

WID *Information*

Office of Women in International Development
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
320 International Studies Building
910 South Fifth Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 333-1977

Volume 14, Number 2
January 1994

RESEARCH NOTES

Research from the Center for Social Research in India

Women and Political Participation.

This study was completed in 1993 and it focused on women parliamentarians in India, their respective roles in the party and the parliament. It attempted to assess the factors that impede women's access to power and role in decision-making.

The major outcomes of the study are as follows:

- (i) Majority of women are there because either their husbands, fathers or mothers were in politics. Not many women from the grass-roots level are coming up to the National Legislature.
- (ii) Within the parties, there is a marked non-involvement of women in decision-making bodies. In Janata Dal, there is no woman member in the Political Affairs Committee. Even the Left Parties have no women members in their Politbureau.
- (iii) Within the parties, women's issues are categorized as social and not political issues, to be dealt with exclusively by the women's wing.
- (iv) In cases where both the spouses are from the same party, the choice is between a 'man' or a 'woman' holding crucial positions in decision-making bodies. Both are rarely assessed in their individual capacities.
- (v) The invisibility of women members in parliamentary proceedings is not so much determined by the gender factor as it is by their low numbers, since both men and women parliamentarians are governed by the same set of parliamentary rules and regulations.
- (vi) Women members are given a chance to speak on a variety of issues which are determined by their respective parties and depending on their interest and specialization.
- (vii) They, at times, take a stand different from that of their party in the parliament. Generally, however, their responses are determined by the party to which they belong.
- (viii) Women members have to bear the double burden of carrying out their familial responsibilities as well

as their political career. Further they have to work harder to prove their worth in the party as well as in the parliament.

- (ix) There is a consensus on the issue of 'reservation' for women, although there is a disagreement on whether women can be conceptually treated as a minority, not in terms of their numerical strength but as regards their background status and position.

Source: CSR Newsletter, Vol. XI, No. 1&2, September 1993.

Abstract from UIUC

Statistical Analysis of Gender Based Differences in Soybean Technology Adoption in Nigeria.

by Lucy Abosede Kehinde

In Nigeria, as in other African nations, the adoption and utilization of new agricultural technologies are influenced by gender differentiated access, control, and allocation of resources. Careful selection of the quantitative methods is therefore of great importance in conducting a gender based, statistical analysis especially in relation to resource poor farmers.

The main issue addressed by this paper is the link between analytical methods and their results as they influence research and policy strategies. In the study of 200 soybean producing farmers, different measures were applied to the dependent variables (technical, economic and social elements of adoption). This was designed to capture the actual pattern of resource allocation, as well as gains and losses by gender.

Results of the analysis delineate the recommendation domain that deserves careful consideration for future strategies. For example, the measure of land allocation to soybeans as a proportion of the total farmland owned was useful in identifying the gender of farmers who show the willingness to introduce a new technology to their farming systems, inspite of their limited resources.

The findings depict women as adopters of new innovations. Women were found to allocate larger proportions of total land owned, compared to their male counterparts. However, productivity was less for women. Women received a higher price per unit measure, yet income generated by men was greater than their female counterparts because they sold larger quantities. Women's higher price per unit suggest that male and female tend to use different marketing systems.

The conclusions outline variables and measures that would be most suitable for analyzing gender-based differences and in sketching out constraints and opportunities available to resource poor men and women in a particular farming unit.

WOMEN'S STUDIES ANNOUNCEMENTS AT UIUC

The Women's Studies Program will be moving next academic year to larger quarters, 911 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820 which is just around the corner from the Office of Women in International Development. A Graduate Minor in Women's Studies has been approved by LAS Courses and Curriculum Committee.

RESEARCH, STUDY AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Institute for Research on Women invites applications for their Visiting Scholar Program. The Institute for Research on Women promotes innovative scholarship on women and gender through its interdisciplinary forums, lectures, and conferences. Visiting Scholar appointments carry all faculty privileges, such as access to libraries and recreational facilities, office space and participation in a public presentation and in the institute's fortnightly seminar, "Towards 2000". Postdoctoral scholars in any discipline may apply. Send a letter of intention, a curriculum vitae, a description of the project to be undertaken (5 pages maximum) and two letters of reference to IRW, Douglas Campus, 27 Clifton Avenue, P.O. Box 270, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08903-0270, Tel. (908) 932-9072. Fax: (908) 932-1180. Deadline for Spring 1995 is April 1, 1994.

