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“GENDER CONSTRAINTS FOR RURAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION”

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"Gender Constraints for Rural Poverty Alleviation¹"
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Abstract:

Globally economic growth was achieved in many countries, but it was not achieved with urban-rural as well as gender and social equity. Particularly rural poverty persists. In today's global environment, poverty should be assessed as income poverty and information dispossession. An underlying belief is that relevant information improves the knowledge of alternatives and thus improves choices. In the Asia-Pacific region it been shown conclusively that women bear the brunt of poverty disproportionately. Rural women also face the disadvantages of being poorly educated and inadequately informed. Hence rural women face income poverty as well as income dispossession, which deprives them of economic power and knowledge power. FAO shares the global responsibility to eradicate poverty and elimination of hunger with a special mission to work for the people in agriculture and rural communities. Hence the gender concerns in rural poverty reduction strategies should recognize that basics for agriculture and rural economic development continue to be people, natural resources and technology. But people who are producers, both men and women in rural communities are confronted by livelihood challenges related to changing population situation, degrading natural resource base, new technologies and accelerated global economic integration. The national programmes that focus on agriculture and rural economic development should recognise these influencing factors that precipitate livelihood implications for gender roles and support actions for transforming the institutions and agencies to improve gender equitable access to resources. A right based approach to development and integration of women in development in particular will demand education of society and changing the attitude that under values girl children and women. The link between women's right for education and gender equity in human

¹ The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of FAO, the United Nations or any affiliated organizations. Since it is a working draft, please do not quote or cite without prior consent of the author.

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*resource development will require consistent national commitment and considerable investment of resources. The modernisation of rural economies should have a balanced approach that support technology for home front and farm front. Rural human assets particularly, rural women who had provided the labour for land based production as unpaid labour should be trained to take advantage of emerging opportunities. In the modern agriculture sector the gender disparity in lower wages paid to women should become a focus of agriculture labour equity provisions. In natural resource management front it is crucial that guaranteed rights to women to access and use and/or own to land and forest resources with responsibility to manage these resources supported by technology and information. The rural extension services units could become effective centres of learning for rural women assisted by information and communication technologies. The cost effectiveness and wide reach of communication technologies and infiltration of popular media in rural areas could favour a public education strategy to create awareness to change the biases against education for rural girl children and women. Most importantly the need of the time is the transformation of traditional norms which perpetuate biases against rural women and rural girls within family, communities and work organizations. As the countries move toward decentralization of governance process it would be important that the UN conventions agreed to and commitments made by the member nations are reflected in the local governance approaches and programs. Given the importance and urgency at this time, thus when it comes to planning for gender equality actions for reducing rural poverty it cannot be business as usual but it has to be business **unusual**.*

1. Income Poverty and Information Dispossession

Presently global dialogue over poverty highlights the idea that people are poor and powerless due to reasons of lack of income as well as information to improve their options to overcome poverty. An underlying belief is that relevant information improves the knowledge of livelihood alternatives and thus improves choices. So, the it is proposed that informed choices improve livelihood strategies. As the world economy and social interactions become increasingly connected, the poor confront new obstacles as complex external factors of trade, communication impact on their livelihood strategies. Hence, income poverty can be also due to information dispossession.

1.1. Income Poverty: Income poverty leads to economic insecurity and food insecurity. As stated in UNDP Human Development Report of 2001, “Income is a very important means of enlarging people’s choices and thus is an indicator of measuring standard of living” (UNDP 2001)ⁱ. In the last thirty years at global level considerable gains have been made in improving the economic situation in many countries. But disparity in income and economic opportunities continue to persist. The regions such as East Asia and Pacific have made impressive gains and South Asia also has shown gains, but the situation in least developed countries have become worse. “In the 1990’s the poorest 10% of the world’s people had only 1.6 % of the income of the richest 10% (UNDP 2001)ⁱⁱ.

1.2. Furthermore within the countries distorted income and asset distribution situations create urban and rural disparity in income and thus income poverty is higher among the rural population. “Several countries in the region achieved high growth rates and rural poverty saw a substantial decline during the 1980s and 1990s. However the impact was not uniform across the region. Three fourths of the world’s poor (1.3 billion) live in rural areas of the Asia and Pacific region. South Asian sub-region in particular has been the home of two-fifths of the income poor of the developing countries. Most of the poor in the region are small and land-less farmers living in rural areas. The poorer people are found among women, children and youth, older persons, ethnic minorities and victims of disasters and conflicts. Poverty involving the rural sector could remain the significant issue in the first decade of this century, considering the fact that about 80 percent of the world’s economically active population are engaged in agriculture in Asia.” (PAI, 1998)ⁱⁱⁱ. In many countries in which such economic growth was achieved, it was not achieved with equity. It is common to identify urban-rural as well as gender and social inequities.

