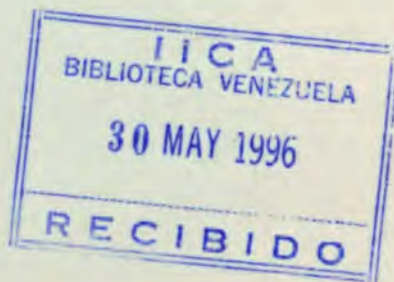


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**IICA/IDB REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON RURAL WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS
IN THE CARIBBEAN**

CONFERENCE REPORT

AUGUST 23-24, 1994

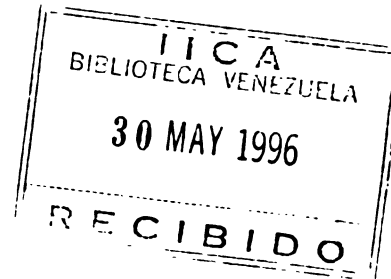
KINGSTON, JAMAICA

**AREA IV
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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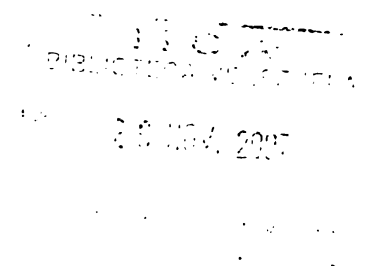


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**REPORTS, RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FROM TECHNICAL EVENTS SERIES**

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MAY 1995

Kingston, Jamaica

*"The views expressed in signed articles are those of the
authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation Agriculture".*

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FOREWORD

The IICA/IDB Rural Women Food Producers Project, formally titled "**Program for Analysis of Agricultural Policy Analysis Vis-a-Vis Women Food Producers in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean**", is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) under Technical Cooperation Agreement ATN/SF-4064-RE. It is the second phase of a program that includes 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The first phase of the project (1992-1993), was implemented in six countries in Central America under the auspices of the Central American Council of Ministers of Agriculture, as approved in its Twelfth Regular Meeting in March 1992. The present phase is being carried out by request of the First Ladies made during the Summit Meeting on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland in February 1992.

The IICA/IDB technical cooperation agreement and programme follows the guidelines as established in their institutional policies and strategies.

IICA's strategy on gender, women and development is directed toward systematically addressing the issue of gender and overcoming the difficulties of incorporating women into agricultural modernization strategies and rural development programmes. Its principal line of action is to ensure the sustainability of agricultural modernization and rural development through equitable participation of men and women.

The IDB's operating policy on women in development establishes that special attention should be given to involving the Bank in research to: a) improve the accuracy of statistics on women's role in development; b) find ways to eliminate obstacles that block women's participation; and c) develop mechanisms for adapting and transferring technologies to improve the efficiency of women's participation.

The overall objective of the IICA/IDB project is to contribute to the design and reorientation of sectoral and rural development strategies and policies so that they favour women food producers and the small farms on which they work, through a better understanding of the economic and social role women play on small farms, and a critical analysis of national policies and programs targeting the agricultural sector and women.

The specific objectives of the IICA/IDB agreement detail the work modules followed during the project. * These are:

1. Assess Women's Participation as Food Producers. Refine and deepen the knowledge regarding the contribution of women to the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, taking into account their dual role in the household and in production and including their contribution to the family income in non-farm activities.

2. **Formulate Policies Oriented Toward Women.** Evaluate the public sector policies, and analyze their effects on rural women food producers, and develop recommendations to improve the institutional framework and the design of policies, programmes, and projects directed toward rural women. Include policies on land ownership and use, credit policy, and training, research and agricultural extension programmes, as well as organizations which promote small and women farmers.
3. **Incorporate Technology in Production.** Analyze the technological processes used in food production by small scale and women producers and make policy recommendations and propose institutional frameworks, programmes and projects that will give rural women access to technologies that are more advance but suited to their condition.
4. **Upgrade Food Processing and Marketing Systems.** Identify the characteristics of the processing and marketing of agricultural products and how they affect women producers, with emphasis on the part that women play in those processes and develop policy recommendations, institutional frameworks and ideas for programmes and projects that emerge from this analysis.

Participants in the initial discussions, which produced the project's general guidelines, were: Nohra Rey de Marulanda, Manager of the Economic and Social Development Department at the IDB; Cecilia Lopez, the then Regional Director of the Employment Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC); Diana Medrano, IICA specialist in Women's Issues and Rural Development; and Manuel Chiriboga, the then Director of IICA's Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development.

Phase two of the project, which included studies of the countries of the Andean region, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean, was prepared and formulated by Maria Elisa Bernal, the then Advisor to the Office of the Manager of Economic and Social Development at the IDB, and Fabiola Campillo, IICA specialist in Women's Issues and Rural Development.

The second phase of the project was directed by Manuel Chiriboga, Fabiola Campillo and Brenda Kleysen, General Project Coordinator. The study was coordinated in the Andean subregion by Silvia Nelly Ochoa de Pazmiño; in the Caribbean by Donna McFarlane; and in the Southern Cone by Lillian Sierra and Betty Mandl. Maria Elisa Bernal, of the IDB, supervised the technical and operational aspects of the project.

The research in the Caribbean region was made possible thanks to the collaboration of the First Ladies of each of the countries, the ministries of agriculture and their agencies, the bureaus of statistics, the IICA representatives, and, in particular, the regional coordinators and consultants in Assessment and Policies, and Technology and Marketing: Diane Cummins and Ena Harvey in Barbados; Stella Odi-Ali and Beverly Rutherford in Guyana; Faith Innerarity and Conrad Smikle in Jamaica; and Rosemarie Shirley Defares and Sheela Khoesial in Suriname.

These are the proceedings of the conference on Rural Women Food Producers in the Caribbean" which was held in Kingston, Jamaica from August 23-24, 1994.

The conference report was prepared by Donna McFarlane and M. Stewart Titus and Associates (Conference Rapporteur).

**Sergio Sepúlveda
Acting Director
Concentration Rural Sustainable Development**

INTRODUCTION

The IICA/IDB Program for Analysis of Agricultural Policies viz-a-viz Rural Women Food Producers included four countries in the Caribbean: Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Suriname. The basic research, which relied on both secondary data sources and a survey of approximately 150 women farmers in each country was completed by February 1994. At the conclusion of the research process, National Seminars were held in each of the participating countries in July 1994. The study findings and recommendations were discussed with a wide variety of participants in each country.

A comparative analysis of the findings and recommendations from the IICA/IDB study were woven together with analyses on the subject of rural women from the Caribbean Region, and presented in the Regional Conference.

