RESEARCH NOTES

WOMEN’S PROPERTY RIGHTS AND ASIAN ECONOMIC TRANSITION POLICIES

By Gale Summerfield

As new director of the WID Office, I want to share my current research interests. A significant part of my recent work has centered on examining the gendered aspects of economic transition policies in China, Vietnam, and Laos. The policies have led to stellar results in terms of economic growth for China and Vietnam, and growth has remained positive even during the crisis of the last year and a half. Growth, however, is only one factor in the development process — and not the goal of development, which is more appropriately denoted as improving people’s well-being and agency in an environmentally sustainable manner (see any of the Human Development Reports of the UNDP). Many women have benefitted from the changes; it is, after all, easier to share the wealth when wealth is abundant. (The accompanying photos show women in China and Vietnam engaged in typical income-earning activities.) At the same time, researchers have noted some disturbing trends in discrimination in the labor market, housing, and political participation (see Aslanbegui, Pressman, and Summerfield, 1994). (The people crossing the Red River are squatters on the mid-river sandbar near a northern suburb of Hanoi.) The Asian Economic Crisis that began in 1997 is likely to put more strain on problematic areas.

I have been working with Prof. Irene Tinker (University of California, Berkeley) to build an international network of specialists to study these changes: WONET (Women’s Network on Socio-Economic Transition in East/Southeast Asia). The first members of the network met in Bangkok in 1994 to identify topics for research; the participants were concerned about women and their families, employment, environment, and social security. Subsequently we organized a panel for the NGO Forum of the 4th World Conference on Women in Huairou, China in 1995 and published a symposium of papers based on the panel (Summerfield and Tinker, 1997).

We are just finishing the first book of the network, Women’s Changing Rights to House and Land in China, Laos, and Vietnam (Tinker and Summerfield, 1999). Land reform that returned farming responsibilities from the commune to individual families has played a significant role in transition policies. For rural women in China and Vietnam, this has on average resulted in higher family incomes and a higher concentration of women in agriculture (up to 70% women in many areas) as men and young women seek employment in the non-state rural industries or migrate to the city. While families attempt to maximize their well-being with this division of labor, the implications for women are not all positive. Agriculture is a relatively low-wage field in general, and thus, the concentration of women in this sector could work against


A worker at a handicrafts factory, China, 1993.
them in the long run. There are problems with discrimination in the allocation of the best lands and in the additional lands that are contracted for cash crops. In Laos, the process of privatization based on Western models has resulted in many lands that had been handed-down by matrilineal tradition being transferred to the husband—merely because only one signature is required on the new title and usually the husband signs. Local specialists are in the process of calling for reform of these procedures.

Street vendors and businesses on the first floor of housing in Hanoi, 1997

Housing reform in these Asian countries has recently been emphasized more as governments seek to cut subsidies. China, by far, provided the most subsidized housing, mainly in the cities; state work units provided small apartments to their workers at a cost of 1-5% of their wages, not sufficient even for maintenance. These units were usually allocated to the husbands despite rhetoric of equality. In the reform policies, gender issues are being ignored by local and international analysts. Some of the areas of concern to WID specialists are lack of rights for divorced women as divorce increases, housing security for poor women and their children, mortgage credit availability to women, supply of affordable units, and permission to use housing for income generation as well as shelter.

Success of the housing reform depends on numerous interrelated changes not only in the housing market itself but also in the labor and financial markets, environmental legislation, and the legal structure. While the goal of reform is to establish a private market in housing and improve allocation of resources, this should not be a market for men only. As the reports from the UN’s Habitat II Conference in Turkey in June 1996 summarize, a gendered policy for urban reform needs to include women in the decision-making at all levels (Summerfield and Aslanbeigui, 1999).

The next network project in a study of microenterprise, gender, and environment (both “green” and “brown” aspects). The WID Office plans to sponsor a campus workshop on this topic on March 26-27, 1999. If you are interested in participating and/or presenting your research, contact me at the WID Office or email: summrfsl@uiuc.edu. I also encourage students who are interested in the graduate concentrations that we offer to come by the Office.

