



UNITED  
NATIONS

UN LIBRARY

A

~~APR 28 1980~~



**World Conference  
of the United Nations  
Decade for Women:  
Equality, Development and Peace**

**Copenhagen, Denmark  
14-30 July 1980**

UN/ISA COLLECTION

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/CONF.94/BP/4  
9 April 1980

ENGLISH ONLY

---

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND PAPER \*

WCARRD PROGRAMME OF ACTION - INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(WCARRD - World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development - 1979)

Paper prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United  
Nations

\* Background papers are reproduced by photo-offset and issued in the languages of submission only.



WCARRD\* PROGRAMME OF ACTION - INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	i
<u>I. IMPLICATIONS OF WCARRD FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT</u>	1
A. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES	1
B. ACCESS TO LAND, WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES	4
C. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION	8
D. ACCESS TO INPUTS, MARKETS AND SERVICES	10
E. DEVELOPMENT OF NON-FARM RURAL ACTIVITIES	13
F. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXTENSION	15
<u>II. IMPLICATIONS OF WCARRD FOR FAO AND OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS WITH REGARD TO RURAL WOMEN</u>	18
A. MONITORING AND EVALUATION	19
B. ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE	20
C. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	21
D. MOBILIZING RESOURCES	23
APPENDIX I - DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES,, WCARRD REPORT, FAO, ROME, 1979 (pp 1-3).	
APPENDIX II- WCARRD PROGRAMME OF ACTION, ITEM IV, "INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT", WCARRD REPORT, FAO, ROME, 1979 (pp. 10-11).	

\* World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD)



## INTRODUCTION

The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was held in Rome, Italy, 12-20 July, 1979.

The Conference focussed on rural development goals aimed at reducing poverty, attaining growth with equity and promoting national self-reliance and the building of a new international economic order. Achievement of these goals would transform rural life so that all rural people - men, women and children - would enjoy a higher quality of life.

The WCARRD Report adopted by the Conference includes a Declaration of Principles, a Programme of Action and a Resolution on the Follow-up Action for FAO and other Organizations. 1/

In the context of women in rural development the Declaration of Principles highlights the fact that "women should participate and contribute on an equal basis with men in the social, economic and political process of rural development and share fully in improved conditions of life in rural areas". (Declaration of Principles, pp. 1-3). 2/

The WCARRD Programme of Action includes national programmes of action for developing countries as well as international policies for agrarian reform and rural development. It calls upon governments to adopt measures included under seven major issues, one of which is the "Integration of Women in Rural Development". 3/ The discussion of this issue in the Programme of Action begins with the following paragraph:

"Recognition of the vital role of women in socio-economic life in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, in accordance with the goals of the United Nations' Decade for Women, is a prerequisite for successful rural development planning and programme implementation. Rural development based on growth with equity will require full integration of

---

1/ Report, World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, Rome 12-20 July 1979, FAO, Rome, Italy.

2/ The Declaration of Principles is reprinted in Appendix I of this paper.

3/ Excerpts from the WCARRD Report, Rome, 12-20 July 1979 - Item IV: Integration of Women in Rural Development is reprinted in Appendix II (pp. 10-11).

women, including equitable access to land, water, other natural resources, inputs and services and equal opportunity to develop and employ their skills. There is also an urgent need to expand knowledge and statistical data on all aspects of women's roles in rural activities and to disseminate this information in order to promote greater awareness of women's role in society".

The item on the "integration of women in rural development" further outlines a series of special measures to ensure rural women's equality of legal status with respect to ownership and control of land and other property, access to rural services, participation through collective action and organization, and educational and employment opportunities.

At the same time the Conference recognized that women should be considered also under the other six items discussed in the WCARRD Programme of Action, namely: (i) objectives and strategies; (ii) access to land, water and other natural resources; (iii) people's participation; (iv) access to inputs, markets and services; (v) development of non-farm rural activities; (vi) education, training and extension.

The major purpose of this paper is to suggest ways to implement the WCARRD programme of action in regard to the integration of women in rural development at the national level. Attention is given to the implications which each of the above six issues have for the full integration of women in rural development.

This document also delineates the implications for FAO and other Organizations of the United Nations System in supporting member governments to implement the WCARRD National Programme of Action which they helped to ratify at the Conference in July 1979.

In the Resolution of the Follow-up of the Conference, subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, FAO is called on as the Lead Agency on Rural Development to work with other Organizations of the United Nations System to take appropriate measures to assist Member Governments in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

1. IMPLICATIONS OF WCARRD FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN NATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES -- IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN

The goal of rural development, according to WCARRD, is the reduction of poverty and hunger through growth with equity. The key elements for reaching this goal would be commitment, at the national level, of people's participation and the implementation of structural reforms which broaden the access of the rural poor to land and other resources.