1.3. According to an ESCAP study, in most South Asian countries, it has been shown conclusively that women bear the brunt of poverty disproportionately. One fact of the manifestation of women’s survival strategies under poverty condition is to extend their working hours inordinately at home and outside to earn enough cash to feed and maintain the family. The neglect of the agricultural sector in many countries makes it a career of last choice, hence “feminisation” of agriculture^{iv}. There is yet, no evidence that their contribution will decrease in the coming years, rather the signs are that women would be increasingly keepers of the family farms in Asia. Across the region as well as globally subsistence farming enterprises operate with heavy input of female labour, including girl children. Such labour is called “Unpaid Family Work” in the agriculture and rural economies. This unpaid labour is neither accounted for adequately in rural development planning process nor there is appropriate technical and service assistance directed to improve the working conditions of rural women undertaking the unpaid work. Rural women continue to work with limited resources to ensure the survival of the families under poverty conditions.

1.4. Information Dispossession: It is important to explore the inequity in education attainment and access to information that is a barrier to improve rural women’s economic achievement and social advancement. It is easy to understand the links between the lack of land and financial asset to create income and the lack of education to seek employment opportunities to diversify income opportunities. There is an important link between possession of appropriate information, personal empowerment to escape poverty, making informed choices and identification of diversifying income alternatives. But this link is very often unrecognized both by the rural community –the clients and service providers namely the

development agencies. The clients in the rural communities may or may not be aware of the existence of the information and /or the importance of obtaining and using the information. The providers may overlook the importance of wider client base for the distribution of information. This omission may be in part due to lack of understanding of the client base and physical constraints. It may be due to overlooking women as information users or to lack of physical and social infrastructure available to reach a wider group, particularly those groups such as rural women and girls, marginal farmers and land less rural poor who are usually not considered as clients or easy to reach.

1.5. Information Dispossession Among Rural Women-A causal Factor to Persistent Poverty:

According to UNIFEM “Disadvantaged groups are often prevented from having access to resources, information and policy development...The representation of the affected stakeholders including consumers and women, and the extent to which they have access to information to make knowledgeable and informed decisions, will determine how trade policies and other resultant policies are shaped” (UNIFEM 1999)^v. Dispossession of information, is a barrier to access knowledge – an important ingredient of human capital – an asset both for household and national economies. FAO reviewed issues of rural women and information as they related to food security and proposed a strategy for action. FAO recognizes that among important factors that contribute to increased poverty and exclusion, one of them relates to the “ exclusion of large part of the population including rural women, from information flows, communication processes and thus decision making” (FAO 2000)^{vi}. Providing information on wide range of subjects from crop management to trade information to rural women and other rural stakeholders can make crucial difference in making right decisions both by rural clients and by policy makers in reducing poverty. According to Swaminathan, a renowned Indian scientist, “ If women are empowered with technological information and skills, all members of the family will benefit” (UNDP 2001)^{vii}.

1.6. As relevant to information dispossession of women, it should be pointed out that the educational statistics,(there are data on formal education at various with regional variations) only relates to literacy gains and gaps, and thus may not provide the complete picture of efficiency of human capital. The efficiency assessment of human capital should include the dimension of informed functional capacity for the rural women to understand the complex market exchanges and laws and rules that increasingly regulate the economic and social transaction to achieve economic gains and to advance their social status. If such a definition of informed functional capacity is applied, in reality most rural women will fall under the educationally deprived and information dispossessed and thus ineffective to function in today’s complex systems of exchange. This aspect of widening information gap and thus knowledge gap among rural

women to function effectively in complex systems of exchanges should be given due attention in human development initiatives.

2. FAO Mission on Elimination of Hunger for Reducing Poverty:

An impending global development goal is to achieve equitable access to resources to improve living conditions among rural poor to reduce poverty and improve livelihood of rural households. FAO shares the global responsibility to eradicate poverty and elimination of hunger with a special mission to work for the people in agriculture and rural communities. Three dimensions of FAO food security programme are food availability, and access and stability and it is recognised in the World Food Summit Plan of Action that poverty eradication is essential to improve access to food^{viii}. The same document also recognises the role of women and men as partners in achieving the goals of sustainable food security and natural resource management. Under the commitment I of the World Food Plan of Action, the Governments committed themselves to actions related to integration of rural women's concerns as producers and farmers and ensuring that policies, programmes and training agenda reflect this commitment. Hence the FAO technical mandate promotes gender equal access to resources to eradicate rural poverty. It should be noted that this commitment is made by the countries and thus it is crucial that national agencies take lead for implementing the mandate.