References

WID ACTIVITIES AT UIUC

USAID GRANT AWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

The Office of Women in International Development (WID) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has been awarded a grant from U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to study rural women’s employment in agribusiness in developing countries. Kathleen Cloud, former Director of the WID Office, is the lead principal investigator for a team composed of faculty from the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Department of Journalism and the WID Office; two international post-doctoral women from Nigeria and India will also participate.

The WID Office will develop model partnership agreements with selected international agribusiness firms to explore issues related to women’s employment through case studies of three companies in different developing countries. Dr. Earl Kellogg, Associate Provost for International Affairs, stated that the studies will provide much needed data for encouraging more substantial and better employment opportunities for women in countries undergoing economic transformation. “Both research and practical experience confirm that movement toward sustainable human development accelerates when women are able to increase their incomes in working environments which foster their own welfare and that of their families,” observed Dr. Gale Summerfield, Director of the WID Office.

Several teams composed of one member from UIUC and at least one member from the partner companies will travel...
to the host countries to meet with personnel from agribusiness companies, USAID, non-governmental organizations, and the government to appraise labor market policies and institutional factors that affect the employment of women. They will collect data on the participating companies and other local and regional institutions. The project will document “best practices” that are responsive to gender-based constraints in the agribusiness sector and contribute to improvements in women’s economic status. Presentation of the results will be made to the companies, to the UIUC agribusiness community, and USAID personnel. The university will work with the companies to develop a partnership strategy for extension of the identified best practices across the agribusiness sector.

For more information on the project or the WID Office please contact Kate Cloud, principal investigator (k-cloud@uiuc.edu) or Gale Summerfield, Director of the WID Office.

**WID Library Resources**

*by Beth Stafford-Vaughn*

UIUC Library has one of literally a handful of library units devoted to women’s and gender issues in the country, our Women’s Studies/WID Library, or WST. The purpose of WST is to provide support for the research and teaching of both WID and Women’s Studies through acquiring materials for the the UIUC Library collection and providing reference service for the WID/WS communities. Essentially a reference collection, WST includes bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, guides, directories, etc. relevant to gender issues, in print and electronic formats. In addition, WST maintains a database of WS and WID programs and another of WS/WID videotapes at the UIUC, accessible through our website at: http://www.library.uiuc.edu/wst

Recently, WST acquired an important WID collection for UIUC - the collection of the Equity Policy Center (EPOC) and its archives. These valuable resources are being donated by Dr. Irene Tinker, one of the first scholars to initiate the field of WID. The materials include unpublished conference papers, research documentation produced under contract for international economic assistance agencies, contract study group reports, and United Nations documents relating to WID issues, as well as originals and photocopies of publications. The collection includes a strong emphasis on such topics as agricultural development, health, water resources, education, food production and preparation, energy, technology, women’s rights, peace and violence. The Library is seeking funds to process the EPOC collection to make it available and to digitize portions of it.

*ANNOUNCING TWO INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINARS*

Spring 1998 GENDER ROLES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A GRADUATE

**CONCENTRATION (MINOR) SPONSORED BY 20 ACADEMIC UNITS.** For UIUC students interested in scholarship and employment in such areas as public policy, international agriculture, international business, comparative education, comparative social science and human resource development. These seminars will be taught by Dr. Gale Summerfield, feminist economist, new Director of the Office of Women in International Development, and Associate Professor, Department of Human and Community Development.

1. GENDER ROLES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HDF5 388B/WS 380, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:10:20, 911 S. Sixth. This course focuses on analysis of the gendered dimensions of economic transformation policies since the 1970s. The impacts on people’s lives and the strategies that women have adopted worldwide to improve conditions for themselves and for their families are addressed.

2. INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SEMINAR, HDF5 388C/WS 396G, Thursdays, 1-4, 242 Bevier. This course explores problems in using both quantitative and qualitative statistical methods to examine gender issues in developing countries. Topics include: the availability of data from United Nations’ sources, methods of collecting one’s own data, translation, ethics, and focus groups. Students will present their dissertation research methods and discuss results. Satisfies the methodology requirement for the GRID Certificate for PhD students; it can be taken by others with instructor’s approval. For information on these or related courses, call the WID Office at 333-1994.