The implications of WCARRD for rural women are that, given their initial disadvantage, access to land, production resources, income and other goods and services would need to grow at a faster rate for rural women than for the rest of the population, merely to enable them to catch up. Therefore, rural development activities should not simply improve the position and situation of women. Rural development activities should help to close the gap between women and men, poor and rich, rural and urban.

The WCARRD policy on people's participation implies that rural women should be encouraged to organize, so as to increase their visibility and their voice in controlling the forces that shape their lives and those of their families. Rural women should become the protagonists of rural development rather than its passive recipients and should reap an increasing share of its benefits.

The WCARRD Programme of Action recommended that each national government give high priority to the selection of objectives and strategies for the alleviation of rural poverty within the context of a national development plan. This would be based on an analysis of political and socio-economic goals, resources and constraints. Within the framework of its national plan, a government would then identify specific targets to mobilize resources, and establish a system for monitoring the impact of rural development activities.

Rural development planners may unwittingly marginalise women by failing to recognize their contribution to agricultural production. By viewing women only in their household and family roles, statistics do not reflect their real labour input, and women are overlooked as a resource in development strategies. On the other hand, failure to take proper account of their

multiple roles can result in women becoming victims rather than beneficiaries of rural development. The links between their farm, household and reproductive roles must be taken into account in setting targets and formulating programmes and projects.

Statistics are needed which measure women's contribution on an equal basis with men's, including unpaid family labour. Furthermore, monitoring the impact of development can indicate negative or unforeseen consequences, such as increased work load, loss of income-earning opportunities or loss of status, so that appropriate action can be taken. Units within government agencies responsible for incorporating women's needs in rural development planning could give more emphasis to pre-project analyses and monitoring.

National action might include the following :

#### Policy and Planning

1. Encourage policymakers and planners to review national and rural development objectives and strategies with a view to incorporating women as a specific target group among the rural poor, taking into consideration their labour contribution to agriculture, non-farm production and household production.
2. Formulate strategies and design programmes to satisfy the particular needs of women as a disadvantaged group among subgroups of rural poor, such as small farmers, fishermen, tenants, sharecroppers, landless households, small forest holders, artisans, nomads and refugees.

#### Decision-making

3. Include women on the staff of the national planning offices responsible for policy-making and programme formulation for the integration of women in rural development; develop training programmes to upgrade the skills of female planners.
4. Involve women in national programming exercises, particularly when overall national development plans are being prepared and priority development goals are being set.



### Mobilizing Resources

5. Allocate financial, material and human resources for the overall integration of women in agriculture and rural development that are commensurate with women's labour input in agriculture and household activities.
6. Encourage public institutions to organize self-help activities for rural women and mobilize local human and material resources for this purpose.

### Monitoring and evaluation

7. Improve the accuracy of national agricultural statistics by defining rural women as "economically active" in agriculture and by evaluating time spent by both women and men in agricultural tasks including food production, processing, storage and marketing.
8. Develop a system for measuring the extent of integration of women as part of an overall national monitoring and evaluation system for agriculture and rural development; this would include developing appropriate socio-economic indicators of women's integration in rural development.
9. Establish a mechanism for pre-project analysis and screening which takes into account the interconnection between women's farm, household and reproductive roles.

B. ACCESS TO LAND, WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES - IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN

Eradication of rural poverty through growth with equity requires increased access to and control over production resources, i.e. land, capital, technology and the knowledge and skills of modern agriculture. A woman's access to land, water and other natural resources may be achieved directly through ownership or rental in her own name; or indirectly, through her husband or father, or even more indirectly, through employment on someone else's land.

While redistribution of land through agrarian reform may increase women's indirect access, or usufruct rights, <sup>1/</sup> it may not provide decision-making control. Where male relatives retain such control, it may be desirable to complement this pattern of land holding with joint ownership or special allocation of land for the use of women.

The constraints which limit women's access to land are legal, social, economic and cultural. While traditional land tenure systems guaranteed the usufruct rights of men and women for subsistence production, modern commercial farming tends to impinge on and undermine these rights. In situations of increasing population pressure on land, or of competition between subsistence and cash crop production, women responsible for feeding their families are often forced to work harder on less land.

Laws which discriminate against women's rights to inherit, own or control property may need to be repealed. However, where land is scarce, abolition of legal constraints alone may be insufficient to guarantee women access.

Women's access to land is also bound up with marriage customs. When she leaves her family of origin upon marriage, to take up residence with her husband's relatives, her access to land is weakened as is her control over any land she may have inherited. Therefore, any legislative measures which seek to increase women's access to land must be seen in the total context of rural customs and institutions and socio-economic conditions.

---

<sup>1/</sup> "usufruct rights" the right of using and enjoying the benefits and profits of land.

Ready access to water and to fuel for domestic use is also of fundamental importance to rural women, since they often spend several hours a day walking to fetch water and gather fuel. Attention must also be given to promoting wage employment opportunities in agriculture for women, especially since women of landless rural families are highly dependent on this source of income. Efforts should be made to upgrade women's work in agriculture through the creation of opportunities for skilled, remunerative year-round employment. Along with expansion of employment opportunities for women in agriculture, provision must be made for a reduction of women's labour burden in other areas, including household and family responsibilities.

