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WAND REPORT

THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF WOMEN IN SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE
WORKSHOP REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA
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WOMEN & DEVELOPMENT UNIT
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BARBADOS

THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF WOMEN IN SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURE

REPORT ON A
WORKSHOP

To Present and Discuss Findings of the Survey

CARIBLUE HOTEL - CASTRIES, ST. LUCIA

on

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Women in Development Inc., Barbados (WID)

Midwestern Universities Consortium for International
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To the interviewers who worked through sun and rain to complete the questionnaires at the allotted time.

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ERRATA

- Page 1 - Last paragraph line 8 - perform instead of prepare.
- Page 4 - Third (3rd) paragraph line 2 - insert and.
- Page 5 - Number 2.2 - line 9 - no full stop after funding agency.
- Page 6 - Number 2.3 - fourth (4th) paragraph - delete settle.
- Page 11 - No. 14 (Evaluation) - line 4 - ongoing instead of outgoing.
- Page 12 - 2.9 - Section I - line 1 - delete thus.
- Page 12 - Section I - line 2 - no full stop after recommendations.
- Page 13 - 2.10 - Section III - line 1 - no full stop after St. Lucian -
delete the after St. Lucian; line 2 - economy instead of economic.
- Page 1 - Fourth (4th) paragraph line 7 - ekeing out instead of eating out.
- Page 16 - Section III - line 5 - no full stop after survey; line 7 position
instead of portion.
- Page 16 - No. 1 Develop Strategies - line 6 involved in activities instead
of do activities in.
- Page 20 - First paragraph should read - The findings of the survey instead
of The Agricultural sector analysis and--.
- Appredix IV - Lorna Lubin instead of Lorna Luba
- Margaretta Laurent.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The Survey on the Economic Role of women in small scale Agriculture on St. Lucia was a research project with a difference. Among its distinctive features were the following:-

1. The project was set within a larger regional project for the improvement of Agriculture extension services in the Eastern Caribbean. This larger project, The Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project (CAEP), being conducted jointly by the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Mid-Western Universities Consortium for International Aid (MUCIA), has as one of its stated objectives "to involve women more actively and more fully in extension policies and programmes."

The Survey and its results therefore are of great importance if the goals of the larger project are to be fully achieved. It is expected that the findings will provide policy makers and planners with more information and greater sensitivity to the important role that women play in the agricultural section of the economies of the islands in the Eastern Caribbean. With this in mind, policies and plans would then be made not only for the improvement of agricultural services, but would pay greater attention to the way in which these improved services can be made available to women.

In addition the outcomes of this Survey will provide additional "spin-offs" through the development and implementation of action programmes and projects. These programmes and/or projects can lead to greater production and utilization of local produce, to improved nutrition for farm families, and to the development of technologies needed by women to prepare both their household and agricultural tasks.

Increasing the capabilities of women in farming, processing and marketing produce, will lead to their greater involvement in their communities and could result in greater recognition of their contributions by policy makers.

1.2 COLLABORATION

From its inception the project reflected a high degree of collaboration between a number of national, regional and international agencies. The UWI/MUCIA Team, The Women in Development Inc. (WID) Barbados and The Women and Development Unit (WAND) of the University of The West Indies were to form a group of agencies responsible for the development of the project.

Women and Development Unit (WAND) as executing agency, after discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture, St. Lucia, appointed the Caribbean Research Centre (CRC) St. Lucia as the local agency responsible for co-ordinating and carrying out the Survey.

Development and design of the questionnaire was the result of collaboration between the research consultant (MUCIA) WID, WAND, CRC, Ministry of Agriculture personnel and a St. Lucian Linguist.

Another level of the collaboration was in the design and implementation of the training of the interviewers. The training was designed and carried out by WAND, WID, MUCIA, CRC and Ministry of Agriculture personnel. The twelve women selected as interviewers were exposed to an intensive programme during which they learnt various interviewing techniques. In addition, through a series of participatory activities and techniques they gained understanding of the philosophical and conceptual framework of the project, of its objectives, of the issues concerning the greater involvement of women in the development process, of the situation

of agriculture in St. Lucia and of the position of women in that situation. By the end of the training the interviewers were an integral part of the research team and were committed to the success of the project.

Collaboration between an increasing number of individuals and agencies continued as the project progressed. This was reflected in the selection and participation of these during the workshop to discuss the findings of the Survey and to develop the recommendations which are included in the final report.^{1/}

1.3 INNOVATION

Traditionally the procedures adopted in most research projects have only allowed for minimum participation of persons other than the researchers themselves. Any participation of interviewers, interviewees, or "users" of the findings is usually limited to specific phases of these projects.

Researchers design the questionnaire, interviewers collect the data and then pass it back to the researchers who collate, analyse and interpret and present their findings in reports. These reports may or may not be made available to agencies, organisations or institutions which may or may not act on the recommendations presented to them.

Much data has been handled in this way and research has not been generally action-oriented. It has been the experience in the region that a great deal of research findings has not been influenced by inputs of such persons as interviewers, interviewees, representatives of agencies or other users of the data.

^{1/}Copies of the Report of the Survey are available from WAND on request,

In most cases interviewers and interviewees never see or hear what happens to the questions after they have asked or answered them.

Consequently the majority of people have not benefited directly from research, and this may be one of the reasons why so many people in the Caribbean are "hostile" to research, are reluctant and often refuse to answer questions or fill out questionnaires.

Women and Development Unit (WAND) is concerned about and committed to the concept of the full participation of people - especially women - in deciding on activities, programmes and projects which will affect their lives.

The unit therefore decided that the data collected in this survey should be analysed, interpreted by individuals, agencies and institutions who are involved in agriculture, who had first hand experience of many of the problems which the data identified, and who could be instrumental in bringing about change within the agricultural section of the region.

To introduce this innovative element into the survey, WAND, in collaboration with CRC designed and co-sponsored a workshop at which the survey findings the "raw data", were presented, analysed, interpreted and discussed. As a result of this process participants put forward a number of recommendations for "action" plans, activities and projects.

The workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, reflected and in fact was a continuation and culmination of the high degree of collaboration, co-operation and co-ordination which had existed from the start of the project.

THE WORKSHOP

2.1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop were:

- (a) To bring together the research team and a number of individuals from local, national, regional and international agencies which are involved in agricultural programmes and projects, and in the integration of women in development in the Caribbean;
- (b) To present to these individuals the raw data from the survey so that they could analyse it and influence its interpretation;
- (c) To discuss the issues raised by the data;
- (d) To make recommendations for action programmes and projects which would address some of those issues and attempt to solve some of the problems identified.

2.2 WORKSHOP DESIGN

Participants

The workshop was designed to involve a wide cross section of persons and interests. Careful consideration was given to the selection of participants who included representatives of local, national, regional and international agencies involved in agriculture projects and programmes in the region.^{1/} In addition the interviewers, the Senior Community Development Officer responsible for women's affairs in St. Lucia,^{2/} the Caricom Women's Affairs Officer, the research consultants and a representative of the funding agency. All participated in the discussions and decided on the recommendations to be included in the final report.

^{1/} See Appendix I

^{2/} A post which was created only a few weeks before the Workshop

2.3 METHODOLOGY

The emphasis during the workshop was on maximum participation at every stage. Prior to the workshop the research consultant had prepared copies of preliminary summary findings,^{3/} a copy of which had been sent to each participant well in advance, so that they could study these in preparation for their participation at the workshop.

Workshop sessions were planned so as to facilitate maximum participation and sharing of experiences between participants and the programme provided for small and large group discussions as well as for plenary.

Discussion Groups

Participants were grouped to reflect a variety of interests, agencies and experiences. In each group there were interviewers, Ministry of Agriculture personnel, representatives from regional and international agencies and from the Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project.

The presence of interviewers in each group was innovative, and important in ensuring their contribution to the interpretation of the data and to the final recommendations. Because of their understanding of the underlying philosophy of the project, their awareness of its wider significance, their sensitivity to issues concerning women and to settle the plight of the small farmer, they were able to supply much incidental information and direct feedback from the field which it is not always possible to record accurately on a questionnaire.

^{3/}See Appendix II

Their contributions often provided greater and further insights and a background against which to interpret the data. Consequently the recommendations developed by the groups reflected, in a very real way, many of the concerns of the small farmers and of the interviewers themselves.

Group discussions focused on:

- (a) extracting issues from the data presented;
- (b) making recommendations to deal with the issues raised;
- (c) suggesting activities, action programmes and projects through which the recommendation could be implemented;
- (d) suggesting appropriate agencies which could implement the recommendations at national, regional and international levels.

On the second day as groups developed specific recommendations to address specific issues and identified agencies to implement programmes, participants were encouraged to regroup themselves according to their special interest and/or area of concern.

Plenary Sessions

These sessions were used to provide and exchange information, to summarize the groups' discussions, to further discuss issues raised, arrive at consensus, and finally to endorse recommendations for inclusions in the final survey report.

B. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

2.4. Opening Ceremony

The workshop was formally opened by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gregor Mason who reaffirmed that the Government and the Ministry were committed to support programmes and projects which would result in greater recognition of the significant contribution that women were making to agriculture and to the development of the country.

In her opening remarks the Tutor/Co-ordinator of WAND made reference to the Brandt Report - North South Dialogue to stress the fact that no development plan can succeed without the work of women.

Following the short opening ceremony the workshop moved into working sessions.

2.5. SESSION I - Plenary

During this session Dr. Barbara Yates (MUCIA) Consultant to the project and one of the authors of the background paper for the CAEP gave a brief overview to the background of the project and of its objectives. Following this Dr. Barbara Knudson (MUCIA) Research Consultant, explained the research methodology, the collation of data for the preliminary findings and the constraints experienced in order to present this in a "non interpretative" way to workshop participants. She also provided participants with additional data and documents to be used during the two days of discussions.

A short period followed during which participants asked questions for information and clarification of the data as presented in the summary findings.

2.6 SESSION II - Small Group Discussion

Participants were divided into four groups to study the data and to identify and extract issues which it raised. Each group then reported to the larger group. There was much overlap and

many identical issues were identified by more than one team group. Issues raised were discussed within the total group.

2.7 SESSION III - Large Group Discussion

Each group reported issues which they identified, discussed and summarized in the total group as follows:

1. Accessibility to credit - To small farmers and its availability to female farmers vis-a-vis male farmers.
2. Social Activities of Women - Low level of formal organised activities for women - "the need to find or form organisations which can bring women together". Many formal organisations are ineffective because policies are imposed from top down. Women are involved in a number of informal groupings and support systems which exist at the community level. How can these be used to deliver agriculture extension services?
3. Rising Age of Farmers - The average age of the 'farmer' is 40+ years. What are the implications of this for production and productivity? Who is going to farm in twenty years time? How to make farming more appealing to youth?
4. Nuclear Households - Is this typical? Female headed households have implications for economic responsibility.
5. Consumption Patterns - Most people in rural communities are concerned with meeting basic subsistence needs, but at the same time are looking towards the town for their life style. The impact of advertising and blatant consumerism demands that people be educated to recognize its negative effects on development strategy and the need to introduce "household aids" and technologies which are suited to the local situation.
6. Women's Investment Patterns - What are the possibilities? Is land available?

7. Farm Family - The need to focus on the "Farm Family" and Farm Household matter than on the 'Farmer'. This shift in focus could integrate women farmers into all aspects of agriculture including the provision of agricultural services.
8. Transmission of Agricultural Information - What type of information, at what level, is it valid? How to develop materials for transmission of this knowledge - print, pictures, audio visual, etc. The question of Literacy - How to define literacy? How much of the information passed on is accepted and/or adopted? If the farmer can see a link between information and increased cash outcomes information may be more readily adopted.