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**Office of Women in International Development**

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

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**UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS**

U.N. General Assembly will convene, from 5-9 June 2000, a Special Session to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi
Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action, five years after its adoption. The Assembly also decided that it would consider further actions and initiatives during that Special Session. It established the format for the preparatory process, and designated the Commission on the Status of Women as the preparatory committee for the review. The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women would like to encourage non-governmental organizations, including women’s groups and other organizations of civil society to contribute to the preparatory process at national, regional and international level. Non-governmental organizations, including women’s groups and other organizations of civil society are encouraged to address in their forthcoming meetings or events the appraisal of progress achieved since the Beijing Conference within the context of the interest and expertise of each organization. These organizations are urged to identify further actions or initiatives that might be required to fully implement the Beijing Platform for Action beyond the year 2000. Please forward suggestions and ideas to the Division for the Advancement of Women, Two UN Plaza, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA, fax: (212) 963-3462, e-mail: daw@un.org, addressed to “Beijing Review 2000”.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, Global Processes - Domestic Consequences, April 9-11, 1999, Duke University. Submission Deadline: December 1, 1998. The Ford Foundation, the Trent Foundation, and Duke University’s Center for International Studies are sponsoring a multidisciplinary conference which will address the effects of international institutions on national policies and populaces. The conference aims to examine the role not only of formal international organizations such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, or European Union, but also of international norms and practices ranging from human rights standards to international accounting procedures, as well as of non-governmental organizations and transnational political and cultural networks. Paper proposals from all disciplines on the following topics are invited: Foreign Direct Investment and the Multinationalization of Production; Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution; International Finance and Global Capital; Democracy and Democratization; International Labor Regimes; Migration and Citizenship; Environmental Regimes; International Trade; Human Rights; Social Policy Authors are encouraged where possible to submit papers that consider the role of international institutions in comparative perspective, either spatially, assessing their impact across different countries, communities, or institutional settings; or historically, assessing how the consequences of international institutions have changed over time. Send one-page abstracts to: International Institutions Conference, Center for International Studies, Duke University, Box 90404, Durham, NC 27708-0404. For more information, contact Craig Borowiak at (919) 681-4491; ctb3@acpub.duke.edu; online information at http://www.duke.edu/web/CIS/conf/conf.htm.

Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference will be held in Boston, March 12-14, 1999. Papers must be submitted
by January 22, 1999 to: Dr. Mary Lesser, Department of Economics, Iona College, 715 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801-1890. Email: mlesser/iona.edu. Submission forms and other information can be found at this web page: http://www.iona/edu/academic/arts_sci/orgs/eea/eea.htm.

IAFFE (International Association for Feminist Economics) Conference on Feminist Economics will be held at Carleton University, Ottawa, CANADA, June 17-19, 1999. Submit paper proposals to: Jean Shackelford, Department of Economics, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Email: jshackel@bucknell.edu Web site: http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/jshackel/iaffe

GRANTS, RESEARCH/INTERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AAUW Educational Foundation Announces International Fellowships for Women. International Fellowships ($16,000) are awarded for full-time study or research in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Both graduate and postgraduate study is supported. Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree before January 15, 1999. Criteria for selection include outstanding academic ability, professional potential, and the importance of the field of study to changing the lives of women and girls in the country of origin. Applicants for the International Fellowships may simultaneously apply for post-fellowship grants to support community action projects ($5,000-$7,000). These projects are to be implemented in the fellow's home country in the year immediately following the fellowship year. Community action projects must have direct impact on improving the lives of women and girls in the recipient's home country. Application forms are available from August 1, 1998 till November 15, 1998. Application receipt deadline is January 15, 1999. To apply for an International Fellowship, fill out a request for an application form on line, or call 319/337-1716 ext. 60, or write to: AAUW Educational Foundation, Department 60, 2201 N. Dodge St. Iowa City, IA 52243-4030. For more information or questions, call Serguei A. Oushakine at 319/337-1716, ext. 60. E-mail: foundation@mail.aauw.org Web page: http://www.aauw.org/7000/foundation.html

