

REPORT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

**Fribourg,
Switzerland
14-17 October
2002**

**Working Party on
Women and the
Family in Rural
Development**

Eleventh session



EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)

REPORT

of the

**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON WOMEN
AND THE FAMILY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Fribourg, Switzerland, 14-17 October 2002

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2003**

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SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Report on WPW Activities 2000-2002

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

1. acknowledged the ripple effect of the activities of the WPW, resulting in regional and subregional workshops, seminars, the dissemination of methodologies and international exchanges of experiences (para. 11);
2. endorsed the proposal to change the name of the annual FAO International Rural Development Summer School to “FAO/ECA WPW Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development”, as it was felt that the new title would better reflect the real nature of the Summer School Meetings. The meetings will be held with the same frequency as the summer schools, i.e. annually (para. 9).

General Debate on the Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

3. noted the diversified and multiple roles women play in agriculture and sustainable rural development (paras. 19 and 29);
4. noted that gender relations should be seen in a wider socio-economic context of continuing change in agriculture and rural development and noted the need for improvement of infrastructure to enable women to participate actively in the changing context (para. 16 and 30);
5. stressed that need to promote networking among rural women and rural women’s organizations as such networks are essential in lobbying for rural women’s as well as rural interests in general (paras. 14, 15 and 26);
6. noted the need for comparable gender sensitive statistics throughout the Region (paras. 23 and 27);
7. noted that both men and women should be included in studies concerning the situation and role of rural women in development (para. 24);
8. noted the need to revise and synchronize the gender terminology (paras. 18 and 22);
9. noted the need to turn “gender awareness” into “gender action” (para 31).

Workshop Session on Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

10. recommended the following on policies:

- to ensure a critical mass - at least 40 percent of both sexes in decision-making bodies;
- to raise political awareness and interest among rural women and increase their capacity to participate in decision-making;
- to increase rural women's opportunities for education and training with the view to achieving personal development;
- to strengthen the understanding and communication between genders;
- to involve the young generation in rural development;
- to strengthen gender mainstreaming into policy with the aim of reaching equal opportunities for women and men;
- to develop legislations that will ensure for equal opportunities in terms of ownership, e.g. farm land or family enterprises for women and men;
- to ensure easier access to credit and loans for women;
- to increase the number of programmes and initiatives particularly tailored to the needs of rural women;
- to develop an integrated rural development policy approach;
- to develop a gender-sensitive agricultural and rural development policy;
- to develop a framework that will allow for a more equal division of labour in the household;
- to increase effectiveness in the administration of international programmes for rural development;
- to include gender mainstreaming in all international documents/surveys reflecting rural issues;
- to improve social research and monitoring in rural areas;
- to provide meeting places (arenas) for women; and
- to integrate rural women's issues on the agenda of different international bodies (e.g. ECA) (para 27).

11. recommended the following on measures:

- to enhance training in decision-making and leadership among rural women;
- to develop methods on how to implement gender mainstreaming (i.e. SEAGA);
- to disseminate information on the situation of rural women;
- to enhance the exchange of experiences among women in rural areas;

- to increase participation of women in decision-making, specifically with financial and funding incentives;
- to increase public awareness of rural women's success stories and their experiences through media and research;
- to increase training and education among rural women taking into account their multiple roles;
- to promote workshops, seminars, etc., for youth and adults on rural issues;
- to enhance institution (e.g. NGO's) and network-building;
- to build up resource centres (i.e. training) for rural women;
- to create a pool of female experts on agriculture in rural development and gender mainstreaming (database);
- to promote information campaigns on gender mainstreaming;
- to promote education for decision makers on gender issues in agriculture and rural development;
- to implement the project selection criteria concerning the participation of rural women;
- to introduce gender budgeting and integrate gender perspectives in budget processes;
- to collect gender-disaggregated data for rural areas;
- to strengthen the WPW as an international advisory committee on gender in agriculture and rural development;
- to address gender issues in the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) and other international bodies;
- to continue to report on rural women to international bodies (para. 27).

