experiences and priorities of both women and men be considered and discussed.

'Communicating gender for development' is based on the premise that society should move towards equality between men and women. Thus, while removing discrimination and ensuring respect for the basic rights of all, the aim is for control of and equal access to:

- basic services, infrastructures, education and health to support **social empowerment**;
- productive resources and technology, in particular land and agricultural financing and diversification of tools and technologies (in particular loans and incentives), to promote **economic empowerment**;
- negotiating platforms, information and opportunities for communication, as well as decision-making bodies, to encourage **political empowerment**.

These three dimensions (social, economic and political) are indissociable and cannot be treated separately. What use would it be to encourage education while restricting access to a profession or the rights inherent to full citizenship? Conversely, what would be the

point of access to economic activities without the means to engage in them for lack of basic knowledge, resources and opportunities to make oneself heard? Gender equality can only be sought when all three dimensions are taken into account as a single, indivisible unit in which each component is of equal importance.

This is why taking the gender dimension into account in a communication activity requires that the interests, problems, experiences and priorities of both women and men be considered and discussed. This does not mean taking a biased approach in which only the interests of women are taken into consideration. On the contrary, sensitivity to different points of view is required to work together.

What is needed is a specific mindset, a critical approach and a commitment to equality. In practice, it means wearing 'gender spectacles' to render 'forgotten' or 'concealed' dimensions.

TO COMMUNICATE GENDER, IT IS CRUCIAL TO:

- know and understand the context;
- take several viewpoints, opinions and statements into account during the communication action: those of women and men and not only those who have authority and power;
- name all interested parties. The French practice of using the masculine plural to refer to mixed groups should be discarded;
- find the people who are "missing" from your communication activity;
- be aware of stereotypes and prejudices, especially sexist ones, that everyone holds, the trainers included;
- demonstrate the effects of gender relations;
- conduct research with experts and above all with field workers to better understand their specific needs.



New community radio listeners' clubs in Katanga

South Kivu's community radio listeners' clubs have sprouted new clubs in Katanga:

Welcome to the clubs KIKA in Kapolowe, and TUMU and TUJI in Kasumbalesa!

Katanga: access to information and communication is difficult

Like access to goods and services, access to information and communication is a prerequisite for development. However, this is particularly difficult for the rural population of Katanga, especially the women. The sheer size of the province, the dilapidated or non-existent transport infrastructure, the fact that there is little or no access to information and communication tools and equipment, and the many handicaps inherent to the traditional status of women are only a few of the obstacles they face.

Yet access to information and the opportunity to communicate on concrete subjects relating to daily life help to boost skills and self-confidence and encourage economic, political and social empowerment. They are the factors that promote good local governance and are the conditions for genuine participation and citizenship.

Radio listeners' clubs created in Katanga

The training and awareness-raising of previously identified community leaders, extension workers of grassroots development organisations and community radio collaborators and journalists was the main goal of two workshops organised by Dimitra with the support of GTZ Health and SAMWAKI, a precursor in this domain in South Kivu. Gender issues, mobilisation, lobbying on social issues and participatory communication were at the heart of both workshops, which took place in Lubumbashi in November 2008. (For further details, see Dimitra Newsletter, Issue 16, May 2009, pages 4-5)

Over the following months, the participants passed on to others what they had learned during the workshops. This ultimately led to the creation in July 2009 of several radio listeners' clubs, one in Kapolowe, near the town of Likasi, and two in Kasumbalesa, next to the Zambian border.

An enthusiastic reception

The KIKA listeners' club in Kapolowe was the first to be officially launched on 20 July 2009. It is linked to RCK-Likasi (Katanga Community Radio Station of Likasi). The official ceremony was presided over by the representative of the Provincial Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Stockbreeding and Rural Development, in the presence of the local and traditional authorities, FAO, Dimitra, REFED-Katanga, GTZ Health, and many other inter-

KIKA is the acronym of **Kibulumo Kya Kapolowe**. This means 'the cry of the lion' in the local Kisanga language. According to the history of the town of Kapolowe, the first Europeans were told that there was a lion hiding on the hill. The Europeans asked "Where is the lion (kapolo we)?" – kapolo meaning 'lion' and we 'where is'. The club chose this name to refer to something that attracts the attention of all. The club logo is a drummer with his drum standing next to a stream. The drum was used by the ancestors to announce important news to the villagers.

Tuangane Mukono, TUMU for short, means 'Unite' or 'Union' in Swahili. This union is symbolised by an outstretched hand (mukono).

TUJI, for **Tujikaze**, means 'Let's do our utmost!'

ested persons. The club members performed a number of sketches to demonstrate the problems they regularly face (HIV/AIDS, corruption, ignorance, lack of access to information, nutrition, etc). Being organised in groups has greatly helped the population. The support of the Kapolowe Mission, notably by providing them with a meeting place, also is a major advantage for the success of their activities.

Involvement and support by local authorities

A few days later, the TUJI radio listeners' club in Kasumbalesa (Wisky village) was also officially opened. Once more, the ceremony was attended by representatives from the Ministry, FAO, Dimitra, REFED-Katanga and GTZ Health, as well as a large and lively crowd. Local authorities such as the *Chef de Cité* (Urban Area Chief) and the Kombo traditional chief made speeches to show how deeply – as in Kapolowe – they were involved in the radio listeners' club process, and how well they understood that the work of a community needs to be supported by both men and women, in a spirit of open-mindedness and equality.

At the two ceremonies, the FAO office in Lubumbashi donated some market-gardening kits to the members of the radio listeners' clubs – food safety being one of the chief concerns of these clubs – to support and encourage their activities.

Since then, the TUMU radio listeners' club in Kasumbalesa (Carrière village) has also been founded. The two clubs in Kasumbalesa are very active and highly involved with the Paradoxe and Vespera community radio stations, which operate in Kasumbalesa. The journalists from these radio stations attended the 'Communicating gender for development' training course which Dimitra and the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture organised in Lubumbashi in September (see pages 4-5), and have already put what they learned there to very good use. To be continued...

The 'Radio Listeners' Clubs in Katanga' project is implemented by REFED-Katanga, with the support of Dimitra, GTZ Health (Katanga) and the King Baudouin Foundation.

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Niger – Community radio listeners' clubs to reinforce women's leadership

By combining literacy and communication Dimitra aims to promote women's leadership in Niger, without marginalising men, using literacy centres and community radio stations as tools. This project is also the result of an efficient partnership between local, bilateral and multilateral organisations.

"It's such a thrill to hear to yourself speaking on the radio, especially when you used to think that the voices you heard weren't those of real people." Djélika Doudou is taking part in community extension work in the village of Zindigori, west of Téra. She is a member of a radio listeners' club and thus a direct beneficiary of a pilot project jointly organised by Dimitra and ONG-VIE Kande Ni Bayra: "Creating radio listeners' clubs for empowerment and leadership among rural women and young people through literacy centres".

The radio, a "palaver tree" for rural women

One moonlit evening, an extension worker played back a recording in Zindigori. She had previously interviewed and recorded women on issues which affected them. Many villagers, both women and men, came to listen, and as they looked on with surprise and enthusiasm, the extension worker explained the potential of this new form of information-sharing which uses both radio and literacy centre as its tools. This was the beginning of the radio listeners' club for the empowerment of the women of Zindigori. The other partner clubs of the community radio station in Téra were started in the same way.

The extension worker in charge of supporting rural women goes regularly to the village. Her aim: to encourage women to speak up on the airwaves. Community radio stations are a new form of "palaver tree" for rural women who, for the longest time, were without a voice.

The two-year project was started in July 2009. It covers the broadcast areas of nine community radio stations in the Tillabéri and Dosso regions.

Radio and literacy to strengthen leadership

Three radio listeners' clubs have been created in each of the 10 beneficiary villages. Each club has a solar-powered and wind-up radio and a membership of interested women and young people. A woman is appointed to chair the club. The women and young people listen to the radio programmes and gather in the literacy centre to discuss them and improve each other's understanding. They analyse many subjects and discuss them freely: health, education, livestock and crop farming, cooking recipes, decentralisation, citizenship, the culture of peace, and so on.

During their exchanges and discussions, the women are supported by a radio extension worker, a literacy trainer or a resource person. Together, they produce a summary of their discussions. If the subject discussed is of interest beyond the village, it is recorded and broadcast by the community radio station. The women sometimes invite the men to share their opinions. To further broaden their scope, the village's three radio listeners' clubs meet from time to time and when it is warranted, these exchanges are broadcast on the radio.