CONFERENCES AND CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference Reports

Women's Strategies and New Approaches for Community Action on the Environment. The Earth Summit and the Global Forum held in July 1992, provided an unprecedented opportunity for people from multiple countries to share experiences, network, and work together to develop strategies on how to "Save the Planet". The following are strategies outlined by participants of a workshop on "Women's Voices in the Community Action for the Environment:

- Discuss the participation of women in sustainable development in the context of justice, democracy and ethics.
- Encourage planners and policy makers to stop labeling the poor as destroyers of the environment and women as vulnerable groups;
- Stress women's positive roles as sound environmental managers and find ways to enhance their capacities and contributions;
- Explore new options-beyond just the traditional means of involving women in sustainable development programs, e.g. move away from cooperatives to micro or major business enterprises as income generation options for women.
- Design programs based on community inputs to ensure a "trickle-up effect"
- Educate the policy makers through a variety of means, especially ones that focus on dialogue on workable solutions, not confrontation;
- Network across communities, countries and sectors by sharing information and resources;
- Establish and strengthen links with many groups to ensure mutual learning from experiences and activities;
- Practice and encourage selective consumerism as a way of promoting sustainable lifestyles; and
- Instead of focusing on constraints to progress (of which there are many) identify priorities for action.

Source: Center for Women in Development Networker, May 1993.

AWID Conference report.

The conference by the Association of Women in Development was held on October 21-24 in Washington D.C. More than 1100 women from all over the world participated. The conference had many sessions on gender issues which deter development of nations and individuals. Women from the academia, public sector, private sector and from the grass-roots level and students shared their concerns, voices and experiences on what they have done to further the status of women in their countries, the problems they have faced and the persistent constraints to women's development. The theme of the conference Joining Forces to Further Shared Visions was appropriate to the current developmental issues worldwide. The common understanding that both North and South women face similar problems, especially the problem of the increasing gap between the have and the have nots and need each other to solve these problems became clearer throughout the conference sessions.

Topics of the conference were broad from global aspects to national and the household constraints which affect women; from social issues to political to economic constraints on women. The conference included a planning session for the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing. The majors goals identified towards increasing women's participation and becoming partners with men in development were strengthening women's leadership programs at all levels, economic, political and social; working towards economic empowerment of women; designing strategies for increasing women's access and control over resources.

Up-coming Conferences

Global Conference on Women Empowering Communication from February 12-17, 1994 at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand. The conference will focus on the following themes: Women, Media and Power; Women and Communication Alternatives; Women, Communication and Development; and Women, Communication and Socio-Cultural Identity. For more information contact: The World Association for Christian Communication, 357 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QY, England.

Considering the impact of the **Fifth International Interdisciplinary Congress On Women**, the organizing committee has decided to commemorate the event together with the International Women's Day, March 8, 1994. The First Commemorative Seminar will take place from March 5-8, 1994 at the United Nation's University for Peace, with the theme "Women and Peace." We will concentrate this time on the central American and Caribbean region, with the purpose of sharing ideas for future international events, such as the Fourth world Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). The seminar will take place from Saturday, March 8th, with the participation of keynote speakers and experts on the following topics: (1) Preparatory Sessions for Beijing 1995; (2) Women's Rights in Central America and the Caribbean; (3) The role of women in the construction of culture of peace; (4) Political participation of women in Central America and the Caribbean; (5) Action proposals for a just distribution of political power in Central America and the Caribbean, from a gender perspective. For more information contact: Universidad de Costa Rica-5C, Prieg - U.C.R. 2060 San Pedro, Costa Rica - Centro America.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Nelle Singor Fellowships in International Relations for International Dissertation Fieldwork.

