

IICA
E50
753

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION
ON AGRICULTURE

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies
vis-a-vis Women Food Producers
in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone
and the Caribbean

WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS IN SURINAME

NATIONAL SUMMARY

Rosemarie Shirley Defares
Sheela Khoesial

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IICA/IDB/ATN-SF-4064-RE

AREA OF CONCENTRATION IV'
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT



TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IICA/IDB/ATN-SF-4064-RE

**PROGRAM FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES
VIS-A-VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS IN THE
ANDEAN REGION, THE SOUTHERN CONE AND THE CARIBBEAN**

// **WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS IN SURINAME**

NATIONAL SUMMARY

**Rosemarie Shirley Defares ✓
Sheela Khoesial**

**AREA OF CONCENTRATION IV
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

IICA
I 50
753

~~0000005~~

00005860

- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
February, 1996.

All rights reserved. Reproduction of this book, in whole or in part, is prohibited without the express authorization of IICA and IDB.

The authors of this document were consultants hired by the Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies vis-a-vis Women Food Producers in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean (IICA/IDB). Therefore, the ideas, interpretations and conclusions expressed must be attributed to them, and do not necessarily reflect those of IICA, IDB or any of their Member States.

IICA's Editorial Service was responsible for the stylistic revision, typesetting and layout of this publication, and IICA's Print Shop for the printing.

Defares, Rosemarie Shirley

Women food producers in Suriname : national summary /
Rosemarie Shirley Defares, Sheela Khoesial. — San Jose, C.R. :
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, 1996.
46 p. ; 28 cm.

Technical Cooperation Agreement IICA/IDB/ATN-SF-4064-RE.
Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies vis-a-vis Women
Food Producers in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone and the
Caribbean.

1. Mujeres rurales - Suriname. 2. Política agrícola - Suriname.
I. Khoesial, Sheela. II. IICA. III. BID. IV. Título

AGRIS
E51

Dewey
305.4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	v
PREFACE	vii
I. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	1
A. Agricultural Context and Food Production	1
1. Economically active population in agriculture	2
2. The food production sector	2
B. Contributions of Women to Food Production	2
1. Reassessment of female employment in the agricultural sector	4
II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FOOD PRODUCTION	7
A. Women's Contribution to Agricultural Activities and to Family Income	8
1. Women's participation in organizations and cooperatives	10
2. Decision making	10
3. Limitations and problems faced by women food producers	11
III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF FOOD	13
A. Processing Technology	13
1. Marketing Technology	13
2. Demand, price and supply	14
3. National market channels	14
B. Marketing Agents	14
IV. THE SITUATION OF WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS WITH RESPECT TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	15
A. The Coastal Plain	15

B.	The Interior	15
C.	Inputs, Tools and Practices	15
D.	Familiarity with and Access to Improved Technology	16
E.	Appropriateness of the Technology Offered to Women Food Producers	16
V.	AGRICULTURAL SECTOR POLICIES AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK VIS A VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS	17
A.	Land Management Policy	17
B.	Credit Policy	17
C.	Technology Generation and Transfer Policy	18
D.	Extension and Training Policy	18
E.	Marketing Policies	19
F.	Rural Development Policies, Programmes and Projects and Existing Policies on Rural Women	19
G.	Existing Policies on Rural Women	20
VI.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	31
	APPENDIX	35

LIST OF TABLES

Table I.1.	Fourth agricultural census, Suriname 1981	4
Table II.1.	Signatures on contracts by type of holding (%), Suriname 1993	8
Table II.2.	Family member activities, Suriname 1993	9
Table II.3.	Women's participation in productive decisions on the farm, Suriname 1993	11
Table II.4.	Principal problems faced by female respondents, Suriname 1993	12

APPENDIX

Appendix 1.	Table V.8. Participation of family members in agricultural production, by type of crop and activity. Suriname 1993	35
-------------	--	----

PREFACE

The Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies vis-a-vis Women Food Producers in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean, executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under Technical Cooperation Agreement ATN/SF-4064-RE, is the second phase of a program which included 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 Program was implemented in 1992-1993 in six countries in Central America, under the auspices of the Council of Central American Ministers of Agriculture. The second phase was carried out by request of the First Ladies during their Summit Meeting on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in February 1992.

Through a better understanding of the economic and social roles played by women in small-scale agriculture, along with a critical analysis of national policies and programs focusing on the agricultural sector and on women, this joint IICA-BID program seeks to contribute to the reorientation and design of policy strategies for the sector and for rural development in general. The objective is to benefit women producers and the small agricultural units with which they are usually associated.

This document synthesizes national research results obtained over nearly a year during 1993-1994 and sets out the principal findings in the four research areas of the program, which were:

- * Analysis of the contributions of women to food production on small agricultural units and to the agricultural sector as a whole.*
- * Analysis of agricultural sector policies and programs and their effects on rural women.*
- * Evaluation of the technology utilized on small agricultural production units and the participation of women in these technological processes.*
- * A study of the roles of women in the processing and marketing of food products.*

Chapter I of this document looks at the contributions of women to national agricultural and food production through an analysis of secondary sources; a new estimate of total women employed in the agricultural sector is also provided. Chapters II, III and IV present syntheses of the principal findings of the IICA/BID Survey and other national studies on women agricultural producers. These chapters also analyze the participation of women in production, in technological processes, and in the processing and marketing of the output of small production units. An estimate of women's contribution to household income and family well-being is provided.

In spite of women's considerable contributions to all aspects of agriculture, from labor to marketing and financial management, they continue to be denied access to credit, training, extension and technology transfer, land tenure, and other benefits. This situation is analyzed in Chapter V.

Chapter VI presents conclusions and recommendations on policies and programs. While preliminary, these recommendations are intended to stimulate the formulation of new policy proposals, joint efforts with the agricultural and planning ministries, the offices of the First Ladies, and public and private agencies working in agricultural and rural development.

The methodology followed was based on the study of macroeconomic policy focused on agriculture, other sectoral policies, and their influence on the participation of women food producers.

I. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

A. Agricultural Context and Food Production

The agricultural sector in Suriname is the second largest contributor to GDP and foreign exchange earnings in the economy. During the 1980s, its contribution was estimated at between 10 and 20 per cent. In recent years, both positive and negative developments took place in the agricultural sector. Between 1970 and 1987 agricultural production showed a positive but irregular growth. Except for the last three years which were characterized by stagnation, the foregoing period showed an annual growth average of 2.2 percent. In the period 1980-1990 the share of the agricultural sector in the total Gross Domestic Product rose from 8 to 12 per cent and it generated between 16 and 20 per cent of all exports (Sunecon/Lahmeyer 1992). The Government's agricultural policy for the period 1988-1993 was primarily directed to increasing the agricultural GDP and foreign exchange revenues (Meerjaren Ontwikkelings Plan 1989-1993).

The current agricultural development policy envisages significant public involvement in the agricultural sector, such as a national price policy and Government involvement in a number of parastate enterprises in almost all segments of the agriculture sector. The recent decline in the economy and production gave origin to some changes in this policy, however it still focuses on removing some fundamental obstacles in the agricultural sector, such as the lack of farm inputs and implements, the lack of adequate support services, such as agricultural research, extension and marketing; and the general deterioration of infrastructure (mostly irrigation and drainage systems) (FAO/ WCCARD Report 1990). More fundamental policy changes are envisaged in the structural adjustment program for the Surinamese economy. The declining capacity of the agricultural sector to absorb labour will be addressed by facilitating access to agricultural land by individual producers. The structural adjustment program adopted by the Government of Suriname gives priority to the maintenance and rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure. It is expected that the smallholder agricultural sector will grow by 4 per cent per annum, absorbing annually an additional 2.7 per cent of the labour force.

