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FAO APPROACH TO ENHANCING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL ECONOMIES *

prepared by

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Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations

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INTRODUCTION

The inter-relationship between agriculture and industry is viewed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) within the context of integrated rural development. Thus FAO emphasizes increased farm production and provision of technical inputs and services, along with such aspects of the development process as the satisfaction of basic needs, expansion of income and employment opportunities for the rural poor, improved consumption patterns, increased mobilization and motivation to achieve effective participation of the rural people in the decision-making and rural development process.

FAO, within the limits of its mandate, reflects increased concern for the modernization and transformation of the agricultural and rural sectors, for the participation of rural women at policy and programme development levels and assurance that rural women and their families are brought into the mainstream of development. FAO gives high priority to rural development approaches, with the rural poor as the target audience, mainly the small-scale farmers, tenants and landless labourers, including men and women. In the production and employment sectors, it is agreed that there must be full and equitable involvement of rural men and women. Thus, integration in this context means the participation of women in productive, socio-economic and political activities required for rural development.

FAO also recognizes the critical importance, within the framework of integrated rural development, of the creation of agriculturally related and other non-farm employment opportunities, particularly if the growing numbers of rural people are to be accommodated in productive employment in many developing countries. In most cases, agriculture alone cannot provide adequate increased opportunities. At the same time, increased emphasis on self-sufficiency in development requires that both the demand and supply side of production and technology be considered within sub-national area and regional units. In these terms the activities of our two organizations can support each other, in the field of rural development.

Many governments have now recognized the need for full and effective integration of women in development goals and processes. At the same time, there is the realization that, to varying degrees in all developing countries, rural women constitute a socially and economically marginal group. Even where the equality of men and women has been specified in legislation, too often the marginalization of rural women continues, especially among the rural poor. Also technological and scientific advances have in some instances, further contributed to women's marginality. FAO programmes are increasingly based on the need to reverse this process, where rural women are often the main contributors to agricultural production, and yet, do not receive the technical and financial support essential to become more effective producers. In addition, rural women perform familial roles and are generally also deeply involved in production and processing activities. These are often not directly amenable to measurement, such as, maintaining the home, care of livestock, food processing for domestic consumption, and handicraft production.

Income provided by loans for the support of banking activities still remain nominal, due to the low opportunity cost of women's labour.

In this paper is presented a summary account of policies and programmes of FAO dealing specifically with women's activities in rural economies which have a bearing on agro-industrial production. Examples are given of several FAO programme activities which aim to increase income and employment opportunities for rural women. These may provide a basis for discussion for possible future FAO/UNIFEM collaboration in this programme area.

FAO Policy related to Women in Development - Rural Economies

In response to a resolution on "Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development and Nutrition Policies" passed by the 65th Session of the FAO Council and reaffirmed by the 15th Session of the FAO Conference, 1975, FAO's policies and programme implementation are aimed toward increasing women's participation in all sectors of food, agricultural and rural development. The policy of the Organization is now directed towards:

- the development of food production, food availability and utilization, reduction of food losses and the improvement of the quality of life through the full integration of women in rural development;
- assistance to Governments of Member Nations in their efforts to increase women's participation on an equitable basis with men in the policy making, planning and implementation processes in all food, agricultural and rural development programmes;
- a review by all its Departments and Divisions of country programmes and projects in nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, etc., to ensure that rural women are provided with the benefit of education, training, extension, cooperative activities, credit/marketing and other productive and social services that enable them to participate fully in agricultural and rural development.

The implementation of these policies are, in part, being facilitated by an official FAO Inter-Divisional Working Group on Women in Development (FAO/IDWG/WID), which has prepared inventories, guidelines, and seeks ways and means to coordinate and intensify programme activities. In FAO regional Offices, inter-disciplinary committees have been organized for action at the regional level.

Issues concerning social and economic conditions of rural women and recommendations for future action were also discussed at the recent 14th FAO Regional Conference, July 1978, for East and the Far East. In the provisional agenda, one of the items included in the background document (PERC/78/3, May 1978) for discussion was on the situation of women's participation. Attention was drawn to the substantial economic role played by Asian women:

"It has been traditional in Asia to base group action on elder males. Women, who constitute half of the population, have generally been denied participation. This deprives the community of their experience and their contribution. Governments should be encouraged to quantify the national monetary value of women's contribution to rural development so that national plans can reflect the inputs and needs of women. They should increasingly be involved in the decision-making process where this is concerned with the development of rural families. Countries would benefit tremendously if more attention were paid to this positive, substantial economic role played by Asian women.

