



# Dimitra Newsletter

GENDER, RURAL WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT



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## Table of contents

- 3 | Gender equality, a priority in the Post-2015 agenda
- 4 | South-South cooperation: Dimitra community listeners' clubs launched in Senegal and Mauritania, with the help of the clubs from Niger
- 6 | Senegal – Listeners' clubs get off to a flying start!
- 7 | South-South Cooperation – Sud-Kivu shares its listeners' club experience with Burundi
- 8 | South-South cooperation for food security: achievements and challenges in FAO
- 10 | The Dimitra listeners' clubs in Ghana: and away they go!
- 12 | Democratic Republic of Congo – Traditional chief talks about Dimitra listeners' clubs
- 14 | Portait series : Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng "Make the impossible become possible"
- 16 | 2014 IYFF – Women and men smallholders for food security and sustainable development
- 17 | Communication and community media to advance Family Farming – AMARC and FAO join forces to raise the voices of smallholder famers
- 18 | The YenKasa Africa platform – Promoting dialogue
- 19 | The role of civil society in developing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries for rural women and men
- 20 | FAO – A new learning module on experience capitalization
- 21 | Investing in empowering rural women
- 22 | Resources



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Dear Readers,

Here we are, already at number 25 of the Dimitra newsletter. This edition opens with a report of the last session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which has helped to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment feature prominently in the post-2015 Development Agenda. This will take over from the Millennium Development Goals, whose 2015 deadline is now close. Today, the post-2015 Development Agenda is at the centre of discussions within the international community on intensifying efforts to take up the world's major development challenges, including reducing extreme poverty.

As always, several articles in the newsletter are given over to news from the Dimitra listeners' clubs, particularly in Senegal, where they are working together with Farmer Field Schools as part of the IPPM Programme, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where a traditional chief made a speech. A number of articles focus on South-South cooperation, which enables countries in the South to pool and exchange practices and knowledge, etc. The long experience of the Dimitra listeners' clubs in Niger has benefited clubs in Senegal, Mauritania and Ghana, while that of Sud-Kivu, in DRC, has been shared with clubs in Burundi. For the past 17 years, South-South cooperation has received support from FAO as part of its food security programmes. And for the past 15 years, FAO has been engaged in seeking funds

to tackle poverty and empower rural women. As well as our Women's Portrait, which profiles Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng, a leader from Uganda who is campaigning for women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings, a number of articles highlight the contribution of family farming to food security and FAO's work in strengthening this sector, especially through activities linked to the International Year of Family Farming and the FAO-AMARC partnership in the field of radio and the media. This partnership has resulted in the launch of communication for development regional platforms. The one dedicated to Africa is called YenKasa.

Finally, civil society involvement in developing guidelines for sustainable small-scale fishing is described in this issue, and a new FAO learning module for experience capitalization is presented.

Before signing off I would like to tell you about the departure of Eliane Najros, who has been the Coordinator of Dimitra for nearly twenty years and who is leaving us to work on other projects. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Eliane for having guided all of us on this wonderful Dimitra adventure, with and for rural women.

Rob Vos

Director | Social Protection Division  
FAO, Economic and Social Development Department

Dear friends of Dimitra,

Dimitra is almost 20 year-old and it is time for me to go. What stays in my mind from these 20 years is a great deal of enthusiasm and pleasure, many successes and a few failures, and some magnificent experiences shared with all of you. The Dimitra project has become part of my life and it is with pride and pleasure that I have watched it grow and become one of FAO's good practices – copied but never equalled.

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the entire Dimitra network, as well as my friends and colleagues, who have always supported me during the moments of joy and difficulties that

pepper 20 years of life. I am also grateful to you for having had the strength that has carried us along together, showing that a simple project can have a positive impact on people's livelihoods, especially those of rural women.

Dimitra will remain a part of my life, one which I will keep close to my heart. I treasure this extraordinary experience, that I have been fortunate enough to enjoy.

The Dimitra team will remain in place and the future is yours.

Eliane Najros

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# Gender equality, a priority in the Post-2015 agenda

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the main global policy-making body committed to gender equality and women's advancement, has convened for its fifty-eighth session at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2014. At a time when the international community looks ahead to define the future global development goals, this session of the CSW offered a tremendous opportunity to put gender equality and women's empowerment high on the Post-2015 agenda.



Representatives of Member States, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all over the world attended the session, which focused on this year's priority theme: "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls." Member States stressed that while the Millennium Development Goals have advanced progress in many areas, profound inequalities between men and women still persist in many parts of the world, thus posing a significant barrier to sustainable development beyond 2015.

In the agreed conclusions, the Commission urged governments and relevant stakeholders to take actions in five main areas: women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights; strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and women's empowerment; maximizing investments in gender equality and women's empowerment; strengthening the evidence base for gender equality and women's empowerment; ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability. The Commission also called the States to include gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls as a stand-alone goal in the new international development targets, once the MDGs expire, and to "be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework."

The Commission's final document also underlined the fact that gender equality and women's empowerment will have a multiplier effect on



sustainable development. Therefore funding in support of women and girls' development should be maximized.

The final document was characterized by a strong vocabulary in relation to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. Explicit references were made to the elimination of all harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation, which impede progress and the full realization of the human rights of women and girls. It also condemned all forms of discriminatory social norms, attitudes and gender stereotypes and

recommended in this regard to work closely with men, boys and community leaders to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The Commission also expressed deep concern in relation to the persistent gender gaps in various areas, particularly in education enrollment, access to decent work, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, including land, energy and fuel, and women's inheritance rights, women's sexual and reproductive health, social protection and women's leadership in decision-making processes.

During this year's session of the Commission, FAO organized a side event in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to present FAO's work on closing the gender gap in agriculture and discuss the main findings of the 2014 FAO-IFPRI publication "Gender and Agriculture - Closing the knowledge gap" (see resources at the end of this newsletter).

✳ **For more information:**  
[www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014](http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014)

## What is the Post-2015 agenda?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established in 2000 by the UN Member states. They had to be achieved by 2015 in eight priority areas: eradicate extreme poverty and child mortality; combat diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria; achieve universal primary education; improve maternal health; promote gender equality and empower women; develop a global partnership for development and ensure environmental sustainability.

The MDGs have helped to galvanize development efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest and guide global and national development priorities. A few months before the deadline of 2015, positive results have been obtained, but a lot of efforts are still needed. Today, the UN is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 development agenda.



# South-South cooperation: Dimitra community listeners' clubs launched in Senegal and Mauritania, with the help of the clubs from Niger

In order to help listeners' clubs launched recently in Mauritania and Senegal to benefit from the experience of Niger, a series of local training sessions was held in the Senegal River region, as part of the Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) Programme. Cooperation with Niger will ensure the successful completion of these activities.

Since 2013, 48 Dimitra community listeners' clubs (CLCs) have been set up in the border region of the Senegal River (northern Senegal and southern Mauritania). Launched as part of FAO's IPPM programme, with technical support from FAO-Dimitra, the listeners' clubs project has gained rapid momentum (see page 6), notably thanks to the field knowledge of the IPPM team. The long-standing presence of this team in the area and the trust they developed with the communities have been pivotal in the setting up of 24 Dimitra listeners' clubs in Senegal, in the departments of Podor and Dagana, and of 24 clubs in Mauritania, both in the Senegal River region.

## The Farmer Field Schools of the Integrated Production and Pest Management (IPPM) Programme already benefit from the Dimitra community listeners' clubs

A few months into the alliance, the IPPM programme drew up a first positive assessment of the FFS-CLC partnership.

✱ For the communities, the launch of the Dimitra clubs has offered a space for everyone wanting to become involved in community life and the activities of IPPM. The inclusive and transparent nature of the approach prompted keen interest from community members, as illustrated by the case of the village of Fanaye (see page 6).

✱ The system used (three separate groups per village: young people/women/men who also meet regularly in village assemblies) ensures the inclusion of all, enabling the "voiceless" to make themselves heard, especially women and youth. This has strengthened their leadership and self-confidence.

✱ The IPPM facilitators are convinced of the potential of the approach to reach the entire community. Setting up clubs helps to avoid misunderstandings among people living in a given area. Community participation developed through the clubs has proved to be a perfect complement to the participatory dimension used during training in Farmer Field Schools.

The Dimitra CLCs are spaces for autonomous participatory communication that are gender-sensitive and action-oriented. They seek to improve access to information and communication for rural communities, especially women and young people, so as to promote their socio-economic and political empowerment, as well as food security. This approach, which has proved its worth in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger, is also working well in Burundi and Ghana.

The CLCs project in Mauritania and Senegal is particularly innovative due to the complementarity between the Dimitra listeners' clubs and the Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Both are participatory approaches developed by FAO to help reduce poverty and hunger and strengthen social cohesion and collective action.

As part of this methodological alliance, the clubs provide support to the Farmer Field Schools in the area of gender-sensitive participatory communication in rural areas. Each CLC has between 15 and 30 members from the community who join the CLC on a voluntary basis. These are mostly people who are active in the Farmer Field Schools.

The listeners' clubs work in partnership with rural radio stations, which broadcast in local languages. Radio programmes are prepared on themes chosen by CLC members. These generally revolve around food security, nutrition,

farming practices and access to land, education and services, but they also deal with social issues, such as violence against women, reproductive health, etc.