Smallholdings represent the largest number of agricultural enterprises in Suriname. They produce rice (about a third of total rice production) and virtually all plantains, root crops, vegetables, peanuts, beans and pulses, dairy and beef cattle, as well as citrus and other fruits. Smallholdings are family owned or leased from the Government. Management and all manpower are largely or mainly supplied by family members. A distinction must be made between single-crop smallholdings geared towards export-oriented rice, and rainfed smallholdings which mainly focus on small-scale production of a variety of commodities for the domestic market and the family household. Until now, a comprehensive sector analysis regarding the different production structures has not been carried out. Constraints such as the lack of data on the distribution and marketing of agricultural produce, and above all, the lack of an adequate import-substitution policy, have hindered the implementation of structural policy measures.

1. Economically active population in agriculture

During the last ten years, the importance of the sector in the creation of employment has decreased, due to the many constraints encountered in production and in the national macroeconomic situation. According to available figures for 1992, approximately 12 000 people are employed in the agricultural sector (MOP 1994-1998). The latest Agricultural Census, conducted in 1981, reports a total number of 22,600 farmers about 10 000 of which were estimated to be full-time, and about 12 600, according to the definition of the Ministry of Agriculture, were part-time farmers (Agricultural Census /Ministry of Agriculture 1981). The highest levels of employment are in the rice, banana and palm oil subsectors. As a consequence of socioeconomic and employment conditions, which caused an acceleration in the already high rate of rural-urban migration, there has also been an increase in the rate at which full-time farmers become involved in off-farm work.

2. The food production sector

With respect to domestic food production, Suriname is reasonably self-sufficient in rice, vegetables, roots and tubers. However, for the second staple food source, the country is totally dependent on imported wheat, meat (chicken) and dried milk, although it has the capacity to produce all of these except wheat (IDOS 1992:183). Contributing to this situation is the highly dependent character of the economy, which is also a very open one. The shortage of production inputs (particularly fertilizers and insecticides) is damaging the domestic market. Many farmers have been abandoning their fields, as they increasingly face a cost/prize squeeze and an unfavorable market position. Another important problem in this context is the fluctuating exchange rate on the local market, which also contributes to increases in the price of locally produced food items. Since food production is mostly a small-scale activity, it must be recognized that up to now, agricultural policy has not led to a well-balanced development of this sector. The import of food items has increased in recent years.

When reconsidering the internal marketing structure for agricultural products, it is recommended to increase funding for small-scale agriculture and domestic food production. One major field to look at is the domestic crop sector, in order to guarantee food security and to improve product quality and transport and marketing systems.

B. Contributions of Women to Food Production

In Suriname women have always participated in agricultural production at all levels, and have traditionally played major roles in both export and domestic food crop production. The transformation of the agricultural sector from labour-intensive plantations to highly mechanized Government enterprises, medium-sized farms, and smallholdings has not resulted in changes beneficial to the situation of women farmers in the country.

Women play a vital role in food production, especially at the subsistence level. Food production involves a variety of activities, such as land preparation and clearing, planting, weeding, pest and disease control, harvesting, selecting, storage of seeds and transportation. Most of these activities are done by women. Gathering firewood and fetching water are also women's chores. In many cases, these tasks take several hours a day, particularly in the interior, where plots are miles/kilometres away from the tribal households.

On the coastal plain, women share responsibilities with men in agriculture and many are part-time farmers. In the coastal region, the activities carried out by women are part of family labour on the farm, and are usually considered part of their reproductive work.

In the interior, women are the main producers of food. Agricultural activities take place on plots that are often miles/kilometres away from the villages and the home. The slash-and-burn "shifting cultivation" system is traditionally more geared towards family subsistence than the market. Traditionally, subsistence farming is not considered to be an economic activity that generates income for a living. In most cases, women farmers in the interior do not consider their labour as an activity with economic value. Producing food products is their responsibility, and it is the main basic requirement for the maintenance of the household and community.

Under this clear division of labour by gender and age, women are also responsible for domestic tasks. In most rural districts and in the hinterlands, women's contribution to reproduction and social activities is crucial. In trade, handicrafts and services, women bring the products to the market, where they seem to control half the small businesses, especially in foodstuffs and agricultural products (fruit, vegetables, etc.). Male migration, the scarcity of jobs in civil and social services, and rising prices of food products, foodstuffs for home consumption, and public services, a growing number of women have become full-time farmers in the coastal areas. In spite of the growing feminization of agriculture and the importance of women's presence in agricultural production, their participation is still unrecognized. Their economic potential is not being realized, however, because support structures and access to resources are limited. Until now, limited attention has been paid to the constraints and needs of women farmers seeking assistance to improve farm management and agricultural and livestock production, and resolve processing and marketing problems.

Specific information on the exact number of female-headed households is not available at this moment. However, rural regions are considered to be the areas with the most female-headed households. The statistics are as follows: in Brokopondo, 56.4 per cent; Marowijne, 53.9 per cent, and Coronie, 50.6 per cent (IFAD 1990). In Sipaliwini, which has a large Maroon population, the situation is different. Maroon society is matrifocal, and many women have been left behind due to migration of the men.

1. Reassessment of female employment in the agricultural sector

The lack of adequate quantitative data and information on the exact number of women employed in the various fields of the agricultural sector is mainly due to ignorance about the role women play in production and the lack of attention given to them in agrarian policies. These limitations make it very difficult to estimate the exact percentage of the female economically active population that works in the agricultural sector. In the formal sphere, a number of women are employed in parastate enterprises (banana, palm oil, fish and shrimp industry) and are involved in different kind of production activities. Also, many women work in medium- and small-scale enterprises (mostly family-owned business) in the food-processing industry. At the micro level (home industry), the number of women that participate in activities such as food processing and preservation, handicrafts (agri-industry) is difficult to estimate, but is increasing as a result of the nationwide economic crisis and the unavailability of formal jobs. It is very difficult to estimate the number of women working in small-scale agriculture and farm households because of the many different activities (productive and reproductive) that women are involved in, especially since most women farmers do not see themselves as farmers, or as economically active persons. According to the 1981 agricultural census taken by the Ministry of Agriculture (see Table I.1), the total number of women whose households directly derived incomes from agriculture was 42 720. This group represented the small-scale farmers who carried out agricultural production on holdings of between 0.5 and 10 hectares.

Table I.1. Fourth agricultural census, Suriname 1981.

IV AGRICULTURAL CENSUS (1981)			
Size Farms/Holdings	Number of Farms	Men	Women
0.5	3 471	9 462	8,746
0.5 - 1	1 866	5 823	4,835
1 - 2	3 795	12 385	10,164
sub total 2			
2 - 3	2 141	6 685	5 895
3 - 4	1 428	4 512	4 018
4 - 5	1 229	4 070	3 606
sub tot. 2 - 5			
5 - 10	1 873	6 320	5 456
Total	15 803	49 259	42 720

Source: Min. of Agriculture (1981).

The official estimate of the female agricultural force includes only those women who were salaried employees and those women working on the family farm who either described themselves as agricultural workers, or were so described by their male companions. Thus, many women who actually were agricultural workers would not have been enumerated. As stated previously, many women actually engaged in agriculture do not recognize their agricultural labour as work, but simply consider it an extension of their household duties. Undoubtedly, the official estimate of the female agricultural labour force is underestimated.

