

Special Session  
of the third global meeting of  
The Farmers' Forum  
in conjunction with  
the Thirty-third Session of IFAD's Governing Council

# Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations



IFAD Headquarters, Rome  
12-13 February 2010

Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



## Farmers' Forum Consensus 2005\*

### The Farmers' Forum is:

- an ongoing, bottom-up, process – not a periodic event – spanning IFAD-supported operations on the ground and policy dialogue;
- a tripartite process involving farmers' organizations, governments and IFAD;
- a space for consultation and dialogue focused on rural poverty reduction;
- an instrument for accountability of development effectiveness, in particular in the area of empowerment of rural poor people and their organizations; and
- an interface between pro-poor rural development interventions and the process of enhancing the capacity of farmers' and rural producers' organizations (including organizations of artisanal fishers, pastoralists, landless workers and indigenous peoples).

### The Farmers' Forum is:

- guided by the principles of inclusiveness, pluralism, openness and flexibility;
- built on existing fora where possible, avoiding duplication in these cases; and
- respecting existing organizations and creating new spaces where needed.

### Conditions

- The forum process starts with national-level consultations that feed into regional or subregional meetings. The latter shape the content of, and participation at, the farmers' forum at the IFAD Governing Council.
- The forum process should feed into IFAD's governing bodies.
- The forum's success depends on IFAD's capacity to enhance country-level consultation with farmers' organizations and contribute to their capacity-building needs.
- Participants recommend, in particular, institutionalizing engagement with farmers' organizations in key IFAD operational processes (projects, and country and regional strategies).

(\*) from the Concluding Statement of the 2005 Workshop

## The Farmers' Forum Steering Committee Members

- International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
- La Via Campesina (LVC)
- Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
- Coordination of Family Farms of MERCOSUR (COPROFAM)
- Réseaux des Organisations Paysannes et Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA)
- World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers (WFF)
- World Forum for Fisher Peoples (WFFP)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Special Session of the third global meeting of  
The Farmers' Forum  
in conjunction with the Thirty-third Session  
of IFAD's Governing Council**

# **Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations**

IFAD Headquarters, Rome  
12-13 February 2010

# Table of contents

<b>Foreword</b>	5
<b>Executive summary</b>	7
<b>Introduction</b>	13
Why the subject is important	13
Deliberations of the Farmers' Forum 2008	13
Goal and objectives of the Special Session of the 2010 Farmers' Forum: Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations	14
Organization of the Session	14
<b>Introductory remarks</b>	17
<b>Plenary discussion</b>	21
<b>Working group meetings (morning)</b>	25
Asia and the Pacific	26
Africa (Anglophone)	26
Africa (Francophone)	28
Latin America and the Caribbean	29
<b>Working group meetings (afternoon)</b>	33
Asia and the Pacific	33
Africa (Anglophone)	34
Africa (Francophone)	34
Latin America and the Caribbean	35
<b>Statement of the Special Session and concluding remarks</b>	37
<b>Appendix 1: List of participants</b>	41

# Acronyms

COCOCH	Consejo Coordinador de Organizaciones Campesinas de Honduras
COPROFAM	Coordinadora de productores familiares del MERCOSUR
COSOP	Country Strategic Opportunities Programme
CSO	Civil society organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FO	Farmers' organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PROPAC	Subregional Platform of Farmers' Organizations in Central Africa
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association
SFOAP	Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme
USMEFAN	United Small and Medium Scale Farmers' Associations of Nigeria
WOCAN	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management





IFAD/G.M.B.Akash

# Foreword

In most developing countries, women undertake a large part of the agricultural work. Yet women's role in agriculture remains largely unrecognized. Their voices and concerns as farmers are scarcely heard at the national and global levels. One reason is that there are not enough women in leadership positions in rural producer organizations. As one moves from the grassroots to national levels, the trend becomes even more pronounced. The result is a disproportionate mismatch between rural women's voices and decision-making roles and their enormous contribution to agricultural marketing, production and rural livelihoods.

For these reasons the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD in 2008 recommended that a special session be held on women's leadership in its 2010 meeting. An important outcome of this decision was the increased attendance by women from producer organizations – they were nearly 40 per cent of the total number of participants (against 10 per cent in the first global meeting in 2006). The final statement of Farmers' Forum urged that this level of participation by women be maintained, and even raised to 50 per cent in future meetings.

The Special Session of the 2010 Farmers' Forum, Promoting Women's Leadership in Farmers' Organizations and Rural Producers' Organizations, was convened on 12 and 13 February. The session was co-organized by IFAD and the non-governmental organization Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources (WOCAN). We gratefully acknowledge cofinancing from the Government of Norway, as well as the active solidarity expressed by the many women IFAD Executive Board Directors who met with the women farmer leaders during the Special Session.

In plenary session and working groups, over 60 participants – including 35 women farmer representatives, members of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee, observers from NGOs and FAO, and many IFAD staff – had a rich discussion that generated important recommendations. IFAD will follow up on those recommendations not only as a matter of equity, given women's enormous contribution to agriculture, but also because a stronger women's voice and leadership in agriculture are essential to making smallholder agriculture more productive and sustainable.

Rodney D. Cooke  
Director, Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
Programme Management Department, IFAD



IFAD/G.M.B. Akash



# Executive summary

The Special Session on Promoting Women's Leadership in Farmers' and Rural Producers' Organizations was held on 12 and 13 February 2010, prior to the meeting of the Farmers' Forum and IFAD's Governing Council. It was attended by over 60 participants, including 35 women farmer representatives attending the Farmers' Forum 2010, members of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee, observers from NGOs and FAO, and IFAD staff. Ten women of the IFAD Executive Board attended the informal dinner held on 12 February.

In plenary sessions and four regional working groups (Africa-Francophone, Africa-Anglophone, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific), participants discussed ways to increase the economic returns of farming for women, improve training and information transmission to women farmers, apply quota systems for women, finance women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations, and build networks and partnerships between farmer's organizations and IFAD. The final declaration of the Special Session (see page 38) was included in the Synthesis of Deliberations of the third Farmers' Forum, which was read during the thirty-third session of IFAD's Governing Council.

What follows are highlights of the main issues that emerged during the Special Session. The full report can be found on pages 13 to 39.

## **Economic empowerment and access to assets**

The economic empowerment of women was identified by all working groups as the essential condition to advance the voice and leadership of women in farmers' organizations. Participants urged IFAD and other donor institutions to direct more financial resources than ever before toward women farmers, since their economic independence and empowerment are linked to many issues, particularly issues of access to: land and water, production resources, credit, alternative energy sources, technology, information and markets. Policy makers, businesspeople and farmers alike must look for new entry points for women along the value chain, in order to create and sustain new economic opportunities for women farmers.

Participants agreed that the main question facing this generation of policy makers and leaders is, "How can we make farming more profitable and sustainable for future generations of farmers?" Major issues discussed that particularly affect women farmers were land ownership, shrinking natural resources and their deteriorating quality – especially in areas most affected by climate change. To stem such trends, pro-women and pro-youth agricultural policies must be developed to support the entrepreneurial vision of women and young farmers. To develop this, they need to gain self-confidence, which comes from having access to productive assets, and to knowledge and skills. They also need the support of men.

## Capacity building and training

Capacity building was critical to all facets of the discussion to promote greater leadership of women within farmers' and rural producers' organizations. Participants stressed that IFAD and other donors should see organizational development and capacity-building endeavours as the glue that holds together efforts to promote women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations.

Various types of capacity building were identified as being needed. Women need access to the latest technological information regarding agriculture, production and coping with climate change, as well as information technologies to access this information. They need to acquire entrepreneurial and marketing skills; confidence-building; leadership skills; and the ability to negotiate and discuss with authorities and negotiation. They also need to understand the policy issues that affect them as farmers. More specifically:

- Training should be targeted and decentralized so that women can be empowered to carry out their own training.
- Capacity building should include exchange visits, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, and visits to research intuitions and high schools.
- Organizations must be flexible and take into account women's time constraints, especially those of mothers of small children, and in general the household dynamics that affect their participation dynamics.
- Day care facilities must be created to enable women to participate in training, and thus to fulfil their roles as professionals, take on greater leadership roles within their organizations, and focus more on creating profit from their work. Their cost should be incorporated into the training activities that may be funded by donors.

## Quotas for women's participation

Despite difficulties in implementation, applying and maintaining quotas for women's participation was named as a primary action for IFAD and farmer's organizations. Indeed, empowering women – they said – starts with requiring quotas for their participation in order to increase their visibility. Quotas help to establish the necessary critical mass of women as members and leaders to bring about change in policy and institutional culture.

Participants shared stories from their respective organizations where quotas (ranging from 30 to even 50 per cent) successfully increased women's participation. Nevertheless, all agreed that quotas are a necessary but not sufficient condition for women to exercise leadership in farmers' organizations. Even in organizations that have a quota system, the concerns of women farmers may not be voiced strongly enough. In these cases it may be necessary to establish women-only committees as a space for women to gain confidence and a platform from which to negotiate with the rest of the organization and external partners and institutions. Tools, charters and by-laws were cited as central to the success of quota systems, as well as monitoring their application. All of the other topics discussed during the Special Session, primarily



Kati Partanen, IFAP Young Farmers' Committee, Finland and Karen Serres, Fédération Nationale des syndicats d'exploitants agricoles (FNSEA), Commission Nationale des Agricultrices (IFAP), France

economic empowerment and capacity building, were identified as essential complements to any quota system.