During the radio broadcasts, the club members engage in active listening, followed by discussions aimed at finding solutions and making decisions. The club members subsequently investigate courses of action for implementing the activities agreed. The CLCs bring about significant changes in the agricultural sector, but they also strengthen social unity, by giving a voice to all. In addition to raising gender awareness in Farmer Field Schools, the listeners' clubs open up opportunities for networking and sharing good practices, between the clubs and with their communities. As a result, both the CLCs and the farmer field schools have an impact on the entire community.

## Exchanging experiences and good practices in Senegal and Mauritania

Whether it be at local, regional or national level, the initiatives of the Dimitra community listeners' clubs are geared towards networking and sharing experiences. In Niger, FAO and the local partner organization have set up more than 630 community listeners' clubs since 2009, for a total amount of more than 12,000 members, both women and men. It was therefore a logical move for Niger to make its considerable experience available to other clubs in sub-Saharan Africa.





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At the end of March 2014, a series of training sessions was organized for the Farmer Field School facilitators (who also follow the activities of the Dimitra listeners' clubs) and community listeners' club leaders.

Training for the supervisors of the Dimitra community listeners' clubs in Senegal (IPPM staff who facilitate the FFS) took place in Saint Louis. This strengthened the participants' capacities so that they would be better able to provide better support to the listeners' clubs. Keen to highlight the participatory nature of the Dimitra approach, the supervisors took the unanimous decision to change the term "supervisor" to "facilitator".

The training sessions for facilitators centered on the setting up of listeners' clubs (driving membership to the initiative within the communities, setting-up listeners' clubs, identifying and discussing themes. Practical aspects were clarified with participants at village and listeners' club levels (organization, discussions, sharing and synthesis, implementing activities, monitoring changes made, etc.), with a special focus on the facilitators' role in this process.

Training was also conducted for CLC leaders, following a similar programme to the one used for the facilitators and taking the practical running of community listeners' clubs as the main theme. The sessions explored in detail the various stages of clubs' internal functioning. These included identifying and prioritizing themes, building up a list of themes for the club and/or village (a reserve of topics to be addressed), implementing activities and monitoring implementation.

The role of leaders was also analysed. Their responsibilities include organizing and facilitating meetings, monitoring the implementation of decisions taken and communicating with facilitators and partners. It is important to adopt a truly participatory approach, which means to ensure the full involvement of all members in discussions and in the activities to be implemented, as well as to build on lessons learned.

During the training sessions, other important issues were systematically addressed, especially gender, which is an integral part of the approach. The discussions also focused on the relations with the radio stations; preparation of reports on CLC activities – crucial for evaluating the changes brought about; linking clubs with each other and ensuring effective monitoring.

After the training sessions, leaders of the Senegal and Mauritania clubs organized village meetings to pass on the skills and information they received and apply their new knowledge, so as to bolster those clubs that are still not working efficiently. The facilitators are well-equipped now and will be able to better support the CLC process.

In the end, the South-South cooperation, facilitated by FAO, enabled 16 facilitators to be trained in the practical side of the listeners' club approach, and 48 CLC leaders from the two countries to be trained in club management, with the support from facilitators and project organizers. The methodological alliance between the Dimitra listeners' clubs and the Farmer Field Schools was clarified at a practical level and offers promising scope for the future.

### Check-list for facilitators to ensure successful launch of a CLC

- Explain the need (why set up a CLC?)
- Conduct a participatory diagnosis (understand the baseline situation)
- Have a "good entry point" into the village, at least one resource person who is familiar with the village and community
- Raise awareness within the village
- From the outset, underscore the importance of finding internal solutions to problems (awareness raising and village meetings)
- Involve the whole community, taking care to ensure a high degree of representativeness from the various components of the village (social groups, neighborhoods, POs, etc.)
- Promote and develop existing strengths in terms of organization and human resources
- Strengthen the capacities of focal points (facilitators, leaders)
- Ensure that village meetings are well prepared
- Ensure that actors engaged in the CLC process have a strong sense of ownership
- Consider the gender dimension in all activities
- Avoid overlapping responsibilities (especially with other organizations)

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# Senegal | Listeners' clubs get off to a flying start!

The Dimitra community listeners' clubs (CLCs) in Senegal are booming, especially in Fanaye. It is no coincidence that Senegal's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and the country's FAO Representative visited this area as part of a joint mission. The focus was on the clubs in Fanaye, where community mobilization is surpassing all expectations.

In mid-April 2014, Mr Papa Abdoulaye Seck, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment for Senegal and Mr Vincent Martin, the country's FAO Representative, visited the Dimitra listeners' clubs in the village of Fanaye. The meeting was part of a tour of the departments of Podor and Dagana (River Valley) and aimed at assessing how FAO initiatives contribute to and complement the Senegalese government objectives.

The Minister had strong praise for the clubs' dynamism and for the approach of the Dimitra listeners' clubs in general in the River Valley. He also talked about scaling up the project and collaborating with the project. FAO reaffirmed its commitment to support the Government in implementing the Accelerated Programme for Agriculture in Senegal (PRACAS), especially in the areas of capacity strengthening and technology transfer, using proven approaches, such as the Farmer Field Schools and Dimitra CLCs.

## Fanaye, a rapid and compelling success

The delegation visited the village of Fanaye, a place where the listeners' clubs have enjoyed a rapid success. Since their launch just six months ago, the CLCs have made a significant contribution to development and welfare in the village.

Having taken the time to lay foundations for the structure of the clubs, namely the roles and responsibilities for each club and the days, times and places for meetings, the village



The president of the women's CLC giving a speech.

assembly endorsed the themes proposed by the CLCs and decided on the order in which they should be handled. Cleanliness in the village emerged as the most pressing topic.

This theme was debated by three clubs over a period of three weeks before a plan of action was devised to clean up the village. The plan made provision for clubs to tackle the problem of inadequate cleanliness in public places. Each Sunday, men, women and children from the village are tasked with cleaning a particular site. To date, they have cleaned around the weekly market, the clinic and surrounding area, the secondary school, the village green-belt and the main roads.

The day after each cleaning operation, the villagers organize activities to raise awareness among people living near the site, with the aim of encouraging them to take responsibility for keeping the place clean in future.

Impressed by the mobilization and the efficacy of the initiative undertaken by the CLCs, the Rural Council decided to follow their lead by offering the clubs a truck and a loader to help them in the work they are doing to improve the welfare of everyone in the village.

Members of the network are proud of their work and of the exchanges they have generated. "With this approach, we will end up solving all the village's problems by ourselves and show the way to all the neighbouring villages", says Dienaba Tine, a member of the women's CLC in Fanaye.

The visit from the important delegation made up of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and the FAO Representative in Senegal has encouraged listeners' club members to keep moving forward. During the visit, Mr Amadou Diallo, secretary in the men's community listeners' club in Fanaye said: "We invite all partners who are active in the area to support the setting up of CLCs in other villages and to extend the existing network. We ourselves have been impressed by the contribution of these fora for exchange in generating cohesion and a spirit of autonomy among our members."



The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Equipment and FAO Representative listening to the men's CLC secretary.

# South-South Cooperation | Sud-Kivu shares its listeners' club experience with Burundi

Sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices is a central pillar of the Dimitra community listeners' club (CLC) approach, whether it involves exchanges within or between listeners' clubs, or with communities and other development partners. Last May, another type of exchange was successfully tested in Bubanza and the municipality of Bujumbura, Burundi, with the help of Adeline Nsimire, a CLC expert who travelled especially from Sud-Kivu (DR Congo) to enrich the skills and knowledge of the Burundi listeners' clubs.

It was another step forward for the 75 representatives – both men and women – of 15 listeners' clubs in Burundi who benefited last May from three training sessions held in Bubanza and in Bujumbura, with the support of FAO-Burundi and Dimitra. The training focused on several themes crucial to the smooth running of Dimitra listeners' clubs.

The training sessions were conducted by Adeline Nsimire, an expert in the Dimitra CLC approach in DR Congo and a representative of the NGO SAMWAKI (Sauti ya Mwanamke Kijijini – which means the voice of the rural woman in kiswahili). She shared her ideas and practices with the Burundi clubs, together with the rich experience of the Dimitra listeners' clubs in the Province of Sud-Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Conducted with the assistance of Gustave Ntaraka, CLC coordinator in Burundi, the training sessions helped to strengthen the capacities of participants in all the stages crucial to an effective implementation of the approach. These stages include a definition of the CLC mission and vision, its operating procedures and structure. Another important theme addressed by the training initiative concerned gender issues. These were introduced through the “daily activity clock” exercise, which played an important role in raising awareness of the heavy workload borne by rural women in Burundi.

When the training sessions ended, four clubs based in three of the country's provinces (rural Bujumbura, Muramvya and the municipality of Bujumbura), all of which practise horticulture, decided to remain in contact and exchange seeds so as to introduce new improved crops in each case.

The training initiative will have a positive impact on entire communities, for, as Aline Bukuru, a member of the Tunamerimwe club in the municipality of Rugazi (province of Bubanza) put it: “I have acquired a great deal of knowledge which I am going to share with other members of my club and with communities in my area.”



A group of participants preparing the “daily activity clock” for men and women.

## Sangira Ijambo, an FAO Dimitra listeners' club programme broadcast by RTNB

The Sangira Ijambo radio programme of the clubs, produced by RTNB, provides a space for listeners' clubs and rural communities to express themselves and engage in exchange.

The fifth programme in the series gave the floor to members of the Tuyage CLC (“Let's share”) from the municipality of Buterere, who shared their experiences of growing horticultural crops (sweet potato leaves, gumbo and amaranthus).