National action might include the following:

Legal Measures

1. Analyse the impact of legislation in agrarian reform programmes that may affect women in regard to:
  - legal status; right to inheritance, ownership, usufruct and control of property;
  - access to land, water and other natural resources;
  - legal right to participate in economic transactions, such as credit and cooperatives.
2. Repeal those laws which discriminate against women in respect of rights of inheritance, ownership and control of property, and promote understanding of the need for such measures.\*
3. Promote ownership rights for women, including joint ownership of land in entirety, to give women producers with absentee husbands effective legal rights to take decisions on land they manage.\*

---

\* quoted verbatim from the "WCARRD Programme of Action", Item IV "Integration of Women in Rural Development", (pp.10-11).

4. Repeal laws and regulations which inhibit effective participation by women in economic transactions and in the planning, implementation and evaluation of rural development programmes.\*
5. Ensure full membership and equal voting rights for women in people's organizations such as tenants' associations, labour unions, cooperatives, credit unions and organizations of the beneficiaries of land reform and other rural development programmes.\*

#### Access to Resources

6. Adopt measures to ensure women equitable access to land, livestock and other productive assets.\*
7. Provide women access to land in the application of agrarian reform and in the resettlement of refugees, nomads and victims of natural disasters.
8. Promote forms of individual or collective access to land for food production exclusively for the use of women.
9. Provide institutional credit for the rental or purchase of land by local women's organizations as a base for collective income-generating activities in agriculture.
10. Incorporate consideration for access to water for domestic use in plans for improving water supplies for agricultural purposes.
11. Incorporate consideration for access to fuel for domestic use in plans for reforestation and woodland conservation.
12. Create awareness of the linkages between population/demographic factors and land management, and production potential, as well as conservation of scarce resources and environmental protection.

---

\* quoted verbatim from the "WCARRD Programme of Action", Item IV "Integration of Women in Rural Development", (pp. 10-11).

### Wage Employment Opportunities

13. Investigate women's current and potential employment opportunities in forestry, as planners and managers of forest development and in silviculture, including processing and marketing of forest products.
14. Investigate women's current and potential employment opportunities in fisheries, including small-scale coastal fishing, fish farming-cum-crop and livestock production, fish handling, processing and marketing.
15. Promote farming systems with a high capacity for absorption of female wage labour, especially where a large landless population exists: create opportunities for the expansion of skilled, remunerative and, where feasible, year-round rather than seasonal employment for women.
16. Adopt measures to avoid transferring traditional female jobs to men through the introduction of labour-saving technology or the re-organization of production structures.

### Increased Participation in Agricultural Production

17. Promote measures for increasing women's labour contribution to agricultural production by reducing the workload in traditional household and farming systems so as to allocate time to more productive tasks.
18. Promote self-employment in individual and group forms of agricultural production, including horticulture and poultry, to supplement family diets and to provide a source of income exclusively under women's control.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

19. Analyze employment effects of agrarian reform and rural development programmes under various types of land tenure and farming systems; identify their possible effects on women under different situations of population growth.

20. Survey present and projected human resources by sex in rural areas; outline systems of employment promotion through agricultural and non-farm rural activities with particular attention to the needs of women.
21. Measure women's labour contribution to production in cooperatives, collective farms and state farms according to the number of hours and days worked, the type of tasks performed and level of skills required.

C. PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

People's participation is both an objective in itself and a means of attaining objectives. As an objective it implies a redistribution of power to the rural masses by creating self-sufficient, democratic people's organizations. Women were singled out by WCARRD as an important sub group of the rural poor whose organization should be encouraged.

In the light of WCARRD policy, rural women's organizations will have to take an increasing role in project identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring. The Conference emphasized the need to integrate women in decision-making at all levels of planning and formulation of rural development activities, as well as their inclusion in government delegations to international conferences. The Conference pointed out that in order for women to assume this responsibility, leadership training is needed at village, district and national levels. Women's organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGO's) should also receive increasing attention as a means for channelling resources and services to support rural development activities.

National action might include the following:

Women's Organizations

1. Promote collective action and organization by rural women to facilitate their participation in the full range of public services and to enhance their opportunities to participate in economic, political and social activities on an equal footing with men.\*
2. Strengthen women's organizations, including traditional groupings, to promote problem solving on a self help basis.
3. Encourage female agricultural workers to organize into unions and other rural people's organizations, so as to increase their control over wages, working conditions and other aspects of the productive process.
4. Promote women's collective action in the establishment and control of infrastructures and services which lighten their domestic work load, including improved domestic water and fuel supply, equipment for milling food grains and child care facilities.