IREX Short-Term Travel Grants. Grants for scholarly projects focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia, and limited opportunities for Mongolia. Support is available for brief visits (about two weeks) for individuals who do not require administrative assistance from IREX. American scholars in policy research and development, and cross-disciplinary studies are strongly urged to apply. Deadlines:

February 1, 1999; and June 1, 1999. For more information visit website: http://www.irex.org or contact us at irex@irex.org IREX - International Research & Exchanges Board, 1616 H Street, NW Washington DC, 20006 Tel.: (202) 628-8188. Fax: (202) 628-8189.

Starr Fellows Program for Mid-Career Professionals The George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs will be awarding fellowships to a small number of mid-career professionals from Eastern Europe, Russia, the former Soviet Republics, South Asia, Latin America and Africa to pursue the Master of International Policy and Practice program during the 1999-2000 academic year. The fellowships, made possible by a generous grant from the Starr Foundation, will range from half- to full-tuition awards. Recipients must be able to cover their own living and travel expenses. Eligibility: Candidates must have a B.A. plus either eight years of professional work experience or an advanced degree to be eligible for the fellowship. GREs are recommended but not required. A TOEFL score of 600 is usually required for admission. The competition for both the fellowships and admission to the M.I.P.P. program is extremely competitive. Applications for the Starr Fellows program are due by May 15, 1999. For details, contact Kristin Lord, Assistant Dean for Professional Education, The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, 2013 G Street, NW, Washington DC 20052, Telephone +1 (202) 994-0562, Fax+1 (202) 994-0335, E-mail: klord@gwu.edu Additional information is available at: http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott

UIUC Women's Studies Program Feminist Scholarship Awards: Women's Studies will provide funds on a competitive basis to support graduate and undergraduate student endeavor in feminist scholarship. Funds might be used, for example, to support travel to a professional meeting to present a paper, an exhibition or performance of creative work, or some costs of research (such as obtaining special resources, travel to archives). Funding will NOT be provided to cover living expenses or tuition costs. Proposals will be accepted from individuals and groups; we especially encourage cross-departmental collaborative efforts. Feminist Scholarship stipends ordinarily will not exceed $300.00, and will normally be limited to full-time students in good standing with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. These funds are a supplement to other resources, and applications must indicate a personal, departmental, college, or other contribution to expenses. Students can only receive two Feminist Scholarship Awards. Application forms are now available at the Women's Studies House, 911 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820. This scholarship will be offered in the spring semester.

December 1998
African Women’s Scholarship, YMCA Dorothy Mann Scholarship Program for African Women who will return to Africa upon the completion of their education. Eligibility criteria: 1) native of one of the countries of the continent of Africa with plans to return for employment after the completion of their education; 2) enrollment at the University of Illinois, Parkland College or Urbana Adult Education Program; 3) demonstration of financial need. Applications are available from YWCA at the University of Illinois, 1001 S. Wright St. (on campus) or by calling 344-0721. Deadline: December 10, 1998 with two letters of reference. NOTE: Preference will be given to women who have not already received the scholarship three times and who have less than a half-time assistantship.