Conference Participants

The First Ladies of the participating countries were invited. They were:

- Dr. Angelita Sandiford, Barbados
 - Mrs. Janet Jagan, Guyana
 - Her Excellency Lady Ivy Cooke, Jamaica
 - Mrs. Liesbeth Venetiaan Vanenburg, Suriname
- also • Mrs. Janice Compton, First Lady of St. Lucia was a specially invited guest to the Conference.

With regret, Mrs. Jagan was unable to attend the Regional Conference, and she was represented by Mrs. Indranie Persuad, wife of the Guyana's Minister of Agriculture.

Lists of participants and organizations are attached.

Conference Objectives

The intent of the Conference was to bring together policy makers, agriculturists, technology producers and disseminators, farmers, researchers, statisticians, and others from each country to review the findings of the research and proposed policies, programmes and projects; and to comment on their applicability to development strategies employed on a country-by-country basis. The intent was also to raise consciousness of the conditions and needs of rural women farmers and to convince the authorities, Ministers of Agriculture, Statistical Units, Planning Agencies and the like, to institute systems which guarantee assignment of specific attention to their needs.

Agenda

The regional Seminar in Jamaica was organized in six general sessions.

The first session on August 23rd, 1994 began with welcoming statements by the Representatives of IICA and IDB. A perspective on rural women of the participating countries was delivered by each First Lady, followed by remarks from Jamaica's Ministers of Agriculture, and, Labour and Welfare. SISTERN, an internationally known drama group comprising grass-roots women, gave a drama presentation of rural women farmers, highlighting the problems and challenges they face, and hinting at some of the possible solutions.

In the second session presentations were made by Dr. Rhoda Reddock, whose topic was Women in Agriculture in the Caribbean - A Historical Perspective; and Dr. Janice Reid, who presented on Caribbean Agriculture, Research and Development For The 21st Century.

An overview of the IICA/IDB Project was presented by the Project's General Coordinator, Dr. Brenda Kleysen, followed by a presentation of highlights of the Rural Women's Study by Ms. Donna McFarlane, the Caribbean Regional Coordinator, in the third session. This was followed by a general discussion by Conference participants.

The fourth session, on August 24, 1994 began with a panel presentation by women farmers from each country who presented their experiences, problems, needs and proposed solutions. Hearing women farmers themselves discuss their situation lead to a lively interaction among Conference participants during the ensuing discussion session.

A detailed presentation of projects, programmes and policy proposals emanating from the study by the Regional Coordinator comprised the fifth session and was followed by a general discussion.

In the sixth and final session, workshops were convened under four themes to allow further in-depth discussion of some of the principle areas of recommendations emanating from the study. These were:

1. Technical Assistance and Access to Technology
2. Information Systems and the Invisibility of Women
3. Empowerment and Main-streaming Rural Women
4. Credit Options and Accessibility

The working groups' conclusions and recommendations were presented in plenary and discussed by participants.

The discussions held during the Conference provided important conclusions regarding those actions necessary toward the advancement of rural women. As a result of the Conference the First Ladies sent a letter to the President of the IDB requesting further support in their countries for a number of the projects proposed and discussed, as well as in other interested countries in the Caribbean (see appended).

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- *Women are represented in agriculture in far greater numbers than official figures attest, due in part to inadequate data collection instruments, and women farmers themselves, who down play their involvement in agriculture.*
- *Rural development policies are gender blind, and inadequate in meeting the needs of women.*
- *Despite the gains women have made in education and the professional sphere, the majority of women still have restricted access to power and resources. The vast majority of rural women fall into this group.*
- *Women have been pioneers in developing the agricultural marketing system in the Caribbean as an outlet for their produce and that of other small farmers.*
- *All agricultural and rural development policy planning must be carried out within a gender sensitive framework to avoid the invisibility of women in the future.*
- *Rural women still suffer discrimination regarding land ownership and have limited access to land and agricultural credit.*
- *Women are playing a greater role in agriculture, due to male out-migration from rural areas, yet male extension officers ignore women.*
- *Rural women play multiple roles, and there is need for a holistic approach which includes these women to ensure that they are beneficiaries of rural development and agricultural programmes.*
- *The removal of women from agriculture and food production into home economics and the home, has been taking place worldwide, and has been seen as a major factor leading to famine in Sub-Sahara Africa.*
- *The organization of labor in small farms is complex. Research perspectives must include the entire family for adequate assessment of women's contribution to small farm production and family income.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1994

OPENING SESSION

**REMARKS FROM THE JAMAICAN MINISTERS
OF AGRICULTURE, AND LABOUR AND WELFARE**

Honorable Seymour Mullings, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica

In his address, Mr. Mullings noted that women were enrolling and graduating from educational institutions, including agricultural institutions in larger numbers than men, and were equipping themselves for leadership roles. However, women did not constitute a homogeneous group, and many were still restricted in their access to power and resources, with the large majority of rural women falling into this category. He stated that women have been deeply involved in agriculture in the region for a long time, primarily in the cultivation of sugar, bananas, coffee, small farming and marketing.

Mr. Mullings assured the Conference that the Government of Jamaica was fully committed to providing support to those proposals which were feasible arising out of the IICA/IDB study on Rural Women Food Producers, and wished that the results could influence policy in meaningful ways. It was the Government's hope, he added, that women not only share ownership of land, but become individual land owners in their own right.

The Minister also made reference to the recent removal of tariff barriers which had led to increases in food prices. He said that the World Trade Organization had demanded that these tariffs be removed by 2005, but this did allow for cheaper food to enter Jamaica. The Government was aware of the Jamaican farmers' view that this development could jeopardize the local agricultural sector, and Mr. Mullings disclosed that the Government would be meeting with representatives of the sector shortly in this regard.

Honourable Portia Simpson, Minister of Labour and Welfare, Jamaica

Ms. Simpson disclosed that reports were now being prepared on the status of rural women in agriculture and agribusiness for the International Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995. She noted that women had been pioneers in developing the agricultural marketing system as an outlet for their produce, but questioned the absence of their matching economic power as women were already so active in this sector. Ms. Simpson stressed that the concerns of women must be isolated and examined as a matter of urgency, and the policy benefits should accrue equally to women as they now do to men.

She also questioned why it was so hard for women to access credit, and why life was often harder for rural women who had difficulty seeking day care, education, transportation and health care.

Ms. Simpson stressed that the time had come for meaningful change, and that all policy planning must take place within a gender sensitive framework. She concluded that the political will had to exist to address the imbalances, and called on women to become more involved in political leadership.

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADIES

Lady Ivy Cooke, Jamaica

Lady Cooke began her presentation by pointing out that improving the status of women was not a welfare but a development issue. She noted that since 1975, there had been much activity focussed on women in all aspects of their lives, but policies and programmes continued to have a differential impact of men and women. Women were playing more active roles in agriculture as men migrated to urban areas or overseas. Similarly, the number of female-headed households was increasing, and citing the case of Jamaica, she said 45 per cent of all households in the Kingston metropolitan area were headed by women, with one third in the rural areas.

