

REPORT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

**Nitra,
Slovakia
18-21 October
2004**

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

Twelfth Session



EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)

REPORT

of the

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

Nitra, Slovakia, 18-21 October 2004

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2004**

Table of Contents

	Pages
SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS	iv- v
INTRODUCTION	1
OPENING OF THE SESSION	1
ELECTION OF OFFICERS	2
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE	2
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE WPW	2
PLENARY SESSION	3
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	4
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ALBANIA	6
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AUSTRIA	6
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN NORWAY	7
WORKSHOP ON THE THEME OF THE SESSION	8
PLENARY ON WPW'S ISSUES	8
STATEMENT ON EMERGING ISSUES CONCERNING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	9
FUTURE FOCUS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WPW	10
ELECTION OF THE BOARD	11
ADOPTION OF THE REPORT	11
OTHER BUSINESS	11
CLOSING OF THE SESSION	12
ANNEXES	
1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	13
2. AGENDA AND TIMETABLE	16
3. LIST OF DOCUMENTS	18

SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Report on WPW Activities 2005-2006

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

1. acknowledged that the activities of the WPW were instrumental in the organization of the international workshop, the dissemination of technologies and international exchange of experience (para. 18);
2. noted the WPW's special importance for transition countries (para. 23);
3. called for the continuation of the WPW's activities (para. 23 and 55);
4. recommended publishing the results of the survey on the impacts of the WPW activities (para. 56 and 80).

General Debate on Capacity Building for Rural Women's Empowerment

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

5. noted that in the future rural women need to participate in the decision-making processes (para. 36);
6. stressed that empowering women must be included in all policies (para 63, 64 and 66);
7. emphasised that it was fundamental to overcome the fixed gender roles in society to turn awareness into gender activities (para. 62 and 66).

Workshop Session on Capacity Building for Rural Women's Empowerment

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

8. recommended the following on policies:
 - to ensure a critical mass - at least 40 percent of women in decision-making bodies;
 - to support and strengthen rural women's organizations and networks of women's organizations;
 - to raise political awareness and interest among rural women and increase their capacity for equal participation in agenda setting and decision-making;
 - to increase rural women's opportunities for education and training;
 - to insure that the process of institutional capacity building rolls on at all levels of decision-making (incl. organization, sector/network and broader system);
 - to reflect more intensively the concerns, needs and visions of rural women's empowerment in the priorities and strategic orientations of rural, regional and other relevant policies and programmes;
 - to recognize that rural women are not a homogenous population and should be seen as capable actors in rural development;
 - to simplify the funding procedures for rural development projects.
9. recommended the following on measures:
 - to develop relevant systematic and proactive interventions to strengthen rural women's capacity building (i.e., funds for networking over the long term);

- to strengthen the cooperation between governments and farm/rural women's organizations through formalized representation (i.e., formal political structures legislation and similar);
- to introduce gender budgeting and integrate gender perspective in the budget process;
- to establish and strengthen accountability and monitoring structures at all levels to ensure that the agreed policies and legislations are endorsed and implemented;
- to collect gender-disaggregated data for rural areas;
- to ensure access to information, new methodologies and media to rural women;
- to develop special training programmes for capacity building for women's empowerment;
- to establish a parental support (i.e., daily care centres) and infrastructure in its broadest sense;
- to integrate and include women's organizations in the newly emerging regional structures allowing for their active participation;
- to create a pool of female experts on agriculture and rural development and gender mainstreaming.

Future Focus of the Activities of the WPW

For the Attention of Governments and FAO

The Session:

10. noted that the FAO structures to support WPW are still in place and that WPW would not be abolished (para 7 and 24);
11. urged that activities must continue (para. 23 and 55);
12. decided to contact their respective governments to ensure future funding for the WPW's activities.

Election of the Board

For the Attention of Governments

The Session:

13. re-elected Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria), Ms Ingunn Sornes (Norway), Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland) and Ms Liisa Niilola (Finland) for another two years period 2004-2006;
14. elected Ms Egle Daunoriene (Lithuania) for a two years period (2004-2006).

