

Interactive Expert Panel 1

**The empowerment of rural women and their role in
poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges**

Focus: economic empowerment of rural women

Tuesday, 28 February 2012, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Panellists

Ms. Malika Abdelali-Martini is a socio-economist and gender research specialist within the Social, Economic and Policy Research Program (SEPRP) of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Aleppo, Syria. At ICARDA, she works on a range of issues related to livelihoods and poverty reduction, and on their gender equality aspects. She has carried out fieldwork in the Middle East and North Africa, as well as in some countries of Central Asia. Before joining ICARDA, she was affiliated with the Center of Applied Economics, the Ministry of Energy, and the Ministry of Planning in Algeria. Ms. Abdelali-Martini holds a Post-graduate Diploma and a Master's degree in Demography, and a PhD in Rural Development and Gender Studies from Reading University in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Jemimah Njuki is the team leader for the Poverty, Gender and Impact Program at the International Livestock Research Institute based in Nairobi, Kenya. For the last 10 years, she has been involved in mainstreaming gender and gender analysis in agriculture research, development and policy programmes including gender-responsive or women-targeted research and development projects. Her main focus of research is the economic empowerment of rural women, including programmes linking smallholder women farmers to agricultural markets. She has authored numerous publications on gender and agriculture, women's and markets, gender and intra-household dynamics among others. She is the editor of a forthcoming book: *Bridging the Gender Gap: Women and Livestock in Eastern and Southern Africa*.

Ms. Shahaz Wazir Ali is Special assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on social sectors. She also is a Member of the National Assembly and of its Women Parliamentary Caucus, as well as the Chairperson of the National Advisory Forum on the Gender Equity Programme. In addition, she is a member of various executive boards, including the Management Board of the Benazir Income Support Programme, the Devolution Trust for Community Empowerment, and the Fund for Inclusion of Disabled Persons. She previously served as Executive Director of the Pakistan Center for Philantropy, and prior to that, was a Senior Education Specialist at the World Bank in Islamabad. Throughout her career, she has acted as a senior member of Pakistan's delegations to major world summits and conferences, including the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

Ms. Anna Kaisa Karttunen is an agriculture and rural development specialist with experience as an adviser, project manager, director and researcher in Finland, as well as in developing countries. She specializes on project design and monitoring in agriculture, food security and rural

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development, and is well-acquainted with policy- and strategy-level issues, including through preparation of strategy papers and assessments of sector-wide development challenges. Ms. Karttunen has collaborated with the United Nations entities focused on agricultural issues, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, and the Finnish Farmers' Union, among others. She has conducted short- and long-term assignments in various countries in Africa, Asia, Central Asia, and Latin America.

Ms. Cheryl Morden is the Director of the North American Liaison Office of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In that capacity, she leads efforts to mobilize resources, influence policy, and build partnerships to enable the rural poor to overcome poverty. Prior to joining IFAD, she served as Director of Policy and Communications for the International Center for Research on Women. Until 1998, she was the Associate Director for Development Policy for Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief. Throughout her career, she has managed policy advocacy initiatives, advocacy training, and mobilization campaigns on a variety of international development issues, including foreign aid reform, food security, agriculture and nutrition linkages, and gender and development. She holds a Master's degree in international development education from the University of Pittsburgh.