Lady Cooke pointed to several inequities which continued to limit women's involvement in agriculture. The sector was the third largest employer of women, yet agricultural credit and extension services were rarely extended to women. Women had limited access to land as well. In the area of training, she noted that fewer women than men qualified for training because women were less likely to have the qualifications needed, had less time, and less access to child care and other resources.

Lady Cooke called on rural women to organize themselves as a lobby group to agitate for more access to cooperatives, credit and marketing services. Gender issues had to be incorporated in agricultural research, and rural socio-economic development had to be looked at again in light of shared responsibilities between men and women. Research had to be conscious to assess womens' contribution to rural development, their rate of landlessness, and seasonal involvement. She urged conference participants to keep in mind a picture of the rural women, young, perhaps a single household head, often illiterate, and playing multiple roles. Their task was to recognize her plight, and treat her problems with the urgency they deserved.

Dr. Angelita Sandiford, Barbados

Dr. Sandiford began her remarks by listing several unflattering stereotypes regarding Caribbean women, which she felt, had to be changed. Firstly, there was the view that being a rural women automatically meant poverty and servility. Another stereotype portrayed women as dependent. She admired that there were some positive images of rural women in agriculture, as these women have long been associated with thrift, candor, hard work, and a vibrant attitude to life.

The adversities that women encountered stemmed not just from nature, but from sexism, patronizing attitudes from those in high status positions, and the negative effects of the sexual division of labor. Dr. Sandiford urged rural women to be proud without being arrogant; ambitious without being corrupt; courteous without being subservient; and resourceful without exploiting the consumer.

She also looked at strategies needed to make the region more self-sufficient in agriculture. These included: rainwater catchment, storage and distribution in time of drought, the development of local alternatives to imported animal feed and increased use of organic waste instead of imported fertilizers. Dr. Sandiford also urged women to seek to own and manage agricultural organizations, and to be proportionately represented on relevant committees.

Mrs. Liesbeth Venetiaan Vanenburg, Suriname

Mrs. Venetiaan Vanenburg outlined the extent of involvement of rural women in Suriname in agriculture. Sixty five per cent of these women were engaged in agriculture in three distinct groups. Firstly, there were women working in the sector on the coastal plains who produced for the local market. They usually did not receive wages. Another group comprised female farmers in the interior, who were the main food producers for their families, and who sold the surplus to local markets. Women did receive some financial returns, but it was not clear as to the precise amount they received. The third group consisted of women involved in food processing and the marketing of agricultural products.

Surinamese women were constrained from participating more fully in the sector however, because of limited access to credit, land ownership and agricultural information.

Mrs. Janice Compton, St. Lucia

Mrs. Compton said that in St. Lucia, rural women were involved in agriculture primarily in the areas of weed control, fertilizing, and domestic food marketing. Women were also involved in food production and handicrafts. She expressed the need to analyze policies from a gender-sensitive perspective, and this had to be done by policy makers and rural communities alike.

GUEST SPEAKERS ON CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL WOMEN

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE IN THE CARIBBEAN: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Rhoda Reddock, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Dr. Reddock traced the development of the Caribbean agricultural sector from the time of the Spanish conquest to the present day. From as early as the 16th century, there existed a sexual division of labor among the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, where women made domestic articles, and men hunted, built houses and boats. Agriculture at the time consisted of hunting and gathering, and food production.

It was for forced agricultural production that most Caribbean peoples were brought to the region. Caribbean plantations, usually managed by overseers and bookkeepers on behalf of absent owners, were operated according to strict profit and loss calculations, and all slave costs were assessed against that framework. This led to the deliberate discouragement of nuclear families and childbearing among the slave population, which was seen as more expensive than importing adult slaves.

Dr. Reddock traced three main periods of food production in the region. In the 17th century, slaves produced food for themselves on small holdings attached to the plantations. During the 18th century, when the sugar revolution was at its height, most slave food was imported from America, and less domestic food was produced. By the end of the 18th century, as sugar began to decline, and with the onset of drought and the American War of Independence, slaves were called on once more, to cultivate their own food. This took the form of kitchen gardens mainly for subsistence, estate grounds which were collectively cultivated, and individualized provision grounds, usually comprising a quarter acre. Kitchen gardens were necessary to supplement the inadequate rations given to slaves, and they were given one day a week to tend their grounds. In some cases, slaves hired themselves to each other to cultivate their grounds. In the later days of slavery, slaves became, more or less, responsible for food production for the entire island.

The basis for the present patterns of land ownership was established from this period, Dr. Reddock explained. Most land grants after emancipation were made to male heads of households and a complex pattern of cultivation developed. Men secured control of larger plots, and women, especially single women, got access to smaller plots. Women were defined as children or weakly men, and so were paid a reduced wage. There was also the assumption that women could only do "light" work, such as weeding, cane cutting and manuring. Men thus had access to more specialized tasks such as those in the sugar factory itself. Slave women were discriminated against in several ways, such as the withholding of rations after childbirth, and increasing work loads for the same pay.

During the period of indentureship, some women, especially East Indians, were withdrawn from the fields by their menfolk and confined to peasant agriculture and seclusion. Rice cultivation was also discouraged in some countries because it made slaves independent of the estates.

Dr. Reddock gave some background to the issue of family land which still characterizes some rural land ownership patterns today. Holdings were passed on undivided to a group of heirs as the land was seen as having symbolic value. In many cases, family members were buried on these lands. Married women could also return to family land in the event of widowhood or separation. Ex-slaves therefore, saw it as a guarantee for future generations to a basic form of land security and tenure. More recently family land has been seen as an obstacle to development, as it cannot be divided or sold, or otherwise be made more amenable to market economies. However, patterns of land ownership are primarily male, and women's access comes mainly through family land. This concept is critical to secure some kind of land ownership for women, as it represents something to fall back on. Dispensing with it would result in increasing landlessness of rural people, and a concentration of land in large or expatriate ownership, such as hoteliers.

After emancipation, women's role in agriculture began to be confined to home economics, nutrition and housewifely pursuits. This removal of women from agriculture has been taking place world-wide and has been seen as a major factor leading to famine in sub-Saharan Africa. For centuries, women have been primarily food producers, but through colonization and other factors they have been discouraged from engaging in food production.

CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Dr. Janice Reid, Representative, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Jamaica

Dr. Reid began her presentation with a call for the gender issue to be factored into all policy planning as it is intrinsic to anything that we do. She cited three recent international and regional developments which had a major impact on agriculture and over which the Caribbean had very little control: the removal of financial and political barriers, the reduction of preferential trading agreements, and privatization. There was a continuing decline in revenue from trade crops, increasing uncertainty about the future of these, and increased competition among Caribbean countries. Duplication of resources and activities was taking place, as each country wanted to do things for itself. There was also a comparatively low rate of adoption of improved practices.