In order to reassess the official figures on the contribution of women to agriculture, a distinction must be made between the interior region and the coastal plain. Of the total 81 090 women living in the rural areas in 1980 (CBB 1980), 22 417, or a little over one-fourth, were Amerindians and Maroons living in the interior of the country. Agricultural activity in these cultures is primarily a female activity, and it is well known that all women from the age of 10 years and over are all involved in agricultural production. The subsistence level of living conditions in the interior, and the lack of any other alternative source of employment for women (not men) leave little other choice. Any estimation of female participation in agriculture in the interior region would be closer to 100 per cent of all women over 10 years old. Excluding female children under 10 years old¹, the female agricultural work force in the region would be 75 per cent of 22 417, or 16 813.

Studies conducted in the coastal region (Defares 1993; IICA/IDB 1994) also indicate the importance of female participation in farming in this area. The level of unpaid, unenumerated participation, however, is less certain on large farms than on small ones (under 10 hectares); hence, a reassessment of the size of the female work force must take this into account. If participation is restricted to females over 10 years old, and it is assumed that there is an even distribution of women among all farms in the coastal zone, then the number of rural women participating in agriculture would be 36 083². This is approximately 60 per cent of the population of 58 673 females in the coastal region in 1980. According to these estimates, the number of women working in agriculture in Suriname would be 52 896, or 65 per cent of the female rural population, rather than the 53 per cent shown in the agricultural census. Recognition of the high rate of female participation, and adaptation of the agricultural census so as to show this fact, would facilitate agricultural programs and project design and enhance their impact on productivity and rural poverty.

¹ It is estimated that 25 per cent of the female population is under 10 years old.

² Female rural population in the coastal zone X (1 minus the percentage of female under 10 years old) X the percentage of farms under 10 hectares = 58 673 X .82 = 36 083.

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FOOD PRODUCTION

According to the degree of female participation in agricultural production, the following three categories of women farmers in Suriname can be identified:

- 1. Women food producers in the interior (Amerindian and Maroon women) who produce primarily for their own family: agriculture is geared towards home consumption, and surpluses are marketed where transportation and access to market facilities are available.**
- 2. Women farmers on the coastal plain (Hindustani and Javanese women) who are mainly engaged in production and processing for the market, and participate in production as part of the family labour force. Normally, they do not receive loans for their labour input.**
- 3. Creole women farmers, who are becoming more involved in the processing and preservation of agricultural products, as well in the marketing of these products. A number of Creole women are also involved in the cultivation of agricultural products.**

The information on the coastal area was gathered by the use of questionnaires. The sample included 105 women food producers in this area. Because of the unique features of the interior region, several meetings and discussions with women were organized for the purpose of gathering data.

The IICA/IDB study on the 105 women food producers in the coastal plain shows the following salient characteristics of these women:

- Most of the women, i.e., 70 women, or 66.6 per cent, were working on Government-leased land. Average plot size was 1.07 hectares.**
- Farms operated by women were generally marginal in terms of capital, land and labour resources and inputs, and largely reflected the economic insecurity of the farm household.**
- The largest category of women producers was found to be in the 40-60 age group, and the average age was 47.**
- Most of the women interviewed had a primary education, and not necessarily complete.**
- Most of the women did not have title to their land, or a contract on land in their name. The results of an earlier agrosociological survey (Defares 1992) indicate also that only a few women have a title to the land they work on. In most cases, the land is inherited or belongs to the husband, parents or other relatives.**

Table II.1 shows that only 6 women, or 5.7 per cent of the sample, had a contract or title to land in their name. Of these six women, only one owned the land, while the other five had their names on contracts for Government-leased land.

Table II.1. Signatures on contracts by type of holding (in percentages), Suriname, 1993.

	NAMES ON CONTRACTS AND TITLES (PERCENTAGE)						MAN'S FAMILY NAME
	BOTH	MALE	RESPONDENT			RESP. FAMILY NAME	
			OTHER STATUS RESP.	MARRIED	COMMON-LAW		
Own	7.1	71.4	-	7.1	-	14.3	-
Rented	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-
Family land	-	10.0	-	-	-	50.0	40.0
Lease	1.4	69.6	1.4	4.3	1.4	13.0	7.2
Squatting	-	-	-	-	-	100.0	-
Other	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	-

A. Women's Contribution to Agricultural Activities and to Family Income

Most women farmers on the coastal plain are engaged in the production of food products such as vegetables, roots, peanuts, pulses, and other groundnuts. Agriculture is carried out by both men and women. Of the household heads in the sample, 65.71 per cent were men. It was found that some women were engaged in work outside the farm, mostly in the public sector as charwomen. Most female farmers in the survey had work on the farm as their principal activity work. Most of the men in the sample had work outside the farm as their principal activity. Many men migrate to the city and leave the women behind to do most of the agricultural work.

On the coastal plain, women's contribution to the agricultural system (predominantly Javanese and Hindustani women) is normally conceived as an extension of their household tasks, despite the crucial importance of their input to achieve a reasonable agricultural output. Women's role in the food-production system is primarily geared towards planting and production, processing, packaging and marketing of traditional food items for local consumption. This is the main reason why so many women cultivate short-term subsistence crops which they themselves can market. On the other hand, a small number of women are engaged in growing export-oriented cash crops, such as bananas and palm oil, on the parastate plantations. Almost all women farmers in the coastal areas are engaged in various farming and marketing activities and produce much of the food their families consume.

Table II.2 shows a frequency distribution of the stated primary and secondary activities of family members between the ages of 15 and 50. Activities are aggregated as income-producing and non-income-producing, and allow for a general assessment of the significance of women's contribution to family income. Income production within the family unit is definitely shared by men and women, and women state as their primary activity an income-producing one almost as frequently as do men: 84 per cent of adult female family members have an income-producing activity as their primary activity, compared to 65 per cent of male family members. The ratio is almost the same between men and women in terms of their dedication to non-income-producing activities (e.g., studies, domestic duties, pensioners, etc.). Most family members either do not have a secondary activity or if they do, it is non-income-producing one, such as domestic duties. More men than women, however, have a secondary income-producing activity (18 per cent of men compared to 11 per cent of women), and among those that do, work on the farm is much more important than off-farm labour. While almost twice as many men work off-farm as on-farm (42 to 23 per cent), women tend to remain working on the farm. There are four times as many women working on-farm as off-farm (51 to 13 per cent). An explanation for this can be that rural women are not supposed to be working outside the house. On the other hand, because of their limited educational level and the lack of suitable jobs (other than domestic work) women have little or no opportunity to be involved in off-farm employment.

Table II.2. Family member activities, Suriname 1993.