African Population Policy Research Center (APPRC) encourages applications in line with Center’s Research Agenda: 1) explaining the fertility decline in Kenya; 2) enhancing the pace of fertility transition through family planning programs and socioeconomic development; 3) investigating sexual and fertility behavior in the era of AIDS; and 4) understanding the changing environment of the transition to adulthood. These themes will help the Center determine which projects fall within its established research focus, and therefore, are likely to be undertaken. Candidates wishing to be considered for an APPRC Fellowship should hold a Ph.D. in the population sciences or related social/health sciences with at least two years of postdoctoral research experience. Candidates must be interested in conducting collaborative research as well as carrying out independent projects. Successful candidates should possess strong English communication skills and be proficient in at least one sub-Saharan African language. It is anticipated that Fellows would remain in the region upon completion of their Fellowship. Applications by women are particularly encouraged. The APPRC Fellowship is awarded for a two-year period with the possibility of an extension for an additional year. For an application form and additional information contact: Ms. Raji Mohanam, APPRC Coordinator, International Programs Division, Population Council, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA, Phone: (212) 339-0636, Fax: (212) 755-6052, e-mail: rmohanam@popcouncil.org OR, in Kenya: Ms. Carol Libamira, APPRC Coordinator, Population Council, Mutiochoice Towers, Upper Hill, P.O. Box 17643, Nairobi, Kenya, Phone: (254) 271.3480/1-3, Fax: (254) 271.3479, email: clibamira@popcouncil.or.ke * When writing, include a brief description of your academic and professional qualifications and a short statement about your research plans.

Gender and Governance Project Intern/Volunteer The Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) seeks an intern/volunteer meeting the following requirements: Commitment to women’s leadership on environmental and development issues; Excellent writing, organizing and oral communication skills; Computer literacy: Windows 95, Microsoft Word, Filemaker Pro and Internet Explorer a plus; Knowledge of French or Spanish a plus; Basic office administrative skills. Responsibilities include assisting WEDO Staff in facilitating Women’s Caucuses at national, sub-regional and international levels; producing a primer on strategies to increase women’s leadership in existing and future local Agenda 21 councils engaged in implementing the Earth Summit agreements at the national level. Time: Minimum 3 days a week. Send resume, cover letter and writing sample to: WEDO Internships, 355 Lexington Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10017; E-mail: wedo@igc.apc.org or Fax: (212) 973-0335.

JOB OPENINGS

World Health Organization: Technical Officer (Health Systems Research) for New Delhi (India). The objectives of the programme are to promote and support research and development, particularly Health Systems Research (HSR) which is supportive of the strategy for achieving the goals of Health for All (HFA) and to coordinate the development of relevant scientific activities in this area, assist in the implementation of the Research Policy and Strategy Coordination Programme of the Regional Office; in particular, promote, organize and coordinate HSR component within the country/regional programmes and the scheme for institutional strengthening in health research especially HSR; provide technical support for HSR activities in the Region. Qualifications Required: Degree from a recognized university preferably in a health related discipline such as medical research, public health, health sciences or social sciences. Knowledge, skills and technical capability in advancing the incorporation of HSR activities within WHO regional and country programmes. Excellent speaking, reading and writing skills. Harmonious working relations with personnel of different national, racial, cultural, religious, and educational backgrounds; tact, initiative and leadership are essential. Considerable experience in public health or medical research at the national level. Experience in organization and evaluation of health research proposals and coordination of research activities at the international level. The following would be an asset: experience in activities in medical health research preferably in a developing country; the use of computer data analysis, information storage and retrieval. Excellent knowledge of English. Applications should be transmitted (in two copies quoting vacancy notice number —Vacancy Notice No. 98/105-E and including a detailed curriculum vitae and photograph) to: Head, Professional Candidates, Division of Personnel, World Health Organization, Avenue Appia, CH-1211 Geneva 27 or by FAX to: +41-22 791 4822 or by email to: Closing date for application: 11 December 1998. Applications from WOMEN are encouraged.
The Population Area of the MacArthur Foundation, a U.S. based philanthropy, seeks a senior program manager based in New Delhi to coordinate grants to NGOs working on reproductive health in India. Responsibilities include Program and financial management; Represent the Foundation at meetings, conferences, forums; Review and analysis of project proposals; Grant negotiation; Monitoring and evaluation and; Writing reports. Qualifications: Educational background in Social Sciences/Social Work/Public Health; Eight to ten years experience in the development field in India especially with a focus on women’s issues and reproductive health; Familiarity with the health and development networks and institutions across the country, grant negotiation, proposal development, program management, research, training, organizing meetings and workshops; Excellent interpersonal, networking, communication and writing skills; Willing to travel; Initiative and the ability to work independently and Fluency in English and Hindi. To apply or to recommend candidates, please send cover letter and resume as soon as possible. Phone inquiries are not accepted. You may mail or fax your application to: MacArthur Foundation, Core C, Zone VA, First Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003, Tel: 464 4006, Fax: 464 4007; Email: macarth@giasd101.vsnl.net.in