Fellowships consists of \$2000 for travel and in-country expenses for dissertation field research in any international field. Fellowships are open to any unmarried Ph.D. candidate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who will have completed all preliminary exams and course work by the proposed date of travel. For more information contact: Devora Gynspan, Director of Development, IPS Development Office, (217) 244-0246 or Fellowships Office, 209 Coble Hall, (217) 333-0036. **Deadline for application is March 1, 1994.**

The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) at University of Illinois announces Small Research Grants in the Humanities. The grants are intended for exploring and defining the project, carrying out the research, or preparing the student for specialized tasks required to pursue the dissertation successfully. Grant opportunities include language study, acquiring research materials, travel to investigate potential research sites, arrange for later research visits, or interview scholars. Eligibility: Minority Ph.D. candidates who are African American, American Indian, Mexican American, and Puerto Rican. **Deadline for Spring is January 31.** For more information contact: Gaye Wong, Assistant Dean of Graduate College, 205 Coble Hall, MC-322, University of Illinois, Tel (217) 333-0036 or CIC Office at (217) 333-8475.

Women's Research & Education Institute (WREI) announces the Fellowship Program (FB94-95) designed to train women in public policy formation and to examine issues from the perspective and experiences and needs of women. A fellow works 30 hours a week in a congressional office as a legislative aide on policy issues affecting women. Applicants should be graduate students with a least 9 hours of graduate work. Any student currently enrolled in a graduate program anywhere in the United States is eligible. For more information contact: Fellowship Program (FB94-95), Women's Research & Education Institute (WREI), 1700 18th St., N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20009 or The Fellowship Office, 209 Coble Hall, University of Illinois, Tel. (217) 333-0036.

Rockefeller Foundation Re-entry Grants for African Scholars Pursuing Education Research. This grant program is designed to assist in the professional re-establishment of talented African Scholars who are returning from doctoral studies abroad and have a research interest in issues related to the revitalization and development of education in sub-Saharan Africa. All proposed projects must include an explicit and substantial focus on sex differences in school participation as part of the set of educational issues to be examined. Applicants must submit research proposals prior to or within one year of returning to their African-based institutions. Grants may be made to the scholar, but the proposal must be endorsed by the African institution where the applicant will be full-time staff member. **There are no deadlines for submission of proposals.** For more information contact: Scholars on Education Re-Entry Program, the Rockefeller Foundation, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, USA, or Scholars on Education Re-Entry Program, The Rockefeller Foundation, P.O. Box 47543, Nairobi, Kenya.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHEDULE OF PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN.

Meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW being the preparatory body for the World Conference on Women.

- January 10-14, 1994, Special Session of CSW was held in New York to continue drafting the Platform for Action, the document to be adopted at the World Conference.
- March 7-18, 1994, New York: Regular Session of the CSW.

Regional Preparatory Meetings

- June 7-14, 1994, Jakarta, Indonesia: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP).
 - September 26-30, 1994, Buenos Aires, Argentina: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - November 6-10, 1994, Amman, Jordan: Economic and Social Commission for West Asia.
 - mid-November, 1994, Dakar, Senegal: Economic Commission for Africa.
 - October, 1994, Vienna Austria: Economic Commission for Europe and North America.
 - It is anticipated that NGO meetings will be held concurrently with regional meetings. Regional NGO focal points have been established. For more information contact: NGO Forum 95, 777 United Nations Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, NY, 10017.
 - March, 1995, New York: Final meeting of the CSW Preparatory Committee.
 - September 4-15, 1995, Beijing, China: Fourth World Conference on Women
- Source: 1993 AWID meeting documents.**

International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) announces up-coming elections early in 1994 for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Under the terms of the Women's Convention (CEDAW) members are independent experts who serve four-year terms. CEDAW members must be nominated by their governments for election. According to the Convention the voting must be held with due regard to achieving representation by region and type of legal system. In 1994 the seats held by the following members will be open for election or re-election: Charlotte Abaka (Ghana); Ryoko Akamatsu (Japan); Emna Aouij (Tunisia); Dora Gladys Nancy Bravo Nunez de Ramsey (Ecuador); Invanka Corti (Italy); Norma Monica Forde (Barbados); Zagorka Ilic (Yugoslavia); Tatjana Nikolaeva (Russia); Teresita Quintos-Deles (Philippines); Lin Shangshen (China); Mervat Tallawy (Egypt); and Rose N. Ukeje (Nigeria).