Dr. Reid outlined several strategies needed to improve efficiency in Caribbean agriculture. There was an urgent need to reduce the cost of production, and increase the efficiency of use of imported inputs. A balance had to be achieved between increased productivity and environmental sustainability. The growers also had to be convinced of the need for quality. Dr. Reid pointed to the potential of food processing, niche markets, and proper packaging, as well as energy conservation as important considerations. Social issues, such as community development, the role of young people, and the earning potential of agriculture could not be ignored either. The issue of the removal of drudgery in land preparation and harvesting had to be addressed, and small enterprise development should be encouraged as this was one of the most critical areas. People were anxious to learn how to manage, and should be given the opportunity to learn these skills.

Dr. Reid identified several needs which could move the sector forward. These were: revise the policies and strategic approaches; revolutionize the focus and methodology within which research is done - this now had to be interdisciplinary; rationalize resources; develop a Caribbean model using existing information and data; ensure greater inter-institutional collaboration.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE IICA/IDB RURAL WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS PROJECT

OVERVIEW OF THE IICA/IDB PROJECT

Dr. Brenda Kleysen, General Coordinator, IICA/IDB Rural Women's Project

Dr. Kleysen outlined that the present IICA/IDB project originated in Central America some four years ago, where under the auspices of the Central American Ministers of Agriculture, a study on rural women as food producers and small farmers was undertaken in six countries. By request of the First Ladies during the Economic Summit on the Advancement of Women in 1992, the study was extended to include South America and the Caribbean. In total, some 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have been involved.

An 18 country study of rural women on small and medium-sized farms provided one of the most comprehensive perspectives in this hemisphere on the role that women play in food production. Much of the national food supply throughout Latin America and the Caribbean originates on small farms, but comparatively little has been known as to the role that women play in this process.

The global objective of the IICA/IDB study has been to set the technical bases for policies and actions to improve the lives of rural women as farmers/food producers. To achieve this objective, the project analyzed national statistics, as well as agricultural, rural development, and women's policies to see the extent to which rural women are considered and benefit from these policies. It also studied women at the farm-level to assess their participation and the types of activities that they undertake, for example, their agricultural practices, food-processing, marketing, and animal husbandry. It also looked at the types of technology that women use; their access to the means of production such as land, credit, and training; and their role in decision making on the farm. Approximately 3,000 rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean were interviewed.

In general, the results of the study showed that women are invisible: agricultural sector institutions keep little-to-no gender disaggregated data at all, and national employment statistics often dramatically under-record their labor participation in farming. Re-estimations of women's labor participation undertaken as part of the IICA/IDB study indicate under-recording varying anywhere from around 30% to 500%.

Policies pretending to be gender-neutral are in fact gender-blind, and in general women do not appear to benefit at all from the same policies that are intended to increase agricultural productivity and foster rural development. Women face *de facto* policy discrimination in virtually all countries studied.

Despite these obstacles, women play important roles in farm production. Their roles are not restricted to only one or two activities, for example, food processing and marketing. Neither is their participation *ad hoc* assistance, but rather a structural feature of small farm production. The study indicates that there is no strict sexual division of labor within the farm, but rather that women also undertake many farm activities that are often thought to be male activities, including for example, taking care of large animals.

The organization of labor on the small farm is complex. When studying small farm production, it is necessary to take a family perspective and look at the contribution of all members. The IICA/IDB study has taken a family perspective in analyzing the participation of women on the farm. This perspective has permitted new insights into the vital importance of women's contribution in small farm production, in all its phases and activities. It has also allowed women's contribution to family income to be measured in numerous countries. Women are very significant contributors to the economic well-being of the family. In the Andean region, for example, it is estimated that women provide around 30% of small farm family income.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE RURAL WOMEN'S STUDY IN THE CARIBBEAN

Ms. Donna McFarlane, Caribbean Coordinator, IICA/IDB Rural Womens' Project

Ms. McFarlane presented the socio-political background to the project by noting that Governments in the region were coming out of production because of structural adjustment policies, with the hope that the private sector would pick up the slack. The more vulnerable people in the region's societies have had to suffer greater adversity, and these included rural women. As a result, the informal sector had been thriving and women were very active in this. Extractive industries in the countries of the region have had some adverse effects on the environment and family structure, such as labor migration to mining areas. In addition, the population in Guyana and Suriname had been declining due to emigration.

Agriculture remained a primary economic activity and a means of improving personal income. However, there was little secondary data on the extent of women's contribution to agriculture. Re-estimations of women's labor participation indicated an under-recording and valuation of their farm work.

In rural households, no single member could provide sufficient resources to maintain the household. Several members had to contribute, including men, women and children. Many households demonstrated a pooling of on- and off-farm sources of income.

Women worked longer hours than men and tended to manage their resources better to ensure their future survival. The small farm household operated as a firm: labor and time were maximized, and the generation of income in invested labour time was a main concern.

The women that were surveyed as part of the study participated in all types of agricultural activities during the pre-harvest, post-harvest and marketing phases of the crops. In livestock activities, small stock and poultry were markedly women's responsibility. Cattle activities were notably within the mens' domain in Jamaica and Guyana, but are definitely in womens' domain in Barbados, and tended to be shared in Suriname. With some exceptions, such as in the interior of Suriname, food processing was not a major activity of the women surveyed.

Women played multiple roles, and in addition to their farming and other productive activities, were responsible for child care, household tasks, educating children and meeting the health needs of their children and the family. They were important decision-makers in the productive, as well as domestic activities; most productive decisions were either joint male/female or were made by women.

Women had little access to formal sources of credit and rarely owned land. Training offered to women was confined to the domestic sphere such as housekeeping, home economics and child care, although the demand demonstrated by women was oriented toward productive issues, including farm management.

The agricultural population was also aging, with over 50% of farmers in Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Barbados being 40 years and over.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Participants from Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica made the following observations:

- Despite the advantages of topography, Barbadian women farmers have many problems such as praedial larceny, drought, high costs of water, seed and fertilizer.
- The major problem in Guyana is drainage and irrigation. The sea walls are of paramount importance, and cost millions in upkeep. Any cuts in spending on irrigation affect farmers severely.
- In the case of Guyana, a request was made to put aside some of the project funding in the second phase to assist women farmers directly, and a direct appeal was made to the First Ladies in this regard.
- Exchange knowledge among participant farmers through exchange visits and by transferring ideas and technologies.
- More information is needed on men engaged in off-farm labor.
- Small farmers as a family unit may have up to sixteen different sources of income.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1994

SESSION 4

CARIBBEAN WOMEN FARMERS GIVE THEIR PERSPECTIVE

PANEL PRESENTATION ON WOMEN FARMERS' EXPERIENCES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

BARBADOS

This farmer acquired her land from her father-in-law. In the beginning, she defined her husband as the farmer and not herself. Subsequently, she became more involved in farming. She went into pig production, joined the Barbados Agricultural Society and Pig Farmers Association, and later got a loan to expand her pig business. She has been able to balance her work on the farm with community and church obligations. Her children helped her with the farm, and her son recently won a scholarship to study agriculture at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She also received the Barbados Service Medal for her contribution to farming.