Leadership and Decision-Making

5. Prepare women for an increasing practical role in project identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring.
6. Prepare rural women leaders for decision-making roles in non-governmental organizations, peasant associations and cooperatives.
7. Guarantee full membership and equal voting rights for women in rural people's organizations such as tenants associations, labour unions, cooperatives, credit unions and organizations of the beneficiaries of land reform and other rural development programmes.

---

\* Quoted verbatim from the "WCARRD Programme of Action", Item IV "Integration of Women in Rural Development", (pp.10-11)

### Monitoring and Evaluation

8. Establish systems, with the involvement of women's organizations, to identify and evaluate obstacles to women's participation and to monitor progress and coordinate action, especially with regard to agricultural services, educational services and school enrolment, health and other social services and employment and wages.\*
9. Promote research and exchange of information and establish and strengthen programmes to facilitate and ease the burden of women's household work, such as day care centres, in order to permit their greater participation in economic, education and political activities. Also promote understanding of men's responsibilities to share household duties.\*

### D. ACCESS TO INPUTS, MARKETS AND SERVICES - IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN

Women's access to inputs - including seeds, fertilizers, tools and credit, markets and supporting services - must go hand in hand with women's access to land. Rural development agencies need to channel these inputs and services to women as well as men who have responsibilities for carrying out various production tasks. There is also a need to restore women's control over the phases of production in which their work contribution is greatest, such as food processing and the prevention of post-harvest food losses. Women's groups can serve as a receiving mechanism for inputs and services required for their involvement in collective income-generating and other similar activities.

Women's important role in marketing requires increased access to credit, transport and storage facilities. Other rural infrastructures including water and fuel supply, electrification, sanitation and child care facilities, have important implications for women's household, familial

---

\* Quoted verbatim from the "NCARRD Programme of Action", Item IV "Integration of Women in Rural Development", (pp. 10-11).



and reproductive tasks. Special attention needs to be given to the introduction of technologies and services which can help reduce the burden of women's household and family responsibilities.

National action might include the following :

Inputs

1. Provide agricultural inputs and social and economic services to women through non-discriminatory access to existing delivery systems.\*
2. Channel inputs and supporting services for women's collective income-generating activities directly through women's organizations, where feasible.
3. Promote types of technological innovation which reduce women's drudgery without reducing their employment opportunities or control over production.
4. Promote the introduction of simple technologies which increase the productivity of women's domestic work while lightening their work load; develop village technology centres and train women in the installation and maintenance of simple technologies such as water pumps, taps, cooking and lighting equipment, small machines.
5. Facilitate women's access to suitable technologies for the prevention of post-harvest food losses.

Credit

6. Promote women's participation in agricultural credit and banking by providing practical programmes which would make institutional credit and savings facilities available to women's groups; influence policies of existing credit institutions to extend credit on favourable terms to rural women to meet the production and consumption needs of their families.

---

\* Quoted verbatim from the "WCARRD Programme of Action", Item IV "Integration of women in Rural Development", (pp. 10-11)

7. Design institutional credit schemes to facilitate access to credit without requiring title to land as collateral, so that wives of male migrants and female heads of households may participate.
8. Make loans available to rural women's groups for the introduction of simple technologies for increasing the productivity of women's labour in their domestic and family roles.

### Marketing

9. Strengthen women's role in marketing through increased access to credit and improved packaging, storage and transport facilities, especially where women are traditionally engaged in marketing of agricultural produce and handicrafts.
10. Promote collective marketing of women's agricultural and handicraft products, domestically and for export, through local women's cooperatives.
11. Promote the establishment of cooperative stores in rural areas, managed by local women's organizations, to improve women's access to consumer goods and the sale of local produce.

### Services

12. Provide a range of services to rural families through the establishment of rural family resource centres; including legal and financial advice, family planning education and services and demonstration of appropriate technologies.
13. Involve women in the organization of community services such as child care which benefit them by freeing their time for other uses.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

14. Monitor rural development programmes to ensure women's non-discriminatory access to inputs and social and economic services as well as their participation on an equal basis with men in credit unions and cooperatives.

15. Analyze the impact of technologies on women's work load and employment opportunities according to their social and economic position within rural society.

E. DEVELOPMENT OF NON-FARM RURAL ACTIVITIES - IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN

The development of non-farm employment activities for rural women has two important consequences: (i) supplementing the limited employment-generating capacity of agriculture and (ii) creating an independent source of cash income to help compensate for their lack of control over the disposal of family income which is concentrated in male hands. The range of activities available for rural women includes cottage and/or agro-based industry and services.

The advantage of promoting non-farm income generating activities for women is that little capital investment is required. The difficulty of creating wage employment opportunities for women is that even establishing small-scale industries requires a considerable outlay of scarce capital. Collective organization of women's income-generating activities permits easier distribution of the initial capital outlay required to begin production. It also reduces the risk of exploitation by middlemen.

