



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Thirty-sixth session

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

7 – 25 August 2006

Implementation of article 22 of the Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

**Reports provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations  
on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within  
the scope of their activities**

**Note by the Secretary-General  
Addendum**

**Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**



**REPORT FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS  
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)**

**CHINA**

The population of the China was estimated to be approximately 1.3 billion in 2005<sup>1</sup>, of which 59% were living in rural areas. Six-seven percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

**Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 45%, of which 70% were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 48% were women.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign, that seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to promote food security gender equality, FAO has supported 14 projects in China that focussed mainly on duck raising, vegetable production and income generating activities.

An FAO Agricultural Statistics Project, financed by the Italian Government, supported two projects to boost the development of the Chinese agricultural statistics. The projects, implemented from 1987 through 2000, hosted a series of workshops that acted as a forum

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<sup>1</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

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FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, a training workshop was held in June 2000. The workshop sought to build the capacity of 31 specialists from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), various NGOs and institutions in order to create a pool of trainers who would subsequently go on to training others within and outside their respective institution.

## **PHILIPPINES**

The population of the Philippines was estimated to be approximately 83 million in 2005<sup>3</sup>, of which 37% were living in rural areas. Forty percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

### **Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 38%, of which 26% were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 25% were women.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign, that seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to combat hunger and gender inequality, FAO has supported 12 projects in Philippines that focussed mainly on rice, animal and vegetable production.

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-

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<sup>2</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, four training of trainers workshops were held between 2000 and 2005. The workshops, held in collaboration with the European Union funded programme CASCADE, trained 27 development specialists building their capacity to subsequently train others in their respective institutions. As a result of these workshops a pool of trainers a SEAGA Network of SEAGA “graduates” was formed with three sub-chapters in Northern and Central Luzon (Nueva Vizcaya, Cordillera Region and Nueva Ecija), as well as members in Manila.

Technical assistance was provided to the National Commission for the Role of Filipino Women to organize rural women’s consultations to feed into UN CSW review of Beijing Plus 10 and the recommendations from the review were also shared with rural women through support of FAO.

## **GHANA**

The population of the Ghana was estimated to be approximately 22 million for 2005<sup>4</sup>, of which 54% were living in rural areas. Fifty-seven percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

### **Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 50%, of which 52 % were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 46% were women.

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<sup>3</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

<sup>4</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign launched in 1997 that seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to combat hunger and gender inequality, FAO has supported 24 projects in Ghana that focussed mainly on fish farming, vegetable production and beekeeping.

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), launched in 1994, addresses food security issues in the low-income food deficit countries (LIFDCs), by targeting vulnerable groups and women and children. A project was implemented to diversify the dietary requirements of the resident populations in project areas; the SPFS activities demonstrated to local farmers the potential of short-cycle animal species (poultry, sheep, goats and pigs) for income generation, enhancement of human nutrition, and the reduction of household vulnerability to natural and economic shocks. Particular emphasis was placed on improving housing and livestock management as well as distribution of improved breeds, veterinary drugs, vaccines and equipment.

Through the Dimitra project, FAO collects detailed information on organizations and projects concerning rural women, food security and sustainable development in Africa and the Near East. By making this information available, the project aims at increasing the visibility of rural women's contribution to development using traditional means of communication and new information technologies. The Dimitra project seeks to increase gender awareness among development actors and to promote information exchange and dissemination. There are 38 organizations in Ghana listed in the Dimitra database and these organizations are engaged in 110 projects that benefit rural women. The projects vary in scope and cover a broad set of issues ranging from education, food security and income generating activities.

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, 4 training workshops were held between 1998 and 2002. Approximately 100 specialists from various agricultural educational institutions were trained, in order to create and build a national core group of SEAGA trainers, who would subsequently train other development specialists.

The FAO Regional Office for Africa coordinated the development of various publications on women in agricultural issues, such as 'Access to and Control over Land from a Gender Perspective - A Study Conducted in the Volta Region of Ghana'.

## **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

The population of the Democratic Republic of Congo was estimated to be approximately 56 million in 2005<sup>5</sup>, of which 67% were living in rural areas. Sixty-three percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

### **Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 43%, of which 77% were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 53% were women.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign, seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to promote food security and gender equality, FAO has supported 20

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<sup>5</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

projects in Democratic Republic of Congo that focussed mainly on animal and vegetable production.