After the broadcast was aired, Désiré Kurutunge, an agronomist and member of the Tuyage Twongere club in Bugarama, made contact with the Buterere listeners' club through the Dimitra CLC secretariat at FAO. He suggested exchanging carrot and/or leek seeds grown by his club with cuttings of sweet potato leaves from Buterere. This latter also agreed to provide gumbo seeds free of charge. Thanks to the Sangira Ijambo broadcast the Buterere club had

learned about the existence of improved varieties of leeks and carrots in Bugarama.

These two clubs are supported by the Urban and Peri-urban Horticulture project (HUP). After hearing about this initiative, the HUP project facilitated the process for active sharing of agricultural practices. At the end of April 2014, the cuttings from Matembele arrived and were immediately planted by members of the Tuyage Twongere CLC in Bugarama. Following this success, three clubs based in the provinces of rural Bujumbura and Muramvya, which specialize in horticulture, are following their example and exchanging seeds.

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## South-South cooperation for food security: achievements and challenges in FAO

FAO has been supporting South-South Cooperation (SSC) for more than 17 years. Over fifty SSC projects have been implemented from 1997 in support to special and national programs for food security. Through these projects, more than 1800 experts and technicians (from a total of 13 countries including China, Viet Nam, Cuba, India, Philippines, Morocco and Egypt) were fielded during 2-3 years in about 50 countries, mainly in Africa, but also in Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean islands.

A noticeable feature of past and ongoing SSC projects is that they promote direct interaction between development workers and grassroots communities. South-South Cooperation is about partnerships among equal partners who both learn from each other. Once abroad, foreign development workers stay over long periods in the rural communities and participate in their life, long enough to build trust and make a real, thorough exchange of experiences possible.

### Moving brains, a role for South-South cooperation

Most experiences that are shared, however, are not formally structured. They rest under the form of *tacit knowledge*, a knowledge that “is latent to a large extent— not available in books, but stored in the brains of those who need to use it”. It takes time and patience to make this type of exchange happen. “Tacit knowledge is

acquired mostly through learning by doing” and not through formal education and training systems, as pointed out by Ricardo Hausmann, a professor of economics at Harvard University, where he is also Director of the Center for International Development. In his opinion, it is easier to move brains than it is to move tacit knowledge into brains.

Farmers, even illiterate, are genuine experts; their expertise has built up, generation after generation, over past centuries and millenniums. It is, therefore, important to put in contact those farmers (and people who support them, e.g. extension workers, researchers) who thrive with good levels of productivity in a given environment, with other farmers striving against poverty in similar environments. The new FAO South-South Cooperation strategy foresees actions not only at grassroots level, but also at the level of institutions and

policy. It entails a wide set of modalities for cooperating, from short- to long-term assignments of experts, study tours, training visits, exchange of training curricula, on-line meetings and video conferences. The purpose is to share all forms of experiences and knowledge, including tacit knowledge, through direct, human interaction.

Beyond the FAO/SSC initiative, FAO practises South-South Cooperation in many different ways. Every time expertise needs to be mobilized through an FAO project, it is useful and even necessary, to check the relevance of the SSC option. This implies that FAO and partners in the North must learn to take stock from important experiences in the South. FAO and partners should identify, cooperate more closely with, and learn from key institutions in the South that could be designated as genuine centers of excellence.



Development actors have to focus on strengthening existing institutions, even those fragile and short-lived (from government, civil society or private sector), as only institutions can sustain long-term and sustainable impact. When State institutions fail to deliver public goods, civil society or private institutions often emerge. SSC should therefore facilitate the emergence of, and new partnerships with, institutions that represent the private sector and the civil society.

### From China to Africa

Through FAO's SSC initiative, China has deployed nearly 1000 aid workers in more than 25 countries, including Ethiopia, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and Senegal. In Nigeria alone, almost 700 of these workers have been fielded in the 36 states of the country. Their work has been so much appreciated, in particular in the area of aquaculture that the Government of Nigeria now funds from its own resources the fielding of more Chinese aid workers, whom they go interview and recruit directly in China, with full support of the Chinese authorities.

The Chinese Government currently supports FAO-implemented SSC projects in seven African countries and Mongolia through a 30 million US Dollars trust fund. Similarly, Vietnamese aid workers have helped Namibia, Chad, Senegal and Mali to make great strides towards food security through aquaculture, water control, rice production and diversification of food production. Cuban specialists were crucial when Cape Verde farmers introduced micro-irrigation, seeds and improved planting material.

Of course, difficulties and failures have also been experienced. In some cases, the poor preparation of the cooperating teams led to their early repatriation. Sometimes, language barriers made it necessary to use interpreters and to better train/select aid workers before their departure. Host Governments have sometimes not been able to meet their obligations (housing, transport and operational support).

In a few instances, local staff has also questioned the relevance of bringing in foreign specialists. Even if paid at very low rates compared to international rates, these are higher than local salaries. It was not rare that staff in host countries considered that local graduates should be given priority in the allocation of resource and jobs.

Another important issue: the proportion of women in cooperating teams tends to be very low, and the understanding of the cultural context and gender roles is often limited in project design, leading to poor gender sensitivity of SSC actions. These difficulties are part of the endeavour and need to be addressed through enhanced and long-term dialogue. SSC cannot be developed in one day and FAO is learning by practicing it.

Governments also learn from each other. They make concessions as regards to the usual way of trading expertise and knowledge. For instance, they release international "experts" (at master degree level) and "technicians" (bachelors) at a very limited cost.

There is a South-South Cooperation spirit, made of altruism, desire to meet and share, solidarity and generosity among equal partners. Besides, this spirit makes everything simpler and less costly. SSC is also very good value for money!

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### Four areas of engagement

#### \* Policy Makers

Providing upstream policy support  
Policy Level

#### \* Experts

Promoting knowledge networks platforms  
Institutional Level

#### \* Practitioners

Facilitating the exchange of development solutions  
Grassroots Level

#### \* Fostering an enabling environment for effective SSC



Chinese experts conducting baseline research on agricultural markets in Senegal.

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# The Dimitra listeners' clubs in Ghana: and away they go!

**Promising results in the West Gonja District in the Northern Region of Ghana where 36 Dimitra community listeners' clubs (CLCs) have been launched since September 2013 in 18 communities, with remarkable advances in a short time span. This confirms that the dynamic approach of the Dimitra listeners' clubs meets the needs of the communities and that it works everywhere.**

In the community of Soalepe, two Dimitra community listeners' clubs were created this year, one for women and one for men. Both clubs really grasped the approach and immediately began to put some of the main key features of the listeners' clubs into practice: problem solving and action.

The two clubs started identifying their own priority problems and decided to discuss the same issues in each club, separately. Only two months after they had created their clubs, they came together to discuss the first issues and proposed possible solutions to the village chief, who lent his support and mobilized the rest of the community.

To start with, two sanitation-related issues were discussed and analysed until a decision was made: a day of communal labour would be organised to clean up the village, every last Friday of the month. The solution was immediately put into practice. That was not all, though: after listening to a programme on Radio PAD about sanitation, the two clubs decided to practise the dig-and-bury technique (the village does not have toilets/latrines), which is more hygienic than leaving faeces in the open. The village chief also set an example by building his own toilet, encouraging community members to do the same if they have the means.

Sanitation was also at the centre of the first meetings of the CLCs in Bonyanto, another village of the district. In this community, the women's and men's CLCs also joined forces in a two-week village cleaning exercise (every other Friday). Individual members are also encouraged to clean their own compound.

These are only but a few of the results of the Dimitra community listeners' clubs established in the West Gonja District in the framework of FAO's Programmatic Regional Initiative to Reduce Rural Poverty (PRI) in Ghana. The process began in September 2013, with the support of the NGO named Association of Church-based Development organisations (ACDEP).

The activities started with awareness-raising sessions in the 18 target communities, and the recruitment by ACDEP of five field facilitators and a field coordinator who live in and are part of the communities. Their main role is to provide continuous support to the CLCs. Regular meetings take place to monitor progress and identify successes, challenges, etc.

It was also crucial to raise people's awareness on the guiding principles of the Dimitra CLCs such as gender equality, social inclusion and participatory communication, and to build capacities regarding the establishment and

functioning of the clubs. That was done in a four-day training workshop in October 2013 that also marked the official launch of the activities (see Dimitra Newsletter 24). The workshop was followed by a series of decentralised training sessions in all communities.

One women's CLC and one men's CLC were established in each community. In some villages the interest among women is so high that the creation of a second club for women is being considered. The CLCs meet weekly, at a fixed time. Generally, the facilitators are present.

Very soon, after initial meetings of a more logistic nature, the CLC members started identifying the themes they consider a priority. In the communities where the women and men's CLCs independently decide on a same theme, the facilitators encourage them to work together. Usually, after discussions in the separate CLCs, the committee members of

## Shea butter in Bonyanto

In Bonyanto, the women have discussed nutrition issues, and decided that everyone should do their utmost to give their children breakfast before going to school. They have also reflected on an income generating activity, and started paying small contributions to buy the raw materials to produce shea butter. They have produced a small batch now and if the sale of this is positive, they will embark on a larger production. They plan to open a bank account to deposit the profits, and create a credit system so that any woman member in need of money for medical costs, school fees or whatever, will be able to borrow from the common account.

The men discussed the situation of poverty and decided there are things they can do themselves. They started contributing 1 Ghanaian Cedi (1 US dollar is about 9,2 Ghanaian Cedis) every 2 weeks to buy the necessary materials to engage in beekeeping.







*The Alhassankura Community Listeners' clubs members.*

both clubs present their discussion and proposals to the village leaders/elders.