GUYANA

This farmer came from a family who have been involved in farming for many years. She had a mixed enterprise of sheep, goats, poultry and a kitchen garden. She had problems securing space for animal grazing, but despite this, she had undertaken improvements to the farm, acquired more animals and expanded animal housing. Several family members care for the animals. Rice production was also a major activity. She upgraded her record keeping, and organized some activities on a cooperative basis with other farmers, such as the procurement of materials and services. She was also working towards establishing a farmer's sheep and goat association in the area where she lives.

JAMAICA

This farmer also came from a farming family. She was married, with four children, grew coffee and reared poultry with her husband in the Blue Mountains. She was active on the Board of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and other agricultural organizations. She started out with one acre of coffee on land around the house which her husband gave to her. She has since expanded her holdings, and also cultivates potatoes and crops, as well as bananas and plantains in the coffee. She has overcome high labor costs by using "morning work", exchanging work with friends in the community to plant most of her coffee. She even received free seedlings in the process. She also bought a small donkey to carry her coffee to the buying section. Her children have helped her with the farm and they all do some processing and packaging of coffee for the tourist market.

She cited some problems in the day-to-day farm operations, such as the large size of fertilizer bags, which were very difficult to lift. She also made an appeal for more training in time and money management, and self-esteem building. More surveys of women farmers in Jamaica and the region were also needed, she said, in order to build up a knowledge bank. She called for an association of women farmers, with its own secretariat, but in the interim, a line of credit and credit cards could be set up through existing financial organizations for women farmers. She concluded that women farmers needed to see themselves as individuals having an input in nation-building. In this regard, outstanding women in agriculture ought to be recognized, and scholarships should be established for young women to study agriculture.

SURINAME

The country had major problems with transportation, particularly for women farming in the interior areas, such as Maroon and Amerindian women, where travel by boat or on foot were the only means of reaching farming plots, and transporting produce to market. Travel in the Surinamese interior was prohibitively expensive. The farming conditions for these women differed significantly from the rest of the Caribbean.

DISCUSSION SESSION

The following major issues emerged:

- There was a need to raise the level of prestige of agriculture. Farmers wanted to have a positive self-image like everyone else.
- With reference to the advantages that Barbadian farmers enjoyed, using modern technology was nothing to apologize for, but to be emulated by other Caribbean countries.

- **In addition to the need for more credit, land and cheaper water, Barbadian farmers also needed training in fertilizer techniques and management, and wanted better animal stock, together with access to semen for insemination.**
- **Marketing was still a problem for small farmers, particularly in Barbados, and farmers there were working on forming a Central Marketing Agency.**
- **In Guyana, most women trained in agriculture preferred to work in administrative positions, or as extension agents, rather than as farmers.**
- **Guyanese farmers needed training in water and soil management.**
- **Proper farm records were essential, and should include data on animal birth dates and weights, as well as earnings, expenditure and the cost of the farmer's time.**
- **Farmers should be granted credit and credit cards to deal with typical farm emergencies quickly.**
- **Children should be taught agriculture within an economic framework, in order to understand the business potential of agriculture.**
- **A distinction must be made between technology in agriculture and what precise training is actually available to women small farmers.**
- **Identify experienced women farmers and organize them in some kind of network in order to help train other women.**
- **A need exists for national and regional organizations for women in agriculture.**

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE IICA/IDB RURAL WOMENS' PROJECT IN THE CARIBBEAN

PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND POLICY PROPOSALS

Ms. Donna McFarlane, Caribbean Coordinator, IICA/IDB Rural Women's Project

In this session, Ms. McFarlane presented the main conclusions, recommendations and proposals from the IICA/IDB Rural Women Food Producers Project.

Noting that Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname were very different countries in terms of their agricultural development and realities, and that this affected both the specific types of proposals that had been developed as well as their regional applicability, Ms. McFarlane went on to explain that there were still a number of cross-cutting issues generally applicable to all countries. In general, for example, she noted that women's issues by and large have not entered into the mainstream of sectoral policy, and that the critical issues such as technological innovation in agriculture, provision of credit, access to extension services, land and titles etc. continued to be approached strictly from a male perspective, while claiming not to discriminate against women.

Other conclusions and cross-cutting issues highlighted by the study on women food producers in the four countries were discussed as the recommendations and project proposals were presented and explained. These included:

- the paucity of data on women in the agricultural sector and the fact that women's contribution is not reflected in official statistics. Even where statistics are collected, such as in Barbados, these have not been published, and are not easily available for use in policy formulation, and project design.
- the declining importance of agriculture as a choice of employment, particularly, full-time employment, for rural women. The obstacles faced by women engaged in agricultural activities discourages their participation, and affects the perceptions of the next generation, as evidenced in the youth in agricultural communities who are increasingly disinterested in farming and are drawn to higher status occupations in the service sector.
- the need for agricultural policy makers to provide a gender approach to policy formulation which is exhibited by consultation with women farmers in the design, formulation, and execution of policies which will affect their lives.

- the crucial but often unacknowledged role that women play in food production means that little attention has been paid to development of "appropriate" technology for them in the form of equipment and tools which take into consideration their physical build, special health considerations, multiple roles etc.
- in addition to a lack of "appropriate" equipment and tools for women, there is also a lack of appropriate methods for the provision of training and dissemination of information via extension services which rarely reaches the majority of women farmers because their multiple role as farmers, mothers, wives, care-givers to the elderly, home makers and community workers are unacknowledged. While the data from the IICA/IDB study would indicate that some information is passed from male farmers who benefit from the training and extension advice, on to women farmers, inside and outside of the household; the issue of the need for a holistic approach to targeting recipients of the agricultural information by the authorities, and, recognition of women farmers' specific information and training needs, remained unaddressed.
- women, as a subset of the universe of small farmers, operate on very small plots of land. Therefore the issue of land reform is of major importance in all the surveyed countries if effective agricultural development is to take place.
- the role Caribbean women play in the marketing of food seems to be taken for granted as, with the exception of Barbados, none of the governments have successfully assisted higglers/hawkers/hucksters in raising the level of efficiency achievable by this marketing network.
- the importance of rural development strategies to be integrated into government's overall development strategies which involves both men and women as equal participants in, and beneficiaries of, the process. The IICA/IDB study has shown that governments have experimented with a number of strategies which provide some support services for small farmers. However, women farmers have limited access to the services which would allow them to increase their productivity in farming/marketing activities, for which they exhibit demand, but are not lacking in programmes which impart knowledge on sewing, cooking, and housekeeping, for which they display little interest. Women also benefit little from the Government's rural development programmes and all of the related services precisely because of the tendency to include a woman's component in rural development within the confines of domestic programmes and projects.