	PRIMARY ACTIVITIES 1			SECONDARY ACTIVITIES 2		
	INCOME PRODUCING		NON INCOME PRODUCING 3	INCOME PRODUCING		NON INCOME PRODUCING SECONDARY ACTIVITIES
	ON FARM	OFF FARM		ON FARM	OFF FARM	
MEN	23%	42%	35%	15%	3%	83%
WOMEN	51%	13%	36%	7%	4%	89%

A look at the various activities in agricultural production (see Appendix I) shows that women contribute much to planting, seeding, harvesting and marketing. Only in clearing and preparing land do men perform most of the work. Women are assisted by family members in almost all activities in the house and the field. The wife is usually in charge of field activities. As regards ethnic and cultural differences in work patterns and contribution to agricultural work, almost all Javanese and East Indian women in the rural areas are involved in agriculture and provide a substantial part of the labour required. In the interior, among Amerindians and Maroons, women are responsible for agricultural and fishing activities as well as household chores. Culturally and traditionally, women have a direct relationship

with the land. Producing food for the family is the woman's main responsibility. Creole women are less involved in agricultural activities than they used to be. The Creole population has tended to gravitate to the urban areas. As a result of better access to education and the expansion of the economic base of the country, Creole women have not considered agricultural work attractive or financially rewarding. A few women do have small plots oriented toward the generation of cash income, mainly through the cultivation and processing roots and groundnuts (pomtayer, gember, cassava, peanuts) for home consumption and marketing.

Most rural women, and particularly women farmers, tend to work consistently longer hours than men. In the hinterlands, and in many rural areas, women work 12 to 16 hours a day or even longer. The findings of the IICA/IDB survey show that the women in the sample spent more time on activities on the farm (both productive and domestic).

1. Women's participation in organizations and cooperatives

In general, farmer's organizations and cooperatives are not very popular among women producers in Suriname, notwithstanding the fact that they consider these organisations to be very important. Several reasons may be mentioned, including the following:

- a) The institutions are mostly male-oriented and are not sensitive to women's issues;
- b) Membership is not always open; women also have difficulty gaining access to cooperatives and other farmer organisations.

Unfamiliarity with the objectives and work of these organisations was also mentioned. Many women wanted to be members of these organisations, but cultural and ideological beliefs restrict access to these organisations for most women. This issue must be addressed. Women are mostly involved in church groups and cultural/religious organisations. They carry out social and religious activities, and contribute substantially to women's welfare. The percentage of female participation in the leadership of organisations is minimal. There are no exact figures on this subject.

2. Decision making

Table II.3 shows the high participation of women in decision making. The woman's voice is crucial in almost all decisions.

Table II.3. Women's participation in productive decisions on the farm, Suriname 1993.

TOTAL	DECISION		
	ONLY MEN (%)	ONLY WOMEN (%)	SHARED MEN & WOMEN (%)
	100	100	100
<u>TYPES OF INPUTS</u>			
Inputs-crop production	27.6	35.2	31.4
Purchase mach/equip	14.2	19.5	27.6
Crops to be planted	18.1	39.4	38.1
Livestock to be raised	5.0	14.3	16.2
Products to be sold	14.2	36.2	39.5
What markets	15.2	30.5	34.3
Price of goods	15.2	40.0	24.8
use of goods	6.7	5.7	9.5
farm management	12.4	35.2	46.7
use of profit	9.6	33.3	47.6
Organization of prod.	15.5	37.1	42.9
Hiring farm labour	9.6	22.9	17.1

3. Limitations and problems faced by women food producers

In comparison with most sectors of the economy, agriculture has experienced the greatest recession. Despite this, it is still the second-largest source of employment and generator of foreign currency. The persistence of benign neglect and prejudices toward the many roles women play in the farm household and on the farm is another problem. No distinction is made between the productive and reproductive activities of women, and this has resulted in disregarding women's contribution to farm output. While female participation in agriculture has always been obvious, there were never any plans designed to improve the situation of women on the farm. Table II.4 shows the main problems faced by women in production.

From the IICA/IDB survey it is clear that women farmers experience the following problems:

1. Shortage of fertilizers, insecticide, seeds, farm equipment,
2. High prices of inputs,
3. Limited access to marketing and transportation facilities,
4. Limited access to credit,
5. Limited access to agricultural extension services.

In general, most of the limitations that hinder the development of women have do with unresponsive bureaucratic rules and political decisions and a generally unconcerned society.

Table II.A. Principal problems faced by female respondents, Suriname 1993.

	NUMBER OF WOMEN IN SURVEY	PERCENTAGE
PRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS		100.0
Unavailability of inputs	73	69.5
Poor drainage/irrigation	26	24.7
Input/packaging cost	20	19.0
Diseases/natural disasters	20	19.0
Pest/Animal damage	16	15.2
Unavailability of transportation	12	11.4
No access to land/market	13	12.3

Despite the fact that contemporary rural women contribute significantly to production activities in the field, their contribution at both regional and national level remains unacknowledged. In domestic food-crop and subsistence farming, women participate both as independent farmers and as members of farm families, yet their contribution is not taken into account in the agricultural GDP. For years, official statistics have not included any information about the female agricultural labour force, and this has contributed to the formulation of policies that do not take into account the tremendous efforts made by women in agricultural production. Until now, little has been done to improve the situation of women and their status in the farm household and the rural community.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF FOOD

A. Processing Technology

Fully mechanized processing technology exists for the processing of rice, palm oil and vegetables, fruits, wheat, fish and shrimp, produced locally or imported by a few large-scale agroindustry estates. Small-scale processing of farm products is done by women. Some vegetables, such as cabbage and tomato, are processed in Suriname. In most cases, post-harvest treatment of most vegetable products is confined to cleaning, packing and sorting. Women play an especially important role in harvesting, sorting and preserving for the market. Harvesting, stripping and shelling of peanuts is done manually, predominantly by women. Peanuts are processed to peanut sauce, snack, peanut butter or munga using traditional manual methods. Peanuts are roasted on a metal plate, over a wood fire, and ground in a *mata*. Cassava is usually processed manually by women using a mata for grinding, a grater, and a *matapi* for squeezing out the juice. In the interior, bitter cassava is made into bread, pastry and flour. Peeling, grating, juicing and baking are done by women. In some areas in the interior, a cassava mill is used for grinding. Baking on a wood fire produces a lot of smoke, which has a bad effect on the health of the processor. On the coastal plain, sweet cassava is processed into a snack (chips). Plantains are often peeled, cut, sun-dried and ground to use as porridge for children. Fruits are processed in small-scale operations, as juices and jams.

1. Marketing technology

In general, farmers, including women, do not market their products directly. After harvesting, the product is delivered to the buyers, who have the necessary transport capacity and collect the product at the farm. This is especially the case in the vegetable sector on the coastal plain. Some women farmers sell their products directly at the market, along with other products that they collect in their village. Due to transportation problems, this phenomena is decreasing. Most market sellers prefer to buy their supplies at the market place itself for retailing (Lahmeyer 1993; IDOS 1992; IFAD 1993).

Export products, such as rice, bananas, fish and shrimp, have their own specialized marketing channels, in which no women are involved. The domestic market for agricultural production is very small, and has very limited potential for absorbing more than the present volumes of most products. The prospects for expansion of agricultural production are largely determined by the prospects for access to foreign markets. Transportation, grading and sales services for farm products are controlled by a small number of middlemen organizations. They are a very important component as they determine both farmer and consumer prices of the various agricultural products.

2. Demand, price and supply

The culturally diverse population, with its many different tastes in food (sometimes inspired by religion), has a rather complex food behavior pattern. Rice is the main staple food. In the coastal area, the second most important staple is imported wheat. It is consumed as bread, roti or noodles. In the interior, root crops, such as cassava, are the main staple, together with highland rice, which is produced at subsistence level. Especially among the Creoles, sweet potatoes and plantains are used as staples along with rice. In contrast with Latin America and the Caribbean, a rather high amount of vegetables is consumed, especially by the inhabitants of the coastal plain. In the interior, vegetable consumption is considerably lower.