### **Culture and institutional change**

To increase women's participation, organizations often need to reach out better to women farmers, who are doubly burdened with farm work and family duties.

The culture and modus operandi of organizations, which tend to reflect male cultural norms, need to change. Gender differences affect the way the performance of leaders is evaluated, with men often giving more importance to political considerations and women to social. They can affect an organization's priorities: for example, men may give more importance to marketing when women would place more emphasis on food self-sufficiency. On the other

hand, not all women further the interests of women, and selection of leaders should also be an area of awareness and capacity building for members of farmers' organizations to better take into account specific gender issues. Men must understand and support the importance of joint participation and of a new, more inclusive leadership system. Greater commitment to and understanding of gender equality is needed by all who work in the field, from extension workers to community development agents.



Julia Flores Calderón, Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios y Artesanales Cumbre de llave, Peru and Raquel Copa de Justo, Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios Ecológicos, Peru

### **Networks, fora and other structures**

Establishing supportive networks for women and men serves as reinforcement for all efforts made to promote women's leadership in farmers' organizations around the world. Not only do they strengthen capacity development and improve training services, but networks also provide a forum for launching new platforms for women to convene and organize. Ultimately, networks help ensure that efforts to promote women's leadership in farmers' organizations are sustainable. Farmers' organizations also need to work with organizations in urban areas and create alliances with public and private municipal institutions.

Platforms for consultation and policy dialogue with farmers' organizations should be institutionalized, and women's representation ensured. Participation in such consultations by representatives of grass-roots farmers' organization does carry a cost, and farmers' organizations should be supported to meet some of the administrative expenses.

Women-only fora (such as women-only organizations or women's structures within mixed organizations) should be created where women can meet, deliberate and discuss, since in many contexts it is easier for women to talk when they are among themselves.

The importance of providing assistance to the legalization of organizations was also highlighted, since women's groups are often informal.

### **Media messages**

Also highlighted was the need for more positive media messages and portrayals of women. In particular, participants mentioned a need for the professionalization of the image of the female farmer, including the young woman farmer.

## Financing

Participants stressed that funding should go directly to women's organizations or women's structures within farmers' organizations. In this regard, they made specific recommendations in this sense to IFAD.

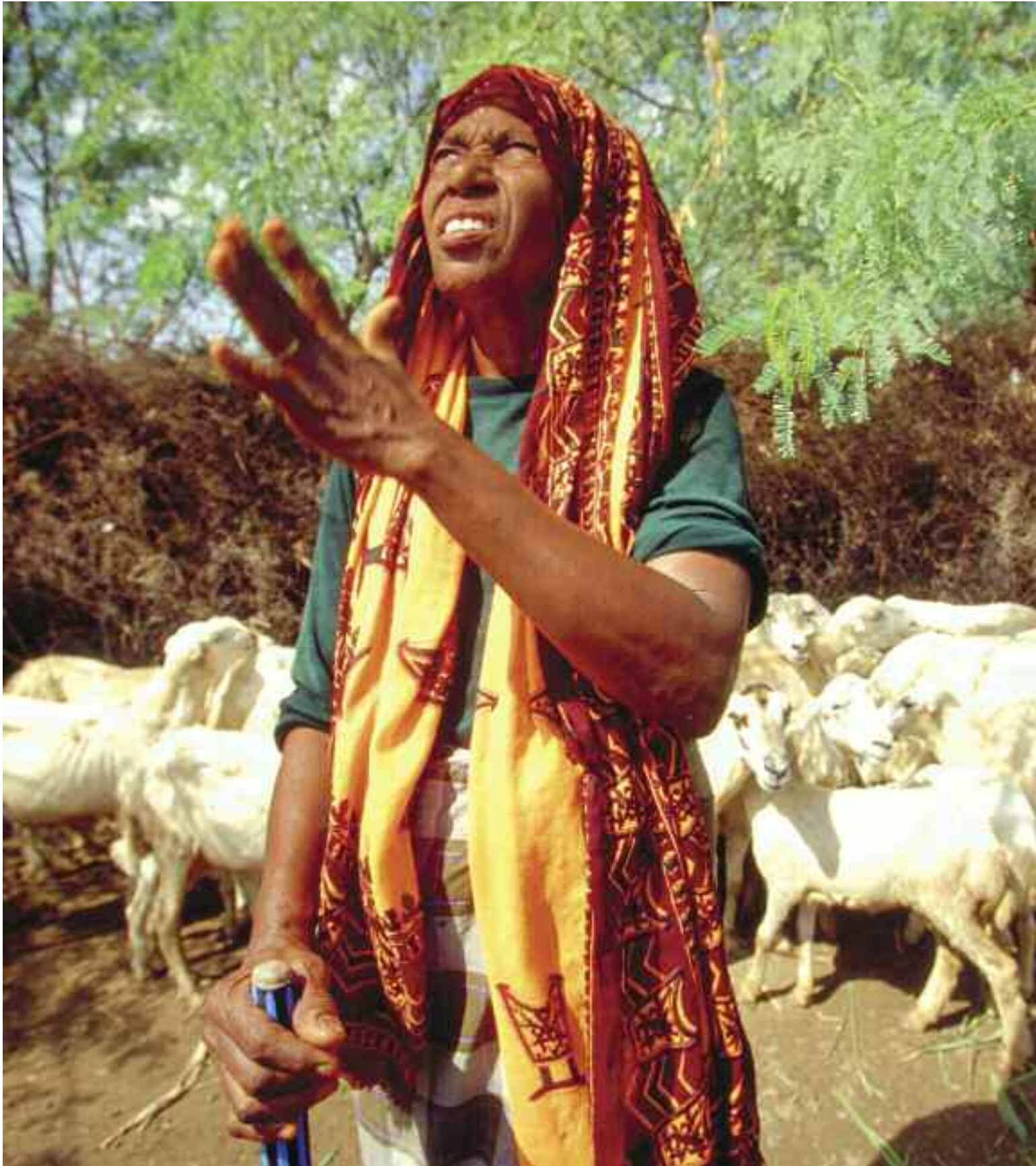
## Conclusion

In the final declaration (see page 38), participants called for IFAD to maintain the minimum quota of 30 per cent women's participation in the Farmers' Forum (and in its operations in support of farmers' organizations), with an eventual goal of 50 per cent. They urged IFAD and other donors to increase efforts and funding in support of women's economic empowerment; give special support to and reward those organizations that promote gender equality and gender-sensitive production models; fund projects launched and headed by women; ensure participation of both women and men in project design and implementation; invest in capacity building; apply and monitor quotas; earmark funding for women and women's structures even within mixed organizations; and make adherence to quotas a condition for funding. Donors should also support women to commission research on the crops and technologies that interest them, bridging the gap between farmers' organizations and academic and research institutions. Finally, they recommended that young women farmers be named as a priority discussion topic for the Special Session of the Farmers' Forum in 2012.



Claude Girod, International Commission, La Via Campesina, France; Kourotoumou Gariko, Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF), Burkina Faso; Seynabou Ndoye, Fédération Nationale des GIE de Pêche du Sénégal, Senegal; Elisabeth Atangana, Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Cameroon





IFAD/Gerd Ludwig



# Introduction

## **Why the subject is important**

In most developing countries, women perform a large part of the agricultural work and produce the bulk of the world's food crops. The productivity of women farmers is constrained by the same factors that affect small agricultural producers in general, which are in turn compounded by gender-specific factors. These include lack of time and limited mobility due to multiple domestic and productive responsibilities, women's more limited access to assets and services (including extension), illiteracy, low participation and limited decision-making in producers' organizations, and socio-cultural factors affecting their mobility and participation in public decision-making. On the other hand, women have a unique base of experience and knowledge that can be used to increase the productivity of smallholder agriculture in the broadest sense. Without a significant investment in improving the livelihoods, assets and decision-making power of rural women, the Millennium Development Goals of reduced poverty and food insecurity are unlikely to be achieved.

Women's role in agriculture remains largely unrecognized in policy and resource allocation. The voices and concerns of rural women are little heard at the national and global levels. This is largely the result of their weak presence in leadership positions in rural organizations and, in some cases, the limited ability of the few women leaders at the national level to effectively represent the interests of women working at the grass roots. Women's groups tend to remain confined to the local level. In mixed organizations, while women may be well-represented as members, few occupy leadership positions and, as one moves from local to regional and national levels, the trend becomes even more pronounced.

## **Deliberations of the Farmers' Forum 2008**

The statement made at the 2008 Farmers' Forum at IFAD's Governing Council emphasized the importance of strengthening women's roles in producers' organizations, and proposed a minimum participation quota of 30 per cent for women in farmers' organizations (FOs). After the conclusion of the Farmers' Forum, representatives of farmers' and rural producers' organizations, IFAD staff, members of IFAD's Thematic Group on Gender, and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) met during IFAD's Governing Council. Their discussions focused on how to promote greater attention to and investment in women producers, as an essential strategy to reduce poverty and food insecurity, and how to strengthen women's leadership in FOs at all levels. Following the meeting, it was decided that a special session would be held on promoting women's leadership prior to the Farmers' Forum of 2010.