Access to information is crucial in the Dimitra CLC approach and each club received a solar-powered radio set, to enable them to jointly listen to radio broadcasts and discuss topics of common interest.

Radio PAD, the only community radio present in the area, is the privileged partner. They now broadcast a weekly programme on Wednesdays from 7.30-8.30 pm, specifically for the Dimitra CLCs. This time slot was decided based on the feedback obtained from the communities, both regarding the time and content of the programmes. The programmes discuss the themes identified by the communities, and aim to provide listeners with reliable and relevant information. For example by inviting a resource person on a given theme, or interviewing community members on their activities. Listeners also have an opportunity to call in to the radio with questions, comments and feedback on the information received, thus encouraging a two-way communication process.

The clubs also received a mobile phone. The phones will be connected through a telephone company (Vodafone) fleet arrangement, to

ensure free communication between the clubs and its partners. This will enable the club members to better network, exchange information, practices and interact with each other, with the local community radio and other actors at local level.

The communities are well aware that they should identify problems and issues that can be solved by their own means. They know it is important to discuss all aspects of the issue/problem and its solutions. The bottom line is that it is essential to be united and able to count on one's own force so as not to depend on outside support. It is when a community is dynamic and can reach results without outside help that external parties become more easily interested. This is the strength of the Dimitra CLCs' approach as a social mobilization process by and for the populations.

Communities in Northern Ghana are used to projects or initiatives that bring money, credit or machines. The Dimitra CLC approach empowers populations to be more critical, insert new development initiatives in their plans and seek partnerships rather than being 'beneficiaries'. This mentality change is not always easy but slowly but surely, the communities are appropriating the idea that this is about doing it themselves!

### **Soalepe – an increased safety for children**

In the community of Soalepe, people were very concerned that their children, especially small ones, have to walk on the busy and dangerous main road to go to school. They have therefore decided to build a construction for a nursery school; the men and women collaborated on this. Parallel to this, they have put in a request for the District to provide a teacher. Awaiting the outcome of this request, a volunteer will teach the children. At the time of the visit, he was following basic teacher training in Damongo. In return, the villagers will help him to work his land. Following these initiatives by the CLCs, the village chief has allocated a plot of land to build a larger, more permanent structure once an official teacher has been appointed by the District. The Soalepe CLCs also already discussed next steps/items to discuss/tackle, such as increasing farming activities (the men) and launching the production and marketing of shea butter (the women). With the revenues, the women plan to pay contributions towards buying a grinding mill. Both women and men members of the CLCs mentioned unity and collaboration in the village as an important accomplishment of the CLCs.

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# Democratic Republic of Congo | Traditional chief talks about Dimitra listeners' clubs

Joseph Ngwangwa Onobaiso, traditional Great Chief of the Chiefdom of Kombe, recalls the positive effects that the Dimitra community listeners' clubs have had on people living in the area where he is leader. Here, we present the speech that he made during a visit to Orientale Province (DR Congo) of a delegation from FAO-IFAD-Ministry of Agriculture. The delegation visited the district of Tshopo to witness the results obtained by the Listeners' clubs Project to tackle poverty, gender and food security issues, conducted by FAO, with funding from IFAD and the Government of DR Congo. This project is one of the activities that led to the recognition, last June, of the Award of Excellence for collaboration between FAO, IFAD and DR Congo.

"Allow us to offer thanks to God, and also to acknowledge the Head of State, for having ensured that the District of Tshopo in general, and my chiefdom in particular, could benefit from two projects, the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme (PRAPO) and that of the listeners' clubs. We would also like to thank FAO for its wise and modest decision to name Mr. Aster Bashige as listeners' club project leader, appointing him as Coordinator. He is an honest, humble man, with experience in the rural community.

The community listeners' clubs were launched in 2013, after a public consultation to examine the current situation in communities, which was carried out by the INADES project coordination team, together with six facilitators.

Following the meetings, the community began to organize itself. This attitude prompted project leaders to arrange decentralised training initiatives for and within the community: an approach with a difference. When the training ended, a number of support systems quickly followed. These included advisory support,

solar-powered radio sets, bicycles, newsletters and some tools for tilling.

After two or three months, the Dimitra community listeners' clubs sprang into action. I found this very appealing and it has prompted me to state here today that the listeners' clubs offer an exceptional approach that is different from previous ones. These were based on a wait-and-see attitude, the idea to do "for" while listeners' clubs encourage the community to do for themselves. Far from being fanatical about the listeners' club project, I prefer to



Chef Joseph standing among the villagers.

© Christiane Monsieure





be pragmatic in justifying my position, and am citing the following facts and figures, which relate to quality and quantity on the ground:

In Yabotianongo, the listeners' club is building on the experiences of PRAPO by organising sanitation around wells. It has also capitalized on groundnut seed obtained through sharecropping from producers' organizations (PO). In terms of social mobilization, the listeners' clubs of Yabotianongo and Yambete have rallied to support the Amijeya youth organization for terracing work at P.K 9 in Yankelili.

As for impact linked to an improvement in the physical environment, the Mosala Nde Eloba community listeners' club in Yaisonge has maintained 2 km of agricultural service roads in the space of two months, using its own resources. In the same sector, the Tombola Mboka listeners' club in Tongombe is maintaining 7 km of the Yabongengo road and work is making progress.

As regards gender, young people are taking part in the listeners' clubs and women are involved in decision-making. Women are now keen to stand as candidates for local council elections, which illustrates how female leadership has developed.

For household tasks, a shift has started to emerge in the division of labour, which is traditionally weighted against women. Men are beginning to play a greater role, alleviating the burden of women's daily list of chores.

The Liboso Mosala listeners' club in Yalosuna has just completed a number of new initiatives, including digging a pond for aquaculture and setting up a literacy centre and a chicken coop, to replace the old one that was unfortunately decimated by disease.

Regarding social participation and mobilization, results have been quick to make themselves felt: on 19 April 2014, together with the community facilitator and in the presence of the project Coordinator, the eight community listeners' clubs in the Yalosuna area collected



their meeting subscriptions and contributed 156.000 Congolese francs (US\$170) to a solidarity fund to provide care for victims of sleeping sickness.

Finally, to justify my point of view, which reflects a difference between the listeners' club project and others, during the decentralised training session held in Yalosuna, a module was given to me to share with participants. It bore the heading "Good governance"; I was there as a government partner.

The above data offers ample proof that not only has the community wholeheartedly embraced the listeners' club approach, but it has also adopted it as its own, and is being empowered as a result.

The impacts listed have prompted us to draw up some recommendations and suggestions for your consideration:

- ✱ **For FAO:** continue the decentralised training for the listeners' clubs recently set in place. In the case of Bula, Tongombe and Yaisonge, make a bicycle available to facilitate travelling.
- ✱ **For all:** provide technical support and material to listeners' clubs already set-up and running, for a literacy centre, livestock keeping and disease control, fish ponds and agricultural service roads already started by the communities.
- ✱ **For IFAD:** collaborate with the government of DR Congo to sign another funding contract

for the listeners' club project, since PRAPO has closed its doors and the listeners' club project finishes at the end of June 2014. Is it not true that a child who is weaned too early suffers from slow growth and risks fading away altogether?

✱ **For the Government:** continue lobbying the communities of Tshopo and Isangi at decision-making levels, so as to assign them projects to implement the vision of the Head of State. Tshopo, through Isangi, is a community that is both dynamic and ripe for mobilization. It will never let you down.

Long live DRC,  
Long live Orientale Province,  
Long live Tshopo,  
Long live Isangi Territory,  
On behalf of the Chiefdom of Kombe,  
My grateful thanks!"

Joseph NGWANGWA ONOBAISO  
Traditional chief

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# “Make the impossible become possible”

**RUTH OJIAMBO OCHIENG** is an African woman leader, active in advancing the rights of women, with a focus on those affected by armed conflicts. She has worked for Isis – Women’s International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis – WICCE) for many years. Based in Kampala, Uganda, this organisation uses different creative strategies to generate and share information and knowledge enabling women to enhance their leadership potential and participate in decision-making.

## What is your career path? How did you come to work for Isis – WICCE?

I started to work there when Isis – WICCE was relocated from Asia to Africa, with the aim of getting the voice of African women to the international platform.

I joined Isis in 1995 as communication and documentation Coordinator. I joined because of the values of the organisation: working for the most vulnerable, trying to enhance the voice idea of the most marginalized. These are the values I grew up with as a child, being told it’s the only way humanity should live.

I was brought up in rural Eastern Uganda in a household that respected every critical human value: fairness, justice and equal relationships; a household that recognised that we are all human beings. I remember my father and mother saying ‘you can never be happy if your neighbour is not happy’. I grew up knowing the essence of sharing and really looking at those who cannot achieve what I’ve achieved. My father and mother put a lot of emphasis on

education. This actually had a big impact on what I wanted and was able to do (...).

So, when I joined in 1995, we wanted to know how the organisation could contribute to enhance the voice of African women and bring it in the global debate. (...) We noticed that nobody actually knew about the stories of women in conflict situations. And as a woman who lived the whole period of conflict under Idi Amin Dada, I found it very necessary to make the voices of African women heard.

Men write books about themselves, as heroes, and only one small line talks about women, although they experience most of the violence. They are raped, they are displaced. So when Isis – WICCE decided to work in the area of “women, peace and security”, in 1995, after Beijing, it really connected with my life experience. During Idi Amin, we were always on the run, we were always losing our dear ones. When he got thrown out of the country, I had just had my first baby and we had to flee Kampala with my husband. (...) My brother also died during this period. Armed conflict sur-

rounded my life, my household and the community I lived in.