3. National market channels

There are three main markets in the country. They are all owned by the government. The most important one is the Central Market, followed by the Southern Market, located in Paramaribo. The third market is located in the District of Nickerie. These markets are open every working day. The Central Market plays an important role as the main structure for wholesale and retail distribution of farm products, especially vegetables, fruits and fish. Pricing takes place at the Central Market and is mostly the result of a process of give and take between the intermediary and the retailers. There are also three regional farmers' markets, located in the Districts of Wanica and Saramacca. Apart from these government-owned markets, some small- and medium-scale privately owned grocery stores, operating as divisions of large supermarket chains, retail farm products. Especially after the SAP period, an increasing number of booths have appeared in front of houses; in some cases, they have developed into micromarkets.

B. Marketing Agents

In the coastal area, some farmers who own a pick-up sell their produce directly to the local or central market. However, most of the farmers do not have means of transportation, and sell their products to intermediaries who make big profits, as they set their own prices. They collect the produce on the farm and sell it on the central market or deliver it to supermarkets or grocery stores. About five intermediaries monopolize both the local and the export markets. The intermediaries often act as creditors and suppliers of inputs to small- and medium-scale farmers. These intermediaries are also exporters of farm products, along with some other smaller exporters.

IV. THE SITUATION OF WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS WITH RESPECT TO TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Except for the production of rice, bananas, palm oil and some fruits, e.g. citrus, all other food products are grown by small farmers. Only land preparation is sometimes mechanized on the small farms. Planting, harvesting, and processing are predominantly manual. In general, the following tools are used by smallholders: machete, axe, shovel, spade and fork, and sometimes backsprayers and water pumps. The technology used in the small-scale production system in Suriname may be divided into two regions, the coastal plain and the interior.

A. The Coastal Plain

Small-scale farmers on the coastal plain often use high-quality imported planting material and agrochemicals, which are not always available at reasonable prices. Farmers have therefore started producing their own planting material, and have partly replaced fertilizers with organic material (manure). Soil preparation is done by men, often using a Kubota tractor, and sometimes manually. Women are mostly involved in planting, maintenance, harvesting and post-harvest activities. All vegetables, peanuts, cassava and nearly all fruits are produced on small-scale farms. Women play an important role, especially in small-scale agricultural production. Only land preparation is sometimes mechanized on small farms. Planting, harvesting and processing are mostly done manually. In general, the following tools are used by the smallholder: machete, axe, shovel, spade and fork and sometimes backsprayer and water pumps. Agrochemicals are used extensively on small-scale farms on the coastal plain. Foreign exchange is currently so scarce it is only available on the parallel market. Many smallholder cannot afford to pay these prices.

B. The Interior

In the interior, except for large-scale palm oil production, only small-scale farming is done by Maroons and Amerindians. The tools used are machetes, axes, knives and spades. These women farmers produce their own planting material and do not use any chemicals. There are indications that in areas where farming has become commercial, farmers are informed about chemicals. On the farm, men's activities are limited to soil preparation; the rest of their time is spent hunting and fishing. Many men are employed in the gold-mining and lumber industries or work elsewhere for a salary. In the interior, women are responsible for 90 per cent (IFAD 1993) of agricultural production.

C. Inputs, Tools and Practices

There are no differences in the technology used by men and women, both on the coastal plain and in the interior.

On the coastal plain, only machines and backsprayers are in general use by men. Furthermore, in all activities, women use the same heavy equipment as men.

In the interior, land clearing is done by men, using axes, and assisted by women. The same heavy axe is used by women to gather firewood. All other tools mentioned earlier are used by women, because they are the farmers. Technology in the interior is far behind compared to the coastal area. For instance, in the interior a spade with a very small handle -more or less half a meter- is still used by farmers, with the resulting harm to their backs. A longer stick would lighten the work. In the interior, the "shifting cultivation" system is traditionally used. As regards the water supply for farm use, the survey showed that 51 per cent of the farmers depended on river/spring/well/pond water, and 80 per cent depended on rainfall. This implies a high degree of dependence on the weather, and a need for water pumps. Flooding was indicated as one of the main problems faced by the farmers surveyed.

D. Familiarity With and Access To Improved Technology

Small-scale farmers, especially in the interior, have very limited access to improved technology, even when it is available. In the interior, a number of NGOs are working to improve this situation. On the coastal plain, the Ministry of Agriculture has the structure to develop new technologies and make them available to farmers; however, it has not been able to actually do this because of a shortage of specialized staff and equipment. Hence, farmers have little or no access to improved technology. Of the 280 men and 269 women respondents in the survey, only two farmers (one male and one female) had received training in marketing, seed selection and production, and use of chemicals.

E. Appropriateness of the Technology Offered to Women Food Producers

In research for technology, appropriateness for use by the women food producers is in general not included. The same technology is used by both male and female. The typical "male jobs" such as land preparation, manually or mechanized, spraying and using the water pumps, will be done by men, while the women will participate in the rest of the activities such as planting, manually weed control, harvesting and post harvest handling.

V. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR POLICIES AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK VIS A VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS

The main objective of agricultural development policy is to contribute optimally to improving national and sectoral welfare and ensuring stable development of the agricultural sector and the rural areas. Earlier Government policies have tended to focus on the development of export products (rice and bananas), with less attention being given to the specific structural problems and needs of small-scale food production units. Policy has never made any distinction between male and female farmers, and women as producers have never received the attention they deserve. The main focus of policy has been geared towards the mechanization and capitalization of export crops in order to bring in foreign currency for the State treasury. In most agricultural policies, women have not been directly considered. On the contrary, policies have in the past paid little attention to promoting programmes and projects that take into account the role played by women as producers and farm workers.

A. Land Management Policy

In the Agrarian Legislation Act, no distinction is made between men and women. In fact, women and men have equal rights as regards access to and control over land. In practice, however, women have encountered many obstacles to gaining access to and control over land. According to information supplied by the Ministry of Natural Resources, less than 1 per cent of women own land in their name.

A land reform act, known as "Legislation Relating to Land Reform in Suriname", was introduced in 1981. The main objective of this decree was to guarantee households access to enough land for housing, industrial and agricultural purposes. It was hoped that in the case of the agricultural community, the Land Reform Act would help correct the highly skewed distribution of land in the rural areas. This did not happen, however, and the legislation did not achieve the objective for which it had been enacted. Land tenure conditions are unfavourable to expansion of production. Ninety per cent of the total land area is owned by the State, and is available for long-term lease to private users.

B. Credit Policy

The commercial banks in Suriname play an important role in making loans to farmers, and their importance has increased in recent years. In general, it is the large and medium-sized enterprises that have access to commercial banks.

There are no legal restrictions on access to credit based on gender. However, very little credit is available to women in the low income bracket. The needs of small entrepreneurs - both male and female- are not met by the banking policies of the commercial banks, which is geared towards large firms and high-turnover commercial activities.

The LBB (the *Landbouwbank*), an agricultural credit institution established in April 1972, provides credit to small farmers. With headquarters in Paramaribo and six branches in the main farming areas, agricultural lending totalled Sf. 40 million per year from 1985 to 1987. On average, 48 per cent of this amount was for rice, 4 per cent for livestock, 4 per cent for horticulture and 1 per cent for fisheries. About 16 per cent was used for other agricultural undertakings, including vegetables, fruits, and mixed farming, with the remainder going to other uses in the agricultural sector. In 1988, small- and medium-scale farmers received about Sf. 13.6 million in loans. The bank has a reported default rate of only about 2 per cent. Collateral requirements include housing, land, machinery (such as combine harvesters and tractors) and cattle; co-signers are also accepted in some cases. Interest rates on loans vary from about 12 to 17 per cent, and various savings schemes are available. The current interest rate on savings is 3 per cent. It may be assumed that, in general, women do not have the same prospects for receiving loans as men do, one main reason being the fact that they have difficulty meeting the collateral requirements of the banks.