National action might include the following:

Wage Employment Opportunities

1. Promote income-generating opportunities for women on an equal basis with men and guarantee equal wages for work of equal value.\*

---

\* Quoted verbatim from the "WCARRD Programme of Action", Item IV, "Integration of Women in Rural Development", (pp. 10-11).

2. Create year-round employment opportunities for women in small-scale agro-based industries, including food processing and preservation of locally-available products.
3. Promote employment of women in fisheries, including fish handling, processing, preservation, marketing, net making and aquaculture.
4. Promote employment of women in forestry and forest-based crafts and industries, including seedling nurseries, woodworking and basketry.
5. Promote women's employment in labour-intensive rural works programmes and in particular in developing infrastructures which benefit them and their families, including domestic water and fuel supplies, sanitary and child care facilities.

#### Collective Income-Generating Activities

6. Promote collective, income-generating activities for rural women in handicrafts based on locally-available materials and agricultural by-products.
7. Conduct feasibility and marketing studies in connection with the formulation of income generating projects for rural women to assure profitability.
8. Strengthen export market services for products made by rural women; establish a women's export corporation for local products supplied by rural cooperatives, women's groups and individuals.
9. Include training in small-business management, accounting and other entrepreneurial skills in support of income-generating activities for rural women.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

10. Analyze the social and economic implications of mechanization policies on rural women's work and employment opportunities.
11. Through participatory studies, encourage women employed in non-farm rural activities to exchange ideas on the effects of employment on family life,

use of resources in the household, reproduction and child care; also how non-farm rural activities affect the family and household and may require modification of existing practices.

F. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXTENSION -- IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL WOMEN

Equal access to formal and non formal education for rural children and adults is of fundamental importance for improving rural living conditions. Educational content should be made relevant to rural life and prepare males and females for their various roles. This means, for example, the inclusion of women in agricultural training in the light of their contribution to agricultural production, processing and storage. This means also that more emphasis needs to be given to training men as well as women in household resource management, consumer education, nutrition, health, sanitation and family life/population education.

Among the obstacles to equal educational opportunities for rural children are the lack of schools and qualified teachers, and their high cost in remote rural areas. No less important is the failure of rural children, and especially girls, to attend school because of their family's need for their labour and the additional income it brings. This implies a need to find ways to reduce the burden of girls' responsibilities, that interferes with their schooling.

The WCARRD policy of growth with equity implies that increased access to educational opportunities is in itself insufficient and that measures must be taken to ensure that even the poorest of rural families is able to take advantage of the educational opportunities provided for them.

Government action might include the following:

Access to Education and Training

1. Ensure educational opportunities of similar quality and content for both sexes and provide special incentives such as reduced fees for increased enrolment of girls and women in schools and training programmes.\*
2. Promote women's access to formal and non-formal education and training in literacy, general education, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and the non-traditional activities related to rural development.
3. Establish and strengthen non-formal educational opportunities for rural women, including leadership training, instruction in agricultural as well as non-farm activities, health care, upbringing of children, family planning and nutrition.\*
4. Establish special recruitment and training schemes to increase the number of women in the training and extension programmes of development agencies at all levels, including professional fields from which women have been traditionally excluded.\*
5. Promote increased participation of girls in formal and non-formal education and training by providing infrastructures, such as improved fuel and water supply, and child care services, which reduce the interference of their household responsibilities with their education.

Training for Rural Development

6. Broaden the range of agricultural training and extension programmes to support women's role in activities of agricultural production, processing, preservation and marketing.\*
7. Prepare men and women for their many roles in life through training in household resource management, home improvement, health and sanitation,

---

\* Quoted verbatim from the "WCARRD Programme of Action", Sub-item IV, "Integration of Women in Rural Development".(pp.10-11)

- nutrition, consumer education and family life/population education.
8. Provide training for the whole family in rural home technologies, including: effective utilization of domestic fuel for cooking, light and heat; the processing of food grains; the prevention of post-harvest food losses and improvement of domestic water supply.
  9. Provide training for women in woodland communities both as contributors to forestry improvements and as consumers of forest products, including planting firewood.
  10. Train rural women along with all members of the household in a combination of small-scale coastal fishing and fish-farming-cum-crop and live-stock production; giving special attention to training women in the processing and marketing of fish products.
  11. Integrate training in health with all aspects of family welfare, such as nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, household safety, family planning and improved child care.
  12. Integrate population concepts within the context of rural life as a whole, so as to increase rural families' understanding of the need to balance the size of their families in accord with their resources and the overall well-being of all family members; sensitize rural families to the implications of child-spacing and family size for mother and child health.

#### Training for Income-Generating Activities

13. Promote training in skills for women's income-generating activities at the village level.
14. Motivate women's participation in training programmes for income-generating activities by providing remunerative outlets for employment of the skills acquired.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

15. Monitor and evaluate, within the context of a national system, girls' and women's enrolment in formal and non-formal education and training; give special attention to enrolment of females from the rural poor; ensure an adequate number of places are reserved for female students.
16. Design, test and establish training programmes to meet the special needs of women in disadvantaged groups, including women whose livelihood depends on wage employment or whose husband is absent or deceased.
17. Analyze the relationship between rural women's level of education and other variables including fertility and employment patterns.