Hosting of Forthcoming Events

For the Attention of FAO

The Session:

15. welcomed that the informal invitation (expressed at the 33rd ECA Session in Rome in March 2004) to host the Thirteenth Session of the WPW, extended by Slovenia. The Session also welcomed the informal invitation to host the 18th FAO ECA/WPW Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development in 2005, extended by Poland.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twelfth 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 Nitra, Slovakia from 18 to 21 October 2004 at the kind invitation of the Government of Slovakia.

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

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. The Vice-Chairperson of the WPW, Ms Wendy Peter-Hodel (Switzerland), opened the Session and welcomed the participants. She extended her best wishes to Ms Celia Fernández Fontanillas, Chairperson of the WPW who unfortunately could not attend the Session. She introduced Mr Kamil Slíž, the Director of the Agroinštitút, Nitra, Mr Jan Golian, State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovakia, Ms Maria Kadlecikova, FAO Subregional Representative for Central and Eastern Europe and Ms Alenka Verbole, Secretary to the WPW, FAO Regional Office for Europe (REU).

3. Mr Jan Golian, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Host Country and stressed that Slovakia was proud to host the 12th WPW Session. He informed that Slovak governmental programmes have been attentive to the gender equality issues, especially over the last six years, since the introduction of new legislation, regarding the social sphere. The State Secretary expressed his confidence that the conclusions of the Session would strengthen the position of women in society and would lead to deeper recognition of the importance of the theme on the national and international level. He expressed hope that the recommendations of the Session would provide a solid basis for national agriculture and rural development programmes and projects throughout Europe.

4. Ms Kadlecikova welcomed the participants on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She pointed out that women's empowerment together with gender mainstreaming and partnership building was the most effective way to transform unequal gender relations. Women's empowerment should be seen as a process throughout which women get an understanding of how gender power relations influence their lives and perhaps even more important gain and strengthen their capacities, rights and opportunities to "challenge" the existing patterns. She noted that FAO has, through its various activities, strived for better recognition of rural women's contribution to development and for their empowerment in the public and political spheres, as well as for their enjoyment of their legal rights, under relevant international legal instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which is the only international legal convention with special provisions for rural women (Article 14).

5. Ms Kadlecikova briefly reflected on the activities organized in the framework of the FAO REU's Gender and Development Programme including the first TCP project in the Region focusing on gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development which become operational in early 2004 in Slovenia.

6. Further, she acknowledged the concerns addressed to the Director-General of FAO by three FAO members nations (Austria, Serbia and Montenegro and Spain), regarding the budget cuts that FAO has had to face in the present biennium and their effect on the ability of FAO to continue servicing the WPW.
7. She also acknowledged that there was a need to continue supporting rural women in CIS countries and the Balkans, new members like Ukraine and potential new members like Belarus (who has sent an application for FAO membership) and offered FAO Subregional Office support.
8. She encouraged the WPW to seek extra-budgetary support from the EU, and from supportive ECA members who may wish to consider providing extra-budgetary support to the continuation of WPW activities.
9. Ms Verbole, Secretary of the WPW and REU's Gender and Development Officer, welcomed the participants. She extended her thanks to the Government of Slovakia for hosting the event and Agroinštitút in Nitra for providing excellent facilities. She recalled that Slovakia has always been one of the most active WPW members participating in and co-organizing numerous activities of the Working Party. Special thanks were given to Ms Hellebrandtova from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ms Šafáriková (Agroinštitút) and Ms Jela Tvrdonova, former Chairperson of the WPW.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

10. The Session was chaired by Ms Wendy Peter Hodel (Switzerland), Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria), Ms Liisa Niilola (Finland) Ms Guoda Burokiene (Lithuania) and Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland).
11. Ms Guoda Burokiene (Lithuania) and Ms Klara Kleckova (Czech Republic) were elected Rapporteurs. Ms Sabine de Rooij (The Netherlands), Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria) and Ms Gertraud Pichler (Austria), were elected as facilitators for the Session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

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

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE WPW¹

13. The Vice-Chairperson of the WPW, Ms Peter-Hodel, 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 that the WPW organized two WPW Board Meetings, two FAO ECA/ WPW Expert Meetings on Gender and Rural

¹ ECA: WPW/04/2

Development (Lithuania and Austria) and prepared a paper “ Food Safety and Quality: A Gender Perspective” presented at the 33rd ECA Session in Rome in March 2004.

