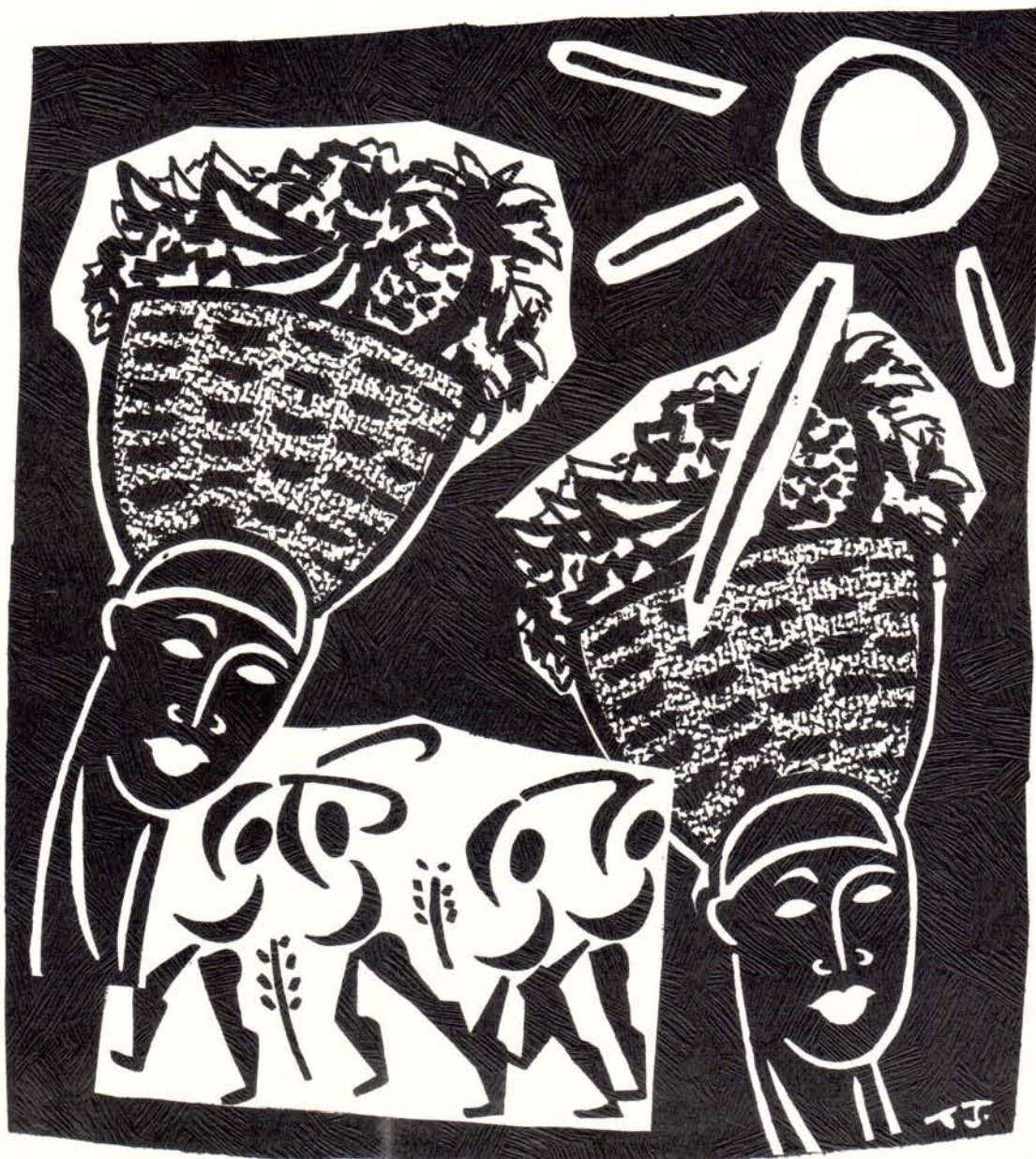
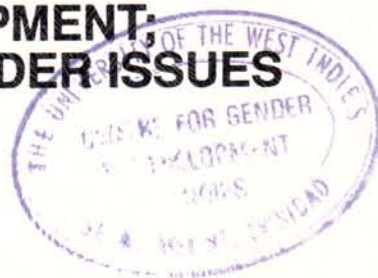


Women and Development Studies
The University of the West Indies

**ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:
AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN AND GENDER ISSUES**

**REPORT
FOURTH DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR
AGRICULTURE**

Room 101, Faculty of Engineering
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.
22-26 January, 1990



WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

*"Alternative Strategies for Agricultural Development;
An Analysis of Women and Gender Issues"*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
FOURTH DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR
IN WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES - AGRICULTURE
held at
Room 101, Faculty of Engineering
The University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad
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INTRODUCTION

From January 22 - 26 the Women and Development Studies Group and the Faculty of Agriculture on the St. Augustine Campus hosted what in a way could be considered one of the more challenging seminars held to date - The Fourth Disciplinary Seminar in Women and Development Studies - Agriculture.

As with the other disciplinary seminars this was aimed at generating a body of knowledge for teaching Women's Studies at the University of the West Indies.

Of significance here however, was the fact that this was the first seminar to be given in the sciences - what has been traditionally considered to be a male dominated field - and thus the outcome of the seminar could be analysed to determine, to an extent, how far tender theories and analyses have penetrated traditionally non-female domains.

Approximately seventy persons attended this seminar. What follows is an account of the organisation of the seminar, the participation, presentations and evaluations, and an analysis of the achievements of the seminar.

ORGANISATION OF THE FOURTH DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR

Background

October 1986, saw the beginning of a five year Project of Co-operation in Teaching and Research in Women and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Institute of Social Studies at The Hague (ISS). This project was funded primarily by the Ministry of Development Co-operation, the Netherlands, and was aimed mainly at assisting in the planning and implementation of a Women and Development Studies programme of teaching and research at each of the three campuses of the University of the West Indies: Mona - Jamaica, Cave Hill - Barbados and St. Augustine - Trinidad.