The debates and discussions between the women are used, discussed, broadcast and listened to by fellow-women in neighbouring villages. Little by little, the women's groups are interacting and exchanging views and rural women's leadership is strengthening and developing. The responsiveness of the women leaders is a tribute to the project's obvious potential. Long silent, rural women are demonstrating their ability to show independence and make their voices heard.

Men want radio listeners' clubs of their own

In some villages, mixed-gender groups are not an option for the immediate future. In such cases, men form their own radio listeners' clubs, in partnership with the women's clubs. This is important if women are not to be marginalised and men are to be involved in the process.

The result of a multiple partnership

The radio listeners' club project is the result of a sub-regional workshop organised by Dimitra and ONG-VIE Kande Ni Bayra in December 2006: "Literacy of rural women as a factor in promoting themselves, their families and the education of girls". This encounter emphasised the potential impact of creating synergies between literacy centres and community radio stations. The idea was to ensure appropriate access to information and communication in order to build the capacities of rural women



Each listeners' club has a solar-powered and wind-up radio. The club members listen to the radio programmes together before gathering in the literacy centres to discuss them freely and without taboo.

and improve their living conditions and leadership.

The workshop was financed by the Swiss Cooperation, Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), Canadian Cooperation, UNFPA and FAO/Dimitra. Since then, UNDP and UNIFEM have come on board and together they have decided to take this initiative further. ONG-VIE is in charge of the project's implementation.

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This article was also published by UNDP Niger in Issue 16 of the journal "Dai Dai Ci".

From experience to knowledge sharing: the capitalisation of good practices for rural organisations in West Africa

The aim of the 'Capitalisation of Good Practices to Support Agricultural Production and Food Security' project is to increase, in an equal manner for all, the ability of women and men producers to access agricultural inputs of the right quality, in the right place and at the right time, and to use them rationally and ecologically by improving knowledge management in this area. In this case, 'agricultural inputs' means seeds, fertilisers, phytosanitary products and small agricultural implements. The scope of this project is regional and its activities take place in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal. In Niger, the Capitalisation project operates in close cooperation with the 'Intensification de l'Agriculture par le Renforcement des Boutiques d'Intrants Coopératives' project (IARBIC – Intensification of Agriculture by means of Cooperative Input Shops).

To achieve its goal, the project uses a capitalisation-based approach that takes gender equality into account and in which experiences with regard to inputs and knowledge management are packaged so that they can be acquired by women and men producers.

How does capitalisation work?

Capitalisation is a complex process involving information and communication management, and includes the following stages:

- **Identification:** innovative practices and relevant information and knowledge in the area

of agricultural inputs are identified;

- **Documentation:** information is collected to enable the identified material to be described and illustrated using a variety of sources (farmers' organisations, libraries, research centres, etc.);
- The **transformation (packaging)** of the practices into a wide range of materials that can be used by the target audience, including: brochures, manuals, songs, radio programmes, films, theatre, video, and so on;
- Practices and experiences are **exchanged and disseminated** through channels suited to rural environments, using methods that enable women and men producers to put this knowledge to good use;
- Finally, **appropriation:** this enables the newly acquired knowledge to be put into practice, by adopting it, adapting it to context and enriching it.

To put this approach into practice, the Capitalisation project involves many actors: rural grassroots groups, the national platforms of farmers' organisations, State technical services, NGOs, the media and communication agencies, research facilities and universities, as well as development projects and programmes.

The project sets up partnerships with all these actors to implement training, technical support, methodological support and research action programmes. Several types and meth-

ods of communication are used for exchange and debate: exchange visits; workshops; fairs and events dedicated to exchanges; community radio stations; written, audio, video and photographic material; electronic and phone networks and many more.

The approach, the established partnerships and the exchange system are managed in such a way as to integrate gender issues at all stages of the project. The objective of all the activities is to promote effective, fair and sustainable development, especially in terms of production and of access to and control of information and knowledge.

Existing capitalisation initiatives

The term 'capitalisation' is often used to describe such activities and the resulting material. However, the multi-stage capitalisation process described above and its potential positive impact are often unfamiliar. This can be explained by the scarcity of appropri-

The 'Capitalisation of Good Practices to Support Agricultural Production and Food Security' project is one of the components of the partnership between FAO and Belgium on '**Knowledge Management and Gender**'. This programme covers four West African countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) and has four components:

- '**Hortivar**' and the '**Rural Finance Learning Centre**' constitute the technical components of the project and cover horticultural practices and warrantage (see Dimitra Newsletter, Issues 15 & 16).
- '**Dimitra**' and the '**Capitalisation**' project are the methodological components. They use a participatory approach to increase the exchange of knowledge in the target countries and systematic integration of gender issues by improving information and communication management.

This programme works in synergy with other FAO regional initiatives such as Water for Africa, the Farmer Field Schools, the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices, and its support for national food security programmes.



Elementary stages in the practice of capitalisation: transformation (packaging) of the practices into a wide range of materials adapted for the target audience, and exchange and dissemination of these practices and experiences using methods that enable good use of this knowledge.



ately packaged materials and a lack of training courses intended for West African rural organisations.

In the two countries in which the Capitalisation project began its activities in 2009 (Niger and Burkina Faso), there are an increasing number of initiatives to document and disseminate innovative practices and knowledge in the area of agricultural development. These are implemented by projects and organisations in rural areas wanting to render their activities more known and visible. They get various types of material (articles, information sheets, brochures, booklets, videos, etc.) produced by communicators and journalists who sometimes work for NGOs (as communication officers or information officers), but rarely for farmers' organisations or development projects.

To encourage actors to express themselves even when they are not communication specialists, "writing workshops" are occasionally organised by NGOs and projects to utilise and disseminate field experience. For instance, such workshops may be intended for the leaders of farmers' organisations, who are then able to describe their experiences and share them with their groups. They may also be organised for members of a thematic network, or the various beneficiaries of a development project, who gather to exchange practices.

Training of capitalisation extension workers for an appropriation of the approach

To boost the capitalisation process in its partner organisations, the project plans to promote the training of 'capitalisation extension workers'. The role of these extension workers will be to:

- disseminate the approach within their own organisations and to their financial partners and their members, by explaining the value of capitalisation, its stages, its human and financial cost, and above all its benefits;
- implement capitalisation themselves or support its implementation by using a variety of tools, methods and materials appropriate to their requirements.

The Capitalisation project aims to improve the access of women and men producers to agricultural inputs of the right quality, in the right place and at the right time, and to use them rationally and ecologically through improved knowledge management.

To ensure that organisations supporting rural society accept this new role, the Capitalisation project will set up 'action-trainings'. The subject of these training courses will be selected according to the strategic interest in capitalisation of the organisation in question and the lessons that may be learned by other organisations participating in the exchanges.

The creation of this action-training scheme requires that the capitalisation processes of partner organisations be analysed. Surveys and interviews to do exactly this are currently under way. This analysis will provide an opportunity to determine the practical form of the training courses best suited to the working methods of these organisations.

The knowledge acquired during the action-training courses should enable extension workers to answer the following questions: Why capitalise? What do we capitalise on? How do we organise capitalisation? How do we produce content? How do we produce materials? How are the results of capitalisation disseminated and exchanged? How can behaviours be

influenced and changed by the results of capitalisation?

The action-training experiences will constitute a foundation for the capitalisation of good practices in rural areas by the partner organisations involved.

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* **To access documentation in French on the capitalisation of experiences, go to**
www.delicious.com/gestionconnaissancesgenre/capitalisation



AfricaAdapt: sharing knowledge to adapt to climate change

Climate change is a threat to the daily lives of African communities and will undoubtedly slow down the continent's development. A great deal of knowledge and many useful lessons have been learned in the field. Nevertheless, knowledge sharing and capitalisation between the various actors working on the issue remain limited. The AfricaAdapt network seeks to respond to this challenge and share knowledge on adaptation to climate change in an innovative and targeted manner.



of connecting networks and people, thus enabling them to share experiences and learn from one another.

The purpose of the AfricaAdapt network is to meet this challenge and share knowledge on adaptation to climate change in an innovative and targeted manner. Its action is based on the **use of ICTs**: text message alerts, RSS feeds, micro-blogging on Twitter, and so on. The network also uses more traditional communication tools such as **meetings** between actors in the field, and places great emphasis on the generation of **knowledge products adapted to the specific needs** of decision-makers, researchers,

exchanges on specific issues. AfricaAdapt has developed a guide to enable researchers to communicate in a simple and efficient manner.

Knowledge sharing also requires that a **climate of trust** be created between the various actors. However, cooperation between political decision-makers, journalists and researchers has not yet been achieved and is a major obstacle to the sensitisation of the population and informed decision-making.

The **protection** of local know-how has raised many issues. How can this know-how be documented without dispossessing local communities of their heritage? Although the network's approach is to document local knowledge, it is also to contribute new knowledge which enriches the community and reinforces current adaptation strategies.

An improvement in knowledge sharing would enable local communities to exchange practices for adaptation to climate change with one another and increase their resilience. It must be said that the diversity of the actors involved (political decision-makers, media, research institutes, NGOs, etc.) and language barriers do not make communication any easier. Moreover, the problems generated by illiteracy, access to information and the marginalisation of women are sizeable obstacles to knowledge sharing.

A number of convincing experiences have shown that knowledge sharing and cooperation between actors contribute to improving the livelihoods of communities. For instance, the IPACC (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee) has recently initiated use of GPS technology and local know-how to assess the vulnerability of a nomadic hunter community in South Africa.

AfricaAdapt: using an integrated approach to reach out to marginalised communities

The AfricaAdapt network was started in 2008 and is the result of cooperation between ENDA Third World in Senegal, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in Ghana, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in Kenya and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the United Kingdom. The network is managed by four knowledge sharing coordinators (one from each organisation), who are in charge

NGOs and community -based organisations.

One of AfricaAdapt's key ambitions is to document local experiences and encourage inter-community communication. To this end, partnerships with community radio stations have been set up to create programmes in local languages, with a view to facilitating understanding of climate change at community level. Marginalised groups such as women, the disabled and the illiterate are especially targeted, to ensure the widest possible participation in the communication process. With the same goal in mind, the AfricaAdapt Innovation Fund, which was launched in June 2009, encourages innovative knowledge sharing initiatives by local communities. A first call for applicants generated 500 applications, 10 of which were selected for funding.

The challenges of knowledge sharing

Although many actors are showing a definite interest in knowledge sharing, this remains hampered by the **English/French language divide** in Africa. Many researchers have no access to information generated in another language and can share their results with only one language community.

Moreover, **researchers** are sometimes unwilling to communicate other than by publishing their final results in scientific publications. However, continuous communication at each stage of a project would improve the quality of knowledge sharing and facilitate peer

The AfricaAdapt network's goal is to enhance and disseminate African know-how, and will enable a comprehensive list of experts in Africa to be drawn up in such diverse areas as energy, water, forestry, food security, and so on. It encourages the sharing of experiences to enable actors concerned by climate change to **learn from one other**. The network's website enables members to share their experience by creating a customised profile. New functions will shortly enable users to interact with one other and exchange their successes, failures and the challenges they face.

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Radio Bubusa FM, the voice of rural women

Since January 2008, Radio Bubusa has been broadcasting to South Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A community radio station operated by and for rural women, Radio Bubusa has been acknowledged both locally and abroad for the quality of its work.

SAMWAKI is the organisation at the root of this success. Since 2002, this Congolese NGO has been helping to increase the autonomy of the women of South Kivu and improve their access to information. An acronym of *Sauti ya Mwanamke Kijijini*, SAMWAKI means 'The Voice of Rural Women'.

SAMWAKI proved itself early and gained the confidence of donor agencies – the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ Health), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO-Dimitra), the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), etc. – as it genuinely focuses on local communities and uses a participatory communication methodology.

SAMWAKI works mainly in the areas of health, food safety, access to information, gender and human rights.

Community listeners' clubs

To reduce the isolation of rural communities, in particular of women, and improve their access to information, SAMWAKI decided to support the creation of community radio listeners' clubs. The first of these were created in 2005. The organisation currently supports the running of nine community radio listeners' clubs in the eight territories of the province of South Kivu, some of which have several hundred members.

These are not just 'listeners' clubs' or 'fan clubs' that tune in to a single programme or radio station, but citizens' groups which enable their members to share their concerns and needs, acquire otherwise unobtainable information and take constructive action on the basis of jointly identified solutions. The clubs include both men and women and are sensitised to gender issues.

Exchanges between groups are often based on radio programmes, which are listened to on solar-powered and wind-up radios distributed by Dimitra, with the support of the King Baudouin Foundation of Belgium. There are two approaches to listening: individual members can take a radio home, but, whenever possible, men and women members come together and listen as a group. This latter approach stimulates debate, solution-seeking and the implementation of concrete actions.

The first issues discussed by these community radio listeners' clubs related to health – in par-

ticular HIV/AIDS – and agriculture. The mere fact of bringing up certain issues had a positive effect on the situation. According to SAMWAKI, the members of community listeners' clubs have been able to obtain useful information on sensitive and occasionally taboo subjects, to which neither the men nor the women had formerly had any access, such as AIDS and sexual violence.

SAMWAKI now plans to increase the synergy between the different community radio listeners' clubs by setting up a more efficient communication system which takes into account the many obstacles to the exchange of information between rural clubs, which are often isolated and located in a post-conflict environment.

Radio Bubusa FM

To ensure that the voice of rural populations is heard by even more people, SAMWAKI decided to start a radio station. Although partnerships had been set up with local stations, some clubs were not within the coverage area of one of these stations. The idea of extending the participative dynamic beyond the radio listeners' clubs by creating a radio station for women and staffed by women emerged, and Radio Bubusa FM was born in early March 2008.

In the Mashi language, 'bubusa' is a rallying call used by women to remind villagers of an appointment, to go to the fields, gather firewood, draw water or attend a wedding.

Radio Bubusa FM is based in Mugogo, approximately 30 kilometres from the city of Bukavu, and can in theory be heard within a 250-km radius. It broadcasts programmes in Mashi, French and Swahili on subjects relating to health, violence against women, AIDS and agriculture.

The creation of the radio station is part of a long-term process. SAMWAKI organised a



number of consultations to ensure that the project would meet the needs of communities and make a genuine contribution to rural development and the improvement of the status of women. In the course of this process, a management structure, key topics and the languages to be used were identified with the communities. The women in the community radio listeners' clubs even help prepare and produce the broadcasts in cooperation with Radio Bubusa and the other partner stations. Indeed, SAMWAKI intends to build the capacities of the club members and radio stations in this area.

Radio Bubusa has become a forum for the sharing of experiences and good practices by and for women and girls. Its main objective is to improve their living conditions, and ultimately those of their families and communities. The radio station is also intended as a tool for breaking the silence on the inequalities which affect rural women, and helping improve their situation. In particular, this requires the forging of new partnerships with development actors to meet the many challenges encountered.

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For the emancipation of the women of Niger

DJERMAKOYE MAIDANDA HADJIA MAÏMOUNA, PRESIDENT OF DOUBANI NGO, NIGER

Mrs Djermakoye is the wife of the traditional Chief Djermakoye of the Dosso region in Niger, but above all a woman committed to improving the status of the women of her country. Among her many activities, she is the President of the NGO Doubani, which works for the promotion of women in Niger.

Could you tell us something about your background?

I am a teacher by profession. I studied at the Zinder teacher training college, but actually trained for several jobs: I even worked in school TV, then at the experimental stage in Niger and Africa. I worked for a year as a television presenter but I had to give it up when I married. So I went back to primary teaching. At the same time, I was training with a view to opening my own kindergarten, which was what I really wanted to do. I was then appointed head teacher of the Niger Red Cross kindergarten before becoming a kindergarten inspector in Niamey. I stayed in that job from 1977 to 1985.

After that, I was appointed librarian in a high school. This gave me an opportunity to read and get to know many writers. I also had contact with many teachers and students. In fact, I became a woman who listened to everyone! People would ask me to solve problems and even resolve conflicts, skills I still use in the field today.

In 1993, when I was still working for the school, I founded the *Association nigérienne des éducatrices pour le développement* (ANED – Association of Female Educators for Development in Niger) with other female teachers. I was appointed

secretary for external affairs because I knew a lot of people. We then founded an organisation of men and women, *Union pour le Développement Durable* (UDD – Union for Sustainable Development), where I was in charge of promoting women in the Tillabéry region. Someone then told me that I shouldn't be taking orders from anyone, that I should have my own NGO as I was someone people listened to and had many contacts.

“Over time, I've become a woman who listens to everyone!”

We founded Doubani, the *Association féminine pour la Promotion et l'Éducation de la Femme* (Women's organisation for the promotion and education of women), in 1998. I was supported by the school where I worked, as all the teachers were founding members. They told me that they did this to support me, so that I could help people. I retired in March 2000 and began to devote my time to running Doubani. As it happened, my husband was elected provincial chief at that time, so we returned to Dosso and transferred the organisation's headquarters there. This improved our access to rural communities.

How has the NGO developed since that time?

We have undertaken many activities and have had several partners, including the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), which has been our partner in a major project since 2003. For this project, we are active in 48 villages in two (out of five) departments of the Dosso region. This means we reach out to around 13,000 women. In each village, we work with both men and women, and we ask what their problems are. This is the basis on which projects can be set up. We have appointed local extension workers, who work with the villagers and build their capacities in three areas: organisation, training and awareness-raising. The first phase of the project is complete and we are preparing for the next phase, which will begin in January 2010.

What does Doubani do?

We promote women, which means working in many areas. Doubani raises awareness with regard to health, focusing on AIDS, TB and malaria, but we also operate in microfinance – loans to women – and education.

We also address environmental issues. Our first activity with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was to promote the use of butane gas in households. The forests have been destroyed and there is almost no wood left. If people use gas, this cuts the use of wood and spares the bush. With two other NGOs, we set out with 500 gas cylinders to start up the project. Within a year, we had reached 1,600 households with the help of a revolving fund. Now, Doubani alone has reached out to over 2,500 households. We have also worked to promote the use of coal. Also, wherever we have projects under way, we encourage the local inhabitants to plant nurseries in order to replenish the forests. People are quite happy to do this, but you need to take the time to explain.

Today I'm happy, as I believe Doubani is achieving its goal, which is to promote women. This has even been acknowledged by the competent ministry. In Dosso, Doubani is now inevitably

Doubani works for the promotion of women in numerous areas – awareness-raising on health issues, microfinance, education, environmental issues, etc.



© ONG Doubani



involved in and has become a major player in grassroots mobilisation.

**What about your own life?
What were the challenges you encountered?**

As the chief's wife in Dosso, I came up against a great deal of opposition. Some people believe that the chief's wife should stay in her palace in accordance with tradition, and not leave the home. However, chiefs are educated these days and things have changed. When I married, I was already popular and had experience the NGO sector. After I settled in Dosso, my umbrella organisation, Coordination Non-Gouvernementale et Associations Féminines Nigériennes (CONGAFEN – Non-Governmental Coordination and Women's Associations in Niger) supported me, convened the women and said, "Here's someone, make the most of her talent!" I was asked to open a new office, and I agreed.

Regarding the opposition, the chiefs were the most reluctant, as they would watch me and tell themselves this would have a bad influence on the women. However, I knew some of them from my days in Niamey with CONGAFEN. I asked them, "But didn't we work together in Niamey? Now that I'm one of you, why don't you want me to continue the work?" That made some of them change their minds.

Some of the women, especially in the cities, also didn't like what I was doing. It was rural women who were my main source of support, and it was thanks to them that I carried on. They would travel for miles to find me and ask for support. I took the side of those in need.

There's also a problem at the political level. Politicians believe that I can challenge them politically because I have the support of the women. Maybe they're scared. As for me, no, I'm honestly not interested. I am against certain political practices that place personal interest above the common good.

Above all, I must say that it's my good fortune to be married to a highly intelligent man. He's Niger's top pharmacist and founded the Pharmaceuticals Agency of Niger and the so-called "people's pharmacies". In his view, women, like men, should take part in development, and he finds it's quite normal that I should work. He's always supported me.

What would you say to other women who would like to become involved in organisations or citizenship actions?

Because I kept on explaining, I now have a very good relationship with the chiefs. They meet in our palace. I give them a meal, and advice if they ask for it! Patience is what has made me one of Dosso's key women leaders.

“It's stuck in my head now: my place is not in the back rows. I have to be in the front! That's where people can hear you!”

Another thing: wherever I go, I talk, talk and talk. I had a friend, the chairwoman of ANED, who said, "When we go to meetings, we go to the front row and sit there". This eventually stuck and I understood that my place was not in the back rows. I had to be in the front. That's where people can hear you!

I often say: Never underestimate yourself. Public speaking is difficult at first, but even if you're not very fluent you have to try. If you do it once or twice, you'll forge ahead and people won't try to stop you after that.

Don't be afraid of men, you need to work with them. At first they might try to push you around, but if you tell them that "we're all in this together", they'll understand that we can find solutions jointly.

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Micro-gardens – sources of vitamins and, potentially, income

Micro-gardens are small gardens in which a wide range of food plants can be grown on a small area and with little water. They enable poor families to eat nutritious vegetables every day, allowing them to satisfy their vitamin, essential-mineral and vegetable-protein needs.

FAO makes micro-gardens available to improve the food and nutritional security of poor people who live in cities and have little or no access to land. Their diet is generally unvaried, causing vitamin deficiencies that particularly affect the health of women and children. Micro-gardens are a production tool that gives the economically disadvantaged access to high-quality fresh vegetables. The micro-garden produce provides a nutritious supplement to food aid programmes and school canteen menus. Micro-garden initiatives are launched and maintained as part of aid efforts for the sustainable productivity of poor families.

With a small plot of land (1 m²) and 1-3 litres of water per day, a family can grow a wide range of vegetables and root and tuber crops, such as cabbage, lettuce, jute, parsley, amaranth, hibiscus (karkade or bissap), basil, carrots, potatoes, onions, tomatoes, bell peppers, chilies and aubergines.

Technically speaking, micro-gardens can take different forms. The first option is to use the fertile soil available around the home, protect it against erosion and fertilise it with compost from recycled organic household waste. The second option, when suitable land is not available, is to use a container or cultivation table with garden soil or a substrate made from local materials such as peanut shells, coconut fibre,

rice husks, coarse sand, laterite, etc. If the substrates are not available, there is a third option, which is to grow the vegetables floating on water enriched with soluble fertiliser.

Micro-gardens have already been adopted successfully in several Central and South American countries. More recently, they have also been successfully introduced in a number of African pilot countries such as Senegal, Gabon, Namibia and Rwanda. Dakar is frequently mentioned in this context, as the city has introduced a micro-garden programme supported by the city of Milan (Italy) as part of a twinning programme between the cities and with the support of a fund financed by a 'micro-garden association'.

It is very encouraging to see how quickly poor families master this type of cultivation. Micro-gardens are particularly popular with women, mainly because the physical labour required is



Microgardens are particularly popular with women. The main reason is that the physical labour required is considerably less than for conventional farming.

considerably less than with conventional farming. The system also enables crops to be grown with very little water – water often being scarce, difficult to access and expensive in the poorer areas of cities in developing countries.

Micro-gardens enable poor families to eat nutritious vegetables every day and satisfy their vitamin, essential-mineral and vegetable-protein requirements. Family micro-gardens can also develop into small commercial units for sale or barter between neighbouring families, generating a modest income that women then use to improve their families' well-being.

The launch and follow-up of a micro-garden operation in a neighbourhood or school are usually performed by a Training and Demonstration Centre.

Article by Wilfried Baudoin, FAO Consultant

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The status of women and reform in Morocco

Morocco is currently in the midst of an unprecedented movement for the promotion of women's rights. A number of strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening the principles of gender equality and equity are being implemented by the government or civil society.

Legal reforms

In the area of legislation, Morocco ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 and has now lifted its reservations concerning this Convention¹. This happened following a number of reforms, including amendments to the Moroccan Family Code, Nationality Code, Labour Code and Criminal Code, which rendered the reservations baseless.

One of the most important aspects of the Family Code reform was the acknowledgement of the place of women in society as individuals in their own right. Moroccan women now have equal responsibility for the family, on a par with men. Moreover, should the relationship be dissolved, the new Code specifies that she is entitled to a share of the property accumulated during the marriage.

Prior to the reform, women were considered to be in the custody of men. However, this provision had been overtaken by reality: in 2007, 20.4% of urban Moroccan households were run by women, against 16% in rural areas². By comparison, in 1999 the percentage of women heads of household was 1.2% in cities and 2.3% in the countryside³. This increase, especially in rural areas, is certainly due to economic factors. But it also reveals the increased access of rural women to the workplace, and quantifies and acknowledges their participation in the family economy and the economy of the country.



AMSED works for the gender aspect to be taken into account, notably for a better appreciation of the role of women and the improvement of their status in society. It focuses on rural women in particular, who suffer even greater inequalities than their urban counterparts.

Gender Reports

Since 2002, the Ministry of Finance has been implementing a project on gender-sensitive budgeting with the support of UNIFEM. Following numerous national budget reforms, the budget act submitted to the Moroccan Parliament at the beginning of each year. It is now accompanied by a 'Gender Report'⁴ which summarises the endeavours of the various ministries to take into account the interests of both women and men in the budget allocation.

Obstacles

These reforms are an attempt by the Moroccan State both to reconcile domestic and international law and to respond to the aspiration of Moroccan civil society, especially women, for a fair society. However, the process is not a smooth one and a number of institutional, economic and social obstacles have arisen. Some of these are due to the country's inadequate financial resources and others to the mindset of some of the people in charge (judges, magistrates, administrative decision-makers, etc.). A number of conservative trends within Moroccan society continue to oppose

the implementation of certain reforms, in particular the amendments to the Family Code.

The mobilisation of civil society

Moroccan civil society, or at any rate that part of it which is working for democratic development, is acting as the instigator of reform. It is continuing to press for the harmonisation of Morocco's laws with international law. A number of NGOs are conducting awareness-raising campaigns on subjects covered by the reforms, especially with illiterate rural women. They have founded listening centres for women victims of violence to denounce violence and injustice, and lend support to many other initiatives.

For instance, many organisations are conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the new legal codes (Family, Labour, etc.) to promote harmonisation of the verdicts issued in the various law courts. Such verdicts are largely subject to the discretion of the judges. For example, the age of marriage is 18 for both genders, but exemptions are frequently granted by the courts. Some judges continue to approve marriages for 16-year old girls. Indeed, young girls in rural areas remain the group most affected by the practice of early marriage.



CAFOB: A forum for Burundian women

The work of AMSED

As an actor in development and with a specific interest in women's issues, the Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED, Moroccan Association for Solidarity and Development), Dimitra's partner in Morocco, has been monitoring the reform process from its inception. It works for the gender aspect to be taken into account, notably for a better appreciation of the role of women and the improvement of their status in society. It focuses on rural women in particular, who suffer even greater inequalities than their urban counterparts.

In May 2009, together with some 30 feminist and development organisations, AMSED created a working group to lobby for gender-sensitive budgeting. This working group will enable AMSED to contribute more significantly to the modernisation of Moroccan society. The group's first activity was to study the 'Gender Reports' of four ministries (Health, Education, Justice and Social Development). A number of comments were made, in particular concerning the gender indicators used and the meagre resources allocated by these ministries to their gender strategies.

The reforms as a whole are a crucial step towards changing policies and mentalities so that the interests of Moroccan women can be taken into account. For its part, Morocco's civil society should support this process and suggest alternatives. However, it will have to contend with formidable economic, social and political challenges.

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1 King's Speech of 10 December 2008 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, the UN SG has not, to date, received an official document from the Moroccan government concerning this matter.

2 "La femme marocaine en chiffres" (Moroccan Women in Figures), Moroccan High Planning Commission, October 2008, p. 21.

3 Ibid.

4 The 2009 report is available (in French) at: www.finances.gov.ma

Following the socio-political crisis which rocked Burundi in 1993, a number of organisations were created in various fields. Some concentrate on conflict resolution, others on agricultural development, yet others on the protection of deprived children or the struggle against HIV/AIDS, and so on.

Women's organisations: a forum for gathering and self-expression

Most of the agricultural organisations and those working for the protection of deprived children are women's organisations. This is due to the fact that, traditionally, women are more concerned with household nutrition and childrearing. It should also be noted that women and children have been more affected than men by the war.

The goal of Burundian women's organisations is to contribute to the improvement of the population's living conditions as well as the personal growth of women through their contribution to the development of their country. For rural women, such organisations have become a place for self-expression and personal growth, where they have found kindred spirits and share their joys and sorrows. Together, they have been able to identify shared problems in their daily lives, and in some cases find appropriate solutions.

A genuine collective organisation

The partner of the Dimitra project in Burundi, the Collectif des Organisations et ONG Féminines du Burundi (CAFOB – Collective of Women's Organisations and NGOs of Burundi), is the largest concerted-action framework for the women's movement in Burundian civil society. It was founded in 1994, at the initiative of seven Burundian women's organisations and with the support of the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI). Since it was officially registered in 1997, CAFOB has been a primary contact for public, private, national and international institutions on the subject of gender and the promotion of women in Burundi.

CAFOB currently comprises 52 community-based women's organisations and supports rural women at grassroots level through these groups. Its primary function is to support the women in its mem-

ber organisations, which currently number around 100,000, but in fact reaches out to all Burundian women. CAFOB's main task is to increase the operating capacity of its member groups and organisations and encourage the development of female leadership, as well as full participation of women in the development of Burundi.

Improved crop management

In concrete terms, one of CAFOB's achievements has been its role, in cooperation with the international NGO ActionAid, in improving the skills of the rural population in the northern province of Kirondo. Long known as 'the country's breadbasket', Kirondo is now frequently struck by drought and famine. However, when the rainfall is adequate, crops are abundant. Unfortunately, due to a lack of storage facilities, all crops are sold and no seed remains for the following years.

CAFOB has played a major part in helping its women members become more aware of the need to deal with the issue of crop waste. With the help of ActionAid, the women's farming organisations in the province took part in building granaries which enable them to preserve crops for later seasons, improve production management and combat famine. The granaries have increased the groups' revenue, as the products are no longer sold at crop time but kept until sowing time, when prices tend to rise sharply.

The role of communication in peace-building

The media have made an important contribution to CAFOB's member organisations. Radio programmes, for example, have enabled women to make themselves heard far and wide, and have also been a powerful tool in the country's reconciliation process. Women have understood that war, poverty and exile affect them regardless of ethnic or geographical origin or skin colour. As a result, they have been messengers of peace



within their own families, their organisations, and ultimately society as a whole. Gender-sensitive conflict resolution training and workshops on dialogue and non-violence have also contributed to this process.

Political participation and the status of women

Some of CAFOB's notable achievements include the participation of women in the Arusha talks for peace and reconciliation in Burundi, as well as awareness-raising, lobbying and advocacy for the increased recognition of women's issues in politics. CAFOB has conducted a study of women's expertise in Burundi and has been engaged in disseminating the text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It has proposed legislation on the legal status of women, notably regarding inheritance and marriage.

With regard to elections, CAFOB has actively participated in the "Synergie des Partenaires pour la Promotion des Droits de la Femme" (SPPDF – Partners' Synergy for Women's Rights Promotion) to improve the capacities of women electoral candidates. It is also actively involved in the Coalition de la Société



Civile pour le Monitoring des Elections (COSOME – Civil Society Organisations' Coalition for Election Monitoring).

Recently, CAFOB and SPPDF published a press release on the draft law concerning the planned amendment to the Electoral Code by the National Assembly, which highlighted the flaws in the representation of women and proposed a series of amendments. Although balanced male-female representation is a must for harmonious and sustainable development, women remain under-represented in, or even absent from, a number of decision-making spheres. This advocacy must continue as the proposed amendments have not been withheld, except in the case of municipi-

pal councils, where 30% of seats are now allocated to women.

CAFOB has also built the capacities of rural organisations in various provinces on the importance of operating in a network. Further to this action, several networks were formed.

All these achievements are the result of hard work on the part of each of CAFOB's member organisations, and show how central the Collective is to the constructive and useful dynamism initiated by the women of Burundi.

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CAFOB comprises 52 community-based women's organisations and supports rural women at grassroots level through these groups. Among CAFOB's important achievements should be noted its work for political participation and a better status for women in Burundi.



Madagascar – HARDI, an entrepreneurial model for family farming

The 11th International Rural Economy Trade Fair in Madagascar (FIER-MADA) took place in Antananarivo from 5 to 9 August 2009. This year's theme was 'mutual respect, skill innovation and fair growth'. The activity of small rural producers was showcased by 120 stands. One of the examples was supplied by the NGO "Harmonisation des Actions pour la Réalisation d'un Développement Intégré" (HARDI, Harmonisation of Actions for the Implementation of Integrated Development), an organisation which, with its various production activities, could be considered an entrepreneurial model for family farming.

Almost 80% of Madagascans live in rural areas and most are farmers or artisans. The diverse climatic conditions give rise to a great variety of agricultural activities across the country. However, most family farms are very small (averaging less than 1 ha) and their yield is generally low. Despite the country's agricultural and ecological potential, a number of areas still suffer from economic and food shortages.

This is because farmers do not have the agricultural and technical capacity to meet food requirements. Moreover, unfair trade relations often stand in their way. It is certainly becoming increasingly difficult for farmers to make a decent living. The liberalisation of the market and the absence of stable, profitable markets to sell food crops make family farming a risky enterprise in Madagascar.

A number of development organisations and groups, including HARDI, became aware of this fact. In 2001, they launched activities to support the regularisation of smallholders' ownership of their land with the local Topographical and Land Administration Bureaus to protect their economic exploitation of these lands. For instance, people living in the municipality of Miadanandriana (Antananarivo Province) received participatory training in project development to enable them to obtain funding and start their own businesses.

In 2006, the International Centre for Development and Research (CIDR/France) founded an inter-enterprise group in Toliara with the purpose of setting up a unit for processing agricultural produce to make flour. Based on this successful experience, and with a view to

capitalising on the progress made, CIDR provided technical support to HARDI's project staff to improve their skills in assisting producer families with marketing and market access.

On the strength of this experience, HARDI launched a new 'Programme for Promoting Entrepreneurship in Family Farming' in 2007. Several enterprises, including three agrifood/artisanal companies, receive support from the NGO within the framework of this programme.

The first of these is an agrifood business known as 'Mamiko', which harvests **ground cherries**¹ (locally called *pok-pok*) and sells products based on it in the rural municipalities of Miadanandriana, Mantasoa and Ambohitrandriamanitra (Analamanga Region,

Antananarivo Province). The fruit is turned into jellies or chutneys² (commonly known as pok-pok mamiko) at a workshop in Ambohitsoabe (Miadanadiana).

HARDI focuses specifically on social problems in these municipalities, such as poverty, insufficient arable land, lack of ownership titles to existing land, shortage of commercial channels for products, and so on. We can see here how the NGO is using its entrepreneurial model to support family farms: HARDI gives advice, support, organisation and training to 250 farming families. It also provides assistance with the production and sale of products – fresh pok-pok as well as jams, jellies and chutneys – to local and even urban enterprises (e.g. during the FIER-MADA trade fair).

In the second agrifood business that HARDI supports, 50 families of beekeepers in the Manjakandriana district (Analamanga Region) produce and package **honey**. HARDI organises and trains the beekeepers and provides them with support for the sale of eucalyptus honey and beekeeping equipment. Each production unit comprises 230 modern hives. The honey is harvested annually.

'Soamaharavo', the third company, has been receiving support from HARDI for four years and produces **soy milk and yoghurt**. It purchases soybeans from planters in the municipality of Ambohibao Sud and Ankazodandy (Manjakandriana District) and is supplied by 30 family farms, each of which has an average of 1 ha of land. The processing plant is located in Amboropotsy Talata-maty (in the capital city).

Another of the activities supported by HARDI is the **production of raffia**, a vegetable fibre used to make baskets. Seven artisans have been trained in weaving and 20 others in the preparation of raffia products. There are seven two-pedal looms and a production workshop at Ambohitvaratra, in the rural municipality of Alarobia/Ambatomanga. 1,500 rolls of matting measuring 1.50m x 1.20m are manufactured annually, along with sisal blinds and place mats.

From the above, it can be concluded that HARDI is an excellent model for encouraging rural entrepreneurship, which it does by the



In 2007, HARDI launched a Programme for Promoting Entrepreneurship in Family Farming. The NGO supports, in this framework, several agrifood/artisanal enterprises.

creation of networks of local actors who can then improve their access to the family-farming market and increase their skills to ensure their durability.

In the examples mentioned, rural women have set themselves up as local producers in different fields (honey, ground cherries, raffia matting and soy; an essential oil project is also underway). In the future, they will be able to build more highly developed partnerships with urban and even international commercial enterprises.

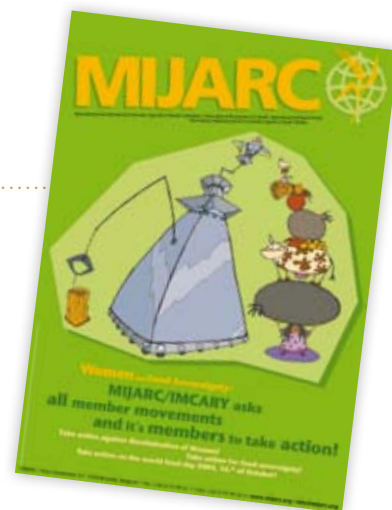
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- 1 The ground cherry genus, *Physalis*, belongs to the nightshade (*Solanaceae*) family and probably originated in the Americas. The plants can be either annual or perennial, and its stem may be stiff at the base. The leaf margins are entire or dentate-sinuate, and the flowers, which grow in the leaf axils, usually single. The corolla is surrounded by a bright orange, lantern-shaped calyx, and is used in flower arranging. The fruit (a berry enclosed in a husk) is generally toxic. However, when ripe, certain varieties are edible, even delicious, as well as highly decorative. They are also commonly known as 'Japanese lanterns', and one species, *Physalis peruviana*, as the Cape gooseberry. (Source: Wikipedia)
- 2 Chutney is a sweet and sour condiment made from fruit or vegetables cooked in vinegar with sugar and spices until it has the consistency of jam or stewed fruit.

MIJARC – Political participation of rural women

In the mid nineties, the International Movement for Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth (MIJARC, Mouvement International de la Jeunesse Agricole et Rurale Catholique) embarked on an analysis of women's access to decision-making bodies, both within the organisation and in society at large. It showed that although women are very active at the local level, they are generally not found in positions of responsibility nor are they often involved in decision-making at the national and international levels.



Women members of MIJARC therefore started up women's interest groups and elected women's commissions in order to strengthen women's participation, share ideas and struggle for women's rights. The organisation also created an International Women's Commission. This body, which is composed of one representative from each continent and one member of MIJARC's World Team, defines and coordinates the organisation's work in the field of women's issues. Its objectives are as follows:

- to enable women in rural areas to take up responsibilities in the movement;
- to enable women to analyse gender differences;
- to provoke changes that will allow stronger participation of women within the movement, in villages/society and in development projects;
- to enable women to elaborate and implement action plans.

are empowered at all levels in relation to their rights and their participation to take leadership". In this respect, its different member movements are working on a wide range of activities. CARYM (Catholic Agriculture Rural Youth Movement) Zambia, for example, organises training for young rural women in the field of food sovereignty and leadership. CARYM Uganda provides training in entrepreneurial skills, and MIJARC's member movement in the Democratic Republic of Congo is working on the participation of women in different aspects of life, the struggle against AIDS and the improvement of the living conditions of young rural women.



MIJARC's International Women's Commission is composed of one representative from Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, and one member of its World Team.

MIJARC's first Young Rural Women Conference, organised in 2007, reflected on gender equity and women's issues. Around 50 women from all over the world came to Uganda to discuss different topics – the political participation of women, their role in society, access to productive resources, etc. – and to develop an action plan. They also exchanged ideas on MIJARC's actions on women's issues at the local, national and international level in a multicultural atmosphere. The meeting showed that women's work continues to be an important issue for the movement.

Women's access to productive resources remains a serious problem for young women in particular. Inheritance and land tenure laws still limit women's ownership and use of land worldwide. MIJARC, as an organisation working for rural and agricultural youth, encourages young women to farm in order to guarantee food security, and to take up responsibilities in their movements and in their society.

The specific gender objective of MIJARC's current World Action Plan reads: "Women

MIJARC is an international movement with member movements in four continents – Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America. It is an organisation of young people, for young people, with young people. Rural youth ranging between 12 and 30 years old commit themselves in rural youth movements and contribute to local sustainable rural development. Training sessions organised by MIJARC accompany local initiatives of rural youth in the fields of income generating projects in agriculture, cooperatives or micro-enterprises.

Since MIJARC is a bottom-up movement, activities at the local level provide input to the movement's work internationally. Its "see-judge-act" methodology enables young rural people to analyse their living conditions and act either by concrete local projects, training activities or political actions. With this methodology, MIJARC aims to transform the agricultural environment and to foster rural development for the creation of a new society, with new personalities, and to promote comprehensive education and training of rural youth.

International Women's Day (March 8th) and International Rural Women's Day (October 15th) are key dates for the movement to organise demonstrations and public events which raise awareness on women's issues.

Realising there was a dire need for civic education to counter women's lack of access to decision-making bodies (especially in rural areas), in the summer of 2009 MIJARC's International Women's Commission decided to develop a civic education manual. This manual will include components on women & food, finance, political participation and health, as well as international declarations such as the Women's Rights Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals. MIJARC hopes to publish the manual in 2010.

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King Baudouin International Development Prize awarded to Indonesian radio press agency KBR68H

The King Baudouin Foundation has awarded the 2008-2009 King Baudouin International Development Prize to the Indonesian radio press agency KBR68H, a network of over 630 radio stations dedicated to promoting democracy, tolerance and development.

The prize was awarded to the KBR68H agency “for its contribution to sustainable development founded on the encouragement of democracy, tolerance and civic participation, through the production and distribution of high-quality information throughout a network of local radio stations as well as for its promotion of professionalism in the media world.”

KBR68H, born of the transition to democracy

KBR68H was created in April 1999, at a time when democracy was beginning to blossom in Indonesia after the fall of the authoritarian Suharto regime, by a group of activists and media professionals that had come together five years previously in order to promote freedom of information.

KBR68H set up headquarters in Jakarta. Its name derives from the contraction of Kantor Brita Radio (radio press agency) and its address, at number 68H on Utan Kayu Street,

which is also where the group of anti-censorship activists had been based. The agency quickly became a respected professional organisation, with a 100-strong staff in Jakarta and a large network of collaborators throughout the country.

KBR68H provides independent news and educational radio programmes which are broadcast for nearly eight hours every day on 630 radio stations throughout the country (240 million inhabitants scattered across the archipelago made up of 17,000 islands). Its daily audience is currently estimated at an average of 18 million people, listening for an average of two hours a day.

Many of the programmes produced by KBR68H are successful interactive topical talk shows which particularly cover topics related to religious tolerance, human rights, women's issues and the environment. The agency is also highly engaged on behalf of disaster victims, in the fight against corruption, and in the promotion of tolerance, pluralism and fundamental human rights.

KBR68H does not own the radio stations that make up its network – they are run by associations or local NGOs. However, it does possess its own station, Green Radio, which focuses on environmental issues.

KBR68H has widely diversified its sources of financing. It continues to enjoy the support of international NGOs, but also has private patrons and earns advertising income. Several ministries also pay for the broadcast of public service announcements about family planning, AIDS prevention, forest conservation and... the necessity of paying one's taxes.



KBR68H is highly engaged on behalf of disaster victims, in the fight against corruption, and in the promotion of tolerance, pluralism and fundamental human rights.

Supporting the country's media as a whole

KBR68H also set up the Indonesian Association for Media Development (PPMN), devoted to increasing the professionalism of the media. Together, KBR68H and PPMN provide training to journalists, technicians, presenters and managers. They have also set up a programme for the creation of new radio stations in isolated parts of the country.

An impact beyond Indonesian borders

The example of KBR68H has inspired other democratic players to develop similar radio networks in fragile countries such as Nepal and Pakistan. Since 2003, KBR68H has produced a weekly radio programme on current events, Asia Calling, which is broadcast in 9 languages by 240 radio stations in 11 countries, from Afghanistan to Australia.

Both media and agent of development

The KBR68H project makes a real contribution to the formation of independent public opinion, civic participation, religious tolerance, opening up remote regions, and education in democratic principles.

✳ For more information:
www.kbprize.org



Resources

FUNDRAISING

International Network of Women's Funds (INWF)

The INWF is an international network of independent women's funds committed to expanding the resources available to women's rights organisations around the world by providing grants to seed, support and strengthen women's organisations in their own communities.

www.inwf.org

WEBSITES

Gender, Citizenship and Governance (GCG)

This KIT information portal provides access to more than 300 free, full-text internet resources on women's political participation and representation, women's rights, women/gender and local government, gender and accountability, gender and institutional mainstreaming, and gender in policy processes in the developing world.

<http://portals.kit.nl>

Gender & Development Journal Online

This journal focuses specifically on international gender and development issues, and explores the connections between gender and development initiatives and feminist perspectives. Its website offers free access to over 450 articles from researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners on a range of gender and development issues.

www.genderanddevelopment.org

Infonet-Biovision

This information web-tool offers trainers, extension workers and farmers a quick access to up-to-date and locally relevant information in order to optimise their livelihoods in a safe, effective, and ecologically sound way. The information presented is specifically relevant for Africa and its inhabitants, many examples and case studies are from Kenya or East African countries, but are valid for other tropical countries as well.

<http://infonet-biovision.org>

FAO Gender, Equity and Rural Employment website

The Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division supports FAO's efforts to promote the economic and social well-being of the rural poor. In addition to coordinating FAO's work on sustainable rural development and population issues, the Division assists FAO and its member governments in addressing gender, equity and rural employment issues.

www.fao.org/economic/esw/esw-home/en

FAO Land Tenure website

FAO has recently launched a new website dedicated to land tenure issues. The site contains a variety of information resources on the subject, most of them in the form of documentation: new publications, studies, policy series, notes, manuals, journals, miscellaneous documents, technical documents, CD-ROMs, etc.

www.fao.org/nr/tenure/lt-home

Note: Most of the publications mentioned here are available on-line for free (unless otherwise specified). Most web links are too long to provide in their entirety. If the publications are hard to find on the organisations' websites, it usually suffices to do a google search on the title.



PUBLICATIONS

Give Girls a Chance: Tackling Child Labour, a Key to the Future

This report notes that while recent global estimates indicate the number of children involved in child labour has been falling, the financial crisis threatens to erode this progress. It says the danger of girls being forced into child labour is linked to evidence that in many countries families give preference to boys when making decisions on education of children. Because of the increase in poverty as result of the crisis, poor families with a number of children may have to make choices as to which children stay in school. In cultures in which a higher value is placed on education of male children, girls risk being taken out of school, and are then likely to enter the workforce at an early age.

ILO, June 2009 (88p)
www.ilo.org

Education for Rural People. The role of education, training and capacity development in poverty reduction and food security

Nearly one out of six people of the current inhabitants of the world is suffering from hunger and illiteracy. This book was developed to assist policy makers dealing with rural poverty, food insecurity and education challenges confronting rural people. It seeks to address the correlation between education, training, empowerment and food security, mainly through a number of examples from all over the world. It is about strengthening the capacity of rural people to achieve food security. It identifies different dimensions of education and training that have proven useful, and covers formal education as well as non-formal education, literacy as well as skills training.

FAO, 2009 (152p) – 60.00 US\$
www.fao.org

Excision : les jeunes changent l'Afrique par les TIC Female Genital Mutilation: Young People Use ICTs to Change Africa

Published in the "Environnement Africain" series, this book presents the main results of the research project 'The contribution of ICT to giving up FGM in French-speaking Africa: the role of young people as citizens', which was implemented from 2006 to 2009 in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, with the support of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

ENDA Third World, March 2009 (126p)
<http://synfev.enda.sn>

Gender and Care

Providing care can be both a source of fulfilment and a terrible burden. For women and girls in particular, their socially prescribed role as carers can undermine their rights and limit their opportunities, capabilities and choices – posing a fundamental obstacle to gender equality and well-being. How can we move towards a world in which individuals and society recognise and value the importance of different forms of care, but without reinforcing care work as something that only women can or should do?

BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack, January 2009
www.bridge.ids.ac.uk

Gender and Climate Finance: Double Mainstreaming for Sustainable Development

Climate change is real, it is happening already, and its impacts on people are not gender-neutral. It is affecting men and women all over the world differently, especially in the world's poorest countries and amongst the most vulnerable people and communities. As women and men have different adaptive and mitigative capabilities, the financing instruments and mechanisms committed to climate change activities in mitigation and adaptation need to take these gender-differentiated impacts into

account in funds design and operationalisation as well as concrete project financing.

Heinrich Böll Stiftung, May 2009 (29p)
www.boell.org

☉ Gender and Governance

Governance processes – with their emphasis on principles of accountability, transparency, responsiveness and inclusiveness – should be a means to social transformation. But despite this potential, they are failing to deliver on gender equality, and women are having to struggle to get their voices heard and needs met. This Cutting Edge Pack maps out persistent obstacles to gender equality in governance and offers possible ways forward – including promoting gender balance in positions of authority, making rights central to governance institutions and processes at all levels, and building political will for change.

BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack, April 2009
www.bridge.ids.ac.uk

☉ Gender Vulnerabilities, Food Price Shocks and Social Protection Responses

The first half of 2008 saw the peak of the international food price spike, with effects on domestic and local food prices in many countries. Since then, the global economic crisis has further compounded the situation, with concerns that the contagion effects could reverse decades of progress in developing countries, with hundreds of millions of people experiencing worsening impoverishment

and destitution. This Background Note argues that two important features of the food price crisis have received inadequate attention. First, women are bearing a disproportionate share of the burden of the food price crisis, both as producers and consumers. Second, responses at the international and national levels have not taken sufficient consideration of gender dynamics into crisis responses.

ODI Background Note, August 2009 (12p)
www.odi.org.uk

☉ Getting the Balance Right: Gender Equality in Journalism

This handbook is an illustrated and easy-to-read guide and resource material for journalists. It evolved primarily out of a desire to equip journalists with more information and understanding of gender issues in their work. It is addressed to media organisations, professional associations and journalists' unions seeking to contribute to the goal of gender equality.

International Federation of Journalists, 2009 (50p)
www.ifj.org

☉ Instruments juridiques pour la sécurisation des droits fonciers des populations à la base. Un guide pour les élus et les populations locales

Legal instruments for securing the land rights of populations at grassroots level: A guide for elected representatives and local populations

This book discusses key local-development issues in Senegal, in particular those relating to

investment in tourism, land rights and natural-resource management in a decentralised environment. A concise guide for the general reader, it endeavours to take into account various aspects of land rights and natural resources, and to supply a satisfactory answer to the most crucial issues of the moment, as formulated by the actors themselves.

IIED & IED Afrique, December 2008 (32p)
www.iied.org

☉ Knowledge and Innovation for Agricultural Development

Improving the livelihoods of the rural poor requires combining indigenous knowledge and local innovation with formal agricultural research and development and support from governments and other institutions. This brief outlines how formal and informal knowledge and innovation can be linked to accelerate sustainable agricultural development. It identifies such necessary steps as scaling up investments in agricultural science, technology, research, extension, and training – and in ways that will spread advances in knowledge and innovation as widely as possible.

IFPRI, March 2009 (4p)
www.ifpri.org

☉ Mapping Aid Effectiveness and Gender Equality in Africa: Regional Issues and Trends

This report provides an overview of the issues and trends that emerged from mapping studies on aid effectiveness, gender equality and women's

A Regional Research Centre on Women, Gender and Peace Building in the Great Lakes Region

The second Forum of Ministers of Women's Affairs of the Great Lakes Region (GLR), jointly organized by UNESCO and the Government of Kenya in Mombasa from 2 to 5 June 2009, discussed the establishment of a Regional Research Centre on Women, Gender and Peace Building in the Great Lakes Region. The centre will be based in Kinshasa (DRC).

There is a strong lack of reliable, systematic and usable information on women in the GLR which could feed into both advocacy and policy change and formulation. Equally lacking are research-based information and data which could lead to an adequate understanding of shifts in gender roles and of the situation of women as a result of wars and conflicts in the region. This lack of information, at local, national and regional levels, and especially in the areas of peace building and security, economic regional integration, humanitarian and social affairs in the GLR, is a real impediment to improving women's livelihoods.

The future Research Centre on Women, Gender and Peace Building in the GLR will offer a concrete response to the requirements and the priorities for the theme of gender equality formulated during the Addis Ababa Consultation (2005). As pointed out during this Consultation, a real need exists in the GLR for the

establishment of a mechanism to facilitate the sharing of available information to relevant stakeholders and to translate research results into gender sensitive policy formulation.

The Centre intends to facilitate communication and networking and promote awareness campaigns, and to provide a platform for dia-

The future Centre will cover the ten countries of the GLR: Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Central African Republic, Tanzania, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia. It will be based in Kinshasa (DRC) and will extend its action in the other countries through national associated bodies. Besides UNESCO and Ministries of Women's Affairs of the GLR, the main partners in the project are UNIFEM, UNECA, UNFPA and the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

logue, exchange of experiences, best practices and ideas between policy makers, academics, gender activists and practitioners, to review and formulate new and more effective strategies for reinforcing women's involvement in conflict-resolution, peace processes and reconstruction efforts.

Dimitra was invited to the Forum in Mombasa to present its experience in the field of participatory communication as a tool to fight violence against women, with the example of the "Community Listeners' Clubs" which have been put in place in the DRC by its partners SAMWAKI in South Kivu and REFED in Katanga.

Considering the importance of this Centre and its direct relevance to Dimitra's work, it is important that the project and its partners will share with it their networks and information and communication techniques.



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empowerment in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Ghana. The findings point to increased government-donor cooperation in developing and supporting nationally owned development plans. At the same time, they indicate that these plans are not yet fully country-owned, and donors have not yet aligned support to national gender equality priorities. Challenges also remain with regards to the integration of gender equality plans in national development strategies and participation of gender equality advocates in discussions on aid delivery.

EC/JUN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace, ITC/ILO, UNIFEM, 2008 (35p)
www.unifem.org

☉ **'Mission Possible': A Gender and Media Advocacy Training Toolkit**

This toolkit seeks to de-mystify the media, gender and media advocacy by providing concrete steps, case studies, pointers, tips and information, with the aim of influencing gender representation and portrayal in and through the media. It was written for organisations outside of the media which target it as part of their gender activism.

Global Media Monitoring Project, 2008
www.whomakesthenews.org

☉ **Plaidoyer pour le genre dans le développement durable**

Gender Advocacy for Sustainable Development

Le Monde selon les Femmes and several other organisations and NGOs present advocacy strategies for six causes: access for women to all jobs in the field of sustainable development; more equality in food sovereignty; territorial feminism and land rights; increased equality in conventional, fair and organic trade; sustainable development and gender in Belgian development cooperation; and a feminist economy.

Le Monde selon les Femmes, 'Analyse & Plaidoyer' Series – 09 (44p)
www.mondefemmes.org

☉ **Produire des programmes pour la radio**

An adaptation in French of the English best-seller 'Radio Production' by Robert McLeish (2005)

This is a must-read for all professionals involved in radio production, whether on public or community stations. The reader is introduced to the

operating techniques for the production of various programme formats, from interviewing to writing for radio, through newsreading, the management of radio debates, the broadcasting of serials and documentaries, etc. An excellent tool for complementing and developing skills learned in the field or via continuing training. The book is adapted to meet the needs of a French-speaking public, and also includes references to resource centres in Europe and Africa which can provide further information to radio journalists.

Gret, 2008 (216p) – 10 €
www.gret.org

☉ **Radios et NTIC en Afrique de l'Ouest : connectivité et usages**

Radio stations and NICTs in West Africa: connectivity and uses

Radio stations remain the most appropriate medium for social and development communication in Africa. This study presents a description of the current connectivity of West African radio stations to ICTs, an analysis of constraints and opportunities, as well as recommendations for the various actors. It mainly centres on seven target countries (Ghana, Benin, Senegal, Mali, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Niger) and covers all types of radio station (community, commercial, religious). The total number of stations surveyed is 2200.

PIWA, October 2008 (116p)
www.panos-ao.org/jipao

☉ **Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone: Sexual Violence and Military Reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

This report documents persistent sexual violence by the army, and the limited impact of government and donor efforts to address the problem. It looks closely at the conduct of the army's 14th brigade as an example of the wider problem of sexual violence by soldiers. The brigade has been implicated in many acts of sexual violence in North and South Kivu provinces, often in the context of massive looting and other attacks on civilians. Despite ample information about the situation, military, political, and judicial authorities have failed to take decisive action to prevent rape.

HRW, July 2009 (56p)
www.hrw.org

☉ **Sowing the Seeds – A Study of Media Coverage of Agriculture and Women in the Agricultural Sector in Three African Countries: Mali, Uganda and Zambia**

This report documents the scant attention that both agriculture and women agriculturalists have received from news media in Mali, Uganda and Zambia. The release of the report coincides with the launch of "Reporting on Women and Agriculture: Africa", a three-year IWMF initiative to enhance reporting on agriculture and women in Africa and make agriculture a key subject for African media.

IWMF, February 2009 (28p)
www.iwmf.org

☉ **Transforming the Landscape of Leadership in Microfinance: Maintaining the Focus on Women**

This paper introduces Women's World Banking's (WWB) new methodology for helping microfinance institutions support gender diversity at all levels of their institution. WWB has expanded its Women's Leadership Development Program, which works with individuals, to include a tool that focuses on the challenges and opportunities microfinance institutions face in the attraction, retention, and promotion of qualified women staff members – the Organizational Gender Assessment. The publication offers concrete examples of policies and programs that can help institutions achieve gender diversity.

WWB, 2009 (40p)
www.swwb.org

☉ **Where is the Money for Women's Rights – Factsheets**

Through the "Where is the Money for Women's Rights?" Initiative, AWID has produced fact sheets to help in understanding the dynamics around funding for women's rights activities. The fact sheets have been developed through a series of activities, including research and surveys of selected women's organisations worldwide.

AWID, 2008- 2009
www.awid.org

☉ **Women and Rural Employment. Fighting Poverty by Redefining Gender Roles**

About three quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas. Among those, women constitute a particularly vulnerable, yet crucially important group for social and economic development. Investing in rural women is thus not only a moral imperative; it can also be a promising strategy to effectively fight poverty and hunger.

FAO Economic and Social Perspectives - Policy Brief No.5, August 2009 (2p)
www.fao.org

☉ **Working with the Media on Gender and Education. A Guide for Training and Planning**

This guide is designed to help education and gender campaigners, and organisations and coalitions, work more effectively with the media to promote gender-equitable education. It explores issues relating to gender equality in education and contains practical advice on working with the media. Throughout the guide suggestions of activities to help groups generate discussion and explore the issues addressed in more depth are given the guide is accompanied by a set of worksheets that correspond to these activities.

Oxfam, A Beyond Access Resource, 2008 (44p)
www.oxfam.org.uk