Times of radio programmes - are these at times suitable to the farmer? In the case of St. Lucia the need to use Patois. There is need for:
(a) Communication strategy and for
(b) Reorientation and Training of Extension Personnel
9. Co-ordination at District/Community Level - There are many agents in the field - For example: Health community development etc. There is need to adopt an integrated approach to rural development by co-ordinating the work of these agents.
10. Role of Extension Agent - This should be made more specific.
11. Negative Attitudes of Women - There is need to sensitize women, to help them to develop a more positive self-concept and higher self-esteem.
12. Disposal of Surplus - Small farmers involved in subsistence farming, experience problems in transport, marketing, storage facilities, need to develop organised production and small scale processing activities/projects linked to the development of appropriate technologies.

13. Need for more Data - Why do farmers go off the land? Farm-work may be subsidizing a losing farm, farming communities being drained of their resources. Women seem to be losing control of cash crops. Many of these questions can only be answered through "Micro Studies" at the community level and through case studies pilot projects, etc. There is need for information on national/international policies to be translated to people/farmers at community level to help them to understand how they fit into the larger national plans for development. The methodology to accomplish this should not be didactic but part of a non-formal process which includes generating data as well as problem solving.
14. Evaluation - How to evaluate the impact of extension programmes on rural communities. There is a need to discuss the role of research and evaluation as an outgoing process.

Following discussion of the above issues in the total group these issues were then classified under four main categories, each of which was allocated to one group for discussion during the next session.

- | | | | |
|-------|-----|---|--|
| Group | I | - | Communications Strategy |
| Group | II | - | Development Strategy |
| Group | III | - | Pilot Projects - Micro Studies |
| Group | IV | - | Reorientation of Agricultural
Extension |

2.8 SESSION IV - Small Group Discussions

- Each group was to:
1. Develop specific recommendations for dealing with the issue allocated;
 2. Identify appropriate/possible agency to deal with and implement the recommendation.

During this afternoon session there was much animated discussion on the various issues raised and it was agreed by all participants that it was necessary to continue the discussion on the following morning.

Friday 11th

2.9. SESSION I

- Thus (a) Continuation of small group discussion
- (b) Meeting of Group Reports

At the beginning of this session while the groups continued to discuss the issues and develop recommendations. There was a short meeting of all group reporters and the workshop co-ordinators. This resulted in putting together the discussions so far and in developing a format for presentation of group reports and recommendations. It was agreed that the reports be reported in the following order.

1. Development Strategy - Overall definition (Group II)
2. The Issue of Lack of Productivity and Rural Poverty - Resolution seems to lie in community being able to remove constraints and solve problems through community action programmes (Group III)
3. Methodology - Communications Strategy - Community as a whole not just farmer-family approach and the use of other extension agents.
4. Linking Community to Policy - Role of Agriculture extension services. Development of structures to link national plans to community needs, by reorganising all extension services.

2.10 SESSION II - Summary of Group Reports

1. Development Strategies

This was examined in relation to the St. Lucian. The economist and the group agreed that an appropriate definition for development should include a reduction in the level of unemployment, and improvement in the general quality of life by optimising use of local resources with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food production. It was recognized that realizing a more equitable distribution of resources may not be possible with the present economic structure.

Education was seen to be the main avenue through which development could be channelled and formal and informal networks within the community should be used to facilitate the process of development. Concerted efforts need to be made to change attitudes of both men and women, and employment creation though income generating activities should be encouraged.

2. Lack of Productivity and Rural Poverty

It was observed that people are moving out of Agriculture. Many farmers are "part-time" farmers and there is a significant rural/urban drift being experienced at present. Unless agriculture can be seen or made to be economically profitable the age of farmers will continue to rise and the youth will not be attracted to the land. Attempts must be made to increase both the quantity and quality of food produced since the bulk of farm income is spent on food. Intercropping, diversification and stratified production should be encouraged.

It was agreed that credit was a problem for all small farmers, the major constraint being the lack of collateral as required by commercial banks which usually insist of title to their land. However, most farmers lack title to their land. Another concern of farmers was the uncertainty of their ability to repay loans since in most cases they are only using out as existence on their farms.

Co-operative action could be attempted within the context of rural development, to make agriculture more viable. Although there were some reservations about the feasibility of production co-operatives, it was felt that service or marketing 'co-operatives' could play an important role in alleviating some of the problems of marketing processing, storage, etc. which are experienced by many farmers.

3. Methodology Communication Strategies

Since farming activities are carried out by both men and women, 'messages' and agricultural information should be directed to the "farm family". This focus on the farm household should be reflected in the selection and training of extension personnel, and in raising their sensitivity to the concerns and problems of the female farmer. It was felt that there is a need to encourage innovative techniques in training not only for the extension workers who pass on agricultural information but also in the development of education programmes for farmers. The radio could be used more effectively by allowing "grass roots" farmers to talk to each other on radio programmes, such programmes should be made available at times more suitable to farmers.

The need to utilize existing organisations and networks at community level was greatly stressed. Programmes of various ministries should be known to field officers of others. Co-ordinating committees should be set up at district level to co-ordinate and obtain information and resources and to agree on a common approach to rural development.

Another concern was the need to develop and use technologies to reduce the burden of the multiplicity of roles of the female farmer. Technologies should be functional in terms of energy saving, spare parts and maintenance.

Many women interviewed said that they did not belong to formal organisations. There is a need to help female farmers to understand that they have rights within farmers' organisations and to encourage them to join and participate actively in the business of these.

4. The Role of Agriculture Extension - Linking Community to Policy

It was agreed that there was a need to link the concept of Agriculture Extension to the broader concept of rural development so that agriculture extension could be effective as part of an overall strategy with a national development plan. There is need to see extension at two levels.

1. Local or Community Level - Where the extension agent is a link between extension services and the farmer.
2. National Level - Where the agent is a link between the extension services and the national development goals.