14. She also informed delegates on the recent WPW Survey conducted by the WPW Secretariat. First informal results show that the WPW provides a forum for policy-making decisions concerning/targeting the rural population and contributes to removing the obstacles to women’s and men’s active participation in the European agricultural and rural sector.

15. The results also show that the WPW as an active network has made many positive changes and has had positive impacts in the Region. Its role is essential in reducing gender inequalities in rural areas throughout the Region and empowering women, allowing them to participate actively in decision-making on the main issues concerning European rural areas.

16. Further, the results point out that the ECA WPW enables the exchange of experience, knowledge and new connections among people that otherwise would never meet and that this was highly valued among Member Nations. Contacts established during the WPW activities are perceived as a good starting point for various international programmes such as EU Phare, LEADER, INTERREG and SAPARD Programmes, etc.

17. Though male members represent a minority group among the WPW network members, they have been very active in the WPW activities.

PLENARY SESSION

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

19. The delegate from Austria enquired, whether it would be possible to officially disseminate the results of the WPW 2004 Survey in the near future and use them as a basis for discussion on WPW’s future strategies and actions. Ms Verbole, the Secretary to the WPW, expressed the hope that the results would be disseminated by the end of the year after receiving comments from the relevant technical divisions.

20. Ms Peter–Hodel opened a lively discussion concerning the future work of the WPW and its activities, taking into account the budget cuts in FAO. She referred to the Report of the 33rd FAO/ECA Session held in Rome in March 2004, and in particular to para 22 of that Report:

” ... that under the reduced budget level approved by the 32nd FAO Conference in November 2003, the Gender and Development Division will have to scale-down its support to the FAO/ECA WPW, particularly in the second year of the biennium 2004-2005”.

21. The Session asked for clarification regarding the meaning of “scale-down” and expressed regret that the flow of information was not more transparent.

22. The delegate from Poland expressed her disappointment with FAO's decision, believing that the work of the WPW and its Board had not been sufficiently acknowledged considering that the Working Party had been devoting its resources (governmental and individual) to empowering rural women and supporting the implementation of FAO's gender mainstreaming policies in the Region.
23. Delegates from Armenia, Austria, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey all stressed the importance of the work the WPW is carrying out in the Region, including the work underway in the transition countries, and called for efforts to identify ways to ensure funding that would allow for the continuation of WPW activities in the future.
24. Ms Kadlecikova explained that FAO would continue to work with rural women and issues pertinent to rural women at the Headquarters level. She once again reconfirmed that the FAO structures to support the WPW were still in place, that the WPW would not be abolished, and that the crux of the problem was the lack of funds.
25. Referring to Ms Kadlecikova's proposal to apply for EU support for the WPW activities, the delegate from Lithuania pointed out that their experiences showed that it was very difficult to access EU funds for this specific issue.
26. The delegate from Austria proposed that the WPW could report directly to the Regional Conference for Europe rather than functioning as a subsidiary body to the ECA. The Session agreed that this was an important policy issue that required discussion and consensus at higher level.
27. Ms Kadlecikova informed that funding for the WPW work could possibly be obtained through the FAO Trust Funds where governments would allocate money specifically for WPW activities.
28. The Session expressed concern regarding governments' awareness of the WPW situation and stressed the importance of informing governments on this matter in writing.
29. The Session thanked Ms Maria Kadlecikova for the clarifications and her cooperation.
30. Following the discussion Ms Verbole informed on the additional REU GAD Programme Activities² carried out in the 2002-2004 biennium.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

31. In her keynote speech, Ms Sabine de Rooij (The Netherlands) spoke of institutional capacity building for rural women's empowerment.

² ECA/WPW/3

32. She stressed that defining the meaning of ‘institutional capacity building for rural women’s empowerment’ was an important issue since there is a lack of conceptual clarity and common understanding regarding these concepts.

33. She emphasised that it was important to understand that ‘rural women’ are very heterogeneous, as are their problems, needs, and agendas. She also pointed out that it is necessary to increase awareness that capacity needs are context specific and can change over time.