## II. IMPLICATIONS OF WCARRD FOR FAO AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WITH REGARD TO RURAL WOMEN

The Resolution on the Follow-up of the WCARRD Conference calls upon FAO and other organizations of the UN System to extend assistance in their respective areas of competence to member governments for the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

The WCARRD Programme of Action has far-reaching implications for FAO assisted rural development activities in general and for rural women in particular. The most exacting task for FAO will be to assist countries, on request, to formulate strategies for the integration of women within the context of overall rural development planning. Such strategies will then have to be translated into viable programmes and projects.

Four main areas needing specific measures were recommended in the WCARRD Programme of Action for the attention of FAO and other organizations of the United Nations System:

- A. Monitoring and Evaluation;
- B. Analysis and Dissemination of Knowledge;
- C. Technical Assistance;
- D. Mobilizing Resources.



A. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Rural women tend to be economically invisible because national statistics tend to ignore their contribution to the national economy which takes the form of unpaid family labour and self-employment. There is an urgent need to expand knowledge and statistical data on all aspects of women's roles in rural activities. Once statistics are available, suitable social and economic indicators for measuring the integration of women in rural development need to be identified. These indicators are essential for the establishment of a system for monitoring and evaluating progress in the achievement of development goals.

FAO will collaborate with member governments, at their request, in the following activities:

1. Improving statistics for the quantification of rural women's economic contribution to national development in their multiple roles, including unpaid family labour;
2. Developing suitable social and economic indicators for measuring the integration of women in rural development;
3. Developing and applying a system to monitor and evaluate the impact of agricultural and rural development activities on women, to be used in reorienting programmes and projects;
4. Undertaking periodic country review of national policies, programmes and resources for the integration of women in rural development.

**B. ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE**

Drawing upon the results of country monitoring and evaluation, FAO will assist with the analysis and dissemination of information regarding the situation of rural women. It will collaborate with member governments in research, through national centres, on selected aspects of the integration of women in rural development. Some of these centres are affiliated with regional centres for rural development, such as the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Africa (CIRDAfrica).

FAO will collaborate with member governments, at their request, in the following activities:

1. Conducting studies and research on various aspects of the integration of women in rural development as a background for programming; analyzing the impact on rural women of changes in land distribution, technology, crops and production structures, drawing upon the findings of the country monitoring and evaluation system;
2. Facilitating the exchange and dissemination of information, research findings and experience regarding various aspects of women's integration in agriculture and rural development;
3. Encouraging collective self-reliance concerning the integration of women in rural development through Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation among Developing Economies (ECDE).

C. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The technical assistance component of FAO's follow-up action to WCARRD for the integration of women in rural development will reflect all main issues of the Programme of Action. Follow-up action may be in direct support of country, regional and global activities. Examples of each category of action follow:

1. Direct support to country action at government request

- planning a component for women in agrarian reform and rural development strategies within appropriate government departments, and in particular, the government unit responsible for the integration of women in development;
- developing institutional structures and programmes designed to involve women from disadvantaged groups, including small farmers, fishermen and forest holders, tenants, sharecroppers, landless workers, rural artisans, nomads and refugees;
- assisting in establishing a system of data collection, monitoring and evaluation for assessing the integration of women in rural development as part of a national system;
- incorporating a component on the integration of women in the activities of national centres for research and training in agrarian reform and rural development, in order to improve planning, coordination, administration and delivery of services;
- improving agricultural extension services for women along with men in the food production and consumption process, including training in agricultural production techniques and the prevention of post-harvest food losses; providing training for both men and women in household resource management, consumer education, health and sanitation, nutrition and family life population education.

- developing institutional credit and marketing facilities for rural women's needs as producers and consumers.

## 2. Regional support to country activities

FAO can provide indirect support to activities for the integration of women in rural development at national level by strengthening regional rural development institutions. Areas of FAO collaboration might include the following:

- integrating a component for rural women in regional rural development centres such as CIRDAF, CIRDAfrica and their counterparts in Latin America and the Near East;
- developing a component for rural women in regional centres and regional networks for marketing, credit and the prevention of post-harvest food losses;
- supporting study tours and group country activities for rural women within the framework of TCDC and ECDE.

## 3. Global support to country activities

FAO provides global support to national rural development activities, including inter-agency collaboration through the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and the World Agricultural Census. FAO also supports Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), many of whose activities benefit rural women. Global support to country activities might include the following:

- assisting countries in the collection of data on women's contribution to agricultural production as part of the World Agricultural Census;
- strengthening the component for women in the UN ACC Task Force on Rural Development;

- assisting NGO's in the formulation of activities for rural women, particularly in the areas of family life/population education, cooperative management and strengthening people's participation.