2.1. Three basics for agriculture and rural economic development continue to be *people, natural resources and technology*. But people who are producers, both men and women in rural communities are confronted by livelihood challenges related to *changing population situation, degrading natural resource base, new technologies and accelerated global economic integration*. The production system and market demands influence the rural households' livelihood choices and production patterns with implications for rural women's role and their effective participation in ensuring secure livelihood. The national programmes that focus on agriculture and rural economic development should recognise these external factors that precipitate livelihood implications for gender roles and support actions for transforming the institutions and agencies to improve gender equitable access to resources.

3.0. Population Growth and Migration Impacts on Livelihood and Food Security

It is recognised that “population growth and movements, including urbanisation and migration affect food security by increasing and changing the demand for food and by changing access to productive resources. Population pressures, in combination with poverty and insecure property rights, contribute to overuse and misuse of natural resources. Efforts must be made to lower fertility and slow population increase (Pinstrup-Andersen and Pandya-Loch, 1996)^{ix}.” Thus the balancing act

will demand a population policy in conjunction with poverty and food security policies. It should be explicitly recognised that the informal sector around the world is a labour pool made mostly of migrant rural poor-seeking livelihood in urban areas. Thus an urban growth management policy cannot ignore the basic cause of migration-namely the rural poverty— poverty among many whose livelihood base was natural resources and dependent on land based production.

4.0. Environmental Degradation Impact on Livelihood Risk and Food Security

The environmental conditions could be an important factor in determining rural poverty and household food security both at global context and among the communities and households in developing countries. Most often rural household's livelihood strategies are dependent on environmental resource base—such as productivity determined among others by access to land, homestead site, soil fertility and water availability. According to a UNDP (1999) report, “ The loss of human security can be a slow, silent process-or an abrupt, loud emergency. Humans can be at fault-with bad policy choices. So can be the forces of nature. Or it can be a combination of the two-when environmental degradation leads to a natural disaster, followed by human tragedy.” It recognises seven threats to human security, differing for individuals at different times, and included among these are economic insecurity, food insecurity and environmental insecurity. The three namely economic insecurity, food insecurity and environmental insecurity as combined forces could contribute to rural poverty and unsustainable livelihood among rural communities.

It is stated that,

“Much of the degradation of natural resources in developing countries results from rural poverty, pressured by increasing population densities and inadequate agricultural intensification. Poor people often lack sufficient incomes or access to credit to purchase appropriate tools and technologies to practice environmentally sustainable techniques. Their poverty may force them to engage in resource degrading activities, such as mining soils, moving into marginal lands such as steep hill sides or cutting down forests (Pinstrup-Andersen and Rajul Pandya-Loch, 1996)”^x

4.1. In developing countries in the region for both poor men and women who face poverty as a daily occurrence, persisting concern for feeding the family and the hardship of escaping hunger over-shadows their commitment to sustainable management of natural resource. A degrading natural resource base threatens the livelihoods of rural poor in developing countries, punishes them with poverty and pushes them to a choice of migration to urban centres. Under certain circumstances women become

the farmers in the absence of male members and thus face the constraints of working the poor land with inadequate support of technology and services to improve land based livelihood. Additionally, the forest dependent livelihood of rural women is threatened as degradation proceeds.

5.0. Advanced Technologies in Agriculture Development and Educational Gender Disparity

UNDP identifies two important trends in technologies, namely information and communication technologies and biotechnology (1999). The report states that, “ For both, there have been fundamental leaps in innovation-not just better ways of doing old things but radically new ways of doing previously unimagined things. The fusion of computing and communications-especially through the Internet – has broken the bounds of cost, time and distance, launching an era of global information networking. In biotechnology the ability to identify and move genetic materials across species types has broken the bounds of nature, creating totally new organisms with enormous but unknown implications. ... Communications change economic competition, empowerment and culture, inspiring global conversations. Genetic engineering leads to complex links between farmers and indigenous people in bio-rich countries and the multinational and agricultural industries (UNDP, 1999)^{xi}.” The technological revolution will impact on the agricultural development, but at this time the prospects for Asia-Pacific rural women’s participation in the new century technological innovations are not very positive.

