

CSW - Joint Side Event - Italy-Israel-Senegal

Rural Women: From Vulnerability to Sustainability

United Nations, Conference Room 5 (NLB)

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

13:15-14:30

Rationale:

The plight of women living in rural and remote areas deserves special attention, given the stagnation in such regions. In the developing countries, even those in which national indicators have shown improvements, the majority of **rural women** continue to live in conditions of economic underdevelopment and social marginalization.

Side event aims:

The side-event will put the emphasis on the importance of capacity-building of women's organizations at **grassroots level** and on the issue of **rural women's empowerment** aiming to bring them from **vulnerability to sustainability**.

The discussion will also enable stakeholders to identify needs and priorities within the context of improving living conditions and promoting the social and economic status of women in rural areas. In order to answer to the MDGs, the Governments of Senegal, Italy and Israel decided to join their efforts to launch a successful intervention to support the economic empowerment of rural women in the context of agricultural development in Senegal. The opportunity was offered by the open policy dialogue among the three mentioned stakeholders. The main pillars were: The Senegalese National Strategy for gender equality (SNEEG), the strong commitment to rural development and to the empowerment of women within the framework of the "Italo-Senegalese program for development" and the TIPA (Techno Agriculture Innovation for Poverty alleviation) program realized since 2004 in Senegal by MASHAV – The Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation. The TIPA program has an important role in creating an enabling environment for the empowerment of rural women, addressing the issue of food security, and enhancing income generation.

However, TIPA is just one practical example of assisting women in the rural environment. The proposed side-event intends to highlight the experiences for gender equality and rural women's empowerment and how through joint and combined forces, trilateral partnership can work towards poverty alleviation and gender equality.

It also intends to introduce the MCTC/MASHAV's role in tackling gender issues, enhancing the contribution of women to development in a self-employed entrepreneurial activity. Senegal, the Italian DGCS and MCTC/MASHAV are willing to share with UN agencies, NGOs, and other interested delegations attending the 56° CSW, how the TIPA approach can constitute a "best practice" for the empowerment of rural women.