C. Technology Generation and Transfer Policy

Little attention has been paid to the development and transfer of processing and marketing technologies or to meeting the needs of women food producers. There is no relationship between research and on-farm practices and extension services.

D. Extension and Training Policy

Agricultural extension is currently organized on three levels. At the national level, the Deputy Director of Agriculture is responsible for all agricultural extension work carried out by the Agricultural Information Unit. At the regional level, the country is divided into three regions, each headed by a regional coordinator who is in charge of all agricultural activities in the region, and who reports to the Deputy Director of Agriculture. Each region is further divided into a number of *rayon*'s, a subdivision of the jurisdiction. Extension aides serve as demonstration plot assistants and help in the maintenance of infrastructure. Although there is a structure for an organized extension service, it does not perform satisfactorily for several reasons: a lack of extension officers; limited financial means; lack of communications equipment and transportation; lack of policy direction; lack of motivation of field staff and extension personnel and, last but not least, virtually no communication between research, extension and the farming community. The educational level of most of the extension officers is very low. It is interesting to note that of the 118 extension officers, only four are women.

E. Marketing Policies

Suriname has a long tradition of setting ceilings for consumer prices of a number of basic foods. In general, prices have been set at levels favoring the short-term interests of consumers to the detriment of producers, and, in the long run, of local production capacity. With respect to sugar and milk production, for example, sugar production has stopped altogether, and milk production has suffered from long periods of below-cost-price producer prices. Even under normal circumstances, with no shortage of inputs, most government-operated agricultural enterprises suffer from management problems. It is fair to say that Suriname's production of most agricultural commodities needs some degree of protection against artificially low world market prices. The question is whether this is to be achieved through market forces with higher consumer prices, or through direct government subsidies. The Government has usually favored the latter approach. In addition to selling the commodities produced on state plantations, the government intervenes in the marketing of milk and rice, and of some basic foods. The marketing of vegetables, cassava and peanuts is in the hands of intermediaries or of the producers themselves, and there is no price regulation on the part of the Government. The domestic market is characterized by highly unstable prices. The Ministry of Agriculture recommends a review of the internal workings of the agricultural market. Greater attention must be paid to storage, transport, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Better post-harvest handling facilities for fresh agricultural produce must be created.

F. Rural Development Policies, Programmes and Projects and Existing Policies on Rural Women

In order to promote rural development and ensure food security, more attention needs to be paid to the productive role of rural women. The responsibility for rural development is shared by the Ministries of Agriculture, of Regional Development, of Natural Resources and of Social Affairs. Each one carries out its own programmes in isolation and with no coordination with other similar or complementary efforts. With the creation of the new Ministry of Regional Affairs and Decentralization, the responsibility for rural affairs and decentralization has now shifted to it. It is still not clear what its specific responsibilities are in regard to rural women. In 1991, the Sociological Research Section of the Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture began a special program to conduct research on and provide training for rural women in agriculture. In general, rural development policies are geared towards the overall development of the various sectors in the rural areas (health, housing, social services, infrastructure) and not specifically at women as a target group for policy actions. The Agricultural Information Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture has a home economics section which has implemented several activities relating to home maintenance; it has not done so much, however, with regard to production and income-generating activities. The work of the Home Economics Section has been seriously hampered by a shortage of professional staff, transport facilities and materials (tools, demonstration equipment); as a result, it has not been performing satisfactorily.

G. Existing Policies on Rural Women

At present, the following projects and activities are being executed or developed in Suriname:

- A research project on the current situation of women farmers and their contribution to agricultural production and development. The project is carried out by the Sociological Research Section, the Extension Service and the Agrarian Information Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

A partial study on the role and contribution of women farmers in the rural districts of Wanica and Para has already been conducted.

- IFAD is funding a project to support small farmers in Suriname. A prerequisite of the project is to include in the target group of 5000 farmers a significant number of women farmers. This project enables farmers to obtain agricultural inputs through a special credit program. The Extension Department of the Ministry of Agriculture will assist in this project.
- A number of activities are being carried out by different NGOs in the field of agricultural production, both in the interior and on the coastal plain.

VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Government policy has failed to promote attitudes and opportunities that encourage the full participation of rural women in the socioeconomic and agricultural transformation of their society.

Structural transformation of institutions and new priorities in the allocation of resources are urgently needed in order to bring about a change in the situation of rural women in Suriname. A review of existing legislation is also needed, in order to remove injustices as regards the access of women to resources and status in the socioeconomic sphere. The findings of the IICA/IDB study show that women make a significant contribution to the production of food both for household consumption and for the domestic market. Given the key role they play in food security, it is clear that policies in this area must address the gender issue. Gender-oriented action models should be introduced, in order to give women more scope and opportunities to participate fully and on an equal footing with men in programmes and projects aimed at advancing their cause.

PROPOSALS

First Project Profile

- Title:** Development of a data-collection system and a data base on women farmers and their participation in and contribution to agriculture and development.
- Definition of underlying problem:** Due to the limited availability of data and information on women in agriculture, the contribution made by women to the agricultural output of the farm unit is not recognized and is not mentioned in official statistics and agricultural development programs. For years women have been excluded from active participation in agricultural development programs and projects. Findings of research studies have shown the crucial role women play in the production of the small-scale family farm unit. However, up to now, agricultural policies have mainly been geared towards large farm enterprises and women still do not get the attention they deserve.
- Goal:** To contribute to a gender perspective in agricultural policies, programmes and projects, and assist in planning and formulation of agricultural policies.

Specific objective:

To achieve national development goals by supporting women food producers in their agricultural work, and thereby raise awareness of gender issues and the true situation of women.

Expected outputs:

1. A data-base for the agricultural policy planning system that is based on gender analysis and gender planning.
2. Improvement in the overall situation of women food producers in the rural and agricultural setting.
3. Improved quality of life of the rural household.

Activities:

1. Research and studies on the role and status of women in the various sub-sectors of the rural and agricultural economy.
2. Development of a comprehensive on-going programme of gender training for agricultural policy-makers, planners, technical officers and extension officers.
3. Review of existing agricultural programmes and projects in terms of gender sensitivity.
4. Re-designing of current and planned programmes and projects.

Expected duration: 2 years

Estimated cost: (US\$)

Type of expenditure

Estimated cost

- Research costs
- Training material
- Technical assistance
- Transportation
- Production of information
- Bulletins and reports
- Workshops
- Miscellaneous (15%)

Implementing agency: The Women's Bureau, IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture

Second Project Profile

Title: Institutional strengthening of agricultural institutions, the Extension Service and the Agrarian Information Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Definition of underlying problem: The Extension Service, which is a section of the Agrarian Information Unit, is not performing satisfactorily, and therefore cannot meet the requirements for an optimum service to farmers. There is a lack of supporting structures, such as cadres, transportation, financial means, materials and equipment. This results in poor service to farmers.

Goal: To revamp the Extension Service, in order to enable it to provide support to small-scale farmers, particularly women.