It is equally important that women are informed of the existing laws in relation to women's rights to access, use, and ownership of land. Women must be kept informed about government decisions in relation to agrarian reform and the consequences of such decisions. If people are to participate in their own development, they must know why they should participate and what it will mean to them in terms of their own quality of life."

Similarly, at the 9th FAO Regional Conference for Africa in November 1976, emphasis was given to the need for women's involvement in training programmes. A background document on the "Orientation for the Future Work of FAO in the African Region" (ARC/76/9) stated:

"The key role women play in agricultural production will continue to be recognized, and in line with emphasis being laid on their effective participation in rural development, FAO will intensify its women's training programme to enable them to acquire the necessary skills in agricultural production practices. Particular attention will be paid to the responsibilities of women in the home and on the farm, the local development of tools and equipment to facilitate the revolution of agricultural production and rural development in general."

In the recent November 1977 FAO Conference, a resolution (77/14) was adopted with reference to the forthcoming World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) to be held in Rome in July 1979, calling for action to achieve the full incorporation of women in social and economic development processes in their respective countries, to the Conference for review and consideration.

The WCARRD Secretariat has included a sub-agenda item on the participation of women in agrarian reform and rural development. FAO urges that women be included as members of governmental delegations attending this Conference.

For the 1978 World Congress on Forestry, being held in Indonesia, FAO has included an item on "Women in Forestry", which will help identify areas in which women could participate and benefit from forestry-related activities. An essay competition on "Women and the Forestry Profession" has taken place among students in forestry institutes throughout the world. The winners of this essay contest will attend the Conference and present their winning essays.

FAO has for many years, provided assistance to its Member Countries in the areas of agricultural and specialized programmes for women and youth. Collaboration between FAO and other international agencies concerning programmes and projects for women and rural family workers is of long-standing duration.

Close working relations are also strengthened by the formulation of the plans of action for the integration of women in development in the regions and the establishment of projects, training centres, action research and programmes benefitting rural families and communities.

Yet another approach to implement programme policies is through consultations with nationals of the developing countries. An Expert Consultation on the Integration of Rural Women was convened in Rome, 19-23 September 1977, to advise FAO on strategies and programme approaches. The Consultation recommended that firm national policy commitment was needed to minimize the existing constraints to rural women's participation in development, and that there was need for:

- inclusion of women in decision-making from the grassroots level up;
- redefinition of employment to give statutory recognition to women's unpaid labour in farm and family enterprises;
- inclusion of women in the economically active labour market at all levels;
- training in planning, management and administration making women competent for sharing complementary responsibilities with men.

It was concluded that rural development concepts must be clearly defined and encompass the basic social and economic needs of rural women and families, particularly as related to agriculture, reduction of food losses, fisheries, animal husbandry, small industries, trading, marketing, cooperatives, credit and other sectors. There was strong support for the establishment of regional and group country mechanisms (or networks) to promote development programmes for women in the agricultural sectors.

FAO activities for rural women's development now exist in all the Regions; and a major effort in the FAO biennium 1978/79 is being made to intensify the programme in Asia and the Far East and the Near East Regions. There are global, inter-regional, regional, group-country and country activities, including studies, meetings, institution building, training and action programmes.

FAO Programme Orientations for Rural Women in Socio-Economic Development

Some of the major FAO programme orientations for rural women are through programmes of home economics, food and nutrition, population programmes for better family living, agricultural extension and training, rural cooperatives, prevention of food losses, marketing and credit, agrarian reform and comprehensive rural development schemes. Opportunities for women are now being developed in the fisheries and forestry sectors, particularly in Asia and the Far East Region.

There has been a growing interest in directing FAO activities for better employment and income-earning opportunities enabling rural women, especially the rural poor, to make a fuller contribution to the socio-economic development of their country. Action is taken especially through the establishment of projects related to village level small-scale enterprises in food storage and processing, cottage industries, and consumer goods. Efforts are made to involve women in all industries which are labour-intensive and which require a simple technology as well as minimal financial investment. Facilities are being established to help women acquire new skills and to assure their participating in rural enterprises as other than unskilled or semi-skilled operators. Training in relevant managerial, financial and administrative skills is included as an important component of a project. Women's familial roles are taken into consideration and provisions made for physical and social services, carry-home work, and part time work wherever feasible.