### **Extract from the deliberations of the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, 2008**

(...) Support the involvement of women in agriculture and rural development. We the participants of the Farmers' Forum want to stress the importance of the presence and role of women in terms of both numbers and contributions.

Women farmers are rarely recognized as producers in their own distinct economic and social right. They often face difficulties in getting access to training, credit and natural resources, especially land and water.

Moreover, women farmers are underrepresented at all levels of farmers' organizations and, thus, they cannot voice their own specific needs. As a result, women farmers are even more impoverished than their male counterparts.

Therefore, we ask IFAD to support farmers' organizations to engage their women members in the management and decision-making processes of their organizations, with a minimum quota in leadership positions of 30 per cent. We also ask IFAD to apply a significant quota of women farmers (at least 30 per cent) in all IFAD programmes, events and initiatives.

We also recommend that, in the context of the next global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, a preparatory meeting be organized with a group especially set up to focus on the specific issues of women, which will then be brought to the Forum. (...)

### **Goal and objectives of the Special Session of the 2010 Farmers' Forum: Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations**

The primary goal was to identify how IFAD can work with FOs to support women's leadership in such organizations, from the grass-roots level upwards, and, in general, to amplify the voice of women farmers at the policy table.

In the context of the key challenges confronting women in agriculture, the Session aimed to:

- identify the main obstacles that women face as members of mixed organizations and the difficulties that prevent them from assuming more influential and leadership roles;
- discuss how IFAD and FOs can work together to promote the role and leadership of women in rural organizations, from the grass roots upwards;
- strengthen networking and solidarity among women participants in the Farmers' Forum.

Two outputs were expected:

- Final recommendations for actions to be submitted to the Farmers' Forum and IFAD for inclusion in the outcome document;
- Proposal for future activities in the context of IFAD/FOs collaboration.

### **Organization of the Session**

The women's leadership workshop was convened on 12 and 13 February 2010. An informal introductory session held on 12 February enabled participants to become acquainted with each other and the organizers to present the work plan for the following day. It was followed by a dinner attended by members of IFAD's Executive Board. The workshop itself was attended by 67 participants from 27 developing

countries in four continents, and included also OECD countries' representatives. They represented the main regional, subregional and national Farmers' and Rural Producers' Organizations, International Federations and Networks (the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, La Via Campesina), selected NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in the rural sector. It focused on concrete actions to be taken in order to fulfil the objectives stated above. It was a mix of plenary discussion and small working group discussions.



Martine Van Dooren, Belgium and Eve Crowley, FAO



IFAD/Mwanzo Millinga

## Introductory remarks

The Special Session was opened by Annina Lubbock, Senior Technical Advisor at IFAD, who warmly welcomed the more than 60 participants from all over the world.

Jean-Philippe Audinet, Coordinator of the Farmer's Forum at IFAD, then gave a brief history of the Farmers' Forum, and the context in which the Special Session was being held. He emphasized that the Farmers' Forum is not only a meeting that is held every two years, but an ongoing process of consultation with a special focus on the poorest rural dwellers, women, indigenous and hundreds of millions of people who face difficulty in gaining access to fundamental assets to improve their lives and livelihoods. He also highlighted the importance the Farmers' Forum places on building partnerships between a UN international financial institution, which is focused on improving the lives of the members of the participating farmers' organizations, in collaboration with its member governments. He concluded by stating that farmers' organizations are ultimately responsible for promoting women's leadership in their organizations. However, IFAD can help, especially since it recognizes the critical role women play in agriculture and agricultural development. He hoped that the session would bring recommendations and concrete and practical ideas that could be realized together, to achieve the objective of having more gender equality in farmers' organizations and for IFAD to develop more effective instruments to promote gender equality in its rural and agricultural development support.

Estrella Penunia, Secretary-General, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, then gave some background on the reason why this Special Session for women was being held. A summary of her remarks follows.

**“If we are to reduce hunger and poverty in this world, we have to recognize that women farmers have the potential and the solution to bring their families out of poverty; thus women farmers should be at the forefront of agriculture.”**

Estrella Penunia, Secretary-General,  
Asian Farmers' Association for  
Sustainable Rural Development



**“We will not remain victims. We are key solutions providers.”**

Estrella Penunia Banzuela, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Philippines and Jean Philippe Audinet, IFAD



### From Estrella Penunia's opening remarks

How to have more women leaders in farmers' organizations and how to unleash, through women's leadership, the various potentials of women farmers to end hunger and poverty is the main theme of this workshop.

**Firstly, we are farmers too and we produce most of the world's food which is consumed locally...** In fact, in many developing countries, as much as 50-90 per cent of the work in the farms is done by women...**We ensure food and water security at the household level.** Women farmers produce most of the foods consumed locally, as much as 80 per cent of basic food production. This is because we have to make sure our families are going to eat. Before we sleep, we think of what our family will eat the following day, and where we will get the money to buy the food or what plant will we harvest. It is our burden, our task, to perform "some magic" whenever our crops fail, whenever the money is not enough. It is also our burden to fetch water, sometimes from far distances, for cleaning and drinking purposes. In times of failure due to effects of climate change, we are the hardest hit. **We are very much involved in the marketing of our crops.** We are the ones who go to the market to sell the fish, vegetables and fruits...**We are the primary caregivers.** When a family member gets sick, it is us who will drop our other works to pay attention to the sick. **We are the first teachers of our children.** In most families, also in a farming family, it is the woman who mainly helps the children in their schoolwork, who attends the school meetings, and who imparts family values and traditions.

**Secondly, while we perform so many roles as farmers, wives, mothers, our work is often undervalued, many times unpaid, some even unrecognized because of persisting stereotypes about the roles of men and women...**

**Thirdly, the inadequate recognition about women's contribution to agriculture had led to inequalities between men and women farmers in terms of decision-making, and access to productive resources, services, facilities.** In many developing countries, we still cannot own a very basic asset: land.

We have poor access to marketing information and marketing facilities. Agricultural extension work and technology development are not appropriate for us. Credit facilities are not friendly to us. What is the face of poverty? It is the landless woman belonging to an indigenous peoples' tribe...

Because of their different roles, women and men have different priorities, preferences and knowledge which must be taken into account. There is by now a mass of rigour research that has demonstrated the gains that can be achieved in terms of productivity and incomes, by investing more in women...

The voices and concerns of rural women are little heard at the national and global levels. Women farmers are usually under-represented at all levels of farmers' organizations and, thus, they cannot fully voice out their own specific needs. In many farmers' meetings, there are more women cooking for the farmer participants than women participating in the discussions...**We consider that effective, representative and inclusive producer organizations can be a critical instrument to increase the influence of poor rural women and men on the decisions which affect their lives and livelihoods and on the flow of resources.** Producer organizations can play an enormously important role in giving voice to women farmers, in bringing the issues confronting them to the policy table, and in providing services and support to them...

Gathered around in this room are women leaders from across the globe. We have in our midst women leaders of farmers', fishers', pastoralists' and indigenous peoples' organizations. We know the many obstacles you had to hurdle to be in the position you

are in right now. We are eager to hear your stories of success, your lessons from mistakes, and your ideas that keep you inspired and active... Let this be the occasion to do that. Let this also be the occasion to raise our voices, in unity, to what we think are the solutions to help women farmers unleash our potentials for reducing poverty in our households. Let this be an occasion to also tell our governments that this is a beginning of an engagement by women farmers and their organizations towards making them at the forefront of agriculture development.

We will not remain victims. We are key solution providers.



**Annina Lubbock** explained that IFAD hoped to have very concrete workable proposals on how to engage with farmers' organizations in order to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The focus should be on the solutions and not on the problems. She then proposed a sequence of questions to guide the discussions.

- How can farmers' organizations better represent the issues that are a priority for women in agriculture?
- How do we promote culture change within these organizations, fighting the stereotypes that may prevail?
- How do we bridge the gap that sometimes exists between leaders at the national level and women at the grass roots?
- How can we promote women's leadership within farmers' organizations?
- What kind of external support is most effective and how can this support be provided?