## What activities did you implement then?

We initiated the initiative ‘going to tap into the voices of rural women’. We extended the documentation centre outside the four walls of our building and went to the field to meet women, to collect their stories, the good, the bad and the ugly. We wanted to prevent people from seeing them only as victims; we wanted to show the power they have inside! This encouraged us to document these stories. They have so much to say about the war, what they have done that no one else has done. Isis – WICCE is proud to be the organisation that broke the barriers of research and came up with different methods of researching on women in conflicts, staying with them, living with them. Making them not only bring out the violence but be able to discover how they used the power within themselves to make the impossible become possible.

While we were doing it, we noticed that there was no use talking about them without actually connecting research and information to healing. We came up with another idea. Most of the women’s healing required somebody who’d deal with their body, mind and soul. There’s no way you can build women’s leadership with such a background unless you heal them. So we came up with the ‘emergency medical intervention’ which we call now ‘Healing the body, mind and soul’. We told the doctors: “we don’t have the money to bring these women to your clinics, you need to go to the rural communities to understand what they are living and saying”. We went to the rural areas with the doctors to work. There were psychologists and psychiatrists, and of course surgeons, to analyse the situation and identify women in need of surgery who were then transported to appropriate health centres. This actually transformed how the doctors work. They don’t look at the patients only from a medical perspective anymore but are also more aware of social issues. (...)

“You can never be happy if your neighbour is not happy.”



© Isis-WICCE





*Ruth Ochieng (left) at the inauguration of house provided to a homeless widow (Kasese District, Uganda).*

With the success of the initiative in Uganda, we were able to get the Millennium Development Goals funds from the Government of the Netherlands. This enabled us to successfully take this model to Liberia and South Sudan. (...) After hearing all of these women, we explored what they could do. In Uganda for example, the ones who had been healed and trained went back to their communities and opened their own community based organisations. The people who are really doing the work transforming the lives of women in conflict settings are the women leaders at the grassroots level! In Uganda, they mobilized and organised women to become peace builders at the village level and at the district level. This had an important impact at the national level as they widely contributed to the Juba peace process, and then to the Uganda national reconstruction plan. We analysed the plan to know whether it was women friendly or not. These women have been tracking what the Government of Uganda has been doing, identifying and following the activities towards women's healing, women's economic empowerment and women's participation in the peace process. (...)

Some of these women took part in local governments and became leaders. Some of them became local governors and even Members of the Parliament of Uganda! (...) In South Sudan, we trained 50 women for two and half years, and 16 of them became Members of Parliament at state and national levels. (...)

### **What can women expect for the future in Africa?**

The future is in the hands of women because we have seen the local, national and international bodies coming up with wonderful instruments such as the UN Resolution 1325 (on women peace and security), but what we are not seeing is how all those who are in power are actually making sure that they are being implemented. In the case of the UN Resolution 1325, many countries have said that this is the way to improve women's participation in peace building but up until today, women still aren't at the table!

We want the future with women of all walks of life (academia, activists, technicians from government, human rights defenders...) where they have a space to identify together the gaps in peace processes because men and women don't have the same understanding of peace. Men seem to consider that peacemaking is 'let's stop fighting, let's reconstruct what we spoiled in terms of infrastructures', and 'let's share power'. But peacebuilding works only if the intervention is holistic, keeping the women most affected at the heart of the response, taking the social and cultural dimensions into account.

### **What challenges do you face?**

The biggest challenge is that I don't see what is said at the international level trickling down for the benefit of the most marginalised.

The individualistic tendencies and the lack of accountability at the different levels are also a challenge. How does anyone dare take the government money and don't give the money where it is supposed to go?

Of course, an important challenge is the funding of women's organisations working at the grassroots level, struggling to even get enough members of staff! You end up working all the time because the donors want you to show that you achieved what you were supposed to do, even if they aren't aware of the challenges you face. (...) Basically it is the NGOs and the CBOs (community based organisations) that are doing the majority of the work! They need longer term funding support.

At a personal level, all this doesn't leave much time for your family, for your children, and if you don't have an understanding spouse, it can even bring violence in your household! I'm so delighted I got a spouse who is also a human rights defender who understands why we should do this kind of work. He supports me so much!

Finally, at Isis – WICCE, if we didn't have competent and very devoted staff, we couldn't have reached the thousands and thousands of people we reached in Africa.

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# 2014 International Year of Family Farming

## Women and men smallholders for food security and sustainable development

Throughout the developing and developed world, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture. Due to its central role in achieving food security and nutrition, the UN General Assembly declared 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was invited to facilitate its implementation in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The celebration offers the occasion to recognise women's key role in rural development.

Family farming can be an important part of the solution for a world free from poverty, hunger and malnutrition. In Africa, for example, family farmers work 62% of the farmland and over 500 million family farms are responsible for at least 56% of the agricultural production world-wide.

### What is Family Farming?

Families share everything. They share their living space and their mealtimes. They share their aspirations, dreams, successes and failures. Throughout the developed and developing world, farming families reap the benefits of sharing the workload too. Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development. Family farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's.

#### Key messages of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming:

- Family Farming is the predominant form of agriculture both in developed and developing countries
- Family farmers are an important part of the solution for a world free from poverty and hunger
- Family Farming supports sustainable development

#### Key facts and figures

- There are over 500 million family farms
- They make up over 98% of farming holdings
- They are responsible for at least 56% of agricultural production on 56% of the land

Family farmers also work on a significant portion of the world's farming land, regional averages are:

- 85% in Asia
- 62% in Africa
- 83% in North and Central America
- 68% in Europe
- 18% in South America

Women, who are the primary food producers and providers for their families, are much more affected by hunger and poverty than men. This is primarily due to entrenched gender inequalities in the access to resources, services and decision-making that impedes rural women to fully contribute to and benefit from development opportunities on an equal foot with men.

With the right policies in place and equal opportunities for rural women and men to address their needs and fulfil their aspirations, smallholder women and men can significantly contribute to build better lives for future generations.

### The UN names 2014 the International Year of Family Farming

Under the theme "Feeding the world, caring for the earth", the UN General Assembly declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), due to its inextricable links with food security, nutrition and environmental sustainability. FAO was invited to facilitate its implementation in collaboration with governments, international development agencies, women and men farmers, farmers' organizations and other relevant organizations of the UN system, as well as other civil society organizations.

"Family farms manage natural resources in a sustainable way, and this is partly because

around the family farm there is already an interest in passing on the farm to the next generation. There is an interest to use resources sustainably and conserve bio-diversity, indigenous and traditional knowledge" says Marcela Villarreal, FAO's Director of Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development.

### Main goals and objectives

The goal of the 2014 IYFF is to reposition family farming at the centre of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas, by identifying gaps and opportunities for a more equal and balanced development. "Towards the end of the year we expect to have increased knowledge on farmers' needs in order to be able to feed this information into policy formulation processes to enable us to better support family farming in the future" continues Marcela Villarreal.

The IYFF has four key objectives: 1) support the development of policies conducive to sustainable family farming; 2) increase knowledge, communication and public awareness on family farming, smallholder farming and fisheries and their contributions (both actual and potential/unapped) to food security, improved nutrition and poverty alleviation; 3) attain better understanding of family farming needs, potential and constraints and ensure technical support; and 4) create synergies for sustainability.



Dialogues, consultations and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels will be promoted to increase awareness and knowledge of the challenges faced by women and men smallholders and to identify efficient ways to support family farmers.

This will also be an occasion to recognise the great contribution that women make to agricultural development, food security and nutrition in rural areas.

“Rural women are the backbone of family farming and rural families throughout the world. They need to be empowered and recognised as key actors for rural development” explains José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General.

In the FAO regional conferences and dialogues that have taken place so far, gender equality was considered crucial in family farming and smallholder farming. FAO Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean, for example, organized a Special Meeting (April 28, Santiago de Chile) on “Women in the framework of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming” with the objective to establish a common agenda for rural women’s empowerment as a reference framework for the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Coinciding with the Rural Women’s Day and World Food Day 2014, UN Women’s Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa in partnership with FAO, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and WFP (World Food Programme), is organizing a Share-fair on Rural Women’s Technologies for Productive Family Farming that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 15-17 October 2014. The event will enable the sharing of technologies and innovations that support rural women smallholder farmers.

Family farming and smallholder agriculture is an important source of income and employment for the majority of poor people in rural areas. It is not only a way of farming but also a way of life that preserves traditional knowledge, while contributing to a balanced diet and safeguarding the world’s agro-biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## Communication and community media to advance Family Farming – AMARC and FAO join forces to raise the voices of smallholder farmers

In the framework of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF), FAO and AMARC (World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters) have launched an awareness raising campaign to highlight the crucial contribution of family farming in sustainable rural development and recognise access to information and communication as a basic right for the development and empowerment of rural women and men. The campaign will continue throughout the year with the aim to place rural people at the centre of the IYFF’s discussions and ensure their participation and inclusion through sharing of information, traditional knowledge, views and best practices.

One of the main objectives of the IYFF is to increase knowledge, communication and public awareness on the importance of family farming in rural poverty reduction and the elimination of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

It is well known that in rural areas, where the world’s poorest family farmers live, participatory communication and social media act as catalysts for social change, gender equality and peoples’ empowerment.

Therefore, in the framework of the IYFF and under the initiative “Communication and community media in family farming and food security”, FAO and AMARC launched an awareness raising campaign to highlight the crucial contribution of family farming in sustainable rural development and recognise access to information and communication as a basic right for the empowerment of rural women and men.