In part, because of their traditional familial roles, and other values and customs limiting women's mobility, the centralization of economic, managerial social and political functions under modernization, has resulted in women being increasingly excluded from them. Greater decentralization of organizational forms for the technology of work and production, with local needs in view, will favour the participation of women as demonstrated in several countries of the Far East.

Appropriate Technology, Credit and Marketing

A consensus is evolving that the approach to women's problems should be oriented not only to "welfare" and household activities but towards development and based on women's meaningful participation in the economic sphere, higher productivity and higher income. Paradoxically, women, and especially those living in the rural areas, are so over-occupied at low levels of skill and technology that they cannot add new activities. Some examples of FAO programme activities are described briefly in the following paragraphs.

Activity 1

Some essential needs of rural women are to alleviate the time and energy expended in their current arduous activities; to increase their efficiency and returns and increase the public visibility and social status of their work. The following project is developed as an experimental approach to such needs:

"Experimental Credit to Ujamaa Village Women, Tanzania": The outcome of this project would be the provision of credit by the Tanzania Rural Development Bank to rural women for productive enterprises. To initiate this project, a FAO consultancy is provided to:

- (i) identify suitable labour saving household and farm devices, which can be produced locally, particularly in the Ujamaa villages to involve women in such enterprises; and
- (ii) advise on possible small village handicraft enterprises in consultation with FAO and other appropriate agencies.

The project is aimed to bring about some diversification of the Ujamaa village economy. Especially, women will be encouraged to form themselves in groups, possibly based on the ten house cell concept for production purposes and receipt of credit. An essential feature of the project will be that women will be encouraged to save a portion of their incomes from their productive activities and reinvest them.

Collaboration for advice and guidance on developing new village level technology will be made with national institutes such as Tanzania Agricultural Machinery Testing Unit and the National Small Scale Industries Corporation. The Bank and an ongoing UNDP project (URT/42 SWI) will provide advice on appropriate credit arrangement. The project includes arrangements with concerned government departments for organizational and technical support as well as vocational training required by women participating in this economic activity.

Activity 2

"Credit Scheme for a Training-cum-Production Centre - Income Generating Activities for Women" is a project approved for India. A Non-Government Organization (NGO) is responsible for this project. The long-term objectives are:

- (a) Development of centres accessible to rural women to promote different types of small scale cottage and agro-based industries for gainful employment. It will provide income and contribute to the well being of the family, and to the personal development and status of rural women.

- (b) Depending on needs and developments of the project, to gradually seek to diversify the training for other income generating activities which might be deemed suitable and profitable, e.g. machine embroidery, quilt making, woollen and cotton handloom weaving, food processing of marketable products, and others.

The short term objectives are: (i) to initially promote among a specific group of 500 village women the know-how of the participatory concept and entrepreneurship; in terms of monitoring a business, inventing the profits and decision-making as recipients; (ii) to establish the main Training-cum-Production Centre with the NGO and provide training for village women in the initial project to produce goods of improved designs with the traditional embroidery called "kasooti"; and (iii) to establish marketing channels, beginning with a systematic market research survey to identify the kinds of products that are in demand for the national and export purposes.

In this project too, factors stressed are participation of local women both urban and rural, guidance and advice from the national bank, and other national institutes which are well established in these activities provide technical advice.

For the two projects mentioned above, FAO has provided funds (up to US \$ 50,000), technical assistance, and facilitated their establishment with national expertise and institutes. This process tends to build to self-reliance and economic independence within the countries.

Activity 3

"Women's Programme in Agricultural Credit and Banking for selected West African Countries", is a potential project proposal. This proposed programme for the African region would be an integral part of FAO's overall programme in the region for promoting this important sector of FAO's work. It is planned that a woman credit officer would be posted at the FAO Regional office for Africa, in Accra, Ghana, where she will have the technical support of a Regional Credit and Marketing Officer. The main objective would be to assist agricultural credit institutions in member countries for Africa in formulating practical projects and/or programmes which would qualify larger numbers of farm family members, and women in particular for access to institutional credit and savings facilities. The priority countries for the programme would be Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone where the agricultural credit institutions already exist.

In the course of preparing, implementing and assessing such projects it will become necessary to encourage employment of women credit officials from the Africa region to carry out much specific project work at the agricultural credit institutions and their branch office. The important goal would be to influence policies of the existing credit institutions and government supporting services so as to be more amenable to favourable credit and banking facilities benefitting rural women.