Proposals for projects emanating from the research conducted by the national consultants and the regional project coordinator were presented for each of the countries. The proposals fell into nine categories: statistical invisibility; out-reach to rural women; information and training; technology; credit; marketing; agro-processing; and micro-enterprise development.

Statistical Invisibility: Improvements in the data collection systems were proposed for Guyana, Jamaica, and Suriname to improve the official portrayal of women's participation in the agricultural sector, the extent of equality or inequality between men and women, as well as to address the gender-related issues of rural poverty. Regionally applicable recommendations included gender disaggregation of standard data items, as well as a revision of the definitions and concepts used, including work, head of household, and agricultural activities, among others. Information sharing and exchange mechanisms via networking among women's organizations (Suriname) and a specialized documentation center (Guyana) were also proposed as additional mechanisms to address rural women's statistical invisibility.

Out-reach to Rural Women: Proposals included in this category included community-level infrastructure development programmes to address the often severe problems encountered (Suriname, Jamaica and Guyana). Key features of these proposals are farmer identification of their needs, and community participation. These were recommended as applicable region-wide.

Non-infrastructure out-reach proposals discussed included the empowerment of rural women leaders to promote womens' involvement and participation in rural and agricultural development projects.

Information and Training: Information and empowerment were seen as going hand-in-hand in a region-wide proposal for an information campaign targeted to women farmers. Recommended was the use of mass-communication and other channels in a programme that would address such issues as womens' legal rights in the area of land titling, inheritance and property transfers; the use of chemicals in agricultural production and women's health concerns; animal husbandry and cultivation techniques; and farm management.

Another regionally applicable recommendation addressing the demand for farm produce included a program to link small farm producers to the tourism sector (eg; hoteliers). This proposal included various integrated components including technical assistance and training to allow farmers to meet the required standards of quality and supply, as well as market information to communicate the demands of the tourism sector and link producers with this potential market opportunity.

Other proposals in the area of information and training followed two different approaches. The first approach addressed the needs for main-streaming rural women; the second responded to time and urgency concerns. In the first approach, policy recommendations were made to target those providing services to the agricultural sector to ensure women's access to that available services. Recommended were gender-sensitization and awareness training programmes which would address misconceptions regarding women farmers as well as provide specific information on how to reach women farmers (time availability for field days, etc.). The second approach included proposals for programmes specifically targeted at women farmers for technology transfer and training. These programmes were devised as a complement to those which would address the main-streaming proposals.

Technology: Apart from technology transfer considerations addressed in information and training programmes, two proposals were presented for technology in the area of research and development. A programme proposal developed for Barbados, but relevant for the region as a whole included four major areas: water catchment systems, feed formulation, use of organic fertilizer, and non-chemical methods of pest and weed control. Recommendations were also made for Jamaica for the development and adaptation of mechanical tools and equipment for hillside farming; this would increase productivity and foster a more efficient use of women's time.

Marketing, Micro-enterprise development, and Agro-processing: Recognizing marketing and the need for adequate outlets for farm produce as major constraints faced by small farmers, proposals were made for the development of womens' agro-processing cooperatives, and the replication and development of the Bridgetown Market (Barbados). In Suriname, the development of agricultural and marketing boards, the creation of a farmer's market for the interior, and the promotion and development of cottage-industry agro-processing were proposed. In Guyana, a policy to define and differentiate micro-enterprises from small enterprises was recommended. In Jamaica, higglers associations were proposed as a means to overcome the hardships encountered in the rural transportation system.

Credit: A credit programme to allow land purchase for small and landless farmers was proposed for Barbados in response to the need to allow small farmers to expand their operations into more economically viable entities; this in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries 1993-2000 Sector Plan. Development and promotion of a credit system based on the informal savings systems actually used by rural women in the region was proposed to address the difficulties that women face in the formal credit market.

DISCUSSION SESSION

- Information already exists on labor saving mechanisms out of India and Nigeria, but it is difficult to access this on a commercial basis. There needs to be experimentation with applying these technologies to a Caribbean context.
- Consideration should be given to exploiting Caribbean culture, especially story-telling in a positive way. Currently, some Calypso and Reggae denigrate women, and these mediums could be used to present more positive images of women in agriculture.
- Consideration should be given to extending the policy/programme recommendations beyond the four countries to the wider Organization of Caribbean States. Action needs to be coordinated, instead of having parallel lines of activity.
- The infrastructure problem in isolated communities such as those of Guyana and Suriname is a larger issue, and may require a more regional approach. It could also mean changing from shifting to permanent plot cultivation, and potential environmental hazards such a fertilizing could be prevented by using organic methods.

- **What will be the future of the study's recommendations in the light of structural adjustment?**
- **How will increasing support to small producers be dealt with, if inefficient producers are being subsidized also?**
- **The IICA/IDB research project has confirmed research already done in the region by WAND and other womens' organizations. Parts of this support has to go to the organizations working with rural women and NGO's, not only to women themselves.**
- **The research conducted by other women organizations was seen as peripheral, but this IICA/IDB project will serve to bring previous research to the forefront.**
- **Major factors to be considered are the levels of self-reliance, self-sufficiency and control over food resources achieved by Caribbean countries.**
- **Sustainability is critical; this cannot be a two year project; it must be a long term commitment to rural women thus reversing the trend of development agencies giving only short term support to these types of programmes.**
- **Regarding agricultural development, the trend is to support larger, better educated farmers, but historically, it has been the small farmers of the region who have contributed the most to food production.**
- **Land reform is an important issue in the Caribbean, and must be seen against the background of the disenfranchisement of indigenous peoples and women.**

SESSION 6

WORKSHOPS

THEME: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

1. What do you consider are the priority areas in which women farmers are in need of technical assistance and access to technology?
2. To what extent are these needs being met, and by which institutions?
3. What do you consider are some of the principal problems in agricultural extension activities reaching women farmers? What actions would be necessary in order insert a gender focus and redress the bias against women farmers?
4. Can you suggest other systems/methodologies which might be used to increase the outreach of extension activities and ensure the inclusion of women farmers? Other than the Ministry of Agriculture, what organizations (NGO's etc.) might be involved in this system? What kind of support/technical assistance would be required?