5.1. The technological advances and mechanisation that have made food availability situation from negative to positive situation have not always favoured rural women in their tasks as food producers and managers of natural resources. A persistent concern is that as advances are made technology and information access gaps will continue to hamper women’s equal participation in modern agriculture development and sharing economic prosperity. There are various reasons associated with the relatively low access among rural women for technology and information. Among these persistent constraints are the rural women’s low educational achievement; lack of intensive and consistent commitment to address the need for appropriate technology for rural women and the general indifference to improve the rural human assets with skills required to take advantage of emerging technologies and diversification of agriculture and rural economic enterprises. While the advances in the agricultural technologies in this century had missed the rural women, the rural-urban and gender gaps can widen as the advances in biotechnology and information technologies permeate in a faster rate in the new century.

5.2. The disparity between the speed of diffusion in information technology and lag in the spread of women’s education, particularly among the rural women in the region highlight concerns over gender and urban-

rural equity in access to emerging knowledge based opportunities. From a human resource perspective the rural-urban disparity in education could impede rural women's participation and contribution to agriculture development driven by sophisticated modern technologies, such as biotechnology and information technology.

5.3. In this context the significance of improving educational opportunities for girls in general, and specifically for rural girl children cannot be ignored. Until and unless a significant progress is made towards gender parity in educational attainment and information access, all efforts directed toward expanding opportunities for economically viable livelihood for rural women, particularly in diversified agriculture development would be persistently and severely tested.

5.4. Rural women's traditional knowledge of the local biodiversity is often ignored as the biotechnology innovations take hold of agriculture development. Additionally rural women's knowledge of local plants and animals as a source of food and medicine most often determines the health and food security at the household level. While the progression of science will gather momentum and can not be stopped, it will be important that the safeguards are put in place for assisting farmers, both men and women from being further marginalised. In the case of rural women while they hold a dominant position in indigenous knowledge system, yet their weak position (marked by high illiteracy and lack of understanding of market forces) in modern learning system, will leave them highly disadvantaged.

6.0. Global Economic Integration and Shift in Consumer Demands: Impact on Household Food Security Managed by Rural Women

Global financial market integration is an aspect of globalisation that created Asian economic crisis. To date the impact of Asian economic crisis on rural women is presented only in anecdotal evidence, but no systematic study has been undertaken. The anecdotal evidence suggests that as the informal economy shrank, the rural household economy managed by women provided the safety net. Thus falling back on a trusted way of life, namely agriculture and land-based work and trustworthy family support, the food security was ensured for those suffered the shock of economic crisis in the urban informal sector. Agriculture sector sustained the poor and marginally skilled and unskilled for urban sector whose livelihood was threatened. Hence, the regional economic policies are turning toward revitalising sustainable agriculture, diversification of agriculture production, rural poverty alleviation strategies and safety net issues. With increasing migration from rural to urban centres by men and educated young women, the success of sustainable or diversified agriculture as well as rural poverty alleviation strategies will depend on women who have opted to live in rural areas.

6.1. Changing global demand comes with implications for rural women's production at household level. An example on livestock production is presented. As relevant to livestock sector the following production trend is projected for 2020. It is stated that, "A demand-driven livestock revolution" is underway in the developing world, with profound implications for agriculture, health, livelihoods and environment... In per capita terms, demand for meat in developing countries will increase by 40 percent between 1995 and 2020, where as it will increase by only 10 percent for cereals. Worldwide demand for poultry meat is projected to increase by more than 85 percent between 1995 and 2020, for beef 50 percent and for pig meat by 45 percent. Nevertheless, demand for pig meat will continue to exceed demand for other meat commodities. In the developing world, demand for poultry meat is expected to increase the fastest, at an average annual rate of 3.6 percent, compared with 2.28 percent for beef and 2.3 percent for pig meat" (Pinstrup-Andersen *et al.* 1999)^{xii}. According to this projection a significant amount chickens and pigs will be needed to keep up with the growing demand within developing countries. It is stated that " the livestock revolution is a structural phenomenon that is here to stay. As in the case of the green revolution, the stakes for the poor in developing countries are enormous. How good or bad the livestock revolution will be for the people of the developing countries depends on how these countries choose to approach it. Lack of policy will not stop the livestock revolution but will ensure that the form it takes is less favourable for growth, poverty alleviation and sustainability in developing countries (Delgado *et al.* 1999)^{xiii}."