“The IYFF offers a great opportunity for governments’ representatives to listen to the messages from the field and come into direct contact with those who struggle everyday against hunger, malnutrition and poverty” points out Ibrahim Coulibaly, Special Ambassador for the IYFF, in an interview broadcast by YenKasa Africa during the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa.

FAO-AMARC initiative has set up a series of radio programmes and interviews linked to AMARC regional consultations, FAO regional conferences and dialogues and various civil society’s events organized worldwide. This will contribute to foster dialogue between institutions, organizations and smallholder farmers and raise the voices of rural people through community radio and FAO-AMARC platforms in Africa (YenKasa Africa), South-America (Onda Rural) and Asia (ComDev Asia).



“Community and organizations must have a horizontal dialogue and open up mechanisms of communication so that information can flow from the communities to the institutions and vice versa. Thus, building a more democratic development process” says Juan Carlos Ortega, Project Coordinator of the Agrecol Andes Foundation from Bolivia in an interview held during the first FAO Regional Dialogue on Family Farming in Santiago de Chile (October 2013).

The programmes are produced in English, French and Spanish and regional media platforms together with AMARC’s members are encouraged to broadcast in local languages.

The key messages of the initiative include:

- The contribution of family farming to hunger eradication
- The role of communication and community media in family farming and as drivers of social change in rural areas
- FAO Regional Dialogues on family farming and the importance of partnerships to improve food security

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# The YenKasa Africa platform

## Promoting dialogue

On 12th March 2014, a new communication for development platform called YenKasa Africa was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC). The platform aims to enhance knowledge and experience sharing in communication applied to agriculture and rural development in Africa, which encompasses farming, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors.

Today, millions of men and women in Africa are still not able to make their voices heard, despite the wealth of new information resources available. The majority of media channels are placed under the authority of local governments. However, the past twenty years have seen an exponential growth in community radio stations. According to a report by AMARC, in 1985 there were less than 10 independent stations throughout the entire African continent. Today, South Africa alone has more than 150 community radios, and other countries are not far behind.

In Africa, community radio stations play a crucial role in encouraging citizen's participation, promoting local information, but also fostering the process of education and rural development. In countries with poorly developed infrastructures, where electricity supplies are inadequate and illiteracy levels high, they often constitute the only form of media that is available and accessible. Community radio stations are often exposed to political pressure. Some of them rely on support from foreign donors, when they have difficulty in generating the resources at local level that they need to survive, and when they fall victim of lack of interest from political authorities.

It is against this backdrop that FAO and AMARC launched YenKasa Africa, a regional communication for development platform, which aims to enhance knowledge and experience sharing in communication for rural development in Africa.

### YenKasa

YenKasa is an Akan expression from Ghana which means "Let's Talk / Let's Dialogue". The expression emphasizes the need to discuss together in a social dialogue process to identify and solve the main challenges that communities face. The success of all rural development programmes depends on the effective participation of the target communities and on implementing projects that will benefit them. In this context, communication for development goes way beyond a simple process of disseminating information and seeks to focus on sharing community knowledge and giving a stronger voice to the men and women in local communities.



YenKasa Africa takes the following themes as pillars for rural development in Africa and therefore for the platform: natural resource management, adaptation to climate change, gender parity, disaster risk reduction, food and nutrition security, agricultural innovation and access to information using information and communication technologies (ICT). As part of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF 2014), YenKasa Africa has devoted a section to this topic.

### What does the YenKasa Africa campaign offer?

YenKasa Africa offers access to a large number of useful resources and fosters on-line interaction between community members. The platform makes a vast collection of articles available. Updated on a weekly basis, these focus on projects, strategies and methodologies relating to communication for development (ComDev), as well as on initiatives to promote agriculture and rural development in Africa.

The platform also includes a multimedia gallery, containing audio files, photos and videos linked to ComDev activities and featuring interviews with small-scale farmers – both men and women – and community radio stations. A series of virtual forums focusing on the role of communication and community media in pro-

moting family agriculture will soon be posted on the ComDev Community page. Publications and other technical manuals related to communication for development projects are also available. A map charts the rural organizations, community radio stations and university institutes that are using communication for development strategies in Africa.

A special section called *Family farming campaign* is also included as part of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF 2014). Here, visitors can find video documentaries, audio files and publications that highlight the central role played by small-scale farmers in eradicating hunger and promoting rural development in Africa.

YenKasa Africa strongly encourages all community radio stations, media professionals and civil society regional organizations to participate in dialogue about the platform and make their contribution.

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# The role of civil society in developing the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries for rural women and men

A participatory consultation and development process in 2011-13 allowed different stakeholders worldwide to share concerns, opinions and needs in relation to sustainable small-scale fisheries' development. This process directly involved over 4,000 stakeholders from more than 120 countries, including regional consultations organized by FAO while consultations by civil society organizations took place in over 20 countries.

The old Roman proverb "Nomen est omen" ("name is fate") seems appropriate when speaking of small-scale fisheries. Romanticized images of traditional fishing crafts in picturesque harbours or along exotic beaches are still common perceptions of this activity.

However the sector is dynamic, producing half of developing countries' fish catches, employing more than 90% of the world's capture fishers and providing additional employment for millions. Small-scale fisheries' contribution to development, food security and nutrition and poverty eradication can therefore not be overemphasized. Despite these impressive figures, small-scale women and men fishers and their communities are often excluded from the decision-making processes and marginalized in development discussions.

Driven by the outcome of events exploring how to bring together responsible fisheries and social development in small-scale fisheries, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) recommended the development of an international instrument on small-scale fisheries in 2011. These Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) will be the first ever negotiated instrument dedicated entirely to small-scale fisheries.

The Guidelines will be voluntary, focus on developing countries and apply to marine and inland fisheries. They aim to provide advice and establish principles and criteria to assist stakeholders in achieving sustainable small-scale fisheries. They adopt a human rights-based approach that strives to enable small-scale women and men fishers, fishworkers and their communities to know their rights and defend their interests.

## The role of civil society organizations (CSOs)

A participatory consultation and development process in 2011-13 allowed different stakeholders worldwide to share concerns, opinions and needs in relation to sustainable small-scale fisheries' development. In addition to regional consultations organized by FAO, civil society organizations set up national and regional consultations in over 20 countries. This process directly engaged over 4000 stakeholders from more than 120 countries.

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF) coordinate the participation and involvement of civil society in the SSF Guidelines development process. Their coordination helped to spread awareness of the SSF Guidelines development process and enable fishing communities to actively take part in shaping the content of the SSF Guidelines and in establishing and strengthening the dialogue among the different stakeholders.

The draft text of the SSF Guidelines was discussed during two sessions of a Technical Consultation held on 20-24 May 2013 and on 3-7 February 2014 in Rome, Italy. A total of 88 FAO Members participated in these negotiations, as well as a significant number of observers, including 59 representatives from CSOs. This participation ensured that the interests of the fishing communities themselves were directly brought into the discussion of the SSF Guidelines at the highest level.

The outcome of these two sessions is a Chairperson's text of the SSF Guidelines which includes the important principles that emerged from the consultations on the ground. Importantly, a chapter of the SSF Guidelines is dedicated to Gender Equality and the role of women is stressed throughout the entire document. The empowerment of small-scale fishing communities – including through participation in decision-making processes, co-management arrangements and related capacity development – is another key concept that is evoked constantly throughout the entire document.

CSOs also demonstrate ownership of the process by independently organizing events and developing materials that promote participatory communication, like an easily understandable version of an early draft of the SSF Guidelines or local language versions.



CSOs also played and are playing a key role in strengthening relations with other organizations and institutions. A recent example is their participation in the IFAD Farmers' Forum in February 2014 which for the first time had a dedicated event on small-scale fisheries. The recommendations of this event call for the finalization and implementation of the SSF Guidelines and for the continued cooperation of all partners in this process.

## Looking ahead

The SSF Guidelines have been finalized during the 31st Session of COFI in June 2014. After that, implementation can begin. Implementation should be based on participation and partnerships, anchored at the national and local levels within a framework of regional and international collaboration, awareness raising, policy support and capacity development. This will require support to and collaboration with many different actors, including CSOs, to build on the inclusive and consensus-seeking spirit and environment that characterized the development process of the SSF Guidelines so far.

## \* For more information:

National and regional consultations website  
<https://sites.google.com/site/smallscalefisheries/>  
Chairperson's document  
[ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/ssf/SSF\\_guidelines/TC/2014/2e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/ssf/SSF_guidelines/TC/2014/2e.pdf)



# FAO | A new learning module on experience capitalization

We hear more and more about experience capitalization. But what is it exactly? What's its use? How to do it? To answer these and many more questions, FAO and partners are working on the development of a new learning module on experience capitalization.

## Capitalization

Experience capitalization, or “systematization” is an iterative process through which an experience (with its successes and failures) is identified, valued, documented and shared. This systematic approach allows the learning of lessons and the identification of innovations and good practices. Thanks to this approach, a practice can be adapted and improved and may thereafter be adopted by others, be implemented on a larger scale and increase its impact.

In March 2014, FAO organized an Expert Consultation on Experience Capitalization with the purpose of developing a learning module on Experience Capitalization in several languages. This module is being developed by FAO; in partnership with other United Nations Rome-based agencies and other international organizations.