WORKING GROUP RESPONSES:

- Priorities include: training in use of inputs, business and financial management and marketing
- Indigenous technology needs to be researched for use by farmers and for health care services
- Needs in these areas are not being adequately met due to inadequate government budgets and structural adjustment programmes
- Gender biases persist in official technologies; the design of agricultural clothing and equipment is not ergonomically suited to the size and shape of women
- Problems exist in extension services; male officers are not gender sensitive, there are few women in the field and they are discriminated against
- Extension officers have an inadequate understanding of farm culture, and are shifting from being community agents to commodity agents

- Sexism persists in extension service training and contacts
- Consider using mass media, NGO's and increased networking to improve extension services

THEME: INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND THE INVISIBILITY OF WOMEN

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

1. What are the principal instruments which could be modified in the short term in improving the statistics on rural women?
2. What kinds of modifications to the survey instrument would be necessary?
3. What institution, or institutions would be involved in the process? What kind of technical and financial support would be necessary?
4. How do you consider that this could be promoted in the country?
5. Apart from survey instruments, what other institutions should be encouraged to keep gender disaggregated data? How could a gender disaggregated data bank be promoted in these institutions?

WORKING GROUP RESPONSES:

- Gender awareness/sensitivity should be a prerequisite to any data collection exercise
- Interviewers should be more aware of all the issues women face
- In any data collection exercise, definitions should be very precise and cover productive activities that do not necessarily have a monetary value
- The unit of analysis should be defined, and not necessarily be the household, which may miss womens' contribution
- Data should be published in a disaggregated form, and survey instruments should all be modified accordingly
- Survey exercises should use an interdisciplinary approach
- Lobby for these new approaches at the highest levels; that of policy planners and politicians

THEME: EMPOWERMENT AND MAINSTREAMING RURAL WOMEN

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

- 1. What measures/actions do you consider as necessary to ensure that women are included in, and participate fully in, mainstream rural and agricultural projects? (Consider, for example, measures necessary during project identification and planning, implementation, evaluation)**
- 2. What kind of measures are necessary to ensure women equal access to the institutional offerings that exist in the country, such as credit, training etc.?**
- 3. What role could (or do) Women's Organizations (NGO's, etc.) play in mainstream agricultural projects whether in conjunction with other institutions, or separately, in accessing institutional services, such as credit, training etc. for rural women?**
- 4. What kind of support (policy, technical, etc.) do you consider necessary to strengthen the role of Women's Organizations, and increase the effectiveness of their interventions?**

WORKING GROUP RESPONSES:

- Bring women onto the agenda to become involved in policy planning**
- Women farmers need to build their own esteem and to see themselves as producers**
- Women need to own land in their own right, although joint ownership should be encouraged**
- Introduce agriculture in schools from the primary level**
- Re-socialize young people to value and respect agriculture**
- Recognize the importance of women's farm organizations, and develop these at the local level first**
- Women who are already at decision-making levels need to understand the importance of their involvement and to be sensitized to how these organizations can promote their interests**
- The percentage of trainees in agricultural programmes needs to be increased to 25 per cent**
- More creative ways of financing should be considered: establish credit windows for rural women in agriculture and make funds available through the IDB**
- This project must build on existing resources in the region, and must be seen in terms of a long-term commitment**

- **IICA and the IDB should facilitate rural women visiting each other's countries to share information and skills**
- **Draft a resolution to be signed by all Conference participants directed to the First Ladies to be taken to IICA and IDB for follow-up action**
- **Women's organizations need to play a greater role in organizing women to challenge the practices that discriminate against them**

THEME: CREDIT OPTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES:

1. **What do you consider are some of the principal problems which must be corrected in the formal credit and finance system in order to increase accessibility for rural women? Are there any activities underway that you know of to correct these problems, and if so what?**
2. **What do you consider are the major limitations to women wanting to use formal sources of credit (from banks, etc.)?**
3. **What informal sources of credit do women most use, and why? What kind of support could be given to increase this source of credit for women? What institutions or kinds of institutions would you recommend?**

WORKING GROUP RESPONSES:

- **Interest rates are too high at formal institutions**
- **Banks are not always conveniently located to small farmers, and tend to be intimidating**
- **The credit needs of most farmers are not known and they are not properly identified**
- **Banks request project proposals which are too elaborate**
- **Some farmers are requested by the bank to begin agricultural activities before the loan funds are approved**
- **Seed grants, equity and debt financing should be assessed according to the farmer's needs and should be provided by the IDB**
- **Interest rates for agricultural ventures must be lower than market rates**

- **Women are limited in using formal financial systems because they lack capital which is immovable**
- **Women's status must be considered: many are single or illiterate, and most are farming on land that is owned informally**
- **Develop cooperatives for savings and credit to replace the need for equity**
- **Encourage women to bank their money and build confidence in the formal banking system**
- **Encourage the use of more informal credit sources such as family loans, home savings, and "partner" systems**

APPENDICES

Kingston, Jamaica
August 23, 1994

Doctor
Enrique Iglesias
President
Inter-American Development Bank
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

On the occasion of the meeting of the First Ladies of Jamaica, St. Lucia, Barbados, and Suriname during the Regional Conference on Rural Women Food Producers held in Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 23 - 24, 1994, and considering the results of this project financed by your Bank and executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, we wish to express our thanks and appreciation for your rapid response to our request.

At this meeting the areas listed below were identified as some of the major priority needs of Rural Women in the Caribbean:

1. A project to revise and modify the traditional systems of data collection and processing in the agricultural sector in such a manner as to permit the systematic inclusion of gender considerations,
2. A program to develop and fortify the training of public officials and farmer's organizations so as to integrate the demands of rural women in the agricultural sector, and thereby allow for a more responsive and effective intervention on the part of these organizations for the benefit of all small- and medium-sized farmers,
3. A program to establish an information campaign for rural women via systems of mass communications and other means, which would increase their accessibility to the types of information that they both need and want, including, for example, application and use of agro-chemicals, land titling and inheritance, credit, themes in farm management and other issues,
4. A project on technology which addresses the needs of small farmers for more access to appropriate and labor-saving technologies for agriculture, food processing and animal husbandry, which includes consideration of development, as well as the distribution system,

Mr. President:

August 24, 1994

5. A program for community-level, small infrastructure development that is responsive to the varying needs of different rural communities,


6. A revolving fund credit program specifically tailored for women farmers and women's rural micro-enterprise development, which will bridge the gap between the demand that exists and the abilities of women to successfully obtain credit through the formal banking system.