6.2. Rural women in almost all developing countries hold the right to small livestock even if they do not have right to land or access to other convertible assets. This is the local production scene depicting a low input driven small livestock production and instant food security system based on the rural household's asset under the control of women. It is not easy to visualise how growth in the poultry and pork product industry to keep up with growing demand will impact on this women managed local food security situation. Now, the hope is that the lessons learned from the impact of green revolution, both good and bad, will guide the process to improve the development strategies during the foreseen livestock revolution. By learning from the past it will be important to improve development performance to achieve shared prosperity in the livestock revolution with gender equity.

6.3. Globalisation also creates links with household economy through the overseas remittance of migrant workers. There are capital linkages between rural households in the Philippines and Bangladesh with overseas workers participating in global labour markets. With decreasing members in the agriculture households leading to shortage of labour, and the hardship of subsistence agriculture, it is possible that rural women

will take on economic activities based on cash economy rather than on land based commodity production. Thus even in rural areas primary concern could emerge as access to food rather than availability of food. There will be demand for alternative modes of income generation, up-scaling the production alternatives and managing cash based and market oriented enterprises. Again informal observation and qualitative information from the Philippines seem to suggest that overseas remittance income could diversify household livelihood strategies and investment in farm may only be one of the components of the livelihood strategies.^{xiv}

7.0. Right Based Approach To Development and Rural Women's Rights to Access Resources

In the year 2000 Human development report, it is acknowledged that "Human rights are fulfilled when the persons involved enjoy secure access to the freedom or resource covered by the right" (UNDP, 2000)^{xv}. As relevant to rural women, the human rights related to access to property and education are stressed. Among others freedom from hunger and starvation is also relevant to human resource development. Thus the role of rural women to contribute to food security is linked to rights to education and property. "Women's access in securing a commitment to their equal right to own, control and inherit land and other property, especially in rural areas, is particularly significant (Progress of World's Women 2000)^{xvi}." The legislative and administrative reforms for women's equal rights to resources and land rights have been on the agenda, but the progress had been rather slow. Since, it is a contentious issue both at household level politics and national laws.

7.1. A right based approach to development and the integration of women in development in particular will demand education of society and changing the attitude that under values girl children and women. The link between women's right for education and gender equity in human resource development will require consistent national commitment and considerable investment of resources. At the home front the family values and household economics should support the girl's education. Furthermore gender equality in education is not easy to achieve until and unless rural households escape the poverty trap.

8.0. Strategies for Active Advancing the Status of Rural Women in Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes in the Changing Regional Context

- i) The regional economies are undergoing transformation in social, economic and political institutions. Most importantly the agriculture sector presents a mixed scenario. The subsistence agriculture sector coexists with advanced agricultural enterprises. Thus the scale and type of the enterprise will determine the scope

of intervention to improve women's access to resources. At the subsistence level the technological intervention should take into consideration the drudgery of women's work. If the women are not released from the domestic drudgery, they will lack time or incentive to explore livelihood strategies that could reduce resource vulnerability that threatens household food security. The modernisation of rural economies should have a balanced approach that support technology for home front and farm front.

- ii) The diversification of agriculture and global economic integration driven demand for products will change the production opportunities in rural area. Rural human assets particularly, rural women who had provided the labour for land based production as unpaid labour should be trained to take advantage of emerging opportunities.
- iii) As transformation takes place in agricultural sector the modern commercial sector employs women with increased work load. In the modern agriculture sector the gender disparity in lower wages paid to women should become a focus of agriculture labour equity provisions.
- iv) Innovative gender equitable approaches that recognise gender roles in rural livelihood strategies dependent on natural resources, and related demand for natural resource will be needed to ensure that the degradation of natural resources is averted. It would demand guaranteed rights to women to access and use and/or own to land and forest resources with responsibility to manage these resources supported by technology and information.
- v) Women's undervalued knowledge in biodiversity management must be documented as information to direct national policies and strategies for biodiversity conservation. The role of rural women in local biodiversity conservation should be strengthened with appropriate incentives and the benefit sharing mechanism should be gender equitable.
- vi) Globalisation will generate demands for advanced techniques and semi-skilled expertise in agriculture production to meet the global market standards. This would happen in the prevailing context of high illiteracy rate among rural women in Asia-Pacific region. The agricultural extension systems in the region had to adopt strategies to improve rural women's skills to be competitive in global market. It is also imperative that the skills and knowledge of the extension system professionals be upgraded to take on the task of improving the capacities among rural women.