Future Focus of the Activities of the WPW

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

12. recommended that in future the WPW addresses in particular: raising the political awareness and interest among rural women and increasing their capacity for participating in decision-making, increasing rural women's and youth's opportunities for education and training (paras 29 and 30);
13. recommended that the ECA should rethink the support scheme of the WPW (para. 33);
14. stressed that it was essential to turn gender awareness into gender action (para. 31);
15. agreed on the activities for the next biennium: Twelfth Session of the WPW in 2004, Sixteenth and Seventeenth FAO/ECA WPW Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development in 2003 and 2004, respectively and two workshops (para. 32).

Election of the Board

For the Attention of Governments

The Session:

16. re-elected Ms Guoda Burokiene (Lithuania), Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland) and Ms Wendy Peter-Hodel (Switzerland) for another two-year period (2002-2004);
17. elected Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria), Ms Liisa Niilola (Finland) and Ms Ingunn Sornes (Norway) as Board Members for a two-year period (2002-2004);
18. elected Ms Fernández Fontanillas (Spain) as the Chairperson for a four-year period (2002-2006).

Hosting of Forthcoming Events

For the Attention of FAO

The Session:

19. welcomed the informal invitation extended by Lithuania (to be confirmed at a later stage) to host the 16th FAO ECA/WPW Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development in 2003 (para. 38).

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Eleventh Session of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW) of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held in Fribourg, Switzerland from 14 to 17 October 2002 at the kind invitation of the Government of Switzerland.

The list of participants is given in Annex 1 to this Report.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. The Chairperson of the WPW, Ms Guri Drottning Aarnes (Norway), opened the Session and welcomed the participants. She introduced Mr Jacques Chavaz, Vice-President of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, and Ms Alenka Verbole, FAO, Regional Office for Europe (REU).

3. Mr Chavaz welcomed the participants on the behalf of the Host Country, and said that Switzerland was proud to host the 11th WPW Session and that the event strongly reflected Switzerland's involvement in favour of sustainable rural development. He then presented the current activities in Switzerland in support of sustainable rural development. Regarding the role of rural women, he noted that in general the role of women in rural development, and especially in agriculture, had not yet been appraised and appreciated to the its extent. He further pointed out that it was essential to make progress in this area from a gender equality perspective and also in view of strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development. He also stressed that the diversity of the situation demands a variety of actions. The exchange of knowledge and experiences between different countries and people with different backgrounds is very important for improving the situation of rural women.

4. Ms Verbole thanked the Government of Switzerland for the invitation, the warm welcome and hospitality. Special thanks were given to Mr Anton Kohler, Head of the Swiss FAO Secretariat, Ms Wendy Peter-Hodel and Ms Isabelle Odermatt Schwarb for their commitment to the success of the Session. She underlined the important role of the WPW in the FAO European Region, its successful approach in addressing the needs of rural women and in the development of rural areas. She reflected on the situation of rural women in the Region, and stressed that rural women represent a very heterogeneous population. However, regardless of differences in their circumstances, rural women throughout the Region share many of the same aspirations and concerns and the same determination to improve their self-esteem and situation. Ms Verbole also called attention to the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (GAD PoA) 2002-2007¹ (endorsed by the last FAO Conference) which provided the framework for gender mainstreaming activities within FAO and its Member Countries. The Plan emphasises that a transformed partnership based on equality between women and men was an essential condition for people-centred sustainable agricultural and rural development. WPW was invited to

¹ C2001/9

participate actively in the implementation of the FAO GAD PoA in Europe and when developing its strategies and work programme, to contribute to the effective removal of obstacles to women's and men's equal and active participation and employment in the European rural sector. It was stressed that the synergy brought about by this arrangement would allow for a higher visibility of the WPW activities and would ensure a higher level of coherence as activities are linked together, therefore mutually reinforcing working towards a common goal.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The Session was chaired by Ms Guri Drottning Aarnes (Norway), Chairperson, Ms Celia Fernández-Fontanillas (Spain), Vice-Chairperson and Ms Peter-Hodel (Switzerland).

6. Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria) and Ms Ingunn Sornes (Norway) were elected Rapporteurs. Ms Silke Boger (Germany), Ms Oddny Kjelsen (Norway), and Ms Jela Tvrdonova (Slovakia) were elected as facilitators for the Session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

7. The Session adopted the Agenda as shown in Annex 2 to the Report.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE WPW²

8. The Chairperson of the WPW, Ms Drottning Aarnes reported on the work of the WPW over the past two years. She reminded the participants of the main purposes of the WPW: (i) encouraging the exchange of information and experiences with a view of promoting the role of women and the family in agriculture and rural development and (ii) their professional development, (iii) strengthening of cooperation with institutions and agencies and (iv) formulating policy recommendations on matters pertaining to education, research, extension and training. Further, she recalled the recommendations of the 10th Session of the WPW and in particular the need to increase the participation of rural youth and their organisations in the political decision making processes and to promote a rural policy sensitive to both gender and youth. She invited the participants to reflect on the experiences of their respective countries.

9. Further she also called the Session's attention to the proposal to change the name of the annual FAO International Rural Development Summer School to "FAO/ECA WPW Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development" in the future, as it was felt that the new title would better reflect the real nature of the Summer School Meetings. The meetings would be held with the same frequency as the summer schools, i.e. annually. This proposal was endorsed by the Session.

10. The information on the work of the WPW was completed by the WPW Secretariat which informed on additional REU activities³ connected to the topic.

11. The delegates noted the ripple effect of the activities of the WPW, which resulted in regional and sub-regional workshops, seminars, and the dissemination of methodologies and international exchange of experience.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

12. The second day of the Session was opened to the public. The delegates felt that this contributed to the higher visibility of the WPW and its activities.

13. In her keynote speech, Ms Eva Wonneberger (Germany), spoke of women in sustainable agriculture and rural development. She referred to three different studies conducted in Germany. The first focused on the health situation and stress conditions to farm women on small- and medium-sized farms in the early 1990s. It was observed that the workload of farm women was in most cases very high, encompassing heavy physical work on the farm and extended work in the household. In many cases farm women went beyond their personal health limits, and the study also found out that farm women have a

² ECA: WPW/02/2

³ ECA: WPW/02/3

different profile in their illnesses and symptoms compared to other women. In spite of the stressful and hard working conditions, farm women, in particularly those living on small and medium scale farms, still appreciated the variety of tasks on the family farm; they identified themselves with their work and felt proud of it. They enjoyed working according to their own rhythm and the autonomy of their own time-schedule.

14. In continuation, Ms Wonneberger presented surveys dealing with the role of farm women. It has been observed that farm women always find ways to continue farming under any given conditions, developing a so-called "creativity of agricultural sustainability", making it possible to continue agricultural production. Further data showed that women from large scale farms, contrary to the assumption that their role would be rather limited to that of a housewife, have played multiple roles in agriculture as well as in agricultural production. However, while women participate actively in the social life of the villages, they often prefer to remain in the background in political areas. She concluded that in future it would be necessary to promote organisations and informal networks, in which women's needs and interests are discussed and presented to the political arena.

15. The plenary session offered an occasion for a lively discussion. It was agreed that rural women should put more effort into networking. Delegates addressed the issue of which conditions should change to make it possible for rural women to play a more active role in generating income for the family. In relation to this, the question was raised whether a more active role by women would make the partnership in the family more instable.

16. Several delegates called attention to the importance of men being included in studies concerning the situation and role of rural women. Delegates also emphasised that visibility and recognition of women's work increases their potential for creativity. Self-esteem was considered a key issue in creating opportunities for rural women. Delegates felt that women were less afraid of change and more willing to take risks. It was also felt that openness toward new options depended on whether a woman chose her own role or whether it was attributed to her. It was noted that gender relations should be seen in a wider socio-economic context of continuing change in agriculture and the rural sector, that female role models should be made more visible and that the infrastructure should be improved to enable rural women to take part in the changing situation at all.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN SWISS AGRICULTURE

17. Ms Brigitte Stucki and Ms Esther Muntwyler (Switzerland) presented a study on the social situation of women in Swiss agriculture. Among other subjects, the study looked into the household structure, the role of women within the household, division of labour, etc. The study showed that women had a wide range of principal vocational training before marrying a farmer. This implied that women have the capacity to look for off-farm employment if needed. It was also pointed out that four out of nine women had paid off-farm work, however 40 percent of these contributed less than one tenth to the total family income. In addition, the study showed that farm women are confident in their personal future, but have less confidence in the future of the farm, and little confidence in the future of agriculture.

18. In the discussion following the presentation several issues were raised, namely why the income generated by women outside agriculture was often rather low in comparison to the total income of the farm. It was noted that many women worked part-time or were engaged in poorly paid jobs. Another important issue was raised by questioning the widely used term “farm wives” during the discussion of the role of women in agriculture and rural development. The main theme was whether this term also includes women farmers in their role as farm owners in a managerial position.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT A CASE STUDY OF POLAND⁴

19. Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland) presented a comprehensive overview of the situation of rural women in Poland. The country has a very high percentage of the total labour force still employed in the agricultural sector (26 percent) and two thirds of all rural women are involved in agriculture. However, less than twenty percent of the agricultural labour force worked full time in agriculture. The others depended on finding alternative income opportunities on or off the farm. Ms Sawicka pointed out that women were more affected by the difficult conditions on the rural labour market than men. Although they have a better formal education than men they carried out lowly paid and unskilled work. In addition, in many cases women were the first to loose their job, the reason being that rural women lack adequate and suitable education needed to participate in the rural labour market.

20. The farm and entrepreneurial activities of Polish rural women take place mostly on a small-scale level (e.g. different kinds of services, small catering units, fruit and vegetable processing plants, handicrafts). Ms Sawicka stressed that in order to improve their situation, it would be necessary to strengthen the representation and participation of rural women in institutions, organizations and political bodies on the local and regional level and to start networking among themselves.

21. In the discussion following the presentation, participants agreed that in future it would be necessary to shift funds from agrarian policy to rural development programmes and activities. Rural women could benefit to a larger extent from subsidies, as they often support both on- and off-farm activities. Higher financial investments in rural development or regional policy could enhance the generation of more job opportunities for rural women.

⁴ ECA: WPW/02/CASE POLAND

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
A CASE STUDY OF NORTHERN IRELAND, UK⁵**

22. Ms Sally Shortall presented the case study on women in sustainable agriculture and rural development in Northern Ireland, UK. She noted the importance of distinguishing between rural and farm women. Rural women are defined spatially; they live in rural areas, while farm women are defined in terms of their occupation; they are involved in farming. She pointed out that statistical information on rural women was much poorer than that available on farm women, and that at a national level, it was not always feasible to expect agricultural departments to be responsible for comprehensive and gender-disaggregated rural statistics. Given the lack of statistical information on women in rural areas there is a tendency to refer to them as a uniform category. The differences *between* rural women were identified, in terms of social class, education, resources and access to power. She argued that these differences must be considered to ensure the efficiency of policies that deal with rural women.

23. In discussing differences between farm and rural women, Ms Shorthall called attention to the central importance of the patrilineal line in shaping women's position within agriculture. She also stressed that attention needed to be paid to the definitions of work, which throughout the EU and the Region are archaic and do not reflect the work on farms, particularly farm women's work. A greater scope is needed to record more than one principal farmer in agricultural surveys. The need for comparable statistics across the EU and the Region was raised yet again. Agricultural organisations need to reflect on what may be gender discriminatory practices. Given the increasing importance of women's off-farm work, there is a growing need for support structures to train women to re-enter the labour market. The implications of social and economic restructuring on farms, particularly for men, needs further investigation.

24. Ms Shorthall also stressed the need for more rigorous baseline information regarding women's involvement in rural development projects, applications for funding, and a gender breakdown on employment created by rural development programmes. There is also a need to turn 'gender awareness' into 'gender action'; knowing there are barriers to women's participation that must be acted upon – for example, regarding the timing of meetings, where meetings take place, how they are advertised, etc. There is a need to recognise women's existing developmental work, and to avoid any tendency to only recognise work undertaken by men. Care needs to be taken to ensure that women are not structurally excluded within developmental structures.

25. In the discussion that followed the group recognised that where there is a will (as in Norway) national governments can introduce appropriate legislation that can reshape women's position in agriculture. The Session pointed out the importance of women's networks in lobbying for rural interest. The discussion further pointed out that women in rural areas had spatial conditions in common, but differed in most other ways. It was outlined that the efforts for rural women should be directed to those who had the greatest needs for employment and social activities, e.g. not to those who had jobs and social benefits.

⁵ ECA: WPW/02/CASE NORTHERN IRELAND

WORKSHOP ON THE THEME OF THE SESSION

26. The Chairperson Ms Fernández-Fontanillas, opened the Workshop Session and introduced the elected facilitators for each of the three groups. The theme of the Session was discussed in relation to the specific actions that would improve governments' social and economic recognition of the important role of women in rural areas, their needs and interests, the gender dimension in rural development programmes, the changes that are needed so that rural women can participate in and contribute to the decision-making process, the actions needed to promote rural women's participation in the development of rural areas and which actions need to be taken to ensure a more active involvement of rural women in development. The results from the group workshops and Plenary Discussion that followed are presented below.

27. In order to strengthen the role of rural women in sustainable agriculture and rural development, the delegates of the 11th Session of WPW made the following recommendations:

a) on policies

- to ensure a critical mass - at least 40 percent of each sex in decision-making bodies;
- to raise the political awareness and interest among rural women and increase their capacity for participating in decision-making;
- to increase rural women's opportunities for education and training with the view to achieving personal development;
- to strengthen the understanding and communication between genders;
- to involve the young generation in rural development;
- to strengthen gender mainstreaming into policy with the aim of reaching equal opportunities for women and men;
- to develop legislations that will allow for equal opportunities in terms of ownership, e.g. farm land or family enterprises for women and men;
- to ensure easier access to credit and loans for women;
- to increase the number of programmes and initiatives particularly tailored to the needs of rural women;
- to develop the integrated rural development policy approach;
- to develop a gender-sensitive agricultural and rural development policy;
- to develop a framework that will allow for a more equal division of labour in the household;
- to increase the effectiveness in the administration of international programmes for rural development;
- to include gender mainstreaming in all international documents/surveys reflecting rural issues;
- to improve the social research and monitoring in rural areas;

- to provide meeting places (arenas) for women; and
 - to integrate rural women's issues on the agenda of different international bodies (e.g. ECA).
- b) on measures
- to enhance training in decision-making and leadership among rural women;
 - to develop methods on how to implement gender mainstreaming (i.e. SEAGA);
 - to disseminate information on the situation of rural women;
 - to enhance the exchange of experiences among women in rural areas;
 - to increase participation of women in decision-making, specifically with financial and funding incentives;
 - to increase public awareness of rural women's success stories and their experiences through media and research;
 - to increase training and education among rural women taking into account their multiple role;
 - to promote workshops, seminars, etc., for youths and adults on rural issues;
 - to enhance institution (e.g. NGO's) and network-building;
 - to build up resource centres (i.e. training) for rural women;
 - to create a pool of female experts on agriculture in rural development and gender mainstreaming (data base);
 - to promote information campaigns on gender mainstreaming;
 - to promote education for decision makers on gender issues in agriculture and rural development;
 - to implement the project selection criteria concerning the participation of rural women;
 - to introduce gender budgeting and integrate gender perspectives in budget processes;
 - to collect gender-disaggregated data for rural areas;
 - to strengthen the WPW as an international advisory committee on gender in agriculture and rural development;
 - to address gender issues in ECA and other international bodies;
 - to continue to report on rural women to international bodies.

The Session also discussed possible gender indicators that needed to be revised further (e.g. number of rural women owning enterprises and developing their own small businesses; number of laws and regulations on gender equality; volume of funds allocated to rural women).

STATEMENT ON EMERGING ISSUES CONCERNING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

28. The ECA Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development is aware of the crucial impacts globalization is having on rural areas, in particular with the view to ensuring sustainability of future development. To guarantee the sustainability of rural areas a multifunctional agriculture and diversified rural economy are needed and the full involvement of rural women in the development processes is essential.

29. Women's contribution to the agriculture and rural sector to the multiple roles they play must be economically and socially recognized. It is vital to adapt the institutional frameworks to enable rural women to take a more active part in the decision-making processes.

30. Women's active participation in rural development will enable them to take the necessary actions to meet their interests and needs which will benefit the entire rural society. In the future it is vital for rural areas that in the future public and private institutions and organisations, together with women's networks, lobby for their interests in the political arenas.

31. The implications of social and economic restructuring in rural areas and on farms for both women and men need to be further investigated. It is important to give a higher priority to rural development policies and to approach them from a long term perspective to enhance the generation of job and income opportunities for rural women and men. It is essential to turn "gender awareness" into "gender action".

FUTURE FOCUS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WPW

32. The Session reviewed and approved the "Future Focus of the Activities of the WPW" prepared by the Chairperson, Ms Drottning Aarnes.

Delegates agreed on the following activities for the next biennium:

- WPW Board Meeting, December 2002 or January 2003 (tentative date), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy;
- WPW Board Meeting, 1st week of December 2003 (tentative date), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy;
- International Seminar on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Projects with a View to Achieving Improved Integration of Gender Dimension (country to be determined, 2003 or 2004, dates depending on the availability of funding);
- 16th Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development (country to be determined, June 2003);
- 17th Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development (country to be determined, June 2004);

- collection of good practices on gender mainstreaming implementation in rural development;
- International Workshop on Gender-disaggregated Data (Host Country to be determined, 2003 or 2004 dates depending on the availability of funding), and
- Twelfth Session of the WPW in 2004.

The delegates suggested themes for:

- the forthcoming 16th and 17th Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development in 2003 and 2004:
 - Gender Mainstreaming: How to Implement It in Practice;
 - Institutional Building for Empowerment of Rural Women;
- and the next WPW Session (12th Session of the WPW in the year 2004):
 - Information and Rural Women;
 - Farm and Rural Women: Differences and Similarities.

The delegates suggested that the theme of the 2003 and 2004 Expert Meeting be determined by the WPW Board at their forthcoming informal meeting.

33. The Session saw the crucial importance of the WPW framework as defined in the Report of the Chairperson (paragraph 28). The delegates fully endorsed the WPW framework since it covers the key areas of actions necessary to address the main deficits in the social and economic situation of women in agriculture and rural development. The Session stressed the fact that the WPW, because of its broad expertise, is the adequate body to define and initiate efficient measures in these key areas. However, a concern was expressed whether the WPW was able to satisfactorily fulfil its purpose, tasks and plans under the current organisational structure (i.e. limited human resources) and given the funds presently allotted to the WPW's activities. Hence, the delegates recommended that the ECA should rethink the support scheme of the WPW based on a proposal of the Board to be prepared at its next meeting.

ELECTION OF THE BOARD

34. Three board Members stepped down having concluded their terms: Ms Inessa Gabayan (Armenia), Ms Guri Drottning Aarnes, (Norway) and Ms Uta Meier (Germany). Three board Members were re-elected for another period of two years, namely Ms Guoda Burokiene (Lithuania), Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland) and Ms Wendy Peter-Hodel (Switzerland). Three new board Members were elected, namely Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria), Ms Liisa Niilola (Finland) and Ms Ingunn Sornes (Norway). Ms Fernández Fontanillas was elected Chairperson.

The new structure is as follows:

Chairperson: Celia Fernández Fontanillas, Spain

Vice-chairperson: Wendy Peter-Hodel, Switzerland

Board members: Theresia Oedl-Wieser, Austria
Guoda Burokiene, Lithuania
Ingunn Sornes, Norway
Janina Sawicka, Poland
Liisa Niilola, Finland

35. Many thanks were extended to the former Board Members for their dedication and contribution to the WPW. Special thanks were given to the Ex-WPW Chairperson Ms Guri Drottning Aarnes, for her dedication and promotion of the WPW.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

36. The draft Report was adopted by the Session. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and the Rapporteurs for their excellent work. The Regional Office for Europe and the Secretariat of the WPW were given the responsibility of finalizing the report and implementing the decisions adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

37. The Session emphasized that Member Countries should ensure full-attendance of the delegates at the Session.

38. The Session welcomed the informal invitation expressed by Lithuania (to be confirmed at a later stage) to host the 16th FAO ECA/WPW Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development in 2003.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

39. The Chairperson thanked the Government of Switzerland for hosting the Session, in particular Ms Odermatt Schwarb, Ms Peter-Hodel and the secretarial support. The Session repeated its gratitude to Ms Verbole for her excellent contribution to the Session.

ANNEX 1

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ANNEX 2

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Place: The Session was held at the Congress Centre “*Au Parc Hotel*”, Fribourg and EXPOagricole, Murten, Switzerland.

Theme: “**The Role Women Play in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development**”

Monday, 14 October 2002

8.30 hours	Registration
9.30 hours	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening of the Session<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. J. Chavaz, Vice-president of Agriculture Department on behalf of the Host Government- Dr. Anton Kohler, FAO Secretary at MoA- Dr. A. Verbole, on behalf of REU/FAO- Dr. G. Aarnes Drottning, Chairperson of the WPW2. Election of Officers3. Adoption of the Agenda4. Report of the Activities of the Working Party
10.30 hours	Coffee Break
11.00 hours	Depart for the Study Tour
19.00 hours	Return to the Congress Centre
20.00 hours	Reception hosted by the Canton and Town of Fribourg

Tuesday, 15 October 2002

08.00 hours	Depart for Murten
09.00 hours	Introduction to the Day
09.30 hours	Keynote Speech on the Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development by Dr. E. Wonneberger
10.15 hours	Coffee Break
10.45 hours	Plenary Discussion
12.00 hours	Lunch
13.00 hours	Presentation on the Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Switzerland by Dr. B. Stucki and dipl.ing E. Muntwyler
13.30 hours	Discussion
14.30 hours	Closing of the Day
19.00 hours	Free time at EXPO, Murten
22.00 hours	Return to Fribourg

Wednesday, 16 October 2002

09.00 hours	Introduction to the Case Studies
09.15 hours	The Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development: A Case Study in Poland by Dr. J. Sawicka
09.45 hours	Discussion
10.15 hours	Coffee Break
10.45 hours	The Role of Women in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development: A Case Study in the Northern Ireland by Dr. S. Shortall
11.15 hours	Discussion
12.30 hours	Lunch
14.00 hours	Workshops on the Theme of the Session: Analysis of Situation, Identification of Main Issues and Drafting of Recommendations and Statement
15.30 hours	Coffee Break
16.00 hours	Workshops (continuation)
17.00 hours	Closing of the Day
19.00 hours	Dinner to celebrate the World Food Day hosted by the National Department of Agriculture

Thursday, 17 October 2002

09.00 hours	Presentation of the Group Workshops
10.30 hours	Coffee Break
11.00 hours	Statement on Emerging Issues Concerning Women's Role in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
12.30 hours	Lunch

ANNEX 3
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ECA: WPW/02/2	Report on the Activities of the WPW 2002-2002 and its Future Focus
ECA: WPW/02/3	Report on the Additional REU WID/Gender Programme Activities 2000-2002
ECA: WPW/02/1 Rev.1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
ECA: WPW/02/CASE POLAND	The Role Women Play in Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development in Poland
ECA: WPW/02/CASE NORTHERN IRELAND	The Role Women Play in Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development in Northern Ireland