The idea of developing this learning module came as a normal follow-up of the FAO-led project “Capitalization of good practices in

support of agricultural production and food security” implemented for over four years in Niger and Burkina Faso. This project has provided, tested and adapted methodologies for experience capitalization to identify good practices. Furthermore, as many other organizations have embarked upon the process of experience capitalization, it is now time to compare and capitalize the various experiences and gather them in one learning module.

This new learning module will provide organizations in developing countries, and those working in the field of development, with the tools and methodologies required to develop their knowledge capacities and enable them to work more effectively. It is aimed at staff working in a wide range of organizations, including international organizations, donor agencies, multilaterals, NGOs, farmers' organizations, research institutes, national governments, regional organizations, and civil society organizations. This learning and e-learning module is being developed for people within an organization or project who need to be involved in the capitalization process.

The Expert Consultation was a critical step in the development of the curriculum, bringing together 29 experts and institutional representatives involved in experience capitalization or systematization activities. The three-day expert consultation was a highly interactive event.

After an introduction and framing, the FAO team illustrated the components of the e-learning module and their validated e-learning process.

The outcomes of the expert consultation were: input leading to agreement on a revised curriculum outline; identified sources of expertise for providing content, existing training materi-

als, methodologies and software tools relevant to the curriculum; and statements of intent from institutions and individuals wishing to participate in developing the curriculum. Contributions from partners may include authoring case studies, peer reviews, adaption and translation, promotion, and distribution.

In addition, the learning module was also discussed in Paris in April 2014 at the F3E “Forum des expériences” which was organized for the launch of a new guide in French on experience capitalization. It was therefore the appropriate opportunity to join efforts and collaborate with French-speaking organizations on the future learning module.

The learning module will take several forms: an e-learning version used for individual learning, or for preparation or follow-up of the face-to-face events, a printed manual and PowerPoint presentations of each lesson for face-to-face training workshops.

The English version is due late 2014, the French and Spanish are planned for 2015 and the Arabic version will follow. The materials will not only be translated, but also adapted with content specific to the region where the language is spoken. The materials will be available online free of charge through FAO, IMARK and partners, and will be announced widely through partner channels when ready. If you are interested in sharing your experience with the team, feel free to contact us: [km-gender@fao.org](mailto:km-gender@fao.org) or [sophie.treinen@fao.org](mailto:sophie.treinen@fao.org)

### \* For more information:

FAO Knowledge Management and Gender Programme website: [www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/km-gender/](http://www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/km-gender/)  
FAO Good Practices website: [www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/goodpractices/gphome/](http://www.fao.org/capacitydevelopment/goodpractices/gphome/)

The **Information Management Resource Kit** (IMARK) is a partnership-based e-learning initiative to train individuals and support institutions and networks worldwide in the effective management of information. IMARK consists of a suite of distance learning resources, tools and communities on information management. See [www.imarkgroup.org/](http://www.imarkgroup.org/)

For more on the process used at the Expert Consultation, see the IMARK publication “E-learning methodologies: A guide for designing and developing e-learning courses”: [www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2516e/i2516e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2516e/i2516e.pdf)



# Investing in empowering rural women

Initiatives to mobilize resources aimed at combating poverty and empowering rural communities – especially women – have made marked progress since the start of the new millennium. Dominique Di Biase, Senior Programme Officer for FAO's Donor liaison and Resource Mobilization Team and focal point for Belgium, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and United Nations and multi-stakeholder partnerships, describes how.

## Why is it important to mobilize resources at FAO?

It is crucial to mobilize resources through voluntary contributions it provides additional funds to FAO assessed contributions in the implementation of the strategic framework as decided by its member countries. Mobilizing resources enables FAO to intervene on the ground by implementing projects and programmes answering to the needs of communities. These are selected through country programming framework involving both governments and FAO in those countries.

FAO's integrated Budget 2014-15 totals USD 2.43 billion, out of which USD 1.4 billion is to be raised through voluntary contributions which represents 60% of FAO total integrated budget. These projects and programmes funded by voluntary contributions are fully aligned with the regional initiatives and the strategic objectives results to be delivered over the biennium.

This way of aligning field programmes with national, regional and global priorities is quite recent. Before, there was a divide between the programme of work and budget voted by member countries and the field programme. National projects or programmes were not necessarily related to global priorities and were largely treated on an ad-hoc basis. When our Director General, Mr Graziano da Silva took office, there was a complete rethink. The different levels (global, regional and national) are now in line with the needs expressed by countries at national, regional levels and by the member countries at global consultations.

## How has FAO managed to mobilize resources so as to help empower rural communities, especially women?

In the new framework, we have a strategic objective of combating poverty. So we had to identify which donor countries had priorities that were consistent with this objective and which one might therefore be prepared to make a contribution. Take the example of Belgium, which is a long-standing partner. Its approach developed in a significant manner at the start of the millennium, moving from a project approach to a programme approach, aimed at allocating resources directly to the goal of

eradicating hunger and poverty. This issue has always been of key importance to us, especially when it comes to gender parity. Belgium was a forerunner, adopting a cross-cutting approach to gender awareness, in all sectors. Through its multilateral aid, and taking FAO as a privileged partner, Belgium opted to allocate substantial resources, making it possible to intervene in pilot countries such as the Republic of Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where women and men needed support to help them gain better access to markets, products and services, play a bigger role in decision-making for food security and nutrition, and information on price policies, emergencies, etc.

## Is it mainly a case of a change in approach or in resources?

It's both! It is a development, which has moved from a project approach towards a programme approach for land management, culminating in a global programmatic approach for poverty reduction. Belgium now offers support to the organization's core resources, in so doing enabling technicians, regional and country offices to plan interventions directly with rural communities and especially with the most disadvantaged women.

## Are the current resources sufficient?

It is always desirable to increase the funds allocated, given that the needs are so massive. We consider that this Belgian allocation, which amounts to almost 11 million euros over a period of twelve years, has served as a catalyst in attracting other resources at field level, especially with other partners such as United Nations agencies, as was the case in DRC, where a partnership with IFAD made it possible to have a wider scope. That was also the case in Niger, as part of a partnership with UNICEF.

Aside from the initiatives that have been implemented, these days everyone at FAO is accountable for gender, as a cross-cutting issue. Integrating the gender dimension must be planned from the outset and it must be present at all levels, even in joint programmes run with other actors.



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# Resources

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.

## Agricultura Familiar en América Latina y el Caribe: Recomendaciones de Política

### Family farming in Latin America and Caribbean : Recommendations (policy)

Publication about family farming launched at the FAO regional conference. ESP Division contributed to the first chapter about family farming.

FAO, 2014

[www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3788s/i3788s.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/019/i3788s/i3788s.pdf)

## 2014 FAO-IFPRI Publication: "Gender and Agriculture - Closing the Knowledge Gap"

Three years after the publication of the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010-2011, FAO, in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), published the "Gender in Agriculture- Closing the Knowledge Gap". The book builds on SOFA's main conclusions by providing, for a non-specialist audience, a compendium on the gender gaps in agriculture.

2014 (107€)

[www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-94-017-8615-7](http://www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-94-017-8615-7)

## Participatory training and curriculum development for Farmer Field Schools in Guyana and Suriname

A field guide on Integrated Pest Management and aquaculture in rice in Guyana and Suriname.

FAO, 2014 [www.fao.org/docrep/012/ba0031e/ba0031e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/ba0031e/ba0031e00.htm)

## 2013 Global Hunger Index. The challenge of hunger: Building resilience to achieve food and nutrition security

The theme of the 2013 GHI report is resilience in theory and in practice. The relief and development communities have long struggled to understand why some people fare better than others when confronting stresses or shocks. Resilience-building efforts are much needed to help poor and vulnerable people cope with hunger seasons, droughts, and other natural and manmade disasters. To help build resilience in ways that will boost food and nutrition security, the report calls for breaking down the silos between the relief and development communities and for focusing on approaches that contribute to the ability of people and systems to resist, absorb, and transform in response to shocks.

IFPRI/Concern Worldwide/ Welthungerhilfe,

October 2013

[www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org)

## Because I'm a girl. The State of the World's Girls 2013. In Double Jeopardy: Adolescent Girls and Disasters

The seventh report in Plan's annual State of the World's Girls series, 'In Double Jeopardy', looks at what happens to adolescent girls in disasters and why. The report uses original research and interviews with girls, including survivors of disasters in the Philippines. It shows how adolescent girls' rights are being ignored before, during and after disasters, both in the urgency of a disaster response, and in the gaps between humanitarian and development work. The results show that listening to what adolescent girls have to say, ensuring both their rights and their needs are catered for, and strengthening their resilience, are key missing pieces of current humanitarian work.

Plan International, October 2013

<http://plan-international.org>

## Cash transfer programmes, poverty reduction and empowerment of women: A comparative analysis

This comparative analysis aims to help the ILO generate new thinking on ways to improve the impact of cash transfer programmes on women's poverty alleviation and economic empowerment. Key findings relate to selected cash transfer programmes from five countries: Brazil, Chile, India, Mexico and South Africa. The review addresses two broad questions. First, to what extent are cash transfers alleviating women's poverty and improving their access to nutrition, as well as health care and other social services? And second, what are the impacts of cash transfers on women's economic empowerment?

ILO Working paper, December 2013

[www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)

## Close the Gap: How to eliminate violence against women beyond 2015

At least one in three women worldwide will experience some form of violence during their lifetime, often perpetrated by an intimate partner. Violence against women and girls is a fundamental human rights issue and a central challenge to development, democracy and peace. Oxfam is very concerned that efforts to eliminate violence against women do not match the scale of the problem. In fact, while the need to end violence against women is broadly recognized, levels of violence worldwide point towards a huge gap between rhetoric and action. The international community is failing women on this issue and will continue to fail if we do not step up our efforts. As governments, decision makers and civil society embark on a review of the Beijing Platform for Action and consider a framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), there is an opportunity to close the gap and renew our commitment to the elimination of violence against women.