Annina Lubbock, IFAD

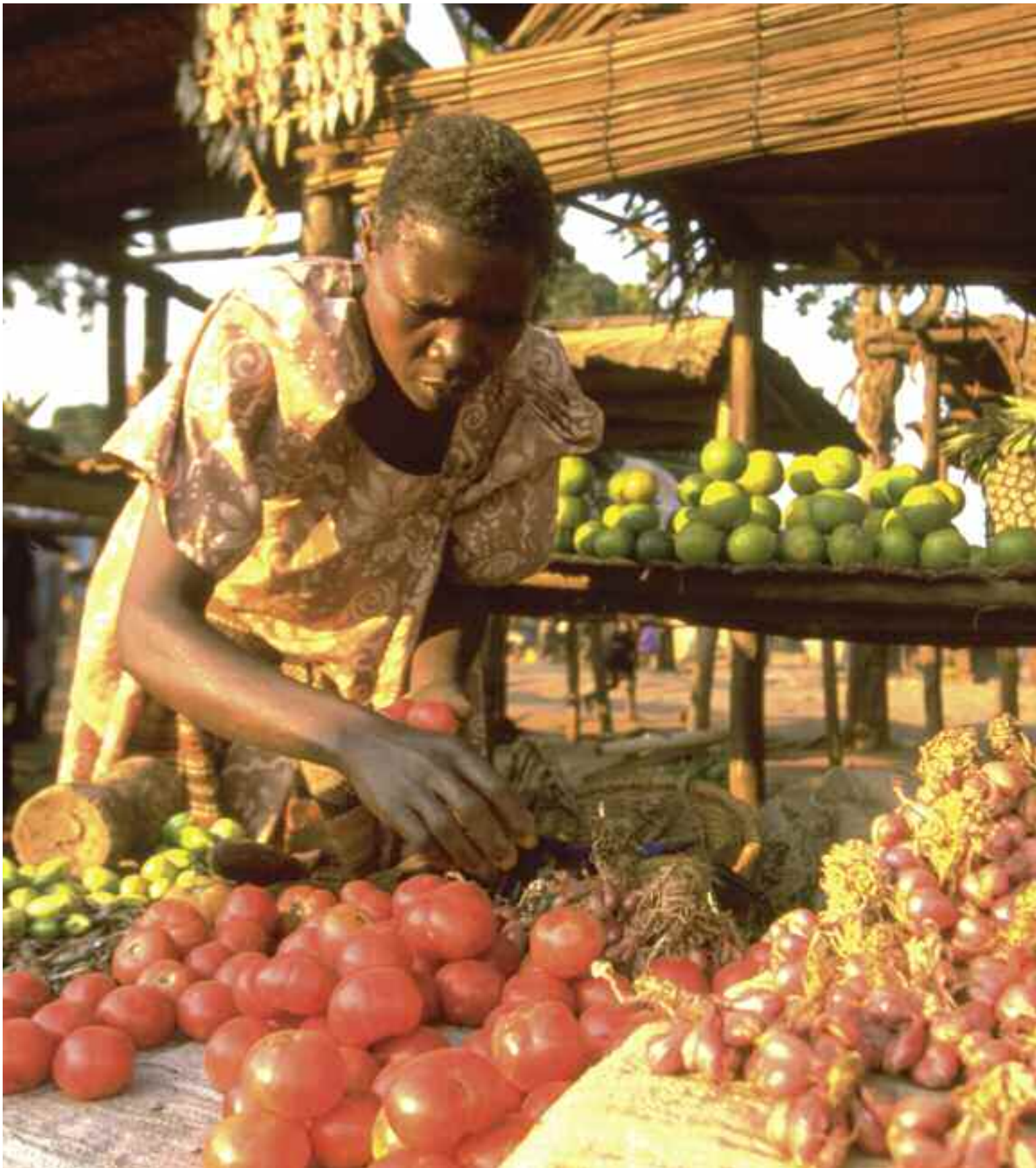
**Maria Hartl**, Technical Advisor at IFAD, reiterated the expectations that were articulated during the previous evening:

- Exchange of knowledge and experiences, so as to learn from each other and make innovations more visible, and to discover what makes up strong organizations and solid women's leadership;
- Debate about gender issues and how to strengthen organizations, as well as about agriculture and organizations that work with women farmers and with IFAD;
- Strategies on how to strengthen leadership in women's and mixed farmers' organizations, for women's economic empowerment, and in particular for access to land, transportation and markets.

She ended her remarks by stating that if there is no economic empowerment, there is no participation of women.



Maria Hartl, IFAD



IFAD/Radhika Chalasani



# Plenary discussion

A plenary discussion was held before the participants divided into four working groups. The main points that emerged during the plenary discussion are summarized below.

**Quotas for women's participation.** The issue that emerged most frequently was that of quotas: empowering women starts with giving quotas for their participation in order to give them greater visibility. A number of examples were given of the quota system having positive results.

**Roberto Longo**, Policy Coordinator at IFAD, described a recent programme financed by IFAD and the European Commission, the Support to Farmers' Organizations in Africa Programme (SFOAP) that was put in place by four regional networks of farmers' organizations in Africa. There are 50 per cent quotas in all programme activities, and there are a series of indicators ranging from activities to outcomes, as well as objective-level indicators. However, the question remains: are these quotas enough? What can be done to complement this instrument and how can we monitor it?

**Lucila Quintana**, Vice-President of the Junta Nacional del Café (Peru) described the success of using quotas in her organization, which had 50 women at its founding and increased to over 7,000 women direct partners in six years. Moreover, the goal was to have at least 30 per cent of the women members in management positions. This accumulated critical mass enabled women to start developing a forceful policy strategy. Achieving these goals requires more than words. It requires tools, charters and by-laws that underpin the functioning of organizations.

**Shanta Manavi**, Chairperson of the Central Acting Committee of Pokhara (Nepal) stated that within a general quota system it is sometimes necessary to create women-only committees. He explained that his organization has a policy of 50 per cent women members in the main national federation. However, the main concerns of peasant women were not being voiced strongly enough. Therefore, a number of committees were created, the most important of which is the women's peasants committee.

**Makanjuola Olaseinde Arigbede**, National Coordinator, United Small and Medium Scale Farmers' Associations of Nigeria (USMEFAN) and member of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee, explained that USMEFAN has tried to insist on a 50 per cent representation of women in all committees and

**“If women do not have economic power, they cannot take the reins in leadership in any sustainable way.”**

**Elisabeth Atangana**, President of the Regional Platform of Farmers' Organizations in Central Africa (PROPAC), Cameroon



**Kanchan Lama**, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture (WOCAN), Nepal, **Shanta Manavi**, Central Acting Committee of Pokhara, Nepal and **Balram Banskota**, Nepal Peasants Federation (ANPFa), Nepal

**“Much more needs to be done than quotas. We need evocative ideas. Evocative means changing minds.”**

Makanjuola Olaseinde Arigbede, National Coordinator, USMEFAN, and member of the Farmers’ Forum Steering Committee

leadership organs. He stated that this only goes so far. If an organization that has never had a woman leader realizes that donors will give them money only with a quota of leadership there will be plenty of women around, but that does not guarantee effective leadership. He also highlighted the particular challenges of young women who must lead, especially young women farmer leaders who must juggle family life as well. What does an

organization do when the social and cultural norms make it difficult, if not impossible, for young women to assume a leadership role?

**Profitability of farming**, particularly as an incentive for women and young farmers. Farming must be profitable or poverty will increase. If women and young farmers do not have an entrepreneurial vision, and entrepreneurial opportunities, and if they do not see the activities they perform on their farm as being profitable, then substantial changes need to be made. Entrepreneurial vision is developed through self-confidence and training. Even if women have the proper training and are capable of representing farmers, they may still feel that they are not ‘good enough’. How can women’s self-confidence be strengthened and how can they be encouraged to truly step forward?

**Training and information.** The importance of training was also a recurring issue, particularly training that teaches women how to negotiate and discuss with authorities, as well as how to network and better organize among themselves. In many rural areas, basic literacy training is a prerequisite. Rural women need to better learn how to get together and create a platform of dialogue among themselves so that they can articulate their problems and bring them to the attention of authorities or development partners. Such a framework is critical, and it must be decentralized down to the grass-roots level. At the same time, implementing such a dialogue also requires information. Without access to appropriate and adequate information, women cannot take advantage of the opportunities that they already have, let alone advocate for additional ones.

**Partnership.** A number of participants affirmed that direct partnership with IFAD has been a positive experience that has rendered their organizations more powerful and enabled them to establish a link with authorities. The partnership has strengthened their sense of leadership and ability to take collective action. Partnership and alliances must extend to other institutions to work toward the future and pass valuable experience onto the next generation. Partnerships must also be created with other national and regional organizations in order to ensure that climate change issues are addressed, as well as issues of land tenure, ownership and security. Women on their own cannot solve these without linkages to other institutions.

In the context of IFAD’s partnership with farmers’ organizations and a focus on women, **Sana Jatta**, Country Programme Manager at IFAD, elaborated on a number of IFAD-supported initiatives in the Asia and Pacific Division. One example is the Medium-term Collaborative Programme with farmers’ organizations, which covers ten countries. The focus of the programme is on strengthening networks of



Makanjuola Olaseinde Arigbede, United Small and Medium Scale Farmers Association of Nigeria (USMEFAN), Nigeria



farmers' organizations – first by mapping farmers' organizations that are actively engaging women members – and on strengthening platforms of farmers' organizations at the national, regional and subregional levels. The programme has an open-ended fund for capacity building, which IFAD will encourage farmers' organizations to use for training women and young farmers. Another component of the programme is to promote participation of farmers' organizations, especially women, in IFAD operations at the country level (implementation, design and supervision). He then mentioned that the Asia and the Pacific Division has a gender focal point in every country of the division. He also mentioned the upcoming workshop for gender focal points that is going to be held in Cambodia to help focal points develop a gender action plan and communication strategy to be disseminated to partners in the region.



