



Enabling the rural poor
to overcome poverty

Promoting Gender Equality in Agriculture in 2010 and Beyond

Briefing and discussion
Tuesday, 2 March 2010, 11.00- 12.30
IFAD Liaison Office to the UN
Two UN Plaza
DC-2 Building, Room 1122

At the occasion of CSW, IFAD would like to invite you to discuss possible strategic joint actions for promoting gender equality in agriculture in 2010 and beyond. A video link will be established to colleagues in Washington (World Bank, USAID, ICRW, WOCAN).

2010 provides significant opportunities in international policy arenas for advancing awareness and promoting actions to support rural women as agents of change and drivers of economic and social development:

- The CSW's review of Beijing+15, the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review ("Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment") and the MDG Review Summit will gather world leaders, civil society and private sector to speed up action in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the MDGs.
- The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) in Montpellier, France (28-31 March 2010) will discuss a global action plan and strategy for improving agricultural research in order to make maximum impact on development, especially of the poor.

Building on the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook (www.worldbank.org/genderinag), a joint product of the World Bank, FAO and IFAD, an informal community of practice is growing. Its goal is to turn policy recommendations into political commitments and action on the ground to help rural women improve their lives and achieve economic empowerment. We are seeking to create a bigger alliance of likeminded organizations to advance common objectives.

Background

Substantial progress toward achieving MDG 1 and other international development goals depends heavily on improving agricultural development and enhancing food society. Improving agricultural development and food security, in turn, requires an understanding of the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in developing country agriculture, along with priority investment in women farmers and rural producers.

Over the past two years, gender and women's empowerment have steadily received increased attention in the context of agricultural development. Yet the discourse has been uneven, and there is still no established agreement for translating this dialogue and policy statements into productive and sustained action on the ground. Sustained efforts are needed to ensure that benefits generated by the heightened attention paid to food security issues are captured by women and that women's role and responsibilities in producing, marketing and preparing food need to be central elements of operational activities.

For further information on the meeting, please contact Maria Hartl, Technical Advisor Gender and Social Equity, IFAD (m.hartl@ifad.org) or Xenia von Lilien, IFAD Liaison Office New York (ifad@un.org, or 212-963-0564).