34. Since rural women have to empower themselves, capacity needs to be established at the grassroots level. Creating rural women’s individual and collective *agency* is the main task in the process. Since effective women’s empowerment needs an enabling environment, external actors must support this process through gender mainstreaming (including capacity building) and specific programmes targeting women and actively engaging men as well.

35. In addition, de Rooij pointed out that to achieve women’s empowerment, capacity needs to be built into different spheres of life and at different (interrelated) levels (individual, organizational, sector/network and broader system level). She stressed that for the achievement of rural women’s empowerment this was of the utmost importance and that capacity building encompassed both changing the institutional (‘rules of the game’) as well as organizational (sites where rules are played out) adjustments and innovations. Capacity building attuned to women’s empowerment requires a mixed approach involving organizational and institutional dimensions, encompassing all the system levels as well as a participatory approach.

36. In the animated discussion following the presentation experiences from the different member countries were shared. The delegates agreed that in the future women and in particular rural women have to participate more actively in the decision-making processes. The importance of enabling rural women to voice their concerns and needs was stressed.

37. The Slovak delegation suggested that FAO should organize a workshop at which countries such as Austria and the Netherlands would share their experience on capacity building for rural women’s empowerment with the Central and Eastern European countries.

38. It was mentioned that there were too few young rural women involved in the different local activities, which was seen as a serious problem. It was proposed and discussed to set quotas for women working in the decision-making bodies. It was also observed that some women at the top level have adjusted to male behaviour, thinking and working patterns. It was feared that the quotas might not solve the gender gap in the highest decision making level. The Session discussed the need to address and change the gender stereotypes held by men and women beginning at the family level up to the institutional level.

39. Austria, Finland and Slovakia informed of various projects and programmes for women’s capacity building in their respective countries.

40. The morning session was chaired by Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland). Three delegates, namely Ms Tsaroukyan (Armenia), Ms Vranova (Slovakia) and Mr Çardici (Turkey) made presentations on the socio-economic situation of rural women and issues relevant to rural women including capacity building for women's empowerment, activities in the field of gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development in their respective countries.

41. The delegate from Turkey also addressed the extension services provided to female farmers and brought forward several relevant recommendations, i.e. the need to increase efficiency of decentralized education for rural women, the need to encourage projects for rural women, strengthen the capacity of rural women through training and similar.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ALBANIA³

42. Ms Beryl Nicholson (United Kingdom) presented the issues relevant to institutional capacity building for rural women's empowerment.

43. Ms Nicholson noted that Albanian society differs from the rest of Europe in that civil society was dominated by one institution, the patriarchal family. Networks of family and kin fulfill functions undertaken elsewhere by a range of institutions. This structure limits possibilities for women, but it is also a major resource and it evolves over time. If attempts to empower women are to be successful, they must take account of this context and work in harmony with it.

44. Further she stressed that the changes since 1990 have given rural households more autonomy and, on balance, they have had an empowering effect for women, though at the cost of increasing their work and responsibility. Greater contact with other countries through work migration was a useful conduit for new ideas that help improve women's situation further, but there was still much to do. She emphasised that a gender perspective needs to be applied in more issues, such as rural school closures and sharing out the inadequate electricity supply. Above all, solutions must be found to the problem that causes women most concern and makes them feel powerless, the lack of employment not just for themselves, but still more for their children.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AUSTRIA⁴

45. Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser presented the case study on institutional capacity building for rural women in Austria. She pointed out that in Austria a significant gender gap existed in participation in political bodies. While at the national level the critical mass of 30 percent participation of female delegates was reached, representation of women in political bodies at regional and local level was very low.

³ ECA/WPW/04/CASE STUDY - ALBANIA

⁴ ECA/WPW/04/CASE STUDY - AUSTRIA

46. Today, as previously, agricultural and rural development policy is still a male-dominated field. To some extent women in Austria tend to prefer to engage in non-institutional and informal political movements. Although the representation of women in the Austrian agrarian and regional policy was still rather low, some dynamic processes regarding institutional capacity building for the empowerment of women in rural areas were observed. The women's issue commissioners of the different Provinces have often been the driving forces in building up project partnerships and networks among women and women's organizations in the regions.