Specific objective: To improve the efficiency of the Information Unit, and make extension services available to women producers. To promote a special programme designed to attract and mobilize more women to become extension officers.

Expected outputs:

1. Re-organization and strengthening of the Agrarian Information Unit.
2. Improved working relations between extension officers, field workers and farmers.
3. Improved mechanism for the distribution of agrarian information and services.
4. Development of training packages for courses on planting materials, cultivation techniques, postharvest handling and marketing of agricultural products.
5. Promotion of gender awareness among planning staff, extension officers, field workers and NGOs concerned with agricultural development.

Activities:

1. Up-grading of training for extension officers, field workers and planning staff of the Agrarian Information Unit, in connection with the collection and distribution of information, targeting small farmers and placing special emphasis on giving women farmers access to services, facilities, training, credit, land and cooperatives.
2. Preparation and reproduction of training material for distribution to extension agents and farmers, and production of audiovisual materials.

3. Promotion of research on cultivation techniques, crop varieties, plant propagation, postharvest handling and marketing, and simple and efficient production procedures.
4. Elaboration of an integrated development strategy through the Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs and farmer's organizations for the distribution of farm inputs, machines and planting materials.

Expected duration: 2 years

Estimated cost: (US\$)

<u>Type of expenditure</u>	<u>Estimated cost</u>
- Preparation of training packages	
- Establishment of nursery	
- Training	
- Technical assistance	
- Miscellaneous	

Implementing agency: Ministry of Agriculture

Third Project Profile

Title: Agro-processing activities.

Definition of underlying problem: Due to the absence of small-scale agro-processing centres at the cottage-industry level (home industry) to equip women with the necessary skills and tools for agro-processing, the Home Economics Section of the Ministry of Agriculture is the main instrument for actions in that direction. However, the Home Economics Section does not have the capacity to provide such services, and therefore needs technical assistance and financial support.

Goal: To improve the Home Economics Section by setting up the necessary social infrastructure to enable the Section to help NGOs, women's organizations and cooperatives to set up programmes and projects for the transfer of appropriate technologies and know-how in the area of agro-processing and food preservation.

Specific objective: To develop and improve agro-processing activities at the micro (cottage-industry) level and promote income-generating activities among rural women.

Expected outputs:

1. Reduction in post-harvest losses and expansion of cottage industries.
2. Development of technical packages for the production, postharvest handling, and marketing of agricultural products.
3. Improvement of efficiency and introduction of simple technologies for the processing and marketing of agricultural products (rice, peanuts, cassava and vegetables).
4. Establishment of a better equipped and more modern Home Economics Section in the Ministry of Agriculture.
5. Improvement of services pertaining to home maintenance and home management for rural households.

Activities:

1. Training of cadres in new appropriate technologies in food processing.
2. Training courses in small-scale agro-processing for rural women.
3. Training in appropriate harvesting, postharvest handling and processing, distribution and management of production.
4. Training in basic accounting and management of commercial activities; raw materials, processing, labour, wholesale and retail prices of finished products.

Expected duration: 2-3 years

Estimated cost: (US\$)

Type of expenditure

Estimated cost

- Training materials
- Training equipment
- Setting up of pilot demonstration units
- Technical assistance
- Training

Implementing agency: Ministry of Agriculture/Ministry of Internal Affairs and the NGOs Forum

Fourth Project Profile

Title: Basic training in agricultural skills and know-how.

Definition of underlying problem:

Up to now, there have been no special training programmes in basic agricultural skills and know-how (planting materials, cultivation, use of fertilizers, gaining access to land, credit, technical information, assistance and funding), especially for case of small-scale farmers. Such a programme could be of great help in incorporating rural women into the process of agricultural and rural development.

Goal: To mobilize women to participate in agricultural training, and identify their needs at both the production and the community level.

Specific objective: To increase the involvement of women in agriculture and home economics training programmes, including aspects of health, nutrition and literacy.

Expected outputs:

1. Increased access for women to agricultural training programmes and to land, credit facilities and new and efficient production technologies that can help lighten their work burden.
2. Increased numbers of women participating full-time in programmes designed to highlight their productive role, and help quantify their contribution to productive and reproductive activities.
3. Increased domestic food supply and improvements in subsistence production of food.
4. Improved quality of rural life.
5. Increased awareness and consciousness among women of their vital role in and contribution to rural and agricultural production.

Activities:

1. Training courses.
2. Workshops and field visits to women farmers and farm enterprises.
3. Distribution or dissemination of training materials, inputs, brochures and audiovisual material.
4. Setting up of pilot demonstration projects (plants) for agricultural training.

Expected duration: 2 years

Estimated cost: (US\$)

Type of expenditure

Estimated cost

- Training materials
- Preparation of training packs
- Technical assistance
- Transportation

Implementing agency: Ministry of Agriculture/NGOs (PAS, etc.) and IICA

Fifth Project Profile

Title: Census of women's organizations, projects and programs.

Definition of underlying problem: Several women's organizations are active in Suriname, gathering useful data and developing know-how and experience on a wide range of subjects. In general, the women's organizations are not informed about each other's activities or about the data that are available. This leads to inefficient use of know-how and data.

Goal: To identify all women's groups and the activities they carry out, independently of the sector concerned.

Specific objective: To establish a communications network.

Expected output:

Efficient use of human resources and financial means, in order to allow for organized development of women and to properly address women's issues.

Activities:

A census will be prepared and carried out, in order to develop a data base. Structures will be created to keep the database up to date.

Implementing agency: NGO Forum

Sixth Project Profile

Title: Establishment of an agriculture and marketing board.

Definition of underlying problem: A chaotic situation prevails in the marketing of produce from small-scale farms. Small-scale farmers, especially women farmers, are not able to sell their products directly to consumers or to export them, because of lack of know-how and financial means. They are thus forced to sell their products to intermediaries, who virtually monopolize the market. These buyers act as price setters, while the farmers are price takers. Farmers are not able to buy tools because their income is inadequate.

Goal: To increase farm incomes through the development of a structure that will allow farmers to keep a more realistic share of the profits of farm products.

Specific objective: Establishment of a marketing and export board.

Expected output:

Higher producer prices and lower consumer prices.

Activities:

Establishment of a commission made up of representatives of farmers, traders and government officials, to do the preparatory work.

Implementing agency: The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Commerce

Seventh Project Profile

Title: Clearing of paths leading to plots in the interior.

Definition of underlying problem: The farming method used in the interior is that of shifting cultivation. The distances between villages and new plots is increasing. The farmers, most of whom are women, have to walk over bad paths for hours. With their harvest on their heads and sometimes with a baby on their back, they have to climb over tree trunks and ford creeks.

Goal: The purpose of this project is to improve the condition of paths, and thus to lighten the burden of women farmers in the interior.

Specific objective: To provide saws to communities to clear paths and remove tree trunks or cut them for use as bridges over creeks.

Expected output:

A better and easier life for women farmers.

Activities:

Collection of additional data and working with the population of the interior to find the best solutions.

Implementing agency: Non governmental organisations active in the interior.

Eight Project Profile

Title: Development of Pokigron as a market place for the interior

Definition of underlying problem: The people of the interior who live along the Suriname River have a surplus of farm products which they cannot sell because of the lack of adequate means of transportation to more populated areas. The establishment of a market in Pokigron would allow farmers to transport their farm products by boat to

this village, where traders from the capital could buy the products.

Goal: To create a market for surplus farm products in the interior.

Specific objective: To increase the incomes of farm women in the interior and encourage farming.