D. MOBILISING RESOURCES

FAO will continue to function as a catalytic agent for securing private and public investment for rural women's programmes. It can be expected to expand activities, in cooperation with multi-lateral and bilateral agencies, in the identification, formulation, implementation and monitoring of agrarian reform and rural development policies, programmes and projects that focus on or at least benefit rural women.



I. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES <sup>1/</sup>

## THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Having met from 12 to 20 July 1979 in Rome, Italy.
2. Recalling that the Conference was a continuation of a long and deep concern of the international community with agrarian and rural questions,
3. Recalling also previous United Nations conferences, particularly the World Food Conference of 1974, the VI and VII Special Sessions of the UN General Assembly and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States,
4. Recognizing that most development efforts have not yet succeeded in satisfying the aspirations of peoples and their basic requirements consistent with principles of human dignity and international social justice and solidarity, especially in the rural areas of developing countries,
5. Conscious that past development efforts and programmes have largely failed to reach and adequately to benefit the rural areas and have in many cases contributed to urban-rural imbalance in development, neglected the dynamism and diversity of authentic cultural values of the rural population and led to imbalances within the rural sector,
6. Aware of the need to adopt appropriate population policies within the context of socio-economic development, achieve ecological harmony and conserve finite resources,
7. Believing that poverty, hunger and malnutrition retard national development efforts and negatively affect world social and economic stability and that their eradication is the primary objective of world development,
8. Convinced that agrarian reform is a critical component of rural development and that the sustained improvement of rural areas, in the context of promotion of national self-reliance and the building of the New International Economic Order, requires fuller and more equitable access to land, water and other natural resources; widespread sharing of economic and political power; increasing and more productive employment; fuller use of human skills and energies; participation and integration of rural people into the production and distribution systems; increased production, productivity and food security for all groups, and mobilization of internal resources,
9. Reaffirming the UN General Assembly resolutions on world peace and disarmament and resolutions 3201 and 3202 of the VI Special Session relating to efforts "to put an end to all forms of foreign occupation, racial discrimination, apartheid, colonial, neo-colonial and alien domination and exploitation through the exercise of permanent sovereignty over all natural resources" and recognizing their bearing on agrarian reform and rural development,
10. Aware that, while the primary responsibility for agrarian reform and rural development rests with individual governments, a sustained and global programme will demand strong political commitment, active cooperation within the international community and commitment and effective use of financial technical and human resources, in a sound, systematic and coordinated manner,

<sup>1/</sup> Excerpts from WCARRD Report, 12-20 July, 1980, FAO, Rome, Italy (pp. 1-3).

11. Affirming that such cooperation must be based on resolute adherence to principles of independence, national sovereignty, self-determination of peoples and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States,
12. Recalling the relevant resolution of the UN General Assembly at its 33rd Session that the new international development strategy should provide a set of interrelated and concerted measures in all sectors of development in order to promote the economic and social development of the developing countries and to ensure their equitable, full and effective participation in the formulation and application of all decisions in the field of development and international economic cooperation,
13. Emphasizing that measures to strengthen international cooperation in agrarian reform and rural development are most effective when national strategies fully recognize the interdependence of industry and agriculture,
14. Recognizing that the UN system has a responsibility to formulate a new international development strategy and that the Food and Agriculture Organization, under the terms of its constitution, has an explicit obligation to elaborate those parts of this new strategy in regard to food, agriculture, nutrition and other areas of its competence, and should play a leading role in assisting developing countries to promote agrarian reform and rural development,
15. Hereby declares that a Programme of Action should be founded on the following guidelines and principles:
  - (i) that the fundamental purpose of development is individual and social betterment, development of endogenous capabilities and improvement of the living standards of all people, in particular the rural poor,
  - (ii) that the right of every State to exercise full and permanent sovereignty over its natural resources and economic activities and to adopt the necessary measures for the planning and management of its resources is of vital importance to rural development,
  - (iii) that the use of foreign investments for agricultural development of developing countries, in particular that of transnational corporations, must be in accordance with national needs and priorities,
  - (iv) that national progress based on growth with equity and participation requires a redistribution of economic and political power, fuller integration of rural areas into national development efforts, with expanded opportunities of employment and income for rural people, and development of farmers' associations, cooperatives and other forms of voluntary autonomous democratic organizations of primary producers and rural workers,
  - (v) that appropriate population policies and programmes can contribute to long-term social and economic progress,
  - (vi) that maximum efforts should be made to mobilize and use productively domestic resources for rural development,
  - (vii) that governments should introduce positive bias in favour of rural development and provide incentives for increased investment and production in rural areas,



