

Proposal 18: Targeting Agricultural Research and Development (R&D) for Poverty Alleviation through Women's Networks

Submitting MGs / CSOs	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)
Countries of Implementation	Laos, Vietnam (and Bhutan, India, China, Nepal)
Agro-ecological context	Various tropical, subtropical and mountain areas
Duration and Total Budget	3 years, US \$ 85,000

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- NGOs
- Indigenous Peoples
- Farmers
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women

Success indicators:

- No. of professionals with Improved capacity for PR/SA
- Network functioning (1)
- No. of women with increased skills in NRM

Partners to be engaged:

Indigenous women, professional and rural women in India, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Viet Nam and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Increased skills of rural women's groups to set R&D agendas on food security and natural resources management (NRM); women's greater access to and control over information, services, markets and income; improved capacity of professionals to do participatory research and gender analysis (PR/GA); increased collaboration between men and women professionals on institutionalization of PR/GA; professional women's greater decision making and control over resources within their organizations. Impact on MDGs 1,3 and 7.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

Enable poor rural women to emerge from poverty by:

- more effectively managing their own agricultural assets, including labor, knowledge and other assets,
 - gaining access to agricultural and NRM technologies, services, inputs and markets,
 - having more effective input to decision making processes of agricultural and NRM organizations that can affect their livelihoods.
- Gender sensitive participatory approaches including establishment of a network of women's R&D committees; facilitating a process of change within the agricultural and NRM organizations themselves; conducting action research that will generate a viable set of good practices for mainstreaming gender-sensitive participatory R&D approaches within selected organizations; and assessing the impacts of these methodologies for learning and change.

Building upon Experience

WOCAN has provided training on participatory research, gender analysis and organizational change for an IDRC project in the eastern Himalayas with the Participatory Research and Gender Analysis Program of CGIAR from 2002-2004. This project builds on that successful experience, and on the director's decade of experience in working on gender and organizational change with agriculture and NRM organizations in the Himalayan region.

Major Group Inputs

Capacity building through training and mentoring on gender analysis, participatory research, organizational change; building networks of women professionals and rural women; monitoring & evaluation; good practices distillation and dissemination. Links to other major groups of SARD will permit a sharing of experiences and allow a wider extension of good practices to other parts of Asia and Africa through WOCAN and MG networks.