Jeannette Gurung, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture (WOCAN), United States



IFAD/David Rose

# Working group meetings (morning)

Following the plenary discussion, the participants were divided into four working groups: Africa (Francophone), Africa (Anglophone), Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific. The objective of the group meetings was to concretely discuss how IFAD and farmers' organizations can work together to promote the role and leadership of women in rural organizations, from the grass roots upwards. Participants were requested to focus on the following questions:

- What are the priority actions that women farmers need from governments, donors and the private sector to improve their productivity and well-being?
- What are the main obstacles women face as members of mixed organizations and what are the difficulties that prevent them from assuming more influential and leadership roles?
- What approaches and activities are needed to strengthen the voice and influence of women in farmers' organizations?

In considering these questions the working groups were requested to focus on the following areas:

## Internal organization and networks

- **Internal policies, including quotas:** Are they needed? Do they work? How to set up, apply and monitor them.
- **Structures:** Women in mixed versus women-only FOs; do we need women's chapters within mixed organizations? What are the other ways to facilitate women's roles and leadership in mixed organizations?
- **Networks:** Do they exist, both in-country and across countries and regions? Do they bridge different types of women's groups, including those of the grass roots, professional and policy-makers? Do we need to create new networks?

## Capacity development

- **On what:** Leadership and management, technical, basic (e.g. literacy training), network building, skills for policy dialogue, lobbying.
- **How to deliver:** Specific training, exchange, mentoring.
- **How to respond to differentiated needs:** Grass roots, second and third-level organizations, local, national.
- **How to involve and sensitize men.**

**“Women always have to prove themselves much more than men to work on an equal footing.”**

Alessandra Da Costa Lunas Santos, Coordinadora de Productores Familiares del MERCOSUR (COPROFAM), Brazil



### Support

- How can different stakeholders help to strengthen women's leadership in FOs? (e.g. central government, local government, sector institutions, private sector, donors, CSOs, NGOs, support groups.)
- How can women farmers' voices be strengthened in national consultations?

A summary of the key points that were raised by each working group follows.

### Asia and the Pacific

Smita Bhatnagar, Finance Coordinator of the Self-Employed Women's Association – SEWA (India) presented the main discussion points of the working group in plenary. The major issue discussed was land ownership and shrinking natural resources and



Smita Bhatnagar, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India

deteriorating quality of these natural resources. Agriculture is becoming costlier, inputs are becoming costlier, but prices being fetched are lower. These conditions are resulting in agriculture becoming less viable, and people seeking alternatives, including migration. To address these issues, pro-women farmer policies need to be established, as well as implementation mechanisms to ensure that these policies reach the poorer segments of rural society, including women and young farmers.

The group also discussed how to bring about women's leadership in farmers' organizations. The group believed that women-only fora should be created, where women can meet, discuss and deliberate, since in many contexts it is often easier for women to talk when they are among themselves. The discussions from these

women-only fora would then be brought into common, or mixed, meetings. The hope would be that after some time, women would no longer have the need for the women-only fora, as they gained confidence, power and skills. Such platforms are essential for women's empowerment, where they could begin to negotiate the major issues: land, access to markets, information and technology, health and child care.

### Africa (Anglophone)

Karen Serres, President of the National Commission of Women Farmers (France) presented the main discussions of the working group in plenary and highlighted that the issues need to be addressed on local, national and international levels, and with women and men alike.

In terms of priority issues, she presented a substantial list of priorities that the participants cited, including:

- access to financing;
- access to natural resources (land and water) and inputs (e.g. fertilizer, seeds) and tools that are adapted to women;
- access to markets, including better infrastructure and storage facilities (both warehousing and refrigerators);

- access to education, knowledge and literacy training;
- social participation and networks;
- holding political positions and leadership roles;
- increased self-esteem of women;
- positive cultural environment.

Training was another important issue, particularly funds and time for training. All of the women see training as an essential factor. However, it is important that the main objective of training is for economic solidity. In this regard, there is a notable absence of the middle-of-the-road technicians. There are farmers and high-level specialists, but not the technical specialists. Appropriate training could help to fill this gap.

With respect to leadership training, there is no point in training leaders if the farms are not economically viable. Moreover, leadership training should not be provided to all women, but only to a limited number of women. Trainings should include child care facilities to allow women to participate. This entails an extra cost which would need to be taken on. Another aspect of training has to do with “training” the media to send out more positive messages and images about what it means to be a woman farmer, in order for women and youth to be proud of their professions. The key media message should be the professionalization of the woman farmer. Special attention should be given to young farmers.

Regarding the role of farmers’ organizations with respect to women, it is important not only for women’s issues to be addressed in the organizations, but also for women to have the possibility of being elected to key positions and reach certain levels within their organizations. Women should have their own organizations. However, the women in the women-only organizations should not be part of the quota of the mixed organizations. At the same time, there are broader cultural and traditional challenges, which could be addressed if the issue of quotas were taken on in government policy as an across-the-board mechanism, and not just one to be applied to farmers’ organizations. The entire policy of a country should be pro-woman, with, for example, 5 per cent women in all leadership domains.



Group Session, West and Central Africa



### Women at the top

Cheryl Morden, Director, North American Liaison Office, IFAD, spoke about the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders in Agriculture which is being established by Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), with financing from IFAD.

"[WOCAN is trying to bring together high-level women through the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders in Agriculture. There are currently about 15 ministers of agriculture, which is not yet a critical mass, but there is an interest, an appetite and a need among these women and other women leaders for the same kind of support as the Farmers' Forum provides. Even at those levels, women often find themselves in the minority and it is useful for them to have opportunities for information exchange and networking...

Women leaders can create space and opportunity at the global level to get our issues on the agenda so that commitments can be made that will create the kind of enabling environment that will support the efforts of women farmers."

### Africa (Francophone)

Elisabeth Atangana presented the main discussion points of the working group in plenary. She described the discussions as very broad but that all items could be categorized under four categories of recommendations.



Elisabeth Atangana, Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC), Cameroon

**Institution building.** One priority is the institutionalization of the consultation and dialogue framework of farmers' organizations and public authorities, in order for farmers' and other grass-roots organizations, and in particular women's organizations, to be recognized and to be more involved in the drafting, implementation and evaluation of policies directed toward women. This implies building the capacity of grass-roots organizations, especially the smaller ones, so that they can be empowered to negotiate. It also implies that steps be taken to reduce some of the administrative costs faced by grass-roots farmers' organizations in their efforts to participate. It was recommended that budget quotas be established for

the capacity building of women. Although women-only groups are necessary, the group also suggested that mixed groups of men and women were important in order for them to work together with gender issues and for men to become familiar with the issues and problems of women.

**Economic independence.** The recommendations to support the economic independence of women were centred primarily on access issues: access to resources, land, credit, alternative sources of energy and appropriate technology (for market access). With regard to the latter, South-South cooperation for technology transfer was recommended as an instrument for women to learn how to market their products. Training and education were also recommended, including literacy training, and targeted and decentralized education so that women can be empowered to carry out

their own training programmes. To enable women to participate in training, education and fora, day care centres need to be established so that women's schedules are more flexible. Establishing radio networks for women would also be an effective way of disseminating information acquired through training. Financial resources are also a priority, particularly direct support funds for women, not only to support production, but also for value-added processing, marketing of products, and even for non-agricultural products that generate income. Funds could also be used to rehabilitate or set up rural development centres, where teachers could be trained and then go to the field to promote local training schools (as is being done in Senegal).

**Strengthening partnership.** It is important for IFAD to connect country programmes to farmers' organizations, and especially promote the involvement of women in projects. It is also important to support existing organizations during project implementation rather than create new ones.

**Migration.** It is important that women migrants are educated about their rights. Direct support should also be provided to these women and toward the transfer of funds so that money sent back home would be directed toward women.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

Alessandra Da Costa Lunas Santos, Secretary General of the Coordinadora de productores familiares del MERCOSUR (COPROFAM) and Member of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee, presented the main discussion points of the working group in plenary. She opened by saying that the issues discussed were similar to what had been discussed among the other groups. One of the greatest challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean of women working in mixed groups is the issue of male dominance or "machismo" and the corresponding lack of training that also prevents women from holding leadership positions. Many times women are victims of "double discrimination" because of being women and small-scale farmers.

Another challenge is that many organizations have a different understanding of, and different criteria for, performance. For women, social criteria are very important. For many organizations, however, priority is given to serving political issues, without the same understanding of the social issues. Often men tend to give importance to the sort of products that can assure an important market outlet. For women, this is important, but the priority for them is how to ensure that their families will have the food they need to guarantee their health.

The issue of quotas emerged again during the working group discussions. Most participants believe that if quotas are not adopted, it is almost impossible to assure even a low level of women's participation. Ideally quotas would not be needed, but they are needed now to assure that women are present and involved. Moreover, quotas are important not only to ensure the participation of women in associations and organizations, but also other areas where oversight is required, such as government policy. However, quotas as such are not enough, but must be accompanied by technical training, capacity building in advocacy, and



Group Session, Latin America

**“Women need to get recruited and there needs to be a very strong base of women’s membership at the grass-roots level. Only when there is this critical mass at the level of farmers’ organizations, can they put women in office. The membership base needs to be galvanized.”**

Tom Anyonge, Senior Technical Adviser, IFAD

economic empowerment of women, among other things. It is important that men be involved in this debate. It is not an issue for women alone. Men must understand the importance of joint participation and what we can build together. It must also be recognized that many women who have managed to occupy certain posts in organizations or in the government are not necessarily those who will be thinking in terms of pro-women policies. We need to have the right sort of women, who are committed to furthering the position of women.