Through the Dimitra project, FAO collects detailed information on organizations and projects concerning rural women, food security and sustainable development in Africa



FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) that seeks to address pressing development problems in agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors and rural development, FAO provided technical assistance to the Agricultural Census of Georgia. Assistance was given in order to ensure that preparations for the census were disaggregated by gender. In order to build the capacity of the specialists a training workshop in gender disaggregated data was held, in September 2004, with participants from relevant ministries and NGOs.

## **MOLDOVA**

The population of the Moldova was estimated to be approximately 4,260,000 in 2005<sup>7</sup>, of which 54% were living in rural areas. Two-three percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

### **Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 49%, of which 16 % were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 37% were women.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign, that seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to combat hunger and gender inequality, FAO has supported 18 projects in Moldova that focussed mainly on fisheries and animal production.

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order

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<sup>7</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, a gender disaggregated data workshop was held in May 2004. The workshop, carried out in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), sought to build the capacity of IFAD project staff from eight countries in the sub-region (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Turkey), as well as staff from IFAD headquarters, representatives from selected NGOs and ministries. Approximately 51 participants were trained.

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

The population of the Czech Republic was estimated to be approximately 10 million in 2005<sup>8</sup>, of which 25% were living in rural areas. Eight percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

#### **Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 47%, of which 5% were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 32% were women.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to

specialists from various ministries. A gender disaggregated data workshop was held, in June 2005, training 19 statisticians from various statistical offices and departments

## **MEXICO**

The population of the Mexico was estimated to be approximately 106 million in 2005<sup>9</sup>, of which 24% were living in rural areas. Twenty-one percent of the economically active population were working in agriculture.

### **Women in agriculture**

The total share of female participation in the labour force in 2000 was 33%, of which 8% were working in agriculture. Of the total number of people economically active in agriculture 13% were women.

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign, that seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to combat hunger and gender inequality, FAO has supported 29 projects in Mexico that focussed mainly on animal, fish and vegetable production.

The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) addresses pressing development problems in agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors and rural development. The programme focuses on increasing food production and raising the income and nutritional standards of small farmers and rural workers. A project was implemented, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture that sought to strengthen rural women's decentralised programmes. Another project is currently being implemented that focuses on food security issues for rural populations, integrating an equity approach and targeting specific priority groups.

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to

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<sup>9</sup> Data provided by FAOSTAT.

raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, a training workshops was held November 1998. The workshop sought to build the capacity of 18 development specialists from various ministries in order for

FAO activities for the empowerment of rural women and gender equality

Through the Telefood Campaign, that seeks to promote an increased awareness of the need and urgency to combat hunger and gender inequality, FAO has supported 2 projects in Chile that focussed mainly on vegetable production.

The FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) addresses pressing development problems in agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors and rural development. The programme focuses on increasing food production and raising the income and nutritional standards of small farmers and rural workers. A project was implemented to strengthen national and regional capacity for gender mainstreaming in public policies that address the agro- pastoral sector and food security.

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, 3 workshops were held between 2001 and 2002. The workshops trained over 170 development specialists from various intuitions, NGOs and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has coordinated the development of various publications on women and agricultural issues, such as the information sheet on women in agriculture and a book on indigenous groups in Chile which includes cooking recipes prepared by indigenous women.

## **CAPE VERDE**



Through the Dimitra project, FAO collects detailed information on organizations and projects concerning rural women, food security and sustainable development in Africa and the Near East. By making this information available, the project aims at increasing the visibility of rural women's contribution to development using traditional means of communication and new information technologies. The Dimitra project seeks to increase gender awareness among development actors and to promote information exchange and dissemination. There are 9 organizations in Cape Verde listed in the Dimitra database and these organizations are engaged in over 22 projects that benefit rural women. The projects vary in scope and cover a broad set of issues ranging from capacity building in agricultural and health and income generating activities.

Through the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme that seeks to raise awareness and build the capacity of development specialists to integrate socio-economic and gender issues in development policies, programmes and projects, in order that all development strategies take into account the different needs and priorities of men and women, 4 training workshops were held between 2003 and 2004. The workshops trained 80 participants from the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries with the objective to create and build a group of trainers who would subsequently train others within their institutions.