The following is an excerpt from the UN Human Rights Declaration resulting from the Human Rights Conference in Vienna in July 1993. Article 18:

The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and invisible part of universal human rights. The full equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community. Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and international trafficking, are compatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated. This can be achieved by legal measures and through national action and international cooperation in such fields as economic and social development, education, safe maternity and health care, and social support. The human rights of women should form an integral part of the United Nations human rights activities, including the promotion of all human rights instruments relating to women. The World Conference on Human Rights urges Governments, institutions, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts for protection and promotion of human rights of women and the girl-child. *Source: Voices for Compassionate Society Vol. 2. No.1.*

Reseau Femmes Africaines et Droits Humains (REFAD) is new African women's human rights network launched in Bamako, Mali. The network aims to facilitate links between women in the region and integrate West African women's human rights into efforts to increase South-South cooperation. For more information contact: International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development, 63, Rue de Bresoles, Montreal, Quebec, H@Y 1V7, Canada. Fax: (514) 283-3792.

Job Opportunities

Bradley University is searching for a part-time director of Women's Studies. The appointment is a tenure-track position in the Department of History at the Assistant-associate professor level. Ph. D. in U.S. History by time of appointment is required. Send letter, c.v. and three references to Dr. Heather Fowler-Salamini, Department of History, Bradley University, Peoria, IL. 61625, Fax: 309-677-2330. Application review process started December 15, 1993 and will continue until the position is filled.

Save the Children seeks a Director of the Women Child Impact Program. The Woman Child Impact (WCI) Director will play a key role in focusing and guiding the implementation of Save the Children's program vision. The agency's program vision is to facilitate large-scale positive impact on the lives of disadvantaged women and children through sustainable integrated programs and policy influence in the health, education and economic sectors. The Director will direct related program development and financial management of Save the Children's Women Child Impact matching grant from USAID. The Director will assist in pioneering new methodologies, organizing the writing of articles and monographs, defining a distinctive role for Save the Children as an international NGO. The Director will collaborate with colleagues in health, education, and economic opportunities to develop, manage and fund raise for program consistent with Save the Children's working principles and will represent the agency's program directions to other agencies and funders. Requirements: A Masters degree in international development, women's studies, or related field; 7-10 years working in international development organization implementing overseas programs that target women and children; grant management experience; proven fund-raising skills; and excellent representational skills. Fluency in French or Spanish is preferred. Send resume to: Victoria Banks, Recruitment and Staff Development Specialist, Save the Children, 54 Wilton Rd., Westport, CT 06880.

RESOURCES/PUBLICATIONS

The Health of Women: A Global Perspective. Ed. by Marge Koblinsky, Judith Tinyan, and Jill Gay. The book provides a state-of-the-art, comprehensive review of the many factors that affect women's health around the globe, ranging from low socioeconomic status and the impact of the debt crisis to more direct medical determinants, such as poor nutrition, hemorrhage, eclampsia, and infection. Synthesizing perspectives of policy makers and practitioners, researchers, and scholars. The book urges major new initiatives to understand and improve women's health, taking into account biological elements such as the life cycle of women as well as cultural constraints and socioeconomic realities. For ordering contact: Westview Press, 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, CO 80301. Fax: (303) 449-3356.

Women and Finance in Developing Countries is an Annotated Bibliography on Agricultural Credit and Rural Savings. The bibliography is intended to be used by researchers, policy makers, and project officers interested in women and financial services in developing nations. A paper based on an analysis of the literature contained in the bibliography: "Women and Financial Services in Developing Nations" is also available. For more information contact: Agricultural Finance Program, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, The Ohio State University, 2120 Fyffe Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1099.