With respect to IFAD support, certainly financial resources are an important form of support. However support should also come in the form of helping women to develop platforms to participate in international fora that take up women’s issues. Women’s issues need to be mainstreamed during project design so that funding is in place from the outset, and women should be active participants in the whole project cycle, from planning through implementation and evaluation of the projects. Projects should also focus on expanding networks in such areas as women’s and children’s health, which are critical to a functioning agriculture. In all of its support, IFAD should pay more attention to fisher communities, where women are often even more marginalized.



Meeting with IFAD Executive Board Directors: Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven, Netherlands, Martine Van Dooren, Belgium and Maria del Carmen Squeff, Argentina

Annina Lubbock concluded the session by synthesizing some of the key points raised that are directly related to IFAD.

- The 40 per cent women quota should be maintained, or perhaps increased, in the next Farmers’ Forum. In all programmes and projects, IFAD should require that quotas be respected among participating organizations, and that these quotas be monitored.
- Economic empowerment is the critical pre-condition for women to play a strong leadership role in farmers’ organizations. For IFAD, this is precisely the entry point for women’s empowerment. However, such efforts need to be scaled up, moving beyond microfinance to see how women can have access to more substantial resources.
- Access to land is critical. Can IFAD projects and programmes support land titling exercises? Should IFAD require joint titling for land that is newly allocated under the projects it finances?
- Capacity building should be comprised of a package of measures, including information and communication, farmers-to-farmers exchanges and ‘learning routes’ (for further information, see the website of PROCASUR: [http://procasur.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=122&Itemid=1](http://procasur.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=122&Itemid=1)), technical training, and leadership and management training. IFAD also needs to

have a much stronger focus on youth, particularly on young women farmers. And it must act quickly. Perhaps the next Farmers' Forum could include a space to discuss young farmers.

- IFAD encourages consultations with governments and farmers' organizations. However, there could be more representation in these consultations on the part of women.



**“We are a vulnerable sector of the world. Because others speak on our behalf, they decide what they think is necessary for us. That is why we are vulnerable.”**

**Maria Alicia Calles, President, Consejo Coordinador de Organizaciones Campesinas de Honduras (COCOCH)**







## Working group meetings (afternoon)

The afternoon session was devoted to building upon the discussion of the first working group sessions in order to provide a series of concrete and succinct recommendations that would feed into the report to be presented to the Farmers' Forum and Governing Council. A summary of the key points/recommendations that were raised by each working group follows.

### Asia and Pacific

The Asia working group focused on activities that IFAD and other agencies should support, prioritizing **economic empowerment**. They recommended activities that support extension that reaches women, strengthen women's cooperatives, and identify leverage points in value chains that can shift women's position and status. They also highlighted the need for climate change-related projects for risk management, seed banks, research on climate-adaptive crops grown by women, development of new value chains for carbon-using market and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) mechanisms, and technologies for renewable energy to save time and reduce drudgery.

They stressed that various types of **capacity-building** are needed to build awareness of rights; build leadership of farmers and staff of agriculture support organizations; strengthen entrepreneurial capacities of women farmers and organizations to engage in markets; support transfer of traditional knowledge to young women; and share information and knowledge on markets and climate change coping strategies.

This group considers support **networks** that are local, national and regional as critical. They suggested that networks of men be created to support women leaders.

They also believe that governments, donors, NGOs, and support groups can best help to strengthen women's leadership in farmers' organizations by earmarking funds (e.g. community development funds, community-driven development funds for women); providing direct funding to farmers' organizations through grants (but only to member-based, women-only groups or mixed groups that have achieved a minimum quota of 30 per cent or to a project to attain 30 per cent); supporting women to commission research on their own terms, with academics and research organizations; and strengthening partnerships with government machineries for women's economic empowerment, based on existing policy mandates, laws and programmes. They also reported that funds should be provided to support organizations that can bridge the gap between farmers and **international organizations/academic and research organizations**.

The group recommended that IFAD hold a forum every two years, and that 2012 should have a special session for young farmers, with a special session for young women. The group also recommended that IFAD earmark funds and apply and monitor quotas while evaluating the **quality** of women's participation and leadership, and make this conditional to receive funds.

## **Africa (Anglophone)**

This working group centred its recommendations around training and funding for training. IFAD should provide direct funding to farmers' organizations through grants, based on the criterion that the organization be a member-based organization of women and men recognized by IFAD, or a women-only organization. If the organization is mixed, there should be a minimum quota for women of 30 per cent or for the project to reach that quota within five years. The funding would be primarily for training and would fall under two categories: special funding for training for leadership; and funding for economic and technical training – both types for women only. Both trainings would encourage farmers' exchanges, including through field visits, and seek to establish closer contacts between farmers' organizations and technical knowledge facilities, such as research centres or universities, and high schools. The trainings would also require funds to respond to women's need for child care, as well as for media coverage in order to reach women farmers.

In terms of IFAD operations, four recommendations were made:

- IFAD should support women's leadership in the Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) process.
- COSOP/project design processes should be gender-balanced. This does not necessarily mean more women, but more expertise on the issues that are specific to women.
- IFAD should include more women in Steering Committees and Country Programme Management Teams, as well as participation by farmers' organizations.
- IFAD should increase the gender expertise in its Project Management Units in order to strengthen gender-mainstreaming and increase women's participation and leadership.

## **Africa (Francophone)**

This working group had five clusters of recommendations:

**Institutional strengthening.** There is a need for the institutionalization of frameworks for dialogue and concerted action and coordination, with clear definitions, including 40 per cent involvement of women. In addition, farmers' organizations should be in a position to negotiate with political institutions, which would require support in terms of visibility, capacity building and human resources. With respect to capacity building, budgets should be established in all programmes, with an appropriate amount specified to support women's activities. Equally important is the need to facilitate procedures for the legal establishment of farmers' organizations. Farmers' organizations should themselves integrate minimum quotas – for example, one out of every three executives is a woman.

Generally speaking, more women should become involved in international fora. In this regard, the working group recommended that IFAD organize a forum for women every two years.

**Strengthening women's economic independence.** As mentioned before, women's economic independence is linked to many issues, particularly issues of access to: land and water, production resources, credit, alternative energy sources, technology, information and markets. All of these issues need to be addressed from the perspective

of women. In addition, literacy and other training programmes need to take into account the family dynamics that have an impact on women's participation. In this regard, it is recommended that day care centres and other systems be created in order to free up women to pursue training and education. North-South exchanges and cooperation need to be bolstered to capitalize on technology transfer. Finally, a fund should be established to provide direct support to women's activities.

**Decentralized training and development.** Systems should be defined that will allow for decentralized training – for example, Training of Trainer programmes that can train people at the local level. Development centres such as agricultural and farmer schools should be rehabilitated or established. An intense focus needs to be placed on young people to enable them to maintain and sustain agriculture.

**Partnership.** In building partnerships, eligibility of farmers' organizations to participate in IFAD programmes should be facilitated; participation should be ensured in the evaluation and follow-up of programmes and projects, with a significant quota of women.

**Migration.** Training needs to be provided to immigrants, particularly women, on their rights, and there needs to be more direct support for and cooperation with diaspora communities.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

This working group reiterated a number of recommendations that had emerged during the course of the day, namely:

- It is necessary to have a quota to guarantee the participation of women in all spaces. It is recommended that IFAD take as an element in its financed projects that there be a minimum number of women, both project staff and beneficiaries, participating in all projects.
- The modes of training for women need to focus on political matters, advocacy and on boosting women's self-esteem (including intergenerational training on domestic violence) to enable them to become directly involved in collective activities and have a political impact.
- Women must have access to guaranteed land titling.
- Women need to have access to the latest technological information regarding agriculture and production, coping with climate change and technological access to information.
- Many issues are of common concern, not merely hunger or violence against women. There is a need to work with organizations in urban centres, which have common issues, and create alliances with institutions, private or otherwise, from the municipal to the regional level.
- Men must be involved in women's endeavours. Their awareness needs to be heightened as well.
- To IFAD, financial support should be provided to those organizations that promote gender equality and gender-sensitive production models. One form this support could take would be by funding projects launched or headed by women, not just at the international level, but also at the regional level. There needs to be a greater social commitment among all who work in the field. Projects have to play a role in rural development so that we can make a real investment in turning around the situation of hunger. This comes down to family farming and the role women play – and could play.