Such programmes/projects after having been tested on a pilot basis in conjunction with some of the most viable credit schemes (such as the production credit and small farmer credit schemes of the Agricultural Development Bank of Ghana), might be then introduced to the other countries/institutions.

Activity 4

"Processing and Storage of Food Grains by Rural Families", is an important aspect of activity in the prevention of post-harvest losses, to which FAO is currently giving high priority.

As stressed by Member Nations during the 19th Session of the FAO Conference, December 1977, emphasis is being laid on the important role of rural women in production, processing and conservation of food. Consequently, it has been decided to compile information on the processing and storage of food grains in the developing countries by rural families farming primarily to meet their own food needs. These methods may be traditional, and have proved their worth through generations of use and adaptation, or recent and relatively simple adaptations of traditional structures, procedures or equipment or they may be examples of appropriate technology which have been successfully transferred to the villages. This material when compiled will be made available to Member Nations to facilitate dissemination of information concerning tried and proven techniques in this area of basic importance to the well-being of the rural family. FAO has, therefore, contracted a specialist in the use of appropriate technology in rural development programmes, to compile this information.

The specialist will make a study of present traditional post harvest activities in the developing countries with special reference to the part that women play in the processing of food grains. Suggestions as to how their present often unnecessarily hard labour could be reduced by the introduction of simple technologies at village level, which would, at the same time, reduce post-harvest losses due to inefficient methods. The study will also cover traditional storage practices, the merits and demerits of existing storage structures and how these could be improved to decrease losses from rodents, mould and insects.

Activity 5

In addition, the FAO Program for Prevention of Food Losses, launched in 1978, in reporting on the status of projects requested by member governments by mid-1978 included examples of several with components focussed on rural women. For example:

- (1) Swaziland, "Reduction of Post Harvest Losses (Phase I)" - Establishment of a coordination unit which will work with many government agencies and programmes including Home Economics Extension, Programmes for Better Family Living, and the FAO/SIDA Project at the College of Agriculture.

- (ii) Liberia, "Reduction of Post-Harvest and Rice Losses in On-Farm Operations and Primary Marketing"- Activities will include training of home economics extension personnel.
- (iii) Nepal, "Rural Save Grain" - Some activities will focus on rural women through the Home Economics Extension Programme.
- (iv) Guatemala, "Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses Through Cooperative Organisations". Some activities will also be directed at women members of cooperatives.

Activity 6

Within its regional activities, FAO is emphasizing a "Small Farmer Development Programme" which is on-going in rural areas of eight countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Korea). In this programme, poor rural families, men and women are organized into small groups for the purpose of increasing their income through livestock production, crop production, rice milling, mushroom growing, fish net-making and other economic activities.

Activity 7

In the same region, another programme jointly conducted is the "ESCAP/FAO Inter-Country Project for the Promotion and Training of Rural Women in Income-Raising Group Activities". Rural women in most countries of this region, particularly those from small farm families, are traditionally engaged in economic activity, helping with the family farm or supplementing family subsistence or income in other ways. Little has been done, however, to increase the productivity and efficiency of such activities without passing them into the hands of men, by working through groups of women in the same community. There is a large reservoir of female labour and managerial capacity in rural areas that can be up-graded and much more effectively utilized to help increase the income of small farm families. It is necessary, therefore, to initiate more programmes to assist women to increase the productivity of their existing economic activities and to train them to undertake new ones. There are many instances in countries of the region, of rural women undertaking successful and replicable income-producing activities such as agricultural production, processing and marketing supplemented by the provision of credit. Such activities have often been built on the initiative of the women concerned, with or without outside assistance. These cases are worthy of study with a view to learning from their experience and encouraging their replication by women in other villages. With this proposed project ESCAP and FAO wish to assist Governments in the region to study some of these cases.

The objective of this project is to promote income-raising activities by groups of rural women especially from small-farm and rural labouring families. Case studies are now in progress of existing successful income-raising activities of groups of rural women. These will be presented to other village women leaders and officers of government and non-government agencies in a country workshop to be held in a rural area in each participating country. It is hoped, by this means, that other women will

be encouraged to replicate the successful activities in their own villages.