Comparative Frontiers: Women Managers in a Global Economy. Ed. by Nancy J. Adler and Dafna N. Izrael. The book traces the changing nature of world business and its impact on the role of women managers. It reviews the role of women managers working within their own countries as well as those working across national borders. Unlike many books written about women in management, Competitive Frontiers takes a global perspective asking if globally competitive firms dare limit their potential talent pool to half of the human race. Available for \$29.95/19.95 Pounds at Blackwell Publishers, 64 Depot Road, Colchester, VT 05446, USA. Fax: (802) 878-8956 or call toll-free in North America: (800) 488-2665, or Business Director, Blackwell Publishers, 108 Cowley Rd, Oxford, OX4 1JF, UK. Fax: 44 (865) 791347.

New arrivals in the Office of Women in International Development, University of Illinois:

(1) Women's Views Matter: An Overview of Qualitative Research Methods in Women's Health and Some Experiences from India. By S. Kanani and P. Consul.

(2) A report on the Workshops on Action-Linked Research Methodologies for Women's Health April 13-15, 1993 by R. Khanna, S. Kanani, S. Kapadia, and S. Barge.

(3) Situation of Elderly in India: Some Gender Differences. By P. Dave and T. Vaswani.

(4) Role of Women in Economic Development: A Case Study of Textile Crafts by B. Balakrishnaiah.

Copies of these materials are available through the Office of Women in International Development, University of Illinois, 320 International Studies Building, 920 Fifth Street, Champaign, 61820.

International Center for Research on Women announces two new publications:

1. Gender in Community Development and Resource Management: An Overview. By Rekha Mehra. 1993. Provides an overview to the issues concerning women's participation in conservation projects as well as the socioeconomic, institutional, policy, and program constraints on women and brief examples of successful initiatives.

2. Women's Participation in the Cogtong Bay Mangrove Management Project: A Case Study. By Rekha Mehra, Margaret Alcott and Nilda S. Baling. 1993. The paper takes an in-depth look at the role of gender in community development and women's involvement in the World Wildlife Fund's Cogtong Bay Project in the Philippines.

The papers examines women's roles in natural resource management at the community level, emphasizing the need to integrate women into conservation and development efforts. The reports are available at \$5.50 each, plus \$2.00 for postage and handling for the US orders and \$3.50 for international orders. For more information contact: Publications ICRW, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite 302, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Tools for Gender Analysis, a Field Guide to Methods for Bringing Gender into Sustainable Resource Management co-authored by Barbara P. Thomas-Slayter, Andrea Esser and Dale Shields. The book draws on field experience of Ecology, Community Organization and Gender (ECOGEN) in Kenya, the Philippines, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Nepal. The purpose of the book is to introduce some tools for gender analysis to people in the field who are involved in program and project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It is available at \$6.00 From International Development Program, Clark University, 950 Main Street Worcester, Mass. 01610-1477. Tel. (508) 793-7201. Fax. (508) 793-8820.

Call for papers to be included in the journal of *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State, and Society*. Ed. by Barbara Hobson, Sonya Michel, and Ann Shola Orloff. The first print will come out Spring 1994. The journal addresses research in gender studies, social policy, citizenship, and the role of the state in organizing relations in the family, workplace, and society.

Submissions should be addressed to:

US & Canada: Sonya Michel, Department of History, University of Illinois, 309 Gregory Hall, 810 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL. 61081. Tel. (217) 333-1155. Fax: (217) 333-2297.

International: Barbara M. Hobson, International Graduate School, Stockholm University, 10691, Stockholm, Sweden. Fax: 11 46 8 790 6869.

Subscription: Mail or call: University of Illinois Press, 54 E. Gregory Dr., Champaign, IL 61820. Phone orders: (217) 333-8935 or fax orders: (217) 244-8082.

Individuals: one year \$22; \$28 (outside US, surface mail); \$34 (outside US; airmail).

Institution: one year \$40; \$46 (outside US, surface mail); \$52 (outside US, airmail).

**Office of Women in International Development
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
320 International Studies Building
910 South Fifth Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820**