IFAD/Pablo Corral Vega



## Statement of the Special Session and concluding remarks

At the end of the session, Annina Lubbock provided an outline of the basic contents of the statement, based on the inputs received from the working groups and the plenary discussions. The final statement was drafted by a Drafting Committee representing the different organizations participating in the Special Sessions. The draft was presented and discussed at the Farmers' Forum. Once finalized, the Statement was incorporated, in its entirety, into the Final Synthesis of Deliberations of the Farmers' Forum and read to the Governing Council by Alphonsine Nguba Ngiengo of the Confédération Paysanne du Congo (COPACO-PRP), who is a member of the Farmers' Forum Steering Committee.



Group Photo

### Statement delivered to IFAD's Governing Council

We delegates to the Global Farmers' Forum 2010 – 61 participants from 27 countries and four continents – IFAD staff and observers, gathered during the Preparatory Workshop to the Farmers' Forum on Promoting Women's Leadership in Farmers' Organizations held on 12-13 February, declare the following:

We, women farmers, fishers and pastoralists, call attention once again to the glaring disproportion between women's roles in all aspects of agriculture across the developing world and the limited recognition, rights, resources and services provided to us. We also raise an alarm over the effect that climate change and the financial crisis are having on us women as they result in increased poverty and food scarcity. Because of poverty and lack of services in rural areas, our sons and daughters do not wish to be farmers and continue to migrate to urban areas. This raises a critical question: How can the profitability and sustainability of farming be secured so as to ensure a future for the next generation of women and men farmers?

Effective and representative producer organizations can provide a powerful instrument to make rural women's voices heard, so that we can have a greater influence over decisions that affect our lives and livelihoods. But as of yet, our voices have been heard too rarely in our organizations.

The economic empowerment of women and their increased knowledge and skills are essential preconditions to improve our status and livelihoods, and for us to be able to assume effective roles in producer organizations. We therefore urge IFAD and other donors to bring new and significant resources to support the economic empowerment of women farmers. We need these resources to strengthen our knowledge, skills and leadership in order to produce and process food more effectively and sustainably, for our families and also for the markets. We urge IFAD and other donors to direct resources to women's structures in farmers' organizations and to require quotas that are respected.

We also specifically call upon IFAD to:

- continue and increase efforts to enable women to increase their access to and control over productive assets including land and water;
- support the development and provision of financial services suitable to agriculture, and to enable women's incomes to grow;
- in addition to mainstreaming gender equality concerns throughout projects and programmes, wherever feasible earmark funds for women in IFAD-funded programmes as an affirmative action measure – for example, under community development funds, and in training;
- use grant funding for women's capacity building – including child care facilities where needed – when it is not possible to finance such activities through a loan;



**Alphonsine Nguba Ngiengo,**  
**Confédération Paysanne du Congo**  
**(COPACO-PRP), Democratic Republic**  
**of the Congo**

- where IFAD-funded programmes support access to land and other kinds of property, seek to negotiate for joint titling, supported with legal advisory services to enable women to defend their rights;
- in the context of a much-needed focus on rural youth, give attention to the specific situation and needs of young women.

In the context of IFAD's engagement with farmers' organizations we recommend that IFAD:

- open spaces for women farmer leaders to participate in country and global policy processes, and also in IFAD country strategy consultations;
- in the design of the projects and programmes that work with farmers' organizations, establish quotas for women (where possible, not less than 30 per cent, with a view to reaching 50 per cent over time), provide incentives for producer organizations to achieve the targets, and monitor their implementation;
- invest more grant resources in increasing the capacity of farmers' organizations to address gender issues and empower women, and to strengthen women's leadership – where possible channelling funds directly to women's structures within organizations;
- involve women leaders of farmers' organizations in the supervision and monitoring of development programmes.

Finally, we note with satisfaction that the 30 per cent quota of women participants recommended at the last meeting of the Farmers' Forum has been exceeded this year. We urge that the current proportion of 40 per cent be maintained in subsequent meetings, with a view to further increasing over time.



**Plenary Session**



IFAD/Paolo Marchetti



## APPENDIX 1

# List of participants

### FARMERS' AND RURAL PRODUCERS' ORGANIZATIONS

#### ALL NEPAL PEASANTS' FEDERATION

**Mr Balram Banskota**  
Deputy Secretary General  
**Nepal**  
anpfa@anpfa.org.np  
balram@anpfa.org.np  
secretariatlvcsouthasia@gmail.com

#### ALL NEPAL WOMEN ASSOCIATION

**Ms Shanta Manavi**  
Chairperson  
Central Acting Committee of Pokhara  
**Nepal**  
shanta.manavi@yahoo.com

#### ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (AFA)

**Ms Florita Caya**  
National Vice Chairperson  
Lakambini-Pakisama  
**Philippines**  
pakisama.natl@yahoo.com

**Ms Estrella Penunia Banzuela**  
Secretary General  
Asian Farmers Association (AFA)  
**Philippines**  
afaesther@asianfarmers.org

**Ms Amalia Pulungan**  
Representative  
Aliansi Petani Indonesia  
**Indonesia**  
api\_bumie@yahoo.co.id

**Ms Kong Sokchhoin**  
Project Coordinator  
Farmer and Nature Net (FNN)  
**Cambodia**  
sokchhoin@online.com.kh  
sokchhoin06@yahoo.com

#### ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCTORES AGROPECUARIOS ECOLÓGICOS PERU

**Ms Raquel Copa de Justo**  
Secretaria de Actas y Archivos  
**Peru**  
ol\_tarata@sierrasur.gob.pe  
omolleapaza@sierrasur.gob.pe  
raquelcopa\_ch@hotmail.com

#### ASOCIACIÓN DE PRODUCTORES AGROPECUARIOS Y ARTESANALES CUMBRE DE LLAVE PERU

**Ms Julia Flores Calderon**  
Lideresa  
**Peru**  
juliaflores\_79@hotmail.com

#### COORDINADORA DE PRODUCTORES FAMILIARES DEL MERCOSUR (COPROFAM)

**Ms Alessandra Da Costa Lunas Santos**  
Executive Secretary  
**Brazil**  
alessandra@contag.org.br

#### CONSEJO COORDINADOR DE ORGANIZACIONES CAMPESINAS DE HONDURAS (COCOCH)

**Ms Maria Alicia Calles**  
President  
**Honduras**  
ejuselfyy@yahoo.com  
cococho@sdnhon.org

#### FÉDÉRATION DES FEMMES RURALES DE MADAGASCAR

**Ms Lilia Hantanirina Ravoniarisoa**  
Secrétaire Générale  
**Madagascar**  
fvmt@moov.mg

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS (IFAP)**

**Mr David King**  
Secretary General  
**France**  
david.king@ifap.org

**Ms Lucila Quintana**  
Vice-President  
Junta Nacional del Café (JNC)  
**Peru**  
lucila\_quintana@yahoo.es

**Ms Kati Partanen**  
President of IFAP Young Farmers' Committee  
**Finland**  
Kati.partanen@savonia.fi  
partanen.kati@gmail.com

**Ms Karen Serres**  
Présidente, Commission Nationale  
des Agricultrices  
Fédération nationale des syndicats d'exploitants  
agricoles (FNSEA)  
**France**  
kserres46@gmail.com

**Ms Nazeli Vardanyan**  
Director  
Federation of Agricultural Associations (FAA)  
**Armenia**  
nazeli@faa-ule.am

**Mr Ajaykumar Manubhai Vashee**  
President  
**Zambia**  
vashee@coppernet.zm  
vashee@zamnet.zm  
vashee@zamtel.zm

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC  
AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS (IFOAM)**

**Ms Cristina Grandi**  
Liaison Officer to FAO & IFAD  
**Italy**  
c.grandi@ifoam.org

**INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC  
AGRICULTURAL & RURAL YOUTH (MIJARC)**

**Ms Carolin Grieshop**  
Secretary General  
**Belgium**  
c.grieshop@mijarc.net

**LA VIA CAMPESINA (LVC)**

**Ms Juana Mercedes de Brioso**  
Representative  
Confederación Nacional de Mujeres  
Campesinas (CONAMUCA)  
**Dominican Republic**  
conamuca@yahoo.es  
articulacion5@yahoo.es

**Ms Claude Girod**  
Responsable de la commission "international"  
de la Confédération Paysanne  
Responsable du groupe de travail sur la  
"Souveraineté Alimentaire" pour les  
Organisations Européennes  
La Via Campesina  
**France**  
girodclaude@gmail.com

**Ms Jeomsook Goo**  
Secretary General  
Korean Women Peasants Association (KWPA)  
**Republic of Korea**  
rupina72@gmail.com

**Ms Hortense Kinkodila**  
Présidente  
Collège de femme et chargée des droits humains  
et de la commercialisation  
Concertation Nationale des Organisations  
Paysannes et des producteurs agricoles du  
Congo Brazzaville  
**Congo**  
cnopcongo\_op@yahoo.fr  
congobrazza2001@yahoo.fr

**Ms Alphonsine Nguba Ngiengo**  
Representative  
Confédération Paysanne du Congo  
(COPACO-PRP)  
**Democratic Republic of the Congo**  
ngubaalpha@yahoo.fr

**Ms Mercedes Pluas Pacheco**  
Coordinadora del Sector Campesino  
Federación Nacional de Campesinos e Indígenas  
Libres de Ecuador (FENACLE)  
**Ecuador**  
mercedespluas@ymail.com  
fenacle@Easynet.Net.Ec  
fenacle@Gye.Satnet.Net  
rita.zanotto@gmail.com  
viacampesina.sudamerica@gmail.com