47. Ms Oedl-Wieser pointed out that since Austria's accession to the EU, many gender sensitive projects have been initiated in the regions, e.g. "Women's Network Vorarlberg", political training courses for women, "GESIR", "LEADER+ Network", "Gender Mainstreaming Information Service", "Gender Mainstreaming Working Group", "Managers for Equality in Salzburg", "Farm Women as Day-care Mothers". She also informed that the Austrian farm women's organizations were not yet involved to a great extent in the dynamic process of gender sensitive rural and regional development projects. Taking part and engaging in these newly-established networks would intensify communication with other women's organizations and strengthen the position of women in rural areas.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN NORWAY⁵

48. Ms Anniken Førde (Norway) presented a case study of farm women in Northern Norway. She pointed out that even if farm women in Norway have gained important statutory rights, they were still considered more traditional and less empowered than Norwegian women in general.

49. Farm women are still performing the "traditional female tasks" and much work outside the farm. This phenomenon is known as a 'masculinization' of agriculture. Ms Forde argued that a broader understanding of empowerment was needed. Women's empowerment should not be measured by whether they drive a tractor or not. She stressed that it was necessary to valorise what women do in their everyday life. Empowerment must be based on statutory rights and informal network and women's own values, wants and needs.

50. In the discussion that followed the presentation of the three case studies, several interesting questions were raised such as what empowerment really is, how is it possible to ensure cooperation between governments, NGOs and other actors relevant to rural women's empowerment, how women's organizations are funded throughout the region, how can be ensured that these organizations are taken seriously and similar.

51. The delegates agreed that it was important not to "impose" the outsider's perceptions and understanding of what empowerment is, but to be sensitive and adopt the concept to the local socio-economic and cultural context.

⁵ ECA/WPW/04/CASE STUDY - NORWAY

WORKSHOP ON THE THEME OF THE SESSION

52. Ms Guoda Burokiene 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 government's recognition of the need to support institutional capacity building for rural women's empowerment. The results from the group work and plenary discussion that followed are presented below:

a) on policies

- to ensure a critical mass - at least 40 percent of women in decision-making bodies;
- to support and strengthen rural women's organizations and networks of women's organizations;
- to raise political awareness and interest among rural women and increase their capacity for equal participation in agenda setting and decision-making;
- to increase rural women's opportunities for education and training;
- to insure that the process of institutional capacity building rolls on at all levels of decision-making (incl. organization, sector/network and broader system);
- to reflect more intensively the concerns, needs and visions of rural women's empowerment in the priorities and strategic orientations of rural, regional and other relevant policies and programmes;
- to recognize that rural women are not a homogenous population and should be seen as capable actors in rural development;
- to simplify the funding procedures for rural development projects.

b) on measures

- to develop relevant systematic and proactive interventions to strengthen rural women's capacity building (i.e., funds for networking over the long-term);
- to strengthen cooperation between governments and farm / rural women's organizations through formalized representation (i.e., formal political structures legislation and similar);
- to introduce gender budgeting and integrate gender perspective in the budget process;
- to establish and strengthen accountability and monitoring structures at all levels to ensure that the agreed policies and legislations are implemented and endorsed;
- to collect gender-disaggregated data for rural areas;
- to ensure access to information, new methodologies and media to rural women;
- to develop special training programmes for capacity building for women's empowerment;
- to establish parental support (i.e., daily care centres) and infrastructure in its broadest sense;
- to integrate and include women's organizations in newly emerging regional structures allowing for their active participation;
- to create a pool of female experts on agriculture and rural development and gender mainstreaming.

PLENARY ON WPW'S ISSUES

53. Ms Peter-Hodel informed the Session about the ongoing issues concerning the Working Party and its activities (planning the future activities, such as the next session to be held prior to the ECA session, the mandate of the WPW Board and the status of the WPW as an ECA statutory body).

54. The delegates decided to accept Ms Kadlecikova's kind offer to provide support and any needed assistance to the WPW from the FAO Subregional Office in Budapest.