Expected output:

Increased farm production and a better life for the population of the interior.

Activities:

First priority must be given to repairing the road from Pokigron to Paramaribo.

Implementing agency: Government of Suriname

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BISHAY, G. 1987. Suriname, agricultural sector study: Technical analysis. Vol. II, Main report, IDB.
- BOSERUP, E. 1970. Women's role in economic development. New York. St.Martin's Press.
- CAFRA. 1988. Women in Caribbean Agriculture Project (WICA). Caribbean Association For Feminist Research and Action.
- CENTRUM INDEX. 1984. Verslag van de ontwikkeling van de Surinaamse industrie.
- DEFARES, R.S. 1993. Een Deelstudie naar de Rol en Bijdrage van Vrouwelijke Agrariërs in Lelydorp e.o. Ministerie van Landbouw. Veeteelt en Visserij. Suriname.
- DUMAS, R.E. 1990. Informatie over pinda van Pietrarelli. Intern Rapport No. 49. Landbouwproefstation.
- ELLIS, P. 1993. Agricultural policies, programmes and projects: the need for a gender perspective. Bahamas.
- FAO. 1990. Women in agricultural development. Gender issues in rural food security in developing countries. Rome.
- _____. 1988. Caribbean women in agriculture. Chile.
- _____. 1990. Plan of action: Women in agricultural development. Roma.
- FARQUHARSON, N. 1987. Suriname, agricultural sector study; policies and potentials. Vol. I, IDB.
- LANDBOUW UNIVERSITEIT WAGENINGEN/LBB SURINAME. 1992. Kostenprijs berekening van enkele groenten soorten: een kostprijs onderzoek onder groentetelers in Suriname.
- MC. FARLANE, C. 1991. Conceptual framework for the development of statistics and indicators on women in agriculture and rural development. Rome. FAO.
- IDB (INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK). 1993. Assessment of the micro enterprise sector in Suriname. Den Haag. Institute of Social Studies Advisory Service.
- IDOS. 1992. A situational analysis of Suriname.

- IFAD (INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT). 1992. Report summit on the economic advancement of rural women.
- _____. 1993. Republic of Suriname, smallholder support project. Draft Post Appraisal Report.
- LAHMEYER INTERNATIONAL *et al.* 1993. Feasibility study for the improvement of three polders in Coronie East, Saramacca and Pad van Wanica, Reeberg, Rijdsijk. Final Report (draft), vol. V, Social Aspects.
- MOLLERING, G. 1991. De Landbouwbedrijven, Economische Situatie en Sociale Aspecten van part-time Landbouwhuishoudens Rond Paramaribo. SWI Forum Jaargang 8, no. 2.
- MORENC. J. 1988. Surinaamse Kleine Landbouw en Landbouw beleid, een structurele analyse. Nijmegen.
- M.O.P. 1993. Meerjaren Ontwikkelings Plan 1994-1998. Stichting Planburo Suriname.
- NATIONAL PLANNING OFFICE. 1992. Feasibility study for the improvement of three polders in Coronie East, Saramacca and Pad van Wanica, Reeberg, Rijdsijk. Suriname. Lahmeyer International, Sogreah, Sunecon.
- REORGANIZATION AND UPGRADING OF the agricultural extension service in Suriname. s.f. Project profile.
- REYNVAAN J. EN VOS DE L. s.f. Cassavaproducten. Landbouwproefstation.
- SAR VAN DER T. 1981. Enige Werktuigen voor de mechanisatie van de pindacultuur op Kleine Landbouwbedrijven in Suriname. De Surinaamse Landbouw 29.
- STICHTING I.B.S. 1984. De Rol Van De Vrouw in de Surinaamse Geschiedenis. Nijmegen.
- STICHTING PLANBUREAU SURINAME. 1990. Meerjaren Ontwikkelingsprogramma 1990-1993, Sectorale en Regionale Ontwikkeling.
- _____. 1993. Meerjaren Ontwikkelingsprogramma 1990-1998, Suriname op een keerpunt.
- S.W.I. FORUM. 1991. De Landbouw bedrijven, Economische situatie en Sociale aspecten van part-time landbouwhuishoudens rond Paramaribo. Suriname.

**S.W.I. FORUM. 1991. De Macro- economische Omgeving en de Landbouwkundige
situatie van de part-time landbouw bedrijven rond Paramaribo. Suriname.**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME, CORAS TRACHTALA/IRISH EXPORT
BOARD-SURINAME. 1986. Action programme for developement of exports. Vol. II.
Development of fruit and vegetable exports.**

Appendix I

Table V.8. Participation of family members in agricultural production, by type of crop and activity. Suriname 1993.

ACTIVITIES	VEGETABLE			CASSAVA			PEANUT		
	WOMEN		MEN	WOMEN		MEN	WOMEN		MEN
	RESP.	O.W.		RESP.	O.W.		RESP.	O.W.	
1. Purchasing/Preparation of pkg. mat.	45.7	-	8.9	42.9	1.8	8.2	25.7	-	1.8
2. Land preparation	58.1	1.2	17.6	48.6	17.7	13.2	30.5	4.3	7.5
3. Planting	46.7	1.2	13.6	48.6	17.7	13.2	34.3	7.3	7.5
4. Crop care	68.6	1.2	19.3	44.8	14.6	31.4	33.3	6.7	21.4
5. Purchase/use of fert. & chemicals	65.7	1.8	20.4	33.3	11.0	11.7	30.4	7.3	9.3
6. Harvesting	65.7	3.0	20.4	45.7	17.7	17.1	34.2	9.1	8.9
7. Post-harvest	52.4	3.0	16.8	27.6	8.5	10.0	32.4	8.5	8.9
8. Marketing	46.7	3.0	15.0	35.2	12.8	12.5	32.4	9.1	8.2

ACTIVITIES	RESPONDENT		
	VEGETABLE	CASSAVA	PEANUT
1. Purchasing/preparation of pkg. mat.	48	45	27
2. Land preparation	61	51	32
3. Planting	49	51	36
4. Crop care	72	47	35
5. Purchase/use of fertilizers & chemicals	69	35	32
6. Harvesting	69	48	36
7. Post-harvest	55	29	34
8. Marketing	49	37	34

**This book was printed
at IICA Headquarters
in February 1996, with a press
run of 30 copies.**



PROGRAM FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES VIS-A-VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS
IN THE ANDEAN REGION, THE SOUTHERN CONE
AND THE CARIBBEAN

This Program, executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under Technical Cooperation Agreement ATN/SF-4064-RE, covered 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first phase was implemented in 1992-1993 in six countries in Central America, under the auspices of the Council of Central American Agricultural Ministers in its XII Ordinary Meeting in March 1992. Results were published in the book *Mujeres de Maíz* (IICA/IDB 1995).

The second phase was carried out in the Andean Region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), the Southern Cone (Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Caribbean (Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname), by request of the First Ladies during their Summit Meeting on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held in Geneva, Switzerland in February 1992.

Three documents were prepared for each country presenting the technical results from the four areas of research of the Program: a) assessment of the participation of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution as food producers on small-scale farms; b) analysis of agricultural policies and programs and their effects on rural women as food producers; c) evaluation of the technology used on small farms by women in food production processes; and d) analysis of the role of women in processing and marketing farm food products.

Other Program activities included the elaboration of regional comparative documents, the formulation of policy proposals and related actions, national and regional seminars for discussion of Program recommendations, and the publishing and distribution of the final results.