In order for extension agents to serve as links in this way there is a need to redefine the role of the agricultural extension officer from one who transmits agricultural information in the technical sense to one who is concerned with the total life of the farm family. In this sense the agricultural extension officer may be seen as one of the many "change agents" who operate at the community level, like community development field officers, community health aids, etc.

To develop this new approach to agricultural extension, consideration must be taken of the conditions under which extension officers work, their heavy work load, the use of para-professionals and the need to increase the number of female extension workers.

In addition, more careful attention must be paid to the selection and training of Agriculture Extension Officers. There needs to be training at various levels using participatory approaches to sensitize extensionists to the needs of the rural family, to the role of women in agriculture and to problems faced by rural communities in relation to agricultural production and economic benefits to the small farmer.

In order to reorient agricultural extension and to assess its impact on rural development it will be necessary for ministries of agriculture to evaluate their present service and to build in ongoing evaluation techniques into any new approaches being implemented.

2.11 SESSION III - Large Group Discussion

This discussion highlighted some of the major themes and issues which had surfaced during the day and a half of discussions. It pointed out specific recommendations to deal with these problems and adopted recommendations to be included in the final report of the survey. For instance, activities for women in food preservation and crafts may keep them in a marginal portion.

1. Development Strategies

- a. It was stressed that if development produced negative results for any sector of the society, then it was not real development. It was recognized that there have been cases where development programmes had had negative effects on women, for instance, having women do activities in food preservation and crafts may keep them in a marginal portion in relation to the mainstream of economic activity. Any such projects for women should be established on a sound economic basis and seen as a business enterprise.

- b. Development as self reliance is an important concept which needs to be emphasized and the need for special focus on an integrated approach is important in the Caribbean contest. This concept must consciously seek to involve women in every aspect and at every level of the development process.

2. Data Collection and Research

Why do farmers go off the land? Farm work may be subsidizing a losing farm. Farming communities being drained of their resources. Women seem to be losing control of cash crops. Many of these questions can only be answered through "micro studies" at the community level and through case studies pilot projects, etc. There is need for information on national/international policies to be translated to people/farmers at community level to help them to understand how they fit into the larger national plans for development. The methodology to accomplish this should not be didactic but part of a non-formal process which includes generating data as well as problem solving.

The data showed that women do approximately 44% of all agricultural labor. It also showed that there is need to develop a broader data base and disaggregate the data by sex. This problem could be addressed through action oriented micro-studies which could be used as experimental training for extension officers and through which they could gain greater understanding of the relationship between local and national planning.

3. Accessibility to Credit

There was general concern that availability of credit was not much the problem as that small farmers were not anxious or willing to accept loans as they were aware of the problems of land tenure as collateral and possible problems in repayment. There is a great need to educate farmers and provide training in the effective use of credit.

4. Co-ordination

Participants expressed the view that there is need for co-ordination of programmes, projects and personnel at community level so that the agricultural extension could see him and herself as part of the team.

It was suggested co-ordinating committees could be set up at community level to facilitate an integrated approach to rural development. Pilot Projects were seen as a tool for experimenting with various models of integrated rural programmes.

5. Training

Three main areas of training were identified:

- (a) In-service training of all extension agents in rural development;
- (b) Technical training in agricultural information techniques for disseminating this to the rural community;
- (c) A woman and development component to sensitize extension agents to the special situation, problems and concerns of female farmers.

These aspects of training should be carried out through local community, national and regional agencies and institutions and should include non formal methods and techniques along with formal training.

2.12 SESSION IV - Final Plenary

The Chief Agricultural Officer chaired this session and in his opening remarks stressed the need to "reintegrate agriculture into the education system and to encourage youth who enter agriculture to engage in production rather than to become agricultural scientists". He mentioned the need to develop a strategy for an integrated approach to try to solve some of the problems experienced by small farmers, and point the way to policy makers.

Tribute was paid to the interviewers for their excellent work during the survey and even more for their significant contributions during the discussions.

Tribute was also paid to WAND for recognising the importance of inviting the various agencies to participate in the innovative and valuable workshop, especially the male participants. For having participated, these men are now conscious and are therefore an important part of the programme for ensuring the development of women and of their participation in development.

The workshop organisers praised the Chief Agriculture Officer and his staff for the high degree of interest, enthusiasm and involvement which was displayed throughout the project.

In his closing remarks the Chief Agriculture Officer expressed the appreciation of his ministry, to all of the agencies which were involved in the project and pledged his support to whatever activities resulted as a result of the survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Agricultural sector analysis and the findings of the survey have documented the nature and extent of women's economic roles in small-scale agriculture in St. Lucia. Women in St. Lucia, as in many other LDCs, play a significant economic role in small-scale agriculture. Women farmers are subject to the general constraints faced by all small farmers, but frequently in ways different from those that touch males. In addition, women, because of their multiple work roles (agriculture, child care, home maintenance) within the farm household and because of stereotypic notions of these roles, confront special problems in becoming more efficient food producers.

The following recommendations are aimed at increasing the efficiency of the delivery of agricultural support service to women farmers in an effort to increase their economic well-being and that of their families.

While many of the recommendations could apply to male farmers, the needs of women farmers have been specifically addressed. These recommendations are based upon a general development strategy which aims at a reduction in the level of unemployment, maximization of local resources, achievement of self-sufficiency in food production and an improvement in the quality of life for all members of society.

Recommendation No.1 (National Extension Service Personnel)

Since the survey findings indicate that both men and women are engaged in farm work, national and community level programmes in agriculture should be aimed at the farm family or household not just the male farmer. This focus should be reflected in the selection and training of extension personnel and in their general sensitivity to the economic and social roles of small-scale farm women.

A. Sensitivity to Reality

National extension service personnel should be re-oriented to increase their sensitivity to the realities of small-farm households, especially to the roles of women. We recommend continuing attention be given to ways of increasing the awareness of extension personnel to the issues raised by this St. Lucian survey and workshop.