**Ms Padma Pushpakanthi**  
Convener of Women's Network on PRSP  
and National Coordinator  
**Sri Lanka**  
secretariatlvcsouthasia@gmail.com  
padmsasthri261@gmail.com  
sasthri@sltnet.lk

**NATIONAL SMALLHOLDER FARMERS  
ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI (NASFAM)**

**Ms Alice Kachere**  
Board Chair Person  
**Malawi**  
nasfam@nasfam.org

**NORTH SUDAN COMMISSION**

**Ms Maha Freigoun**  
Focal Point  
**Sudan**  
freigoun22@yahoo.com

**PLATEFORME RÉGIONALE DES  
ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES D'AFRIQUE  
CENTRALE (PROPAC)**

**Ms Elisabeth Atangana**  
Présidente  
**Cameroon**  
cnopcameroun@yahoo.fr  
propac\_cm@yahoo.fr

**RÉSEAUX DES ORGANISATIONS PAYSANNES  
ET PRODUCTEURS AGRICOLES DE L'AFRIQUE  
DE L'OUEST (ROPPA)**

**Ms Seynabou Ndoye**  
Vice-President  
Fédération Nationale des GIE de Pêche  
du Sénégal  
**Senegal**  
ndoye\_s@yahoo.fr  
fenagiepeche@orange.sn

**Ms Kourotoumou Gariko**  
Membre du Conseil d'Administration  
Confédération Paysanne du Faso (CPF)  
**Burkina Faso**  
cpf@fasonet.bf

**SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION (SEWA)**

**Ms Smita Bhatnagar**  
Finance Coordinator  
Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)  
SEWA Reception Centre  
**India**  
mail@sewa.org  
smitabhatnagar@rediffmail.com

**UNITED SMALL & MEDIUM SCALE FARMERS  
ASSOCIATIONS OF NIGERIA (USMEFAN)**

**Mr Makanjuola Olaseinde Arigbede**  
National Coordinator  
**Nigeria**  
olaseindearigbede@yahoo.com

**WORLD FORUM OF FISH HARVESTERS AND  
FISHWORKERS (WWF)**

**Mr Pedro Avendaño Garcès**  
Executive Secretary  
**Chile**  
Pedro.avendano@udelmar.cl  
pedro.avendano@terra.cl

**WORLD FORUM OF FISHERMEN  
PEOPLES (WFFP)**

**Mr Herman Kumara Wijethunge**  
General Secretary  
**Sri Lanka**  
fishmove@slt.lk  
hermankumara@gmail.com  
wffp.gs@gmail.com

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)**

**ASIAN PARTNERSHIP FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN  
RURAL ASIA (ASIADHRRRA)**

**Ms Marlene Ramirez**  
Secretary General  
**Philippines**  
asiadhrra@asiadhrra.org

**CONCERN**

**Ms Mairi MacRae**  
Representative  
**Ireland**  
mairi.macrae@concern.net

**INTER-RÉSEAUX DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL**

**Ms Nathalie Boquien**  
Animatrice réseau  
**France**  
nathalie.boquien@inter-reseaux.org

**JILANKA CONSULTING**

**Mr Fadel Ndiamé**  
Consultant  
**South Africa**  
fndiame@mweb.co.za

**WOMEN ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE  
IN AGRICULTURE (WOCAN)**

**Ms Jeannette Gurung**  
Executive Director  
**United States**  
jeannettegurung@wocan.org

**Ms Kanchan Lama**  
Coordinator  
WOCAN Nepal  
**Nepal**  
kanchanlama@wocan.org

**Ms Jing de la Rosa**  
Consultant  
delarosajing@yahoo.com

**GOVERNMENTS AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION**

**Ms Eve Crowley**  
Principal Adviser  
Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division  
**Italy**  
eve.crowley@fao.org

**INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION**

**Ms Anna Lisa Mauro**  
Programme Manager  
**Italy**  
l.mauro@ifad.org

**Ms Sabine Pallas**  
Resource Mobilization Officer  
**Italy**  
s.pallas@ifad.org

**UNIDAD PARA EL CAMBIO RURAL  
ARGENTINA (UCAR)**

**Ms Susana Marquez**  
Responsable del Área de  
Relaciones Internacionales  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca  
**Argentina**  
marquez.su@gmail.com

**IFAD STAFF**

**Mr Tom Anyonge**  
Senior Technical Adviser  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
t.anyonge@ifad.org

**Mr Jean Philippe Audinet**  
Coordinator Farmers' Forum  
j.audinet@ifad.org

**Ms Caroline Bidault**  
Consultant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
c.bidault@ifad.org

**Ms Stefania Dina**  
Associate Financial Administration Officer  
West and Central Africa Division  
s.dina@ifad.org

**Ms Sandra Di Rienzo**  
Programme Assistant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
s.dirienzo@ifad.org

**Ms Helen Gillman**  
Knowledge Management Officer  
East and Southern Africa Division  
h.gillman@ifad.org

**Ms Maria Hartl**  
Technical Adviser  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
m.hartl@ifad.org

**Ms Lena Jalasgoki**  
Associate Policy Coordinator  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
l.jalasogoki@ifad.org

**Mr Steven Jonckheere**  
Consultant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
Belgian Fund for Food Security Joint Programme  
s.jonckheere@ifad.org

**Mr Roberto Longo**  
Policy Coordinator  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
r.longo@ifad.org

**Ms Annina Lubbock**  
Senior Technical Adviser  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
a.lubbock@ifad.org



**Ms Jessie Mabutas**  
Chief, Finance and Administration Officer  
j.mabutas@ifad.org

**Ms Sylvie Marzin**  
Country Programme Manager  
West and Central Africa Division  
s.marzin@ifad.org

**Ms Cheryl Morden**  
Director, IFAD, North American Liaison Office  
c.morden@ifad.org

**Mr Luyaku Nsimpasi**  
Country Programme Manager  
West and Central Africa Division  
l.nsimpasi@ifad.org

**Ms Maija Peltola**  
Associate Professional Officer  
Latin America and Caribbean Division  
m.peltola@ifad.org

**Ms Anja Rabezanahary**  
Consultant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
a.rabezanahary@ifad.org

**Mr Philippe Remy**  
Policy Coordinator  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
p.remy@ifad.org

**Mr Jatta Sana**  
Country Programme Manager  
Asia and the Pacific Division  
s.jatta@ifad.org

**Mr Afenyo Joy Selasi**  
Consultant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
A.afenyo@ifad.org

**Ms Tiziana Stefanelli**  
Programme Assistant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
s.stefanelli@ifad.org

**Ms Simone Zein**  
Programme Assistant  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
s.zein@ifad.org

**IFAD'S EXECUTIVE BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATING  
IN THE SPECIAL DINNER SESSION  
FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2010  
AT THE ARAN HOTEL**

**Ms Rivera de Angotti**  
Minister Counsellor  
**Guatemala**  
misfao.Guatemala@gmail.com

**Ms Kirsten Bjoru**  
Counsellor  
**Norway**  
Kirsten.Bjoru@mfa.no

**Ms Maria del Carmen Squeff**  
Alternate Permanent Representative  
**Argentina**  
mcsqueff@gmail.com

**Ms Amalia Garcia-Thärn**  
Minister Counsellor  
**Sweden**  
amalia.garcia-tharn@foreign.ministry.se

**Ms Adair Heuchan**  
Minister Counsellor  
**Canada**  
Adair.Heuchan@international.gc.ca

**Ms Jeanineke Dahl Kristensen**  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
**Denmark**  
jedakr@um.dk

**Dr Heike Kuhn**  
First Counsellor  
**Germany**  
heike.kuhn@diplo.de

**Ms Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán**  
Ambassador  
**Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**  
gladys.urbaneja@gmail.com

**Ms Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven**  
Permanent Representative  
**Netherlands**  
rof@minbuza.nl

**Ms Martine Van Dooren**  
Minister Counsellor  
**Belgium**  
Martine.VanDooren@diplobel.fed.be



Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty

**IFAD**

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The designations “developed” and “developing” economies are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

This publication or any part thereof may be reproduced without prior permission from IFAD, provided that the publication or extract therefrom reproduced is attributed to IFAD and the title of this publication is stated in any publication and that a copy thereof is sent to IFAD.

Cover photo: IFAD/Robert Grossman

## **Contact**

Annina Lubbock  
Senior Technical Adviser, Gender and Poverty Targeting  
Policy and Technical Advisory Division  
IFAD  
Via Paolo di Dono, 44  
00142 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 54592489  
E-mail: [a.lubbock@ifad.org](mailto:a.lubbock@ifad.org)  
[www.ifad.org/farmer](http://www.ifad.org/farmer)



International Fund for  
Agricultural Development  
Via Paolo di Dono, 44  
00142 Rome, Italy  
Telephone: +39 06 54591  
Facsimile: +39 06 5043463  
E-mail: [ifad@ifad.org](mailto:ifad@ifad.org)  
[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)  
[www.ifad.org/farmer](http://www.ifad.org/farmer)



October 2010