- (viii) that equitable distribution and efficient use of land, water and other productive resources, with due regard for ecological balance and environmental protection, are indispensable for rural development, for the mobilization of human resources and for increased production for the alleviation of poverty,
- (ix) that diversification of rural economic activities, including integrated crop-livestock development, fisheries and aquaculture and integrated forestry development, is essential for broad-based rural development,
- (x) that location of industries in the rural areas, in both the public and private sectors and particularly agro-industries, provides necessary and mutually reinforcing links between agriculture and industrial development,
- (xi) that policies and programmes affecting agrarian and rural systems should be formulated and implemented with the full understanding and participation of all rural people, including youth, and of their own organizations at all levels, and that development efforts should be responsive to the varying need of different groups of rural poor,
- (xii) that understanding and awareness of the problems and opportunities of rural development among people at all levels and that improving the interaction between development personnel and the masses through an efficient communication system are prerequisites for the success of rural development strategy,
- (xiii) that constant vigilance should be kept to ensure that benefits of agrarian reform and rural development are not offset by the reassertion of past patterns of concentration of resources in private hands or by the emergence of new forms of inequity,
- (xiv) that women should participate and contribute on an equal basis with men in the social, economic and political processes of rural development and share fully in improved conditions of life in rural areas,
- (xv) that international cooperation should be strengthened and a new sense of urgency introduced to augment the flow of financial and technical resources for rural development,
- (xvi) that all governments should undertake new and more intensive efforts to ensure world food security and overcome inequities and instability in the trade of agricultural commodities of particular importance to developing countries, and
- (xvii) that developing countries, with the support of international development organizations, should strengthen their technical cooperation in rural development and foster policies of collective self-reliance.

16. In the light of these guidelines and principles, and with due regard to the circumstances of each nation, the Conference adopts and recommends that Governments, FAO and all other concerned organizations and bodies of the UN system implement the Programme of Action.



EXCERPTS FROM THE WCARRD PROGRAMME OF ACTION\*  
INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

"Recognition of the vital role of women in socio-economic life in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, in accordance with the goals of the United Nations' Decade for Women, is a prerequisite for successful rural development planning and programme implementation. Rural development based on growth with equity will require full integration of women, including equitable access to land, water, other natural resources, inputs and services and equal opportunity to develop and employ their skills. There is also an urgent need to expand knowledge and statistical data on all aspects of women's roles in rural activities and to disseminate this information in order to promote greater awareness of women's role in society.

Governments should consider action to:

A. Equality of Legal Status

- (i) Repeal those laws which discriminate against women in respect of rights of inheritance, ownership and control of property, and to promote understanding of the need for such measures.
- (ii) Promote ownership rights for women, including joint ownership and co-ownership of land in entirety, to give women producers with absentee husbands effective legal rights to take decisions on the land they manage.
- (iii) Adopt measures to ensure women equitable access to land, livestock and other productive assets.
- (iv) Repeal laws and regulations which inhibit effective participation by women in economic transactions and in the planning, implementation and evaluation of rural development programmes.
- (v) Ensure full membership and equal voting rights for women in people's organizations such as tenants' associations, labour unions, cooperatives, credit unions and organizations of the beneficiaries of land reform and other rural development programmes.

B. Women's Access to Rural Services

- (i) Provide agricultural inputs and social and economic services to women through non-discriminatory access to existing delivery systems.
- (ii) Establish special recruitment and training schemes to increase the number of women in the training and extension programmes of development agencies at all levels, including professional fields from which women have been traditionally excluded.
- (iii) Broaden the range of agricultural training and extension programmes to support women's roles in activities of agricultural production processing, preservation and marketing.

---

\* WCARRD's Report, Rome 12-20 July, 1979, pp. 10-11.

C. Women's Organization and Participation

- (i) Promote collective action and organization by rural women to facilitate their participation in the full range of public services and to enhance their opportunities to participate in economic, political and social activities on an equal footing with men.
- (ii) Establish systems, with the involvement of women's organizations, to identify and evaluate obstacles to women's participation and to monitor progress and coordinate action, especially with regard to agricultural services, educational services and school enrolment, health and other social services and employment and wages.
- (iii) Revise procedures for the collection and presentation of statistical data for the identification, recognition and appreciation of the participation of women in productive activities.
- (iv) Promote research and exchange of information and establish and strengthen programmes to facilitate and ease the burden of women's household work, such as day care centres, in order to permit their greater participation in economic, educational and political activities. Also promote understanding of men's responsibilities to share household duties.

D. Educational and Employment Opportunities

- (i) Ensure educational opportunities of similar quality and content for both sexes and provide special incentives such as reduced fees for increased enrolment of girls and women in schools and training programmes.
- (ii) Promote income-generating opportunities for women and guarantee equal wage rates for men and women for work of equal value.
- (iii) Establish and strengthen non-formal educational opportunities for rural women, including leadership training, instruction in agricultural as well as non-farm activities, health care, upbringing of children, family planning and nutrition.
- (iv) Evaluate and take steps to minimize the possible negative effects on women's employment and income arising from changes in traditional economic patterns and the introduction of new technology".