It is important NOT to assume:-

- (1) That the man is usually or always the principal farmer;
- (2) That the man controls decision-making on the farm;
- (3) That there is a ready or easy transfer of knowledge or practices between family members, for example, between male and female or young and old; and
- (4) That because a woman says she is a "housewife" that she is not also a principal farmer and farm decision-maker.

B. Selection and Training

Because extension and rural development is a full-time job, requiring unusual commitment and special individual capabilities that are difficult to measure or screen for, we recommend:-

- (1) That potential extension trainees be apprenticed as agricultural helpers under working extension officers before they are sent for formal training. This practice will help them know what extension is really like and could result in a realistic self-selection process of trainees. In this connection we suggest that the "Apprentice" system currently operating in St. Lucia be studied and evaluated to see if it improves the quality of extension personnel over time and if it is transferable to other nations in the Eastern Caribbean.

- (2) That outreach personnel from all ministries be involved in three kinds of on-going training at the national level;
 - (a) A programme of integrated in-service training in rural development, community organization and communications methods for rural areas regardless of the Ministry out of which they work;
 - (b) A programme of technical training specific to areas of needed expertise and Ministerial responsibility (e.g. agriculture, health, community development);
 - (c) A woman in development component (in co-operation with WAND) sensitizing outreach personnel to the special constraints and needs of women farmers, and
- (3) That more women agricultural extension officers be appointed both to serve as role models for young women and to enhance the sensitivity of the extension staff to the special needs of women farmers.

Recommendation No.2 (An Integrated, Participatory Approach)

Related to the selection and training of outreach personnel is the question of development strategy. The small-scale farmer can and should play a more prominent role in the improvement of his/her agricultural productivity. That is, the "trickle down" theory of the dissemination of agricultural information from expert to farmer (or from male to female should be replaced by a participatory approach. With regards to extension methods and communications training, it is desirable that participatory community decision-making be included because these approaches contain the message that people can and should take responsibility for, and have some control over their own lives and development destinies. Decision-makers, policy-makers, and extension personnel need to recognize that:-

- (1) For extension to be effective, it must be part overall strategy for rural development;
- (2) That extension personnel have an important role to play in the two-way flow of communication between government and farmers; and
- (3) That use of grass roots farmers to "talk" to each other (e.g. via media) is a means of enhancing their own self-concept and concern with development.

This kind of enhancement of self-concept and organization of women is necessary to mobilize women. Over fifty per cent of the women in the sample believed that they had no control over the major events that affect their lives and few belonged to formal organizations. Yet over eighty percent personally knew their political representative. That is, they had access to policy-makers, but did not use that access.

Relationships in St. Lucia are personalized; one needs therefore to personalize relationships in the development process so that women begin to feel that they have some power to change the circumstances of their lives.

In order to integrate rural development, especially at the district and community level, we recommend:-

- A. That various ministries with outreach staff make known to each other their respective programmes.
- B. That some sort of formal co-ordinating mechanism (e.g. a committee) be established at the local level in order to facilitate this integrated approach; and
- C. That not only farmers but other local resource persons (e.g. teachers) and organizations be included.

Recommendation No.3 (Delivery of Agricultural Information)

Extension personnel have important roles to play as intermediaries in the two-way flow of information between farmers and national policy makers. We recommend:-

- A. That use be made of existing women's organization to convey agricultural information and to train para-professionals from amongst rural women.
- B. That more use be made by the extension Service of Radio St. Lucia's patois broadcasting, given the low functional literacy rates in rural areas and the widespread possession of radios;
- C. That more attention be directed to non-formal methods of education, given the resistance to change of most formal education systems.
- D. That media programmes directed to farm women be at times when these women are able to listen; and
- E. That media programmes utilize actual farmers in programmes so that farmers are "talking" to farmers and are not passive recipients of advice from experts.

Recommendation No. 4 (Access to Productive Resources)

The findings of the survey indicate that women lack, yet desire, more ready access to productive resources.

A. Credit

While lack of clear title to land is a serious constraint to the acquisition of credit, other factors are also present. Therefore, we recommend that assistance be provided to women (and men) in understanding the purpose, process and advantage of credit acquisition, management and repayment.

B. Improved Agricultural Technology

We recommend that:-

- (1) Appropriate technologies, already known in the region, which take into consideration initial low cost, energy conservation, minimum maintenance and use of local materials, be introduced to the small-scale farmer.

- (2) Food processing and storage projects be developed to preserve food-stuff in an effort to reduce the "glut-famine" sequence of food production and to generate additional income for farm households.
- (3) The impact on the utilization of women's time be kept in mind in the introduction of any income generating projects.
- (4) Appropriate technologies be introduced to reduce the time women must spend on household maintenance tasks so that they have more time to spend on agriculture should they wish.

Recommendation No. 5 (Data Base, Research and Evaluation)

We recommend:-

- A. That some method be adopted to count "unpaid family labour" in the agricultural work force in a more economically visible way and to recognize the differential economic and social work loads of men and women;
- B. That micro-level studies of women and agriculture be encouraged. Perhaps U.W.I. students could be encouraged to write senior theses (and masters papers) on these topics. Such studies should include household economics, economic factors on the macro level effecting household economics, time budgeting, division of labour and socio-cultural constraints;
- C. That the agricultural statistics division of the Ministry of Agriculture establish regular procedures to obtain gender disaggregated data as the basis for policy planning. An adequate data base is essential if women's actual rather than stereotyped economic roles and work loads are to be recognised and women integrated into development planning and not continue to be an "invisible factor". Moreover, without a continuing source of baseline data, it is difficult to engage in any kind of meaningful evaluation process of new performances.

- D. That procedures be established to measure gains in the economic well-being of women engaged in small-scale agriculture. Since increased productivity and economic well-being of women are not necessarily the same, criteria (e.g. lower fertility, increased disposable income, improved nutrition) for evaluation should be established as early as possible;
- E. That efforts be made to evaluate existing innovative programmes, such as the "Apprentice" programme of the St. Lucian Ministry of Agriculture;
- F. That procedures be established to evaluate comparatively pilot projects in the region aimed at women and agriculture and to disseminate and share results.

Recommendation No. 6 (Miscellaneous)

Several issues arising from the data were only touched upon in the discussions of the Workshop due to the limited time available. They are listed below and are worthy of further consideration.

- /findings
- A. The / indicate that only half of the farm families reported any livestock. Expansion and diversification of animal husbandry appears to be a fruitful way of expanding food production.
 - B. Transport of produce from farm to market was listed as a principal constraint by many farmers in the sample. Such constraints increase the problem of "glut/famine" in the provision of local foodstuffs, e.g. by increasing spoilage.
 - C. Marketing problems affect the potential profitability of small-scale agriculture. Ways need to be created to increase the regularity of volume and delivery of food produced on small-scale farms so that larger and more profitable outlets (e.g. hotels, supermarkets) can be found for local fruits and vegetables. For example, should producer co-operatives be established?

Recommendation No.7 (Action Pilot Project)

We recommend:-

- A. That a pilot project be initiated in several of the island nations of the region which will do the following:-
- (1) Result in a sensitized community which can identify problems and solve them, and which will be sensitized to women's issues as different from those of men;
 - (2) Provide research information on how to go about accomplishing this task and to help identify constraints to increasing farm income;
 - (3) Provide an experimental training situation for extension agents and farmers; and
 - (4) Develop a mechanism for replication in other communities.
- B. That the location of each pilot project be in an area or village, if possible, where other local or regional programmes or projects exist, e.g. CARDI, CARDATS;
- C. That this pilot project utilize the community and the household as basic units, instead of focusing on "the farmer";
- D. That each community select a facilitator who will be trained and conscientized and who will work within the community and co-ordinate among other outreach services;
- E. That the facilitators be trained and sensitized by well-prepared individuals (perhaps senior extension agents);
- F. That non-formal participatory methods of education be used;

- G. That macro policies of government be communicated to women and other rural dwellers and via the pilot project help them take action towards fulfilling these policies, e.g. import substitution, breast-feeding, eating local foods, etc.;
- H. That women be assisted in forming groups and organizations which can provide mutual support and serve as foci for training and the delivery of agricultural information;
- I. That appropriate agricultural and household technologies now available in the region (e.g. new seeds, solar ovens) be regularly tested to ascertain their practicality and the constraints in "real" rather than experimental environment and that this information be conveyed back to the designers, developers and manufacturers; and
- J. That the whole process of community development and its constituent parts be the subject of macro-studies.

This Pilot Project recommendation is made on the basis that there is need to experiment with methods for helping communities solve their own problems and to help rural women learn to participate in problem solving. The main issue is to make farming profitable by removing constraints on the local, regional, national and international levels. Farmers can learn how to identify and remove these constraints which are within their power to alter. (Women have a special constraint in that they have intertwining roles. Thus, their labour can be easily over-exploited and poorly recognized.

This proposed experimental Pilot Project concept embodies most of the recommendations made in the workshop. The concept brings together the notion of rural development as an integrated on-going process of:-

- (1) Data Collection
- (2) Participatory planning and implementation; and
- (3) Training of small-scale farmers and community facilitators.

The extension agent is an intermediary who both trains and learns and communicates community needs regularly to the national level for purposes of policy-making and planning and for replication in other communities. The pilot project serves as a testing ground for new rural development strategies and technologies to find out what works, as a training environment and as a data collection site, all utilizing participatory approaches.

Recommendation No.8 (Regional Co-operation)

We recommend:-

- A. That the report of the survey be circulated to CAEP (through the Ministries), Governments, CARDI, CARDATS, USAID and others;
- B. That CARDI and CARDATS be urged to give consideration to the incorporation of these recommendations within their own programmes;
- C. That regional training institutions (e.g. UWI, JSA, ECIAF) also be encouraged to provide three kinds of training for future outreach personnel;
 - (1) Integrate rural development, community organization and communications;
 - (2) Technical training in a specialty (which all do now) and
 - (3) A woman in development component in co-operation with WAND sensitizing outreach personnel to the special constraints and needs of rural women.

- D. That each of the participating governments of CAEP be informed of the Pilot Project concept as an experimental extension technique and a micro study, and request that they consider including this concept in their extension improvement plans;
- E. That U.W.I. with help from MUCIA co-operate with the Pilot Projects by supervising research for the micro studies. Local institutions, such as the Caribbean Research Centre, should be used to co-ordinate this research; and
- F. That WAND co-ordinate the publication of a book on Women and Extension in the Caribbean for use in programme development.

Micro-level studies not only can be done more quickly, but can point directions for action programmes, and have policy implications at national level.

SUMMARY FINDINGSThe Economic Role of Women in Small-Scale Agriculture:The Eastern Caribbean

The University of the West Indies (UWI) in collaboration with seven American universities, the Midwest Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA), is in the initial phase of a large-scale development project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to improve agricultural extension services in the Eastern Caribbean. The five-year project has three major purposes:

- to increase the effectiveness of national extension services;
- to increase the effectiveness of regional institutions which serve the extension system; and
- to involve women actively and more fully in extension programs.

Reliable information about the roles of women in small-scale agriculture in the Caribbean nations is not generally available, nor is knowledge of the sources of agricultural information, communication patterns, perceptions and values, family responsibilities, and so on, of female farmers in this part of the world. Therefore, a research project designed to provide some of this needed information was planned and carried out by four collaborating agencies: The UWI Women and Development Unit (Barbados); Women in Development Inc. (Barbados); The MUCIA Women and Development Network (USA); and The Caribbean Research Centre (St. Lucia). The field work was carried out between January and March, 1981, with invaluable help from the Ministry of Agriculture of St. Lucia. A final report will be presented to all of the institutions involved in July, incorporating recommendations of the conference held in St. Lucia in June, at which preliminary findings will be presented.