55. The delegates unanimously decided to write a joint letter signed by all the delegates to the governments of the FAO European Member Nations expressing their deep concern about the down-scaling of FAO's support to the WPW (see para 27). It was recalled that Ms Kadlecikova had expressed her appreciation of the WPW's work and stressed its importance for CIS, the Central and Eastern European countries, and in particular, for the Balkans.

56. The Session decided to publish a survey on the impact of WPW's activities in the Region in the last 10 years tentatively by the end of 2004.

57. The delegates agreed to contact their respective governments with a view to establishing a joint Trust Fund or a similar fund to be specifically used for the WPW's activities in the next few years.

58. The Session gave mandate to the Board to take the appropriate follow-up steps concerning the dates of the forthcoming WPW activities, in particular, the 13th FAO/ECA WPW Session and WPW status.

59. The Session had no objection to the extension of the mandate of the WPW Board members, if needed.

STATEMENT ON EMERGING ISSUES CONCERNING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR RURAL WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

60. Women's empowerment should be seen as a process throughout which women get an understanding of how gender relations influence their lives and perhaps even more important, gain and strengthen their capacities, rights and opportunities to "challenge" existing patterns.

61. Capacity building aims at regional women's empowerment needs to be built into different spheres of life and at different (interrelated) levels. It is crucial that capacity building encompasses both changing the institutional ('rules of the game') as well as the organizational (material forms) dimensions.

62. To reach equality in society and empowerment of rural women in respect of institutional capacity building, it is fundamental to overcome the fixed gender roles in all spheres of our society.

63. Gender equality is a basic human right which also has significance as an economic issue and should be taken into consideration in the current rural, regional and other relevant policy discourses.

64. Empowering women must not be a policy on its own, but should be included in all policies, including agricultural and rural development policies.

65. Agricultural and rural policies should open to more diverse strategies by including women's knowledge and experiences in designing the policies in order to build a strong agriculture and viable rural committees.

66. It is essential to turn "gender awareness" into "gender actions".

FUTURE FOCUS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WPW⁶

67. The Session reviewed and approved the future focus of the activities of the WPW prepared by the WPW Chairperson Ms Celia Fernandez-Fontanillas.

68. Delegates agreed on the following activities for the next biennium:

- WPW Board Meeting, December 2004, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, or SEUR, Budapest, Hungary;
- WPW Board Meeting, 1st week of February 2006 (tentative date), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy or SEUR, Budapest, Hungary;
- 18th Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development (Poland informally expressed interest in hosting the event, September 2005);
- 13th WPW Session (Slovenia informally expressed interest in hosting the event at the 33rd FAO/ECA Session in 2004, tentative date early 2006, 2 months prior to the ECA Session);
- 19th Expert Meeting on Gender and Rural Development (country to be determined, June 2006);
- International Workshop on Gender-disaggregated Data (Norway has expressed interest in hosting the event in 2005, to be confirmed).

69. The delegates suggested themes for the forthcoming 18th and 19th FAO/ECA WPW Expert Meetings on Gender and Rural Development in 2005 and 2006, namely:

- Rural Tourism and Rural Women;
- ICT and Rural Women;
- Project Management and Gender;
- Cultural Aspects of Rural Development.

70. The delegates suggested that the theme of the 2005 and 2006 Expert Meetings and the 13th Session of the WPW should be determined by the WPW Board at their next meeting.

71. The Austrian delegation informed that Austria was willing to contribute US\$ 5000 to support the activities of the WPW under three specific conditions. Lithuania also made an offer to contribute funds to support the WPW activities.

⁶ ECA:WPW/04/02

ELECTION OF THE BOARD

72. Ms Burokiene (Lithuania) stepped down. The four Board Members were re-elected, namely Ms Janina Sawicka (Poland), Ms Theresia Oedl-Wieser (Austria), Ms Liisa Niilola (Finland) and Ms Ingunn Sornes (Norway).

73. Ms Egle Daunoriene (Lithuania) was elected Board Member.

74. The structure is as follows:

Chairperson: Celia Fernández Fontanillas, Spain

Vice-chairperson: Wendy Peter-Hodel, Switzerland

Board Members: Theresia Oedl-Wieser, Austria
Egle Daunoriene, Lithuania
Ingunn Sornes, Norway
Janina Sawicka, Poland
Liisa Niilola, Finland

75. Many thanks were extended to the former Board Member for her dedication and contribution to the WPW.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

76. 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

77. The Session thanked the Slovak Government for offering the possibility of taking part in the national forum organized to celebrate World Rural Women's Day and for hosting the study tour to rural areas.