The activities in this project of co-operation are co-ordinated at the University of the West Indies by the Consultant Regional Co-

ordinator, at present Dorianne Wilson-Smillie, who is based at the UWI, Mona Campus in Jamaica and by the ISS/UWI representative of the project - Rhoda Reddock, who operates out of the UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad. They are assisted in their task by a close affiliation with the Women and Development Studies Group located at each of the three campuses of the University.

One of the strategies in the plan for the introduction of a Women Studies component into the university's curriculum was the hosting of a series of interdisciplinary and disciplinary seminars in Women and Development studies.

The series started off with a round of three interdisciplinary seminars held in 1987; one at each of the three campuses of the University of the West Indies. This was followed by a series of disciplinary seminars, organized in collaboration with the relevant faculties, in the following areas: the Humanities (September 1988); Social Sciences (September 1988); Education (November 1989) and in this case - Agriculture. The disciplines of Law and Medicine are still to be explored in this round of disciplinary seminars.

It is hoped that these seminars, apart from increasing the gender sensitivity of the staff and students of the university, as well as members of the wider public, would also help in the process of building an improved data base of knowledge on issues relevant to women in the Caribbean and provide a coherent challenge to existing knowledge and processes of knowledge creation in all existing disciplines.

Planning

Planning for the Fourth Disciplinary seminar began in early 1989 under the former Regional Course Director Ms. Patricia Mohammed. After Ms Mohammed's departure in May 1989 planning was continued by the Agriculture Seminar Planning Committee. The committee comprised the WDSG Co-ordinator, Dr. Grace Sirju-Charran, the ISS representative, Dr. Rhoda Reddock, as well as Ms. Theresa Ann Rajack, Dr. Laura Roberts-Nkrumah, Dr. P. I. Gomes and Dr. Lloyd Rankine all of the Faculty of Agriculture which co-hosted the seminar.

In August 1989, Mrs. Sharon Soodeen-Karamath joined the planning committee as Co-Director of the seminar. In November 1989 she assumed the role of the Course Director for the Agriculture Seminar and was assisted by Ms. Roanna Gopaul who acted as Co-Director.

Since the Faculty of Agriculture is based wholly on the St. Augustine campus all major co-ordinating and planning activities took place on this campus.

The seminar programme was developed over a six month period by the planning committee which met on a regular basis to discuss the themes, structure, content and resource persons for the seminar.

An interesting development occurred in the final stages of the seminar planning. Dr. Brinsley Samaroo, Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation who had been kept abreast of the seminar plans, suggested that a travelling exhibition on "The Multi-Faceted Life of Rural Women" be incorporated into the seminar.

The exhibition consisted of a collection of prize winning photographs from a recently held competition mounted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA).

Dr. Samaroo was instrumental in liaising with IICA's representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Joan Wallace, whose organisation together with the Ministry of Agriculture played a major role in making the exhibition available for viewing during the seminar.

Publicity for the seminar built up gradually during the months prior to the seminar reaching a peak during the two weeks before the seminar. Press releases were sent to all the media; television radio and key newspaper publications. The week prior to the seminar the co-ordinator appeared along with Dr. Joan Wallace of IICA, on the Trinidad and Tobago Television programme 'Dateline' to discuss both the seminar and photographic exhibition.

Domestic and administrative arrangements preceding and during the seminar were handled by the seminar Course Director and Co-Director along with Ms. Carolynne Moore, of the Women and Development Studies Project office, whose experience from seminars past proved invaluable.

Mrs. Pamela Joseph was recruited the week before the seminar to provide additional clerical assistance.

Acknowledgements

This seminar would not have been possible without the kind assistance of several organisations and individuals to whom we wish to extend out gratitude:

- The Institute of Social Studies and the Directorate General, Development Co-operation, the Netherlands.
- The Institute of Social and Economic Research, the Faculty of Engineering and the Works Department, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.
- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agricul-

ture.

- The Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation.
- The Paramin Women's Association.
- Co-operative Citrus Grower's Association, Trinidad Food Products Limited, Cannings Limited, Amar Holdings Limited, Caroni (1975) Limited, Fernandes Distillers Limited, Solo Beverages Limited.

AIMS

The aims of this seminar were threefold:

1. To investigate women and gender issues in Caribbean agriculture, as they have been taught and researched.
2. To create more effective gender aware multidisciplinary perspectives.
3. To provide information through the findings and materials of the seminar to programmes taught and researched at UWI.

STRUCTURE

The structure of the seminar incorporated several elements:

1. Profile of Participants

Of the approximately seventy persons, including resource persons and/or participants who attended the seminar, a total of twenty-five participants were registered by the seminar's secretariat. Of these, eleven attended on a full-time basis while fourteen were part-time participants. Twenty-one were local (Trinidad and Tobago) participants and four were from overseas - one affiliated with UWI, Barbados; two with UWI, Jamaica; and one Liberian who was at the time reading for a postgraduate degree at the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI, St. Augustine.

Unfortunately, despite all attempts by the course organisers to encourage the participation of members of the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI, St. Augustine, only one member of staff of the faculty was registered as a participant. Perhaps one encouraging point here is that this was indeed a male member of staff. Also two or three other staff members and postgraduate students did attend one or two sessions as unregistered participants. It should be noted, however, that the faculty was well represented in terms of the valuable contribution of

ten of its staff members as resource persons.

On a more positive note, we were happy to receive representation at the seminar from a number of local governmental as well as non-governmental institutions which were either directly or indirectly involved in agricultural and/or rural development. These included institutions involved primarily in agricultural research and/or training at the tertiary level as well as those involved in service and advisory activities.

In recognition of the importance of fostering a multi-disciplinary approach to the women and gender studies issue, the seminar organisers sought to invite the participation of persons from a broad spectrum of disciplines both within and outside of the university community.

Eight of the registered local participants were UWI personnel, representing the following discipline areas: Agriculture, Education, Economics, Engineering, Humanities, Management Studies and Sociology.

However, outside of the university, while there was interestingly, a larger representation of fifteen persons, these were all involved in an agriculturally-related field.

2. Profile of Resource Persons

A total of thirty-seven persons contributed to the seminar's proceedings and these comprised twenty-two local and fifteen foreign persons. Of these thirty-seven resource persons, seventeen were in full-time attendance at the seminar.