The research team consisted of representatives of all the collaborating agencies, assisted by ten St. Lucian interviewers who did the actual field work. A random sample was drawn from farm lists recently updated by the Ministry of Agriculture; the findings can, with some qualifications, be generalized to the small farm population of the island (small defined in this study as households with 15 or less acres of land). Two separate interview schedules were administered, the first dealing with the rural household unit, its demography and agricultural characteristics; the second focused on the woman of that household. The sample contains 245 households.

The following is a brief presentation of a selected set of the findings of that research. Additional information will be presented at the conference and in the final report.

The Farm and Farm Households

Seventy-one percent (71%) of the St. Lucian farmers in our sample work on one plot of land; another 21% on two; the remainder on three or more. Average size of landholding is 4.4 acres, with more than half (51%) working on 3 acres or less, and 75% on less than 6 acres. In terms of land tenure, 40% of all plots are held as "family land"--that term, not defined very precisely, referring to ownership not wholly by the land user, but rather by some combination of members of his/her family. The second most common tenure pattern is ownership (purchased), with 28% of all farmers, followed by rental (12%). In general, the plots are all within walking distance of the farmers' households, though many farmers walk long distances at each end of their farming day. One in seven walks more than sixty minutes from house to plot.

Farmers in St. Lucia are not new to their work, with the time of farming on the site averaging twenty years. A small portion, 13% have farmed for less than five years, but it is safe to say that the farming population is a stable one.

The principal crops on St. Lucia is bananas, followed by coconuts; this is true for the sample of small farmers as well. Dasheen, other ground provisions, citrus, assorted vegetables, are all grown by the small farmer for personal use and for sale, but is nothing like the amount of land (or proportion of effort) devoted to the principal crops. Husbandry of domestic animals is not a major part of St. Lucian agriculture. One-half of the sample have no animals whatsoever. A quarter of the households have one type of animal, most commonly cattle. Pigs and chickens are next most commonly held, with few households having more than two or three of the larger animals, or more than a dozen chickens.

Households are in general quite large, averaging just under seven persons, that average made up of one pre-school age child, three school age children, and three adults. Sixty-two (62%) of the households are defined as "nuclear", that is, have both male and female parent figures and at least one child present. An additional 17% are households headed by a single adult and including at least one child. (Of these single-headed families, three-quarters of the heads are female, and one-quarter male). The remaining 21% are households without children, that is, families in which all persons are adults.

Significant numbers of the adults work off the farm as well as on. Nearly one-fourth of the farm households had no person whose principal work was agriculture. Half of the households had at least one person working off the farm as a principal occupation. Most households (67%), however, had one or more persons working principally on the farm. In these families, half (51%) had only a male so engaged; 13% had only a female; and 30% had both males and females whose principal occupation was farming (defined as "work on which most time was spent in the last twelve months").

The farming population conducts much of its buying in the island's cities, with the public bus or van the near universal means of transport. Similarly, crops sold must be transported, usually by van or hired truck, to receiving places. Boxing plants for bananas are widely distributed, and hence bananas can frequently be carried on foot. Coconuts must be transported greater

distances, by motorized means. Some shopping and selling is done locally, of course, with walking the usual mode. Food crops are generally sold at the markets, with many people travelling far distances to the markets at Vieux Fort or Castries, again using the bus or van as transport method. (The island's dependence on gasoline was vividly demonstrated during the final weeks of the field phase of the research).

As the farm population is stable, so are farming practices, with virtually no indication of any major changes and limited indication (15% of the sample of even modifications in farm practices of minor nature. Of the few indicating some changes, crop rotation and fertilizer use were the principal new uses employed. Agricultural extension personnel were cited most commonly as the change agents.

Decisions about farming issues are made principally by males in 41% of the households; by the male and female together in 36%; and by females alone in 12%, with the remainder involving other family members, friends, neighbours and so on. When asked about major problems connected with running small farms, our respondents suggested many, with fertilizer availability, roads and transport improvement, and credit financial help the most frequently listed.

The Women of Small-Scale Farms

The women who answered our second questionnaire represent the range of women found in the original sample. Of the 245 households, 216 included women as residents; we interviewed a woman in 198 of those 216. Three interviews were not complete enough to use; hence our sample of women is 195.

The age range of the sample is from 17 to 80, with an average age of 43. Two-thirds of the women are married; 3% widowed; the rest single. Thirty percent (30%) had never been to school; most had only primary education, with 5% having attended school beyond the primary level.

Nearly half of the women had worked at one time or another for wages outside the household; only 9% are currently doing so. Their work day is not one to envy; 85% arise by 6:00 a.m. or earlier. They average nearly four hours a day on housework, and five hours on agricultural labor. Only 16% of the total do no agricultural labor. Some of the samples have children, of course, and spend additional time on tasks associated with their care, frequently aided by their own mothers or an older child. Nearly half of the group occasionally engages in marketing activity. With this heavy work load, most (78%) say they do have some time for leisure, principally on Sundays.

Retrospectively, one can gain a sense of the lives of the women in the sample by looking at their child-bearing history. Age at first pregnancy averages 19.5 years; the range was from 14 to 41. The women had borne from one to nineteen children, with an average of 6.7 children per woman. The population currently has an average of 5.1 living children, with an average of 3.0 living in the home. An analysis of the whereabouts of their children living away from the household shows some 39% living off the island, part of the out-migration stream which has characterized Caribbean nations in the past. The next largest numbers of grown or living-separate children are in other rural areas on the island.

One question asked women was what was the best number of children to have. The largest single cluster of answers was "what I have now". For those who gave an actual number, the range was from one to twelve, with an average of 3.6, a smaller number than actual births or living children (see above).

Women who spend time marketing were asked about their use of the money earned. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the group considered that money to be theirs; others thought of the profits as family money. Overwhelmingly, it was used for household purposes (96%). Fifty-nine percent (59%) of the women did not use services of a bank. No clear patterns are discernible in terms of ownership of animals, or use of any profits from them. Thirty-six percent (36%) of the sample received some assistance from remittances sent by relatives living abroad.

Survey data are not terribly useful for establishing proportions of available income spent on household costs. It is evident that those who were willing to make these recall estimates spend the major part of their disposable income on food. Two-thirds of those responding estimate that they spend more than half of their total budget on food. No other category of purchases (clothing, health care, farm investments, etc.) came anywhere near to the amount spent on food.

Only 6% of the women indicated any use of food processing technologies, either not seeing this as necessary, not knowing how, or not wishing to bother.

Most women had acquired agricultural knowledge from their parents. Seventeen percent (17%) had at one time or another had agricultural information transmitted to them from extension personnel. Using a number of indices, it appears that about one-half of the population have had agricultural services of one kind or another from extension. Credit/finance, equipment for aid in farm tasks, educational services, and transport improvement are all seen as problems.

This small farm population is made up of women who by and large are not joiners, that is, are not heavily involved in community organizations. About 30% do belong to some kind of group; the largest proportion of those are religious organizations of one type or another; the second largest are mutual aid societies for health and death expense benefits. Most of the women prefer to spend their free time with their families, and would in fact spend a holiday in that way (51%), while others (32%) would like to go on a trip of some sort.

The major communications medium for news of events on the island or outside is clearly the radio. Personal information networks are strong, with most people (81%) knowing their political representative by name and personally. Forty-five percent (45%) know their extension officer. The government and its representatives are seen as influential in both national and local arenas; farm issues are influenced far more by family members.

In a concluding section on attitudes and values, the research attempted to ascertain something of the more qualitative aspects of women's lives. More than two-thirds of the women (68%) felt that farming was generally a good way of life. Nearly half (48%) feel that events in the world are more or less out of their control, and that the good or bad things which occur are largely due to fate or luck. Almost three-quarters (74%) feel that the roles women play are changing, with a sizable number (28%) feeling that those changes are in a negative direction. The remaining more than two-thirds expressed ideas such that women are more prominent in public affairs, more assertive, can earn more money, or other generally positive assessments.

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WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

OPENING CEREMONY

Thursday 11th June, 9.00 a.m.

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|----------------------------|---|
| Welcome | - Pat Charles
Executive Secretary, CRC |
| Opening Remarks | - Peggy Antrobus - Tutor/
Co-ordinator WAND, UWI,
Cave Hill |
| Address and Formal Opening | - The Honourable Minister
of Agriculture
Mr. Gregor Mason |
| Closing Remarks | - Pat Ellis
Field Programme Co-ordinator,
WAND. |

WORKING SESSIONSThursday 11, 198110.30 - 11.30 SESSION I - Plenary

Chair person - Pat Charles

Reporter - Pat Ellis

Overview of Project

- a) Objectives - Barbara Yates
- b) Research Methodology - Barbara Knudson
- c) Additional Documents and Data - Barbara Knudson
- d) Questions for Clarification

11.30 - 12.30 SESSION II - Small Group Discussion (Four Groups)

- a) Extract Issues from Data
- b) Discuss Issues Raised

12.30 - 1.30 L U N C H

1.30 - 2.30 SESSION II Continued2.30 - 4.00 SESSION III - Large Group Discussion

- a) Presentation of Group Reports
- b) Discussion of Issues Raised
- c) Summary of Issues Raised

4.00 - 5.00 SESSION IV - Small Group Discussion

- a) Develop Specific Recommendations to Deal With Issues
- b) Identify Agency to Implement Recommendations

Friday 12, 1981

9.00 - 10.00 SESSION I - Small Group Discussion

- a) Meeting of Group Reporters and Workshop Co-ordinators
- b) Continuation of Discussion Issues and Possible Recommendations

10.00 - 12.00 SESSION II - Large Groups

- a) Presentation of Group Reports
- b) Discussion and Survey of Reports

12.00 - 1.00 L U N C H

1.00 - 3.00 SESSION III - Large Group Discussion

- a) Discussion of Recommendations from Small Group
- b) Adoption of Recommendations

3.00 SESSION IV - Final Plenary

LIST OF PARTICIPANTSST. LUCIAMinistry of Agriculture

David De Marque	- Chief Agriculture Officer
Laurie Auguste	- Sr. Agriculture Extension Officer
Marcia White	- Agricultural Statistic Officer
Rufina Jean	- Agronomist
Flores Griffith	- Agronomist
Julius Polius	- Agricultural Research
Glenda Clarke	- Agricultural Officers
Mary Louis	
Bernadine Evans	
George Alcee	
Allan Cumberbatch	

Interviewers

Miranda Blackman	
Matilda Jean	
Carmel Lionel	
Theresa Amos	
Nerissa Williams	
Pat Charles	- Executive/Secretary, CRC

Regional Programmes and Agencies

Andrew Desir	- WINBAN
Dr. E. Edmonds	- WINBAN
Hugh Saul	- CARDATS
Ronnie Pilgrim	- CARDI
Mike Patton	- CAEP
Olga Stavrakis	- CAEP
Anthony Philgence	- CAEP
Edward Cumberbatch	- Peace Corps
Joyce Cole	- ISER (UWI Cave Hill)
Yvonne Acosta	- ECLA (Trinidad)

Women's Affairs

Magda Pollard	- Caricom Secretariat
Martina Mathurin	- Co-ordinator of Women's Organizations. Community Development Department, St. Lucia.
Peggy Antrobus	- Tutor/Co-ordinator WAND, UWI
Pat Ellis	- Programme Officer, WAND
Lynn Allis	- Director WID Inc., Barbados
Jeanne Campbell	- WID Minnesota

MUCIA Representatives

Barbara Yates	- Research Consultant
Barbara Knudson	- Consultant

Funding Agency Representative

Tom King	- USAID (Barbados Office)
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WORKSHOP GROUPSGROUP I

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Lorna Luba
George Alcee
Anthony Philgence
Lynn Allis
Barbara Yates

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Andrew Desir
Mary Louis
Hugh Saul
Joyce Cole
Barbara Knudson
Jeanne Campbell

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