78. Slovakia proposed research study on the socio-economic situation of rural women. Lithuania supported this proposal, in particular with the view to providing a basis for reviewing strategies at the national level.

79. The Polish delegate recalled that FAO has an on going project, funded by the Central European Initiative and proposed to investigate whether a gender dimension could be included.

80. Finland informally expressed interest in providing funds to publish the results of the WPW 2004 Survey.

81. The Session requested FAO to publish the key-note speech prepared by Dr Sabine de Rooij.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

82. The Chairperson thanked the Government of Slovakia for hosting the Session, in particular Ms Judita Šafáriková, and the secretarial support. The Session repeated its gratitude to Ms Verbole for her excellent contribution to the Session.

ANNEX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ARMENIA

Ms Roza TSARUKYAN
8 Baghramyar Str.
Arinj Village
Tel: +3741 628787
Fax: +
E-mail: rozatsarukyan@yahoo.com

Ms Irina HAKOBYAN
6 V. Sargsyan Str
Yerevan
Tel: +3749 432927
Fax: +3741 542478
E-mail: rinkase@yahoo.com

AUSTRIA

Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER
Director, Head of FAO Division
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1,
1010 Vienna
Tel: +43 1 71100 2812
Fax: +43 1 71100 2959
E-mail:
Hedwig.Woegerbauer@lebensministerium.at

Ms Gertraud PICHLER
Division II/2 4
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Tel: +43 1 71100 6814
Fax: +43 1 71100 6695
E-mail:
Gertraud.Pichler@lebensministerium.at

Ms Theresia OEDL-WIESER
Federal Institute for Less Favoured and
Mountainous Areas
Marxergasse 2/Mezz.
1030 Wien
Tel: +43 1 504 8869-18
Fax: +43 1 504 8869-39
E-mail: theresia.oedl-wieser@babf.bmlfuw.gv.at

CZECH REPUBLIC

Ms Klara KLECKOVA
Czech University of Agriculture in Prague,
Department of Human Studies
Kamycka 129
Prague 6
Tel: +420 604 173880
Fax: +420 224 38 2347
E-mail: Kleckova@pef.czu.cz

FINLAND

Ms Liisa NILOLA
Executive Director
Rural Women's Advisory Organization
Urtheentie 6
P.O. Box 251
01301 Vantaa
Tel: +358 20 7472429
Fax: +358 20 7472401
E-mail: liisa.niilola@proagria.fi

LITHUANIA

Ms Eglė DAUNORIENĖ
Rural Development and Structural support
Coordination Division of Rural
Development
Ministry of Agriculture
Gediminio pr. 19
Vilnius – 25
Tel: +370 5 2391 033
Fax: +
E-mail: egled@zum.lt

Ms Guoda BUROKIENE
Lithuanian Chamber of Agriculture
Lithuanian Women Farmers' Association
Advisor
K.Donelaicio 2
Kaunas-3000
Tel: +370 37 409372
E-mail: dburokas@takas.lt
lud@zur.lt

POLAND

Ms Janina SAWICKA
Faculty of Agricultural Economics
Warsaw Agricultural University
Nowoursynowska 166
02-787 Warsaw
Tel: +48 22 8439041
Fax: +48 22 8430774
e-mail: sawicka@alpha.sggw.waw.pl

SLOVAKIA

Ms Zuzana VRANOVÁ
Senior Expert on Gender Issues
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs
and Family
Špitélshe 4
81643 Bratislava
Tel: +421 2 59751418
Fax: +421 2 59751459
E-mail: vranova@employment.gov.sk

Ms Eva KOLESÁKOVÁ
Director
Ministry of Agriculture
Bratislava
Tel: +421 2
Fax: +421 2
E-mail: ekolo@land.gov.sk