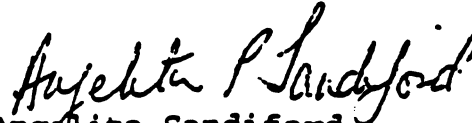
7. A program to link small-farm agricultural production with the hotel and hospitality industry in order to increase the market options for small farmers and encourage the use of locally produced food in the tourism sector.

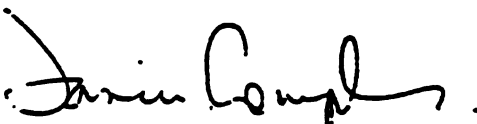
We seek your continued assistance for our Association and ask that where possible consideration be given in providing assistance to implement programs to satisfy the areas identified.

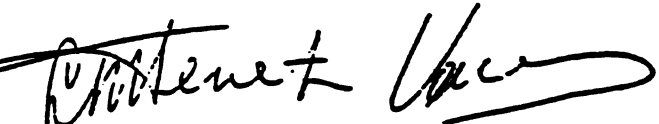
The annual meeting of the First Ladies of Latin America and the Caribbean is scheduled for October 11-13 in St. Lucia. A report of the first phase findings of the project will be presented at this conference. A number of Caribbean countries not presently included in the project have indicated an interest in participating.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the above conference, we extend an invitation to the Bank to participate, as we are aware of the Bank's mandate on the development of women.


Her Excellency Lady Cooke
FIRST LADY OF JAMAICA


Angelita Sandiford
FIRST LADY OF BARBADOS


Janice Compton
FIRST LADY OF ST. LUCIA


Liesbeth Venetiaan-Vanenburg
FIRST LADY OF SURINAME

IICA



IDB



IICA/IDB REGIONAL CONFERENCE

on

RURAL WOMEN FOOD

PRODUCERS IN THE CARIBBEAN

at the

WYNDHAM HOTEL

August 23 - 24, 1994

Speakers:

Hon. Seymour Mullings
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER &
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
JAMAICA.

Hon. Portia Simpson
MINISTER OF LABOUR & WELFARE
JAMAICA.

**THEME:- EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL WOMEN
FOOD PRODUCERS FOR PARTICIPTION
IN AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

AGENDA

DAY 1

TUESDAY - August 23

8: 30-9:30 a.m.

Registration

Chairman - Dr. Jose Tomas Mulleady
Acting Representative - IICA Jamaica

Welcome - Mr. John Yates

Acting Representative IDB Jamaica

Perspective on Caribbean Rural Women

The First Ladies of Jamaica, Barbados,
Suriname and St. Lucia (Her Excellency
Lady Cooke, Dr. Angelita Sandiford, Mrs.
Liesbeth Venetiaan-Vanenburg and Mrs.
Janice Compton respectively).

Remarks - Hon. Seymour Mullings -

Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica

Remarks - Hon. Portia Simpson - Minister

of Labour and Welfare, Jamaica.

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

SISTREN - Drama Presentation of Rural
Women Farmers

10:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:30 p.m.

Women in Agriculture in the Caribbean - A historical perspective

- Dr. Rhoda Reddock

Lecturer - History Department

University of the West Indies (St.
Augustine)

Caribbean Agriculture, Research and Development for the 21st Century

- Dr. Janice Reid

Representative, Caribbean Agriculture
Research & Development Institute -
Jamaica

2.

Overview of IICA/IDB Project
Dr. Brenda Kleyson - Co-ordinator
IICA/IDB Rural Women's Project

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	LUNCH
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Highlights of findings of the Rural Women's Study in the Caribbean - Ms. Donna McFarlane, Sub-Regional Co-ordinator IICA/IDB Rural Women's Project
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	DISCUSSION
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	PANEL PRESENTATION Women Farmers Discuss Their Experiences in their respective countries, problems, needs and proposed solutions.
4:30 - 5:00 p.m.	DISCUSSION
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	RECEPTION - KINGS HOUSE - hosted by the Governor General and First Lady of Jamaica

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY - August 24

9:00 -10:00 a.m.	Presentation of projects, programmes and policy proposals emanating from the study - Ms. Donna McFarlane - with the support of the eight consultants who worked on the project
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	DISCUSSION
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:45 - 12:30 p.m.	Breakout Session
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	LUNCH
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Presentation of conclusions and recommendations of working groups, and discussion.
3:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Closing Session

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE IICA/IDB RURAL WOMEN'S PROJECT CONFERENCE
AUGUST 23-24, 1994
WYNDHAM HOTEL
KINGSTON**

FIRST LADIES

**Dr. Angelita Sandiford
First Lady
Barbados**

**Mrs. Janice Compton
First Lady
St. Lucia**

**Mrs. L. Venetiaan Vanenburg
First Lady
Suriname**

**Her Excellency The Hon. Lady Cooke
First Lady
Jamaica
Kings House
Kingston 6**

**Ms. Indranie Persaud
Nominee of the First Lady
Guyana**

PARTICIPANTS BARBADOS

**Ms. Wendy Eversley
Farmer
Barbados**

**Ms. Ameena Austin
Farmer
Barbados**

**Ms. Anthea Chandler
Farmer
Barbados**

**Ms. June Clarke
Chief Executive Officer,
Women in Development
Barbados**

Ms. Diane Cummins
Consultant
Barbados

Ms. Ena Harvey
Consultant
Barbados

Ms. Rhyna Franklin
Economist, MINAG
Barbados

Mrs. Eleanor Nurse
Research Officer
Bureau of Women's Affairs
Barbados

Mr. Ethelbert Haynes
Economist/ Statistician
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Barbados

Ms. Jeanette Belle
Programme Coordinator
Women and Development Union
Barbados

Mrs. Rufina Jean-Paul
Chief Agricultural Planner
MINAG
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Consultant
Guyana

Ms. Beverly Rutherford
Consultant
Guyana

Ms. Hazel Halley-Burnett
Administrator
Women's Affairs
Guyana

Mr. Cromwell Crawford
Rural Development Specialist
Guyana

Ms. Janice Whyte
Farmer
Guayana

Ms. Luana Archer-Pierre
Farmer
Guyana

Ms. Bernice George-Trotz
Farmer
Guyana

Mr. Dharam Seelochan
Statistician
Guyana

Ms. Cynthia Ellis
CARICOM
Guyana

Ms. Cristina Schuierer
UNIFEM
Guyana

PARTICIPANTS JAMAICA

The Hon. Seymour Mullings
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Hope Gardens
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The Hon. Portia Simpson
Minister of Labour and Welfare
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Dr. Pat Anderson
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Mrs. Hermione McKenzie
University of the West Indies
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Dr. Elsie Le-Franc
Institute of Social & Economic Research
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Professor Elsa Leo-Rhynie
Centre for Gender and Development Studies
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Ms. Cordia Thompson
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Mrs. Blossom White
c/o Sociology Department
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