The project is primarily a national one with ESCAP/FAO acting as sponsor and assistant. Nine participating Governments (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand) have nominated a national counterpart agency to carry out the project in their own countries and a national coordinator for the project who would be responsible for the country-level programme.

The project has three phases. The first is the Joint Planning Meeting of national coordinators to prepare for the country programmes, including an agreed format for case studies and a unified approach to the country workshops. The second covers the activities at the country level including the preparation of the case studies and the organisation and execution of the country workshops and follow-up evaluation. The third phase is composed of a regional follow-up meeting to discuss the experience gained in the country workshops, to evaluate the problems encountered in such a programme and to formulate follow-up programmes. It is also expected that the material arising from the country workshops, case studies and workshop reports, will be used to prepare training material for use throughout the region.

Research and Socio Economic Data Collection

Several countries lack the statistical information and socio-economic data on rural women's labour force participation, impact of agricultural technology on the displacement of women, their problems, and constraints to rural development. FAO supports research, case studies and compilation of other materials on the issues of rural women whose plight has been overlooked in the past. Priority is given to data and analyses that are likely to have an impact on those who can intervene with appropriate programmes such as, the national planners, project personnel or the country women themselves. Support to national institutions is given through grants, fellowships and technical expertise, examples of which are:

- A study on "Rural Household Resource Allocation", is being conducted in several rural villages of Indonesia and is designed to identify important data about rural women's activities.
- Two studies have been completed on the "Participation of Women in Rural Development" in Indonesia and the Philippines.
- The Report of another study was completed on the "Role of Women in Banking and Rural Credit" in the countries of Malaysia, India and the Philippines.
- A study on "Rural Family Life Styles in Nigeria" was conducted on selected aspects of the life styles of 64 rural families living in eight different geographic areas located throughout Nigeria. The purpose was to seek information on division of labour, decision-making by sex for selected household and farm activities and utilize the implications for planning a FAO-supported project, "Home Economics Planning for Rural Development"

in relation to family roles and styles in the rural areas of Nigeria.

- Papers have been prepared by consultants on the "Integration of Women in Agricultural Reform and Rural Development in the FAO Regions as an input to the documentation of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.
- Comparative studies on the Role of Women in Rural Development with Special Emphasis on Production and Utilization of Food are planned to be conducted in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt.
- A case study on Rural Family Resource Allocation is being finalized by the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Beirut, Lebanon. The study deals with the sex/age distribution of responsibilities among household members, participation in decision-making and in income-earning and utilization and differential opportunities (social and economic) open to boys and girls, men and women. A Rural Family Life study being planned by the Somali National University, will include many similar factors.

A number of other applied research activities, planned or in the planning stage strengthen the basis for action programmes benefitting rural women. Such activities initiated during 1976-1977 include the following:

- 1) Feasibility mission to Zaire and Ghana in November 1976 to study the possibilities of introducing population/family life concepts into training activities for women in cooperatives. Draft reports are being finalized.
- 2) Case studies on the Role of Women in Marketing Local Farm and Marine Produce in West African countries.
- 3) Population, nutrition and food data analysis - study of relations between socio-economic factors and population variables. Study in Zambia completed and reported in June 1977.
- 4) A global study to develop criteria for establishing home economics training for professional staff in rural development. The study completed and reported in August 1977, is being printed in three languages (English, French and Spanish).
- 5) Study of the Role of Women in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Ethiopia. An FAO/UNDP research project being added to an on-going Land Reform Administration and Settlement project.
- 6) A "Preliminary Survey of Income-Earning Activities and Spending Patterns among Members of Women's Cooperatives

in Selected IRDP Villages in Bangladesh" was initiated in 1977 and will be followed up by the government department responsible. The survey also emphasized rural women's involvement in decision-making regarding the spending of benefits accrued.

- 7) A "Study of Rural Households and the Role of Women in Two Villages in West Java, Indonesia" was initiated during 1977 by an national institution: the "Rural Dynamics Study" of the Agro-Economic Survey, Ministry of Agriculture (TF/EST.247/SWF). The final report is expected at the end of 1978.
- 8) A "Survey on Labor-Utilization Patterns and Decision-Making Transmigrants, Pematang, Pangang, Sumatra" is being undertaken in Indonesia as a basis for the identification of training needs among female settlers in pilot transmigration scheme in South Sumatra, Indonesia. The survey is a component of a FAO Technical Assistance Project, "Pilot Extension Training Programme for Transmigration Settlement Schemes" (6/TRS/01/P). The final report will be ready at the end of 1978.
- 9) As a part of the UNDP/FAO project: "Institute of Land Development" (MAL/74/009) an assessment of the socio-economic aspects of the training programmes for settlement staff and for settlement families, was made; it also included proposals for case studies, e.g. "The Actual and Potential Role of Women in Land Development and Settlement". A report on "Social Aspects of Land Development and Settlement in FELDA Schemes", was proposed.