Ms Judita ŠAFÁRIKOVÁ
Agroinštitút
Akademická 4
949 01 Nitra
Tel: +421-37-79-10 231
Fax: +421-37-79-10 159
E-mail: safarikova@agroinstitut.sk

Ms Maria BEROVÁ
Office of the Slovak Government
Bratislava
Tel: +
Fax: +
E-mail: maria.berova@slova.gov.sk

Ms Barbara HELLEBRANTOVA
National Secretary for Cooperation
of the Slovakia with FAO
Ministry of Agriculture
Tel: +421 2 59266288
Fax: +421 2 59266294
E-mail: barbara.hellenbrantova@land.gov.sk

Ms Viera PAUCIROVÁ
Director
Agency for Rural Development
Nitra
Tel: +
Fax: +
E-mail:

Ms Ildiko PONGOOVA
Agroinštitút
Akademická 4
949 01 Nitra
Tel: +421 7910188
Fax: +4217910159
E-mail: pongoova@agroinst.sk

Ms Maria MEDVED'OVA
Ministry of Agriculture
Bratislava
Tel: +421 2 59266287
Fax: +421 2 59266288
E-mail: maria.medvedova@land.gov.sk

SWITZERLAND

Ms Wendy PETER-HODEL
Ministry of Agriculture/Bio Suisse
6130 Willisau
Tel: +41 41 970 3505
Fax: +41 41 971 0 288
E-mail: w.peter@abix.ch

TURKEY

Mr Habip ĞARDIRCI
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Ankara
Tel: +312 4660 783
Fax: +312 466856
E-mail: habip_06@mynet.com

RESOURCE PERSONS

Ms Sabine DE ROOIJ
Wageningen University
ETC-Compas-Program
Researcher
Tel: +31 317 411432
Fax: +31 317 485475
E-mail: Sabine.deRooij@wur.nl

Ms Anniken FØRDE
Hagebyveien 12
9009 Tronsø
Norway
Tel: +47 7764 2104
Fax: +47 7764 2139
E-mail: anniken.forde@fmtr.no

Ms Beryl NICHOLSON
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE23DE UK
Tel: +44 191 2812 068
Fax: +44 191 2812 068
E-mail: beryl1@research32.freemove.co.uk

FAO

Ms Mária KADLECÍKOVÁ
Subregional Representative
for Central and Eastern Europe
FAO Subregional Office for Central and
Eastern Europe (SEUR)
Benczur utca 34
1068 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +36 1 3256946
Fax: +36 1 3517029
E-mail: Maria.Kadlecikova@fao.org

Ms Alenka VERBOLE
Gender and Development Officer
Regional Office for Europe
Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 4094
Fax: +39 06 5705 5634
E-mail: alenka.verbole@fao.org

-
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 14.00 hours | 11. Workshops on the Theme of the Session: Analysis of Situation, Identification of Main Issues and Drafting Recommendation and Statement |
| 15.30 hours | Coffee break |
| 16.00 hours | 12. Plenary on WPW Issues |
| 17.00 hours | 13. Clousure of the Day |

Wednesday, 20 October 2004

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 09.00 hours | 14. Statement on Emerging Issues “Institutional Capacity Building for Rural Women’s Empowerment” |
| 10.00 hours | 15. Plenary Session |
| 11.00 hours | 16. Future Focus of the Activities of the WPW |
| 14.00 hours | 17. Election/Re-election of the Board
18. Adoption of the Report
19. Other Business |
| 17.00 hours | Closure of the Session |

Thursday, 21 October 2004

Study Tour organized by the Host Country

ANNEX 3
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ECA: WPW/04/2	Report on the Activities of the WPW 2002-2004 and Future Focus
ECA: WPW/04/3	Report on the Additional REU WID/Gender Program Activities 2002-2004
ECA: WPW/04/1	Agenda and Timetable
ECA: WPW/04/CASE STUDY ALBANIA	Institutional Capacity Building for Rural Women's Empowerment: A Case Study in Albania
ECA: WPW/04/CASE STUDY AUSTRIA	Institutional Capacity Building for Rural Women's Empowerment: A Case Study in Austria
ECA: WPW/04/CASE STUDY NORWAY	Institutional Capacity Building for Rural Women's Empowerment: A Case Study in Norway