The majority of resource persons - fifteen in total, were drawn from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. As anticipated, the greatest component of this number - ten persons were presenters from the Faculty of Agriculture. However, again keeping with the aim of incorporating, as far as possible, a wide spectrum of disciplines into the discussion, specialists in the fields of History, Nutrition, Sociology and Integrated Rural Development were represented at this seminar as resource persons from the university community.

Outside of the university, the seminar benefitted from the contribution of five local resource persons. This number was made up of three persons from the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation; two from the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry; and one from the Caricom Secretariat.

Further, the course organisers thought it essential to encourage some participation by persons who were actual practitioners in the field or who were involved in agriculture at the grassroots level. This was in an attempt to bring some balance into the discussion as opposed to only highlighting the viewpoints and ideas of the agricultural academia. This was also done in the hope that the seminar, in part, could serve as a forum at which the academics would have the opportunity to learn from the practitioners in the discipline and so be more fully sensitized to the issues involved. This two-way discussion, no doubt, could go a long way in closing the gap between research at one end and implementation at the other.

In this light, thirty farmers' co-operatives and organizations were invited to contribute to the seminar. However, only two co-operatives accepted the challenge - one was represented by a female farmer who was also the vice president of one of the more active co-operatives in the country, the other was again represented by a female member of a prominent marketing co-operative in Dominica.

Approximately 41% of the resource per female agricultural labour has made and can continue to make to the development of the sector.

In the final paper in this session, Jean Craigwell took a brief historical look at women's role in agricultural production in Guyana. Attention was also paid to the constraints facing women in their efforts to obtain financial aid. Although no formal policy barriers exist to prevent women from obtaining loans, these women do not qualify for such aid because of their lack of collateral. This is primarily because most of these women are smallholders operating on land owned solely by absent male relatives. This situation dramatically presents a case for the formulation of specific strategies to deal with such unique cultural situations in the Caribbean.

The inclusion of the session on Occupation, Education, Training and the Impact on Agriculture, was considered imperative in order to gain some insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the existing educational system as it relates to the development of a critical consciousness and awareness of women and gender issues at all levels - from students in secondary schools, to farmers, to planners and policy-makers at the regional level.

Lystra Fletcher-Paul's assessment of professional women in agriculture is based on a survey of female graduates of the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI, St. Augustine, during the period 1971 - 1988. This unprecedented analysis revealed a number of interesting findings which could prove to be quite useful for future curriculum development at the university. Some of the major findings include

the following:

- Most of the female graduates had some form of training after graduating and this had served to improve their competence for their present jobs.
- The majority of graduates currently occupy middle management positions within their organisations but few predict that they would be at the head of these organisations in the near future.
- Sixty-three percent of the respondents felt that they did not experience any form of sexual inequality at the workplace.
- Most felt that the BSc. degree at the university provided them with a good basic background but that the programme failed in a number of specific areas such as in its low practical or applied component.

Daniel Thompson and Lystra Sampson-Ovid took a different angle by investigating ways in which sex stereotyping in education has hindered agricultural development in the Caribbean. The common perspective that agricultural science is a subject for boys only, although changing today, has over the years deterred women from taking their rightful place in decision making and policy formulation at all levels.

The age old question of land tenure and the sexual division of labour is one which is quite relevant to the unique situation of the Caribbean with its many diverse and complex forms of family land tenure. These three papers in this session all present a case for women to challenge the rigid and unjust structural limitations under which they live.

Joan French, in her paper on "Gender Issues in Caribbean Agriculture: Methodology and Process in the Movement Towards Change," is adamant that "things will not improve for women in agriculture or for grassroots women anywhere, unless they themselves are empowered to take action on their own behalf."

Michaeline Crichlow raised a number of pertinent questions that challenge the rigid institutional/structural approach to family land tenure." She argues that family land can best be analysed and returned to the context of the smallholder sector in the Caribbean, where most of the women in agriculture are to be found.

Carlilse Pemberton presented some results arising from a study which looked at both positive and negative factors which influence the time allocated to farming by women in south-west Nigeria. He concluded, like Michaeline and Joan, that women can make an even greater contribution to agricultural production if they can

"overcome some of the structures that are imposed by the traditional social structure and value systems".

In an attempt to incorporate the involvement of practitioners in the field and particularly to get the message to women at all levels, it was felt necessary to include a session on "Women in Farmers Organisation and Co-operatives". This session it was hoped would interest not only agricultural academics but also a large number of men and women involved in agriculture at the grassroots level.

Gloria Thomas-Emeagwali, in her paper, examined the "question of organisational strategy as this relates to cooperatives development". Examples of inappropriate technology and funding mechanisms were also discussed.

Heather O'Garro is a programme and training officer with the Dominica Hucksters Association - a marketing co-operative operating out of Dominica and serving the islands of the Lesser Antilles with fresh fruit, vegetables and root crops. She presented an invaluable, firsthand view of the problems that are typical for such cooperatives in the region and concluded with a number of practical recommendations for the survival of the regional trade.

Helen Thomas who is a female farmer engaged in commercial crop production as well as, the vice president of a farmers' cooperative, presented a case for "an appreciation of the impact and organisational capabilities of women in agricultural development". Helen looked at the traditional barriers faced by women in their efforts to gain more than a marginal voice in the decision making mainstream of male-dominated farmers' organisations. She concluded with a number of suggestions for maximizing women's participation in leadership roles in such organisations.

The dichotomy between achieving food sufficiency for the region against an ever-increasing effort to stimulate export earnings, was considered a timely and relevant subject for discussion at this seminar in light of its implications for gender.

Frank Gumbs, in his paper on "Regional Plans for Agricultural Development and the Issue of Gender" made it clear that the question of gender was not taken into account by policy makers at the regional level. He suggests that in the short term, "greater efforts have to be made by women's groups or their representatives to be aware and informed at all stages of the planning of programmes, projects and activities that have important gender issues of concern so that the appropriate inputs can be made".

Curtis Mc Intosh focused on the gender issue in the context of food and nutrition security. This paper, in part, argues that greater participation of women in decision making in the farm households would contribute significantly to food and nutrition security at

the national and household level.

Hugh Saul examined women's roles in agri-business production and marketing systems. He questions women's absence from extra-regional markets, in spite of the fact that they are so "dominant in the local and regional marketing and distribution systems." The seemingly inevitable trend towards agricultural modernization, spurred on by increasingly sophisticated technological innovations have, from the onset, had a negative effect on women's already undervalued and threatened status in the sector.

Winston Harvey's contribution on "Technological Innovations in Agriculture and their Awareness of Gender Differences" quite clearly brings home the point that, at present engineers have little or no sensitivity of the importance of incorporating the gender variable in the design of agricultural equipment and machinery.

Ena Harvey's dynamic presentation provided us with insights into a number of simple and practical ways in which the developing post-harvest technologies could be directed so as to benefit women who are the dominant players in the post-harvest sub-sector. She stresses the need to raise the gender consciousness of women and to encourage them to assert themselves in traditional male domains such as agricultural engineering.

Ann Rajack's contribution, in part, takes us through recent trends in extension planning as it relates to women. She states that "improved agricultural extension can help women through:

1. careful analysis of gender issues with overall extension services at policy and operational levels and
2. consideration of the implications of this into practical measures."

Peggy Antrobus and Jeanette Bell, in their joint presentation, gave an insight into the 'bottom-up' participatory approach which was used by the Women and Development Unit (WAND) in an attempt to influence governments to work with community members as collaborators rather than just as recipients. Peggy concluded by highlighting a number of structural, strategic, methodological and epistemological issues from which important lessons could be learnt.

By focusing on the failure of a development project to introduce charcoal stores in Kenya, Laurie Kelly, like Peggy and Jeanette, stresses the need for programme planners and extension workers to fully incorporate the intended recipients of technological innovations into the planning phase of the programme.

EVALUATION AND PARTICIPANTS' ASSESSMENTS OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SEMINAR

Participants present at the closing session on the final day of the seminar were asked to complete an evaluation questionnaire. The questionnaire, which consisted of twenty questions, was sub-divided into five sections viz. (A) What sessions did you attend, (B) Content (C) Methodology (D) General Concerns and (E) Domestic Arrangements. The questions were so constructed as to allow the respondents a large measure of flexibility in expressing their own experiences and assessing the week's programme.

The response rate was relatively high with approximately 62% of the persons who received questionnaires completing and returning these to the secretariat. The responses were quite interesting in their diversity and seemed to have vividly captured the various moods of the week-long seminar. More importantly, a number of invaluable insights into the participants' perceptions of the major strengths and weaknesses of the seminar were revealed. Also, a myriad of seemingly valid suggestions were made for ensuring the continued success of this seminar as well as that of others in the future. An analysis of the responses to the questions under the five sections of the questionnaire is given below:

A. Sessions Attended

A profile of the respondents revealed that a total of 24 participants completed the questionnaire. Of these, 17% attended all ten sessions of the seminar, 60% attended between nine and six sessions, 21% attended between five and three sessions and 2% attended either one or two sessions.

In analysing the responses to the question on "which session/topic did you find most useful?" it can be seen from the table below that "New Directions in Agricultural Research, Development and Extension" got the most number of votes with 25% of the respondents selecting this session. The next most popular session was that on "Agriculture/Land Tenure and the Sexual Division of Labour" (with 14% of the votes), while the session with the least number of votes being that on "Agricultural Development, Policy and Caribbean Women in Agriculture" (with only 2% of the votes).

Which session/topic did you find most useful?

Session/Topic	% Response
- Opening	14
- Background Papers 1, 2 and 3	5

- Occupation, Education, Training and the Impact on Agriculture	5
- Agriculture/Land Tenure and the Sexual Division of Labour	14
- New Directions in Agricultural Research, Development and Extension	25
- Extension Planning for Women in Agricultural Development	9
- Women in Farmers' Organisations and Co-operatives	7
- Agricultural Development, Policy and Caribbean Women in Agriculture	2
- Video Presentations	7
- Field Trip	5
- Closing Session	7

B. Content

While the majority of the participants were generally satisfied with the choice of topics covered during the seminar, some other topics which were suggested include the following:

- women's legal rights particularly with respect to land ownership
- an overview of the epistemological and theoretical issues on women/gender and agriculture from an international perspective
- women in agriculture as it relates to the preservation of the environment.

There was also the suggestions by a few that while the range of topics selected was adequately comprehensive, greater emphasis should have been placed on some areas such as agricultural education and the inter-related roles of women in agriculture and in health and nutrition.

Another concern expressed by one respondent was that the seminar, although acknowledging that gender issues do not exist by themselves, did not manage to create adequate discussion on other issues. Another respondent felt that there could have been a greater number of case studies to more

clearly illustrate some of the more pressing gender issues in agriculture for the benefit of those participants who were not fully sensitized to the issues involved.

On the question of whether or not the participants perceived that the aims of the seminar were achieved, the majority of respondents, i.e. 70% responded in the positive, 22% felt that the aims were not entirely achieved and 8% did not respond to this question. Some of the explanations which were offered by these respondents who concluded that not all of the aims of the seminar were achieved include the following:

- The poor attendance by staff member of the Faculty of Agriculture would imply that the aim of achieving more effective gender-aware multi-disciplinary perspectives was not realised.
- Greater emphasis could have been placed on policy initiations at the State and faculty levels.
- The aims of the seminar will only be realised when the more critical recommendations arising out of the seminar have served to influence the policy-makers in one way or the other.

C. Methodology

An assessment of the responses in this section revealed that on the whole, the participants were satisfied with the methodology adopted for the seminar. The data which is detailed in the table below, seems to indicate that the small group discussion format was considered more effective than that of the lecture/plenary discussion format, with 47% of the respondents classing the former as very good. However, the lecture/plenary discussion methodology was still in itself highly acceptable with 41% of the respondents considering it as good and 27% as very good. The video presentation/discussion format seemed to have been highly successful with 47% of the respondents regarding it as very good and 27% as excellent. The same could be said of the field trip where 30% of the respondents classified it as excellent. The bibliography was also well appreciated, with 41% of the respondents claiming that it was and good and the same percentage quoting it as very good.

**Summary of the Participants' Assessment of
the Methodology Adopted for the Seminar**

Rating	%Respondents				
	Lecture/plenary discussion	Small group discussion	Video	Field trip	Biblio- graphy
Poor	4	0	5	6	6
Fair	14	16	0	0	0
Good	41	21	21	29	41
Very Good	27	47	47	35	41
Excellent	14	16	27	30	12

A wide range of comments and recommendations were made for an improved or alternative format for Seminars in Women and Development Studies:

- There is a clear need for synthesis of seminars which can be imputed at the beginning.
- There is a greater need for participation by women at the different levels in the discipline including those at the grassroots level.
- Data could have been better presented in some cases by the use of transparencies or by other such support media.
- Need for moderators to more efficiently manage the sessions so as to allow adequate time for questions from the audience. Also, more emphasis should have been placed on starting the sessions punctually.
- Need for more working groups to encourage input from all participants.
- Try to avoid the very formal setting which tends to negatively affect participation.
- Greater time allowance needed for small group and plenary discussions.
- Summary at end was quite useful for putting the major ideas of the seminar into proper perspective.

When asked to comment or state their concerns with the seminar material, a number of constructive criticisms were raised by the respondents:

- Most of the papers have not yet been received.
- Maybe some key background readings could have been distributed.
- Some presenters needed to have done some more background preparation. Maybe some assistance could have been given in this area.
- Ignorance as to what material was available.
- Hope that the papers or at least the rapporteur's summary will be available for discussion on each campus. The publication of the proceedings takes too long.

D. General Concerns

There was a general feeling among the participants that their participation in the seminar would benefit their personal development as well as their work experience. In cases where the respondents expanded on this question, the reason most frequently cited for this positive feeling was that the seminar experience had afforded them a greater sensitivity to many elements of gender issue which they had never previously considered. For others who were already deeply involved in the movement, the seminar served to provide an update of information on the subject. One male respondent felt that he came out of the seminar with a surge of confidence and enthusiasm to incorporate some of the recommendations of the seminar into his teaching in the Faculty of Agriculture. Another respondent indicated that the overall feeling of comraderie at this seminar and the great conviction of some of the participants, left her with a strong sense of purpose in her continuing work on gender relations. One foreign participant felt that the many new acquaintances made at the seminar would serve as an invaluable pool of resource persons she could consult in her future work.

Most respondents were quite satisfied with the choice of resource persons for the seminar. The keynote speaker was singled out by many for her outstanding contribution and so too was the rapporteur, whose excellent report served as a useful and informed conclusion to the seminar.

Apart from these positive comments on the selection of resource persons, there were some concerns expressed by a few of the respondents.

There were:

- Too many personal confrontations during some sessions and this resulted in some of the critical issues not being addressed.
- Too many agricultural academics were involved. Need better balance between academics and practitioners in the field.
- Would have helped if there were more resource persons from other disciplines involved in order to more fully explore the multi-disciplinary element of the gender issue.

With the exception of two of the respondents who felt that the seminar was too short in duration, the consensus was that the duration was "just right". Similarly, two persons felt that the seminar was too intensive and the same number felt it was too easy which the remainder described it as challenging.

E. Domestic Arrangements

The venue for the seminar was found to be acceptable by the majority of respondents. 29% described it as excellent, 34% as very good, 33% as good and 5% felt that it was only fair. The main complaint about the venue was that the fixed rows of seats were not ideal for the small group discussions.

Several other reasonable suggestions were made for improving the domestic/administrative arrangements of the Seminar:

- The public session on Wednesday night should not have followed the field trip as this proved to be too exhausting for most of the participants.
- The personal exchange was invaluable but this may have been better facilitated if persons were more readily identified for example, by the wearing of name tags.
- Information on the seminar for local participants should have been made available earlier so that they could make the necessary arrangements with their employers etc for relief of their duties to attend the seminar.

F. Any Other Comments

This open-ended question elicited a wide range of responses, all of which can prove to be invaluable for the planning of future seminars in Women and Development Studies:

- If papers were circulated before the presentations it would allow for greater audience participation.
- For such a high level of stimulating discussion, I was surprised at the relatively low level of attendance. Where were all the UWI students?
- This is only the beginning of what could be a challenging and creative process.
- I appreciated the spectrum of participation and multi-disciplinary exchange.
- There should have been a separation of the levels at which strategies should be presented. Also, there should have been more time to develop concrete strategies at a personal, institutional, national and regional level.
- There is the need for some follow-up activity. The poor attendance on the part of the Faculty of Agriculture indicates the need for persistence in order to have the issues seriously addressed and acted upon.
- Generally well organised. Participants need to be informed of the receipt of outstanding papers and of the seminar's proceedings in the future.

FOLLOW-UP AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The areas identified for follow-up activity and the recommendations arising out of the seminar, could be categorized into two sections viz. (A) Policy (B) Research

A. POLICY

1. Impact of development process on Caribbean women at the macro-level

The need was identified for studies to investigate the impact of such Third World development process as modernization, colonialism and structural adjustment on the lives and well being of Caribbean women. In order to influence policy-makers, these studies should be concise, simple and supplemented by case studies relating to specific needs.

2. Collaboration between women's bureau and other development machineries

Women's desks should collaborate more closely with ministries, and research and financial institutions if the problems of gender inequality are to be addressed in a meaningful and substantial way.

3. Influencing donor action

It is important to influence donors to respond to women's needs as seen by women rather than to donor-driven development agendas.

4. Analysing women's access to resources for agriculture

Women's rights to land are being threatened in many Third World countries by state policies on issues such as the allocation of land for residential or tourist development projects. Further, policies which attempt to rationalise family land tenure can have a drastic and negative impact on women's rights. Apart from developing a larger data base of knowledge on the impact of such policies on women's lives, this information must be made widely available to the relevant government ministries to enable planners to make informed decisions.

With the shrinking land base and increasing population pressure, an alternative solution arising out of the seminar, was to balance this tradition thrust for land for women with pressure for agro-industrial development and employment plans for women in rural areas.

The African experience has shown that women are increasingly investing in houses in their own villages and through this, investing in their family networks. Comparative studies need to be conducted to investigate whether or not a similar situation exists in the Caribbean, and if so what are the implications for food production and the welfare of women and children.

5. Credit

There is a critical need to improve women's access to finance credit facilities and banking. Financiers should seek to broaden the definition of collateral to facilitate women's legitimate claim for financial assistance under the unique socio-economic conditions in the Caribbean. We can probably build on such indigenous

credit facilities such as the "sou-sou" types of savings with which women have by custom felt comfortable.

6. Training

A number of recommendations for improvement of the agricultural degree programmes at UWI, St. Augustine were made as follows:

- Need to place greater emphasis on agri-business management and computer literacy-training programmes. It was envisaged that this would better equip students with the skills and confidence required to embark on self employment enterprises in the agricultural sector.
- Need to incorporate a greater applied or practical approach into the programmes. This practical component could be facilitated by a period of internship with practitioners in the field. This interaction would allow the students the opportunity to be exposed to the latest technology and expertise available.
- Need to encourage the "development of the minds of the students" i.e. stimulate their innate creative abilities; by fostering a problem-solving attitude. The time has come to discard the traditional systems which crams many courses into a few weeks and thus which inevitable leads to the senseless and useless learning by rote.
- Need to raise the gender consciousness of women so that they are encouraged to overcome their mental block against numbers and machines and so be able to assert themselves in traditionally male-dominated spheres such as agricultural engineering.
- Need for the university, probably through their extra-mural department or for Ministries through their extension agencies to provide short-term outreach courses which, in terms of design and scheduling, take into account women's heavy domestic and child-care commitments.

7. Co-operatives

The importance of strengthening the solidarity relationships among women and of networking among women organisations in order to provide a base for access to power

structures was reiterated during the course of this seminar. Networking among Caribbean women should be encouraged even at more informal levels such as by the formation of alumni of female graduates of the University of the West Indies.

8. Technology

There is the critical need for design engineers to, at least, begin to consider the gender variable in the development of new technologies. Perhaps more importantly, before any transfer of technology takes place, one must carefully consider whether the innovation would indeed benefit women in the long run, or would it serve to erode their income or reduce their status to that of a labour reserve.

A step towards avoiding the under-utilization of technological innovations or indeed abject failure of programmes to introduce new technologies, is to attempt to close the gap between research and implementations. One very effective way of doing this is to incorporate the recipients of the technology into the planning phases. Additionally, it was suggested that by linking female agricultural producers to technological innovations directly without the use of intermediary extension systems they would benefit by having direct access to mainstream knowledge, for example, in the science of crop or livestock improvement.

9. Multiplex Roles

Women cannot be expected to devote more time to agricultural work unless they are relieved in other areas of their lives. We need to investigate the range of work done by women for their livelihood in order to see how their agricultural work fits into the range and how it can be improved in relation to other work and health needs. This calls for:

- (a) an improved data base on women's work,
- (b) a better understanding of household dynamics and the tradeoffs between male and female investment in the household economy,
- (c) a better understanding of the socio-economic and

cultural context in which women work.

10. Statistics

The mere presence of women in what has been traditionally regarded as male domains will do little to initiate change unless the women themselves have developed a gender consciousness and the ability to articulate their concerns. This ability can be developed by interpersonal contact and training, reinforced by workshops and seminars and must not be confined only to women.

11. Women and Food

The neglect of agriculture and more specifically, of women's involvement in domestic food production has led to a food crisis in the Caribbean. A number of solutions, all of which recognize women as a vital factor in the healing process, have been proposed to help arrest this situation.

- Agricultural diversification to increase food production and food security and to lower the food bill by import substitution.
- Increased trading in food within the region.
- Because of increased male migration in search of work, female headed households are on the rise worldwide. Evidence suggests that if female headed-households can receive necessary incentives and policy support they could well become major innovators in the agricultural sector.
- Studies have indicated that as women gain access to more cash they invest the greater proportion of this cash earning in family health and on improving household welfare. This implies that the problem of female and child malnutrition could be addressed in relation to efforts to increase women's case income.
- Support for the informal sector activities in the areas of trade, manufacturing, and food processing and packaging, would lead to a higher financial leverage for women since they are already engaged in these activities.

B. RESEARCH

1. Methodology

There is the need to discard some of the traditional social science methodologies and adopt new ones which deliberately incorporate a component of public education and consciousness of gender issues. These new methodologies should identify the need to adopt a participatory approach so that women are involved as collaborators rather than passive recipients of development programmes. Accepted methodological concepts such as that of the farm family which assumes homogeneity and thus gender equality, needs to be challenged. This can probably be done by adopting a variety of relatively new techniques such as theatre, video productions and other visual methods. It would also be useful to incorporate a political dimension into the research so that women are empowered and trained for leadership roles.

2. Model and Theory Building

There is the need to build models for the unique situation of Caribbean women in agriculture. This seminar has made some contribution to this end, in that most of the papers presented were of an empiricist orientation - a process necessary in the embryonic stages of model building.

Further, the time has come to put Caribbean women in agriculture on the map as Caribbean women and not merely as an addendum to generalisations on the situation in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Although this seminar has started the process, a great deal of work remains to be done in building a comparative framework which incorporates Caribbean women in agriculture.

In our search for feminist Caribbean models we must be careful not to assume homogeneity with respect to race, class, life-cycle stages and socio-economic structures. Also, it would be useful to reinstate culture as a framework for the development of models for Caribbean women.

Essential in our plan to build theories is the need to operate on a number of different levels. In the Caribbean, women in agriculture are not isolated from the national, regional and international process of development or underdevelopment and we need to understand the Caribbean woman within such a broad context.

These suggested models should also adopt a holistic approach. Our models must draw on arguments from a wide range of disciplines. However, we must first question the fundamental theories and concepts on which these disciplines are based before incorporating them into our models.

APPENDIX 1

FINAL PROGRAMME OF THE FOURTH DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR IN WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES Agriculture

Block I, Room 101, Faculty of Engineering
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
22-26 January, 1990

Monday 22nd January

OPENING CEREMONY

Chair:	Dr. Lloyd Rankine
Welcome:	Professor Max Richards
Formal Opening:	Professor Laurie Wilson
Remarks:	Dr. Joan Wallace (Photography Exhibition)
Greetings:	Dr. Brinsley Samaroo,
Keynote Address:	Dr. Achola Pala Okeyo
Topic:	"Gender Issues in Agricultural Innovations: Reflections on the Future"
Vote of Thanks:	Dr. Grace Sirju-Charran

Plenary Discussion

"Women and Land Issues: Some Comparative and Theoretical Notes"	Drs Wicky Meynen
"The Historical and Con- temporary Roles of Carib- bean Women in Agriculture"	Dr Rhoda Reddock
"Historical and Contem- porary Roles of Women in Caribbean Agriculture; a Guyanese Perspective"	Ms Jean Craigwell

Monday 22nd January (Cont'd)

Reception - 7:00-11:00 p.m. Formal opening of IICA's
photography exhibition

Tuesday 23rd January

Sub-theme 1: Occupation, Education, Training and the Impact
on Agriculture

"To Assess the Education
and Training of Profes-
sional Women in Agricul-
ture"

Dr. Lystra Fletcher-Paul
(Presented by Ms Lystra-Ann
Johnson)

"Sexstereotyping and
Hindrane to Agricul-
tural Development"

Mr. Daniel Thompson and
Mrs Lystra Sampson-Ovid

Sub-theme 2: Agriculture/Land Tenure and the
Sexual Division of Labour

Panel Discussion

"Gender Issues in Carib-
bean Agriculture"

Ms Joan French

"New Perspectives on
Family Land Tenure"

Dr. Michaeline Crichlow

"Factors Affecting the
Allocation of Time to
Farming: The Case of
Women Farmers in South-
west Nigeria"

Dr. Carlilse Pemberton

Plenary Discussion

Wednesday 24th January

Sub-theme 3: Women in Farmers' Organizations
and Co-operatives

Panel Discussion

"Women and Co-operative
Development in Nigeria
with Emphasis on Agricultural
Co-operatives"

Dr. Gloria Thomas-Emeagwali

"The Challenges to Produce
Marketing in a Hurricane
Prone Region"

Ms Heather O'Garro

"An Appreciation of the
Contribution of Women to
Agricultural Development"

Ms Helen Thomas

Plenary Discussion

Field Trip

PARAMIN

Sub-theme 4: Agricultural Development, Policy and Caribbean
Women in Agriculture (the Contemporary Situation)

Public Session - 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion

"Regional Agriculture
Development: Future
Plans and the Role of
Women"

Dr Frank Gumbs

"Agricultural Export
Opportunities - Impli-
cations for Gender"

Dr Hugh Saul

"Food and Nutrition
Security and the Gender
Issue"

Dr Curtis McIntosh

Plenary Discussion

Thursday 25th January

Sub-theme 5: New Directions in Agricultural Research
Development and Extension

Panel Discussion

"Technological Innovations in Agriculture and their Awareness of Gender Differences"

Dr. Winston Harvey (Presented by Dr. Ena Harvey)

"The Gender Variable in the Development of Post-Harvest Technology"

Dr Ena Harvey

"Extension Planning for Women in Agricultural Development as it relates to the National Agricultural Policy"

Ms Ann Rajack

"Participatory Approaches to Gender in Rural Development - the Experience of the Women and Development Unit"

Ms Peggy Antrobus/Ms Jeanette Bell

"Notes on Women's Contributions to the Planning of an Improved Cooking Stove Programme in Kenya"

Ms Laurie Kelly

Plenary Discussion

Video Presentations on Case Studies of Caribbean
Women in Agriculture

"An Unending Day" - produced by: Caribbean Association of Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) and Women in Caribbean Agriculture (WICA) Project, St. Vincent and the Grenadines"

Video Presentation

Thursday 25th January (Cont'd)

"Women, Land and Food: Small Farmers in Barbados" - produced by: Christine Barrow and Ellen Frankenstein

Video Presentation

"God Gives Us the Talent" - produced by: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Video Presentation

Visit to *REVUE* Calypso Tent

Friday 26th January

"Implications for Teaching in Agriculture"

Dr. Selwyn Griffith

"Implications for Research and Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture"

Mr. David Dolly

"Rapporteur's Report of Seminar Proceedings"

Dr. Christine Barrow

"Strategies for Agricultural Development"

Group Discussions
(Based on the week's proceedings)

APPENDIX 2

Newsclippings of the Fourth Disciplinary Seminar

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN (16 JANUARY 1990):12

Seminar on women in development for UWI

THE WOMEN and Development Studies Group of the University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI, is hosting the fourth disciplinary seminar on women in development — agriculture.

The theme of the seminar is "Alternative strategies for agricultural development; an analysis of women and gender issues." The seminar will be held from January 22 to 26 at the Faculty of Engineering, Block 1, Room 101.

The keynote speaker is Achola Pala Okeyo of Kenya. Dr Okeyo is attached to the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for Advancement of Women (Instraw). He is also an antropologist and senior research scientist in African agriculture and gender analysis.

Other participants include Gita Sen of the Centre for Development Studies in India, Wicki Meynen of the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands, Joan French of Sistren, Jamaica, and Peggy Antrobus of the Women and Development Unit, Barbados.

PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION

The University of the West Indies
St Augustine

Women and Development Studies

The Public is cordially invited to a
Public Panel Discussion

ON: Wednesday 24th January, 1990

TOPIC: "Food Sufficiency, the Export Thrust,
and the Implications for Gender"

PANELLISTS: Dr. Frank Gumbs (Caricom Secretariat)
Dr. Hugh Saul (CARDI, Grenada)
Dr. Curtis McIntosh (CFNI/PAHO)

VENUE: Room 101, Faculty of Engineering
UWI, St. Augustine

TIME: 7.30 - 9.00 p.m.

Agri scientist advises women: Demand access to technology

A KENYAN agricultural scientist has suggested that the revolutionary path to be pursued by women must concern access to information and technology in order to achieve a quantum leap in agriculture.

Dr Achola Pala Okeyo, Principal Research Associate, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, expressed this view during her keynote address at the opening session of the fourth Disciplinary Seminar in Women and Development Studies, Monday morning at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

In dealing with the seminar's theme "Alternative Strategies for Agricultural

By JOHN KASSIE

Development: An analysis of women and gender issues," Dr Okeyo cited her experience and discussed research findings related to both the African and Asian continents.