- vii) Information and communication technologies can be harnessed to achieve the two-fold purpose of improving the knowledge base of extension professionals as well as the technical expertise of rural women. The rural extension services units could become effective centres of learning for rural women assisted by information and communication technologies.
- viii) Rural education system should be improved and educational opportunities for rural girl children's should be improved. This would demand interventions to alter the current biases that impede women's education and rural girl child's right to learn. The cost effectiveness and wide reach of communication technologies and infiltration of popular media in rural areas could favour a public education strategy to create awareness to change the biases against education for rural girl children and women.
- ix) Most importantly the need of the time is the transformation of traditional norms which perpetuate biases against rural women and rural girls within family, communities and work organisations. Without such transformations in women's functioning environment, the women's aspiration to be empowered citizen cannot be fulfilled.
- x) As the countries move toward decentralisation of governance process it would be important that the UN conventions agreed to and commitments made by the member nations are reflected in the local governance approaches and programmes. The national governments should facilitate such a process that these covenants of equality and rights are reflected/integrated in the local governance ordinances and degrees and programmes of development.

9.0. Conclusion

Post Beijing plus five phase will be marked by efforts to develop national plans for the next five years to recognise women's rights and to fulfil gender equality promises and to actively implement the national commitments. The process of implementing an agenda for gender equality and women in development will be more complex and dynamic. A special focus should be on the situation of rural women rural women and the strategies to improve their social and economic conditions. In this context FAO would like to draw your attention to the Report of the UN Secretary-General on "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas^{xvii}", to the General Assembly (Fifty-sixth session Item 124 of the provisional agenda advancement of women). FAO would seek the support of the UN bodies such as DAW, national planning units and national technical service agencies to place a special emphasis on elimination of gender constraints in rural sector to enable rural women to improve their status and expand their options of learning, livelihood and participation. Here in such strategy may lie the hope to reduce rural poverty. FAO is working to

improve the presence of rural women issues in UN agenda supported by relevant UN units. We acknowledge with thanks such a support.

Finally the functional environment for development organisations and planning institutions focusing on reducing poverty, particularly rural poverty should be dynamic and innovative to address the complex challenges of women inclusive development for reducing rural poverty. These development organisations have to transform themselves to be effective partners in implementing right-based approach to development and gender equality oriented programmes. **Given the importance and urgency at this time, thus when it comes to planning for gender equality actions for reducing rural poverty it cannot be business as usual but it has to be business unusual.**

ⁱ UNDP . Human development Report 2001. Making New technologies work for human development. <http://www.undp.org/hdr2001>

ⁱⁱ *ibid*

ⁱⁱⁱ PAI ESCAP 1998. Emerging issues and development at regional level; socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural areas. Poverty Alleviation initiative, Vol.8.2.

^{iv} Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. “ Women in Asia and the Pacific: 1985-1993”. New York United Nations 1994.

^v UNIFEM (1999): Regional Study on Gender Impact of Trade in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu.

^{vi} FAO: Gender and Food Security-The Role of Information: Strategy for Action. Rome.

^{vii} *ibid*

^{viii} FAO Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action. Rome; FAO.1996.

^{ix} Pinstруп-Andersen.P. and Pandya –Loch.R. Food for all in 2020: Can the World be fed without damaging the Environment? International Food Policy Research Institute. Reprint No.363.

^x Pinstруп-Andersen.P. and Pandya –Loch.R. Food for all in 2020: Can the World be fed without damaging the Environment? International Food Policy Research Institute. Reprint No.363.

^{xi} *Op.cit*

^{xii} Per Pinstруп-Andersen, Rajul Pandya-Lorch and Mark W. Rosegrant. World Food Prospects: Critical Issues for the Early Twenty –First Century. 2020 Vision Food Policy Report: International Food Policy Research Institute. Washington D.C. 1999.

^{xiii} C. Delgado, M. Rosegrant, H.Steinfeld, S. Ehui, and C.Courbois. Livestock to 2020: The Next Food Revolution, 2020 Vision for Food, Agriculture and the Environment Discussion Paper 28. : International Food Policy Research Institute. Washington D.C. 1999.

^{xiv} Ms. Dorothy Hamida. FAO consultant. Personal Communication.

^{xv} UNDP Human development report. 2000. <http://www.undp.org/hdr2000/home.html>.

^{xvi} Progress of the World's Women. New York; UNIFEM. 2000

^{xvii} United Nations Fifty-sixth session, Item 124 of the provisional agenda Advancement of women. Report of the Secretary General Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas. A/56/150. July 2001.