Oxfam Briefing Notes, March 2014

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk>

## Community Radio Continuous Improvement Toolkit (CR-CIT)

This toolkit aims to provide a participatory evaluation framework designed to allow community radio stations to set their own benchmarks or goals against which they can review their performance periodically. It has been drafted keeping in view: (a) the national community radio policy guidelines (in India); and (b) certain principles of community media globally, such as community participation and ownership, access and inclusion of marginalised groups, gender equity, community-generated content, emphasis on local cultures and identities, and transparency and accountability in practice.

UNESCO, CEMCA, June 2013

<http://ucommmedia.in>

## Economic Empowerment: Strategies for Adolescent Girls

This strategy document is based on programmes of the Adolescent Girls' Advocacy and Leadership Initiative (AGALI) in Guatemala, Honduras, Liberia, Malawi, and Ethiopia. Economic empowerment programmes serving adolescent girls aged 12-25 utilise 3 main approaches: financial services strategies, employment strategies, and strategies that promote girls' life-skills and social supports. Programmes must be evidence-based for effectiveness, customised to the participants, and integrated to improve human, social, and physical capital along with financial capital, while advocating for girls in order to improve social norms and institutional practices.

AGALI, January 2013

<http://agaliprogram.org>

☉ **Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets: Experiences with Farmer-led Research for Advocacy**

Research partnerships between farmers' organisations and research teams are rarely straightforward, and the lessons learned in trying to make them work are a significant output of the process, regardless of whether they achieve their intended aims. This honest reflection on efforts by the Empowering Smallholder Farmers in Markets programme to boost the advocacy capacity of national farmer organisations through farmer-led research, will therefore give plenty of food for thought for those working in the same field.

The book largely consists of a series of country studies, detailing collaborative research activities and their outcomes. Examples include grassroots consultations to revise the national agricultural advisory services in Uganda, developing in-house research capacity to monitor government policies in Kenya, and strengthening the role of women in Costa Rica's national advocacy platform. They emphasise what can be achieved by national farmers' organisations in terms of advocacy, and in developing the innovation required to help smallholders effectively access markets.

Agrinatura/CTA/Wageningen UR, 2013  
<http://tinyurl.com/qdudzhte>

☉ **Gender and Rights: our Quick Guides to success**

How can you incorporate gender considerations into humanitarian, development and campaigns work? As Jemma Stringer explains, if you're pushed for time reading a Quick Guide would be a good start.

"Colleagues regularly ask me about tools and guides on including gender considerations in their work. I have two answers. My long answer is: do your research – read this or that theoretical book on approaches to gender analysis, consult one of our many insightful reports on our programmatic learning, look at our range of great toolkits – and then consider which approach is most relevant to your needs and context. My short answer is: check out these Quick Guides."

OXFAM, January 2014  
<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk>

☉ **Gender inequalities in ownership and control of land in Africa: Myth versus reality**

This paper investigates the extent of women's land ownership in sub-Saharan Africa, using nationally representative data sets. It highlights the need to clarify what we mean when we provide statistics on women's land ownership—what do we mean by ownership, and what land are we talking about. Most of the available data is not consistent on these points. Where there is data available, there is a very mixed picture of women's land ownership, and broad generalizations hide that important variability.

IFPRI, 2013  
[www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org)



☉ **Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls & Migration in the Developing World**

This document suggests that if a migrant girl is safe and successful in making her journey, she can be "a powerful agent of social and economic change, transforming the prospects of her family and community." However, roadblocks to successful migration mean that girls aged 10-14 and 15-19 need protective assets such as the following: (i) human assets – skills, knowledge, self-esteem, bargaining power, and control over decisions; (ii) social assets – trusted family, friends, mentors, social networks, group membership, access to public services and institutions; (iii) physical assets – personal belongings including a mobile phone, housing, transport, personal documentation; and (iv) financial assets – cash, savings.

Population Council, Policy Brief, January 2013  
[www.popcouncil.org](http://www.popcouncil.org)

☉ **Global Information Society Watch 2013 - Women's rights, gender and ICTs**

This edition of GISWatch explores women's rights and gender through the lens of information and communications technologies (ICTs). It includes a series of expert thematic reports on issues such as access to infrastructure, participation, online disempowerment, and sexuality online, as well as 46 country reports on topics like the rights of domestic workers, trafficking in women, participation in governance, child brides, and the right to abortion.

GISWatch 2013 shows that gains in women's rights made online are not always certain or stable. While access to the internet for women has increased their participation in the social, economic and governance spheres, there is another side to these opportunities: online harassment, cyberstalking, and violence against women online all of which are on the increase globally. This GISWatch is a call to action, to the increased participation of women in all forms of technological governance and development, and to a reaffirmation and strengthening of their rights online.

APC/Hivos, 2013  
<http://giswatch.org/2013-womens-rights-gender-and-icts/>

☉ **Levelling the Field: Improving Opportunities for Women Farmers in Africa**

Tackling the pervasive inequality faced by women farmers across Africa is critical if the continent is to reduce poverty, boost economic growth and feed its growing population. This report examines the scale and causes of the dramatic differences between how much men and women farmers produce in six African countries—Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda—which together make up more than 40 percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's population. This first of its type report reveals deep rooted gender gaps in African agriculture, identifies factors holding back women farmers, and sets out concrete actions that policy makers can take to reduce inequality. Closing this gap can help boost household incomes and livelihoods, as well as provide cheap and nutritious food to Africa's growing population.

World Bank Group and The ONE Campaign,  
 March 2014  
[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/)

☉ **Making Joint Gender Programmes Work. Guide for design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation**

This guide sets out how to improve the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of joint gender programmes (JGP). It helps address some of the less tangible areas that are often constraints to JGP success, such as power dynamics and the need for coordination, negotiation, leadership, and accountability. Lastly, it also provides a wide range of examples from JGPs that have achieved positive results.

This guide is the first systematic inter-agency guidance on JGPs and was created based on requests from UN Country Teams (UNCTs), Gender Theme Groups and JGP coordinators for additional support. It is organized in 3 different sections and addresses the challenges and proposed solutions that JGPs encountered along with examples and other useful resources.

MDG Achievement Fund / UNDP, July 2013  
[www.mdgfund.org](http://www.mdgfund.org)





### ☉ **Organizing Women Workers in the Informal Economy**

For millions of women around the world, poor working conditions and lack of recognition and rights, undermine the benefits of paid work. Using examples of successful mobilisation by women workers in the informal economy, this book seeks to learn lessons on overcoming the barriers to women's economic empowerment. One chapter outlines how women in Brazil's São Francisco Valley have become increasingly active in the valley's rural trade union and how this has resulted in important changes both within the trade union and to women's working conditions in the grape sector. Another example from India reveals the experiences of women fisheries workers' participation in local and community-based organisations, the constraints they face and the way meaningful participation can be strengthened. With first-hand accounts from authors involved in emerging organisations, this book documents how women workers have come together to carve out new identities for themselves, define what matters to them and develop collective strategies of resistance and struggle.

Edited by N Kabeer, R Sudarshan & K Milward  
Zed Books, 2013 (23.50€)  
[www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk)

### ☉ **Perspectives de genre pour l'agro écologie. Regards croisés sur la souveraineté alimentaire**

**Gender and agro ecology. Perspectives on food sovereignty.**

This publication presents the results of three years of gender sensitive research-action on food sovereignty implemented by Le Monde selon les femmes and its partners REMTE Bolivia, REMTE Peru, ENDA Graf and ENDA Pronat in Senegal and CONAFED in DRC. The goal of the research-action was to strengthen social struggles and build common advocacy based on each partner strengths and specificities.

Le Monde selon les femmes, 2014 (12 €)  
[http://www.mondefemmes.be/genre-developpement-outils\\_theories-analyse-analyses-plaidoyers.htm](http://www.mondefemmes.be/genre-developpement-outils_theories-analyse-analyses-plaidoyers.htm)

### ☉ **Prosperity For All – Ending Extreme Poverty**

While economic growth remains vital for reducing poverty, growth has its limits, according to a new World Bank paper released today. Countries need to complement efforts to enhance growth with policies that allocate more resources to the extreme poor. These resources can be distributed through the growth process itself, by promoting more inclusive growth, or through government programs, such as conditional and direct cash transfers.

In addition, the paper notes, it is imperative not just to lift people out of extreme poverty; it is also important to make sure that, in the long run, they do not

get stuck just above the extreme poverty line due to a lack of opportunities that might impede progress toward better livelihoods.

World Bank, Spring 2014  
[www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/04/10/prosperity-for-all-ending-extreme-poverty](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/04/10/prosperity-for-all-ending-extreme-poverty)

### ☉ **Raising Her Voice: The power to persuade**

From 2008-2013, Oxfam's Raising Her Voice (RHV) programme worked with 45 local partners, 141 community activist groups, and over 1,000 coalition members to create more effective governance systems by ensuring that women's voices influence decisions about services, investments, policies and legal frameworks, from community, through to national and regional levels. This summary draws on findings from the 2013 independent final evaluation of the RHV programme and from Oxfam's own final reporting to give just a flavour of our numerous combined achievements and impacts and shares highlights from our learning about core principles and strategies for supporting cost-effective, transformative governance work.

Oxfam, November 2013  
<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk>