

Orientation Training for FAO Gender Focal Points in Asia and the Pacific Region

Concept Note

Introduction

One of FAO's five strategic objectives is to "Improve the livelihood of rural populations, in particular women and youth, through enhanced employment opportunities and increased access to production resources" (SO3)¹. It affirms the critical importance of gender equality for achieving improvements in agricultural production and food security and poverty reduction.

In 2012, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division (ESW) conducted a gender consultation meeting with FAORAP officers including FAO Representatives from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Timor-Leste. The consultation assessed existing programmes, projects and processes for addressing gender dimensions at regional, sub-regional and country levels with the aim of ensuring proficient and professional implementation of the recently approved FAO Gender Equality Policy including other relevant dimensions such as, mechanisms, tools, communications and information processes regards gender mainstreaming within FAO as an organization.

Strengthening of a Gender Focal Point (GFP) Network within the region was one of the outcomes of the aforementioned consultation as part of the strategy to enable effective implementation of the FAO Gender Equality Policy. In an effort to proceed with such a strengthening exercise, the two main GFPs in the RAP office implemented a survey via the FAORs in May 2012 to assess the situation regards GFPs in the region. This survey revealed that a total of 14 countries in Asia plus the sub-regional office in the Pacific all had recently appointed or designated someone as a GFP. However, their seniority in positions held and years of work experience including about gender matters was quite varied. The findings were similar also with regard to whether they had received or attended any gender training. An orientation training is thus considered an important first step in ensuring that all GFPs across the RAP region have a common understanding of their roles as GFPs, the FAO Gender Policy and basic understanding about gender issues in agriculture, food and nutrition security.

Objectives

The training objectives will include:

- i) Raising awareness about the GFP network for Asia-Pacific and its importance in meeting SO3 and gender equity in FAO's work

¹ SO3 is one of 5 FAO Strategic Objective - "Improve the livelihood of rural populations, in particular women and youth, through enhanced employment opportunities and increased access to production resources"

- ii) Ensuring understanding of GFP roles and responsibilities including about the FAO Policy on Gender Equality
- iii) Strengthening GFP knowledge and skills about basic concepts, strategies and methods to address gender issues and concerns in mainstreaming gender in agriculture
- iv) Sharing country specific experiences, identifying network related needs, gaps in knowledge and resources, and preliminary identification of strategies and plans to address gender mainstreaming for individual FAOR offices and countries/sub-regions.

Expected outputs:

These shall include the following:

- i) Being informed about the GFP Network and FAO expectations
- ii) Understanding of GFP roles and responsibilities
- iii) Improved basic knowledge and skills relating to gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development
- iv) Identification of a) initial network plans and activities for 2012 to 2013 and b) FAOR office and country/sub-region strategies and plans
- v) A report on the training.

Proposed dates:

19 to 21 November 2012

Note: Timing would allow to piggy-back on when gender specialists will be in Bangkok for other training and possibly when the FAOR network shall also be meeting in Bangkok.

Venue:

Amari Watergate Hotel

Tentative training program:

The topics to be covered shall include the following:

- Session 1: Introductions – the importance of gender dimensions in agriculture and the FAO Gender Policy
- Session 2: The Gender Focal Point (GFP) Network and GFP roles and responsibilities
- Session 3: Gender concepts and information sources including training opportunities

- Session 4: Gender issues and concerns regards agriculture and rural development at national and regional levels
- Session 5: Action planning for the GFP Network and FAOR Offices and country/sub-region levels.

Training approaches:

The training shall be facilitated by a team consisting of RAP GFPs and an ESW Officer via participatory modalities that would include a mix of presentations, plenary discussions, group work and role plays, readings and including some participant lead sessions. Opportunities for sharing knowledge and lessons learned and for enhancing team building among the RAP GFPs will also be included.

Potential facilitators shall include:

- Malcolm Hazelman, RAP Gender Focal Point
- Mimi Onishi, RAP Alternate Gender Focal Point
- Nandini Gunewardena, ESW Gender and Rural Statistics.

Participants:

All 15 Gender Focal Points in the RAP region are expected to participate. These include:

Ms. Mahbooba Abawi (Afghanistan)
Dr. Begum Nurun Naher (Bangladesh)
Mr Etienne Carème (Cambodia)
Dr. Fu Rong (China)
Ms. Meenu Kapoor (India)
Dr. Ageng S Herianto (Indonesia)
Ms. Novah Rose Deleon-David (Laos)
Ms. Sanda Saing (Myanmar)
Mr. Mandip Rai (Nepal)
Mr. Waseem Farooq (Pakistan)
Mr. Genaro Castro (Philippines)
Mr. Nalin Munasinghe (Sri Lanka/Maldives)
Ms. Lan Huong Nguyen (Vietnam)
Ms. Paula Lopes da Cruz (Timor-Leste)
Ms. Fiasili Vae'au-Lam (SAP).