Other Activities:

To ensure continued and effective implementation of policies, FAO has provided channels to promote increased concern for rural women and indirectly focussed on women and in some cases initiated activities on behalf of rural women.

A. FAO has given considerable priority to grassroots level training programmes for rural women, and to the strengthening of training institutions, home economics extension and family life development, and applied nutrition programmes in the countries of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Philippines and India.

B. The major thrust of FAO activities related to the implementation of the African Plan of Action has so far been in the general area of education and training. A few selected programme examples related to socio-economic aspects are:

- Home Economics Planning for Rural Development in Nigeria.
A home economics extension programme was established at the national level with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and to coordinate activities with programmes located in other Ministries at Federal and State levels.

Curriculum development, women power planning and rural family life styles were major components of work.

- College of Agriculture, University of Liberia — establishment of a Department of Home and Community Development with emphasis on community development training, nutrition related to agriculture, management of resources and consumer education.
- Buhare Home Economics Training Centre at Musoma, Tanzania — home economics training, child care centre, outreach programme based on family living study.

C. In the area of employment, FAO programmes are aimed to prepare and improve skills and qualifications of women in food, agricultural and rural development programmes or for self-employment in the home or on the farm. High priority is being given to rural women both as producers and consumers of food, and assistance is provided to increase their participation in rural organizations, especially in rural cooperative movements. Examples of such projects can be found in Mexico and Honduras. Two 1978-79 UNFPA proposals are of special interest in this respect: 1) Interrelations between Fertility and Employment Patterns of Rural Women in the Agricultural Sector, and 2) Statistics on Women's Participation in Agricultural Production.

D. Seminars, workshops, study tours, fellowships have been yet another FAO activity concerning rural families. Many of these have been funded through joint efforts of FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA and private organizations. A few selected examples from the social and economic spheres are:

- A seminar was held in December 1977, in Ghana for West African Countries on the Role of Women in Marketing Local Farm and Marine Produce. Similar activities are being planned in the Andean Region of Latin America and Haiti.
- FAO/BCA Itinerant Training Workshops for Rural Family Workers were held in Benin, Cameroon, Central African Empire, Congo, Gabon, Mauritania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and Upper Volta.
- BCA/FAO/UNICEF Workshop on Food and Preservation held in Kibaha, Tanzania July-August 1975.
- FAO/DANIDA/Ethiopian Government Workshop on Role of Women in Rural Development, Dobra Zeit, Ethiopia, November 1976.
- Series of Training Workshops for Women's Groups in Kenya (within Kenya PDFL project), during 1975, 1976 and first half of 1977.

POTENTIAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN FAO AND UNIDO

Collaboration is already established through the FAO/UNIDO Joint Technical Working Group on Food and Agriculture Products, Conservation and Processing Industries. There are also about 35 joint FAO/UNIDO projects in relevant areas of interest to both organizations, however thus far little attention has been given to their impact on women and families of the rural poor.

FAO, in keeping with its policies would be interested in developing collaboration programmes benefitting rural women, primarily in the food and agriculture sectors, but also the possibilities for women's participation in other rural economic activities. Full involvement, by all concerned, at all stages of programme planning, implementation and evaluation would be desirable. Possible ideas of collaboration could be:

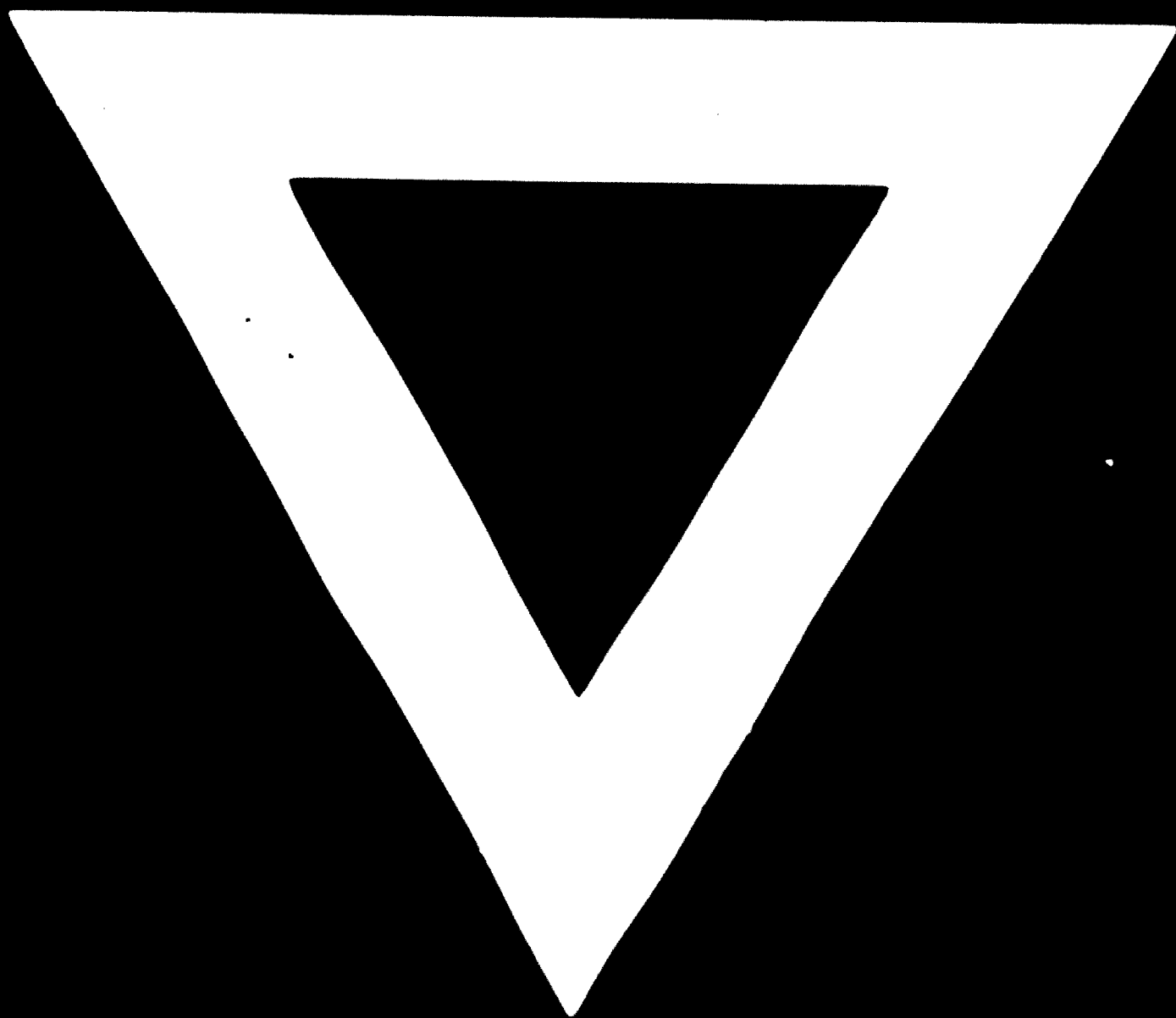
1. Consultation at the earliest stages of joint programme planning to identify major areas of collaboration, at global, regional and country levels.
2. Unified plans of action in selected countries, where FAO has on-going (or projected) major agricultural and rural development programmes.
3. Training, research or publications, in collaboration with FAO programmes based on the following issues:
 - rural women being adversely affected by technological advancements that may reduce their drudgery but not advance their economic and social participation
 - rural women need meaningful training and job opportunities in order to increase their income, socio-economic mobility and status within the family and community
 - means of avoiding technological choices restricting women to traditional female household chores, creating new institutions to include men, women, children and adults that can improve family life as a whole
 - programmes encouraging new roles for women and men and bringing them together in the sharing of responsibilities in and outside the family.
4. Collaboration on various studies related to the problems of women in agriculture and rural development.
5. Programmes of multi-disciplinary training, including such areas as development of new skills, appropriate technology, food processing and storage, agriculture, leadership, management and administration.

6. Collaboration on determined regional and country workshops, seminars, consultations and review missions.
7. Collaboration in the exchange of information, reports and documents.

The FAO activities that have been listed in the foregoing section may also pose some possible areas of collaboration in the future.



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