FAO/Investment Centre Division/Technical Cooperation Department is seeking an Economist for their office based in Rome for a fixed-term of 3 years. Essential: University degree in economics, agricultural economics, natural resources economics, or a closely related field; 10 years professional experience in the practical application of economic analysis to agricultural development, particularly in the identification/preparation of agricultural investment projects for the agricultural and rural sector, including substantial relevant work experience in developing countries and/or countries in transition; working knowledge of English, French or Spanish, and limited knowledge of one of the other two; demonstrated ability to communicate clearly and concisely both orally and in writing; fitness and willingness to travel frequently to developing countries; demonstrated experience of successful work as a member of multidisciplinary teams for investment project formulation, sector analysis and preparation of project completion reports; experience in dealing with governments and financing institutions; computer literacy. Desirable: Ph.D. in economics, agricultural economics, or closely related field; experience in addressing institutional issues and environmental and natural resource aspects of economic evaluation; advanced computing skills; knowledge of other official languages and Portuguese. Lead and participate in multidisciplinary teams to developing countries and countries in transition to assist member governments in the identification and preparation of investment projects in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and natural resources; lead and participate in teams for project supervision and for the preparation of project completion reports, and in pre-appraisal and appraisal missions led by funding institutions; review agricultural and natural resources sector policies and national programmes for rural development for their investment implications; prepare reports following requirements of the World Bank and other international financing institutions; carry out economic and financial analysis of investment proposals; participate in reviews of reports and in FAO activities concerned with agricultural economic studies, policy reviews and planning; participate in the formulation of technical assistance projects, particularly those with investment linkages; advise on selection of consultants, prepare terms of reference and supervise their work.


Send application to Central Recruitment, Personnel Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 - Rome, Italy.

RESOURCES

NIKK (The Nordic Institute for Women’s Studies and Gender Research) has launched “EMILJA: The Baltic and North West Russian Database for Women’s Studies and Gender Research” on the world wide web. EMILJA is a searchable, on-line database located within NIKK’s homepages at http://www.esst.uio.no/nnikdb/baltic/emilja.html. The aim of the database is to provide more reliable, comprehensive and up-dated information than is currently available on Women’s Studies and Gender Research entities/activities in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and North West (NW) Russia. Currently, the database stores comprehensive information on over 50 organizations, programmes, units, networks and projects related to Women’s Studies/Gender Research/women’s issues located in the Baltic countries and NW Russia.

Correction to Information given in WID Newsletter, October 1998, Vol 19(1): The address and e-mail for the Mapping the World project is: Mapping the World, c/o International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s movement (IIAV), Obiplein 4-1904 RB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, e-mail: tss@iaiv.nl or knowhow@iaiv.nl
Accelerating Girls' Education: A Priority for Governments:
The Population Council and the Rockefeller Foundation have compiled information sheets on girls' education in the hopes of supporting a more active pursuit of girls' education as a key agenda item in the Fourth World Conference on Women. These sheets seek to give a global overview and a more in-depth understanding of not only why girls' education is an important priority, but also the challenges we face in implementing a plan to attract more girls to school and keep them there longer. These sheets can be retrieved from http://www.popcouncil.org/gfd/girleducation.html

The Socioeconomic And Gender Analysis (SEAGA) Programme aims at strengthening socioeconomic and gender analysis capacities at regional, national and local levels by providing development specialists with practical methods and tools. The Programme emphasises the need to understand how development policies and programmes are likely to affect economic activities and social relationships among different groups of people. SEAGA enhances an understanding of the socioeconomic patterns that together constitute the context for development. Broad socioeconomic patterns and the linkages among them are highlighted in SEAGA at three levels of society - field, intermediate and macro. The focus is on both women and men. Information on this programme can be retrieved from http://www.fao.org/sd/seaga/