Seed Technology

One of the major points put forward while treating with long-term perspectives, options and strategies, the lecturer singled out bio-technology as one of the most fundamental innovations which stands to affect women's scope in agriculture.

"With its capacity to multiply production very rapidly, unless women are



ADVICE TO WOMEN: DR ACHOLA PALA OKEYO, Principal Research Associate, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, addresses the opening session of the fourth Disciplinary Seminar in Women and Development Studies on Monday morning at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. Photo by JOHN KASSIE.

trained in these methods, they will be marginalised by agri-business on new seed technology and production methods."

"One cannot help but reflect that with shrinking land base and problems of ownership already studied in the Caribbean, even the prospect of ownership/entitlement for women is probably an unrealisable prospect in the long run."

Household Dynamics

According to Dr Okeyo, the alternatives that suggest themselves require the linking of women agricultural producers directly to technological innovations, for first-hand access in the mainstream of knowledge in crop and livestock science.

She felt that there is also the need to discover the range of work done by women for livelihood, to see how agri-culture fits into the range.

In addition, an understanding of household dynamics and the trade-offs between male and female investments and the implications for agriculture with



the uptake of new technology by women must be studied.

"However this calls for a better understanding of the socio-economic and the cultural context within which women work, as the time has come for a more detailed analysis of issues, to evolve strategies and plan policy responses to local problems, by means of an interdisciplinary approach."

Improvements in access by women to financial credit facilities and banking was also emphasised as a critical option if their capacity to invest in agriculture by the Kenyan research scientist.

Such access, she added, would open doors for entry in food and agri-processing, while at the same time initiating the start of rural industrialisation as means of increased incomes.

Norton wins Americas colour photo contest

DR BRINSLEY SAMAROO, Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation, formally opened a photographic exhibition at the Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, on Monday evening.

On display are 58 colour and 64 black and white photographs under the theme "The multi-faceted life of the rural woman," selected from 474 entries received in a contest organised jointly last year by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), and the Royal Netherlands Training Centre.

Winning the first prize in the colour section was one of Trinidad and Tobago's foremost photographers, Noel Norton, with "Boiling the Christmas ham." Twenty other nationals entered the competition, while 31 coun-

tries, all members of IICA, from Argentina to the US/Canada, participated.

In the presence of First Lady Zelayhar Hassanali and IICA resident representative, Joan Wallace, Minister Samaroo (at whose suggestion the exhibition was brought to TT after he had viewed it in Costa Rica) stated that the exhibits "represent a wide range of human experience in the Americas, and the strength of character seen in the faces, hands and life of women."

Workshop participants and resource personnel have been drawn from Caricom states, USA, Liberia and Kenya.



PHOTO EXHIBITION: FOOD Production Minister, Dr Brinsley Samaroo, right, cuts the ribbon to declare IICA's one-week Photographic Exhibition open at UWI, St Augustine. At his right are Mrs Gloria Henry, Social Development Minister; Mrs Zelayhar Hassanali and Joan Wallace of IICA. Photo by JOHN KASSIE.

Tomorrow, the final day, a seminar report will be presented alternative strategies for agricultural development, a summary of small group discussions and an analysis on the implications for teaching and research.



OPENING OF SEMINAR: THE OPENING ceremony of the Fourth Disciplinary Seminar in Women and Development Studies was held on January 22, at the Faculty of Engineering, UWI, St Augustine. The seminar was sponsored by the Women and Development Studies Group in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI, St Augustine. Shown chatting at the opening ceremony are (from left) Dr Joan Wallace, Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) representative; First Lady Zelayah Hassanali, wife of President Noor Hassanali; Dr Grace Sirju-Charran, UWI Co-ordinator of the Women's Development Seminar; Dr Achola Pala Okeyo, Kenyan Agricultural Scientist and Dr Rhoda Reddock, Lecturer, Women's Development Studies. *Photo by JOHN KASSIE.*



PHOTO EXHIBIT: UWI historian Dr Bridget Brereton, right, and Dr Grace Sirju-Charran appraise photographs of women farmers. Dr Sirju-Charran was co-ordinator of a workshop on women in agriculture which began January 22 at UWI. The pictures are part of an exhibition of 58 colour and 64 black and white photographs entitled "The Multifaceted Life of the Rural Woman" put on at the UWI Faculty of Engineering to coincide with the workshop. *Photo by JOHN KASSIE.*



HAPPY MOMENT FOR LADIES: THE LADIES in a happy mood are (from left) Indra Kelly of the Ministry of Environment and National Service; Caroline Shepperd of the Wild Fowl Trust and Zaida Rajnauth of the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation. Occasion was the opening of the exhibition, "The Multifaceted Life of the Rural Women," at the Faculty of Engineering, UWI, St Augustine, on January 22. The exhibition was sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation. Chatting at the exhibition in picture below are (from left) Sharon Soodeen Karamath, post graduate student; Jennifer Maynard of CARDI and Ann Rajack of UWI Agriculture Extension Department. *Photos by JOHN KASSIE.*



Alternatives in agriculture

9:30 a.m. FOOD PRODUCTION and Marine Exploitation Minister Dr Brinsley Samaroo will address participants at formal opening of seminar on "Alternative Strategies for Agricultural Development, an analysis of Women and Gender Issues" at UWI.

Role of women in food export

WOMEN'S ROLE in food export will be discussed tonight at a seminar, hosted by Women and Development Studies.

The topic is *Food Sufficiency, the Export Thrust and the Implications for Gender*. Panellists will be Dr Frank Gumbs who'll speak on *Regional Agriculture Development*; Dr Hugh Saul who'll speak on *Agricultural Exports Opportunities* and Dr Curtis McIntosh who'll

speak on *Food and Nutrition Security and the Gender Issue*.

The seminar takes place in Room 101, Faculty of Engineering, UWI, St Augustine, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

DEVELOPED COUNTRIES STILL HOLD THE TRUMPS

KENYAN anthropologist Dr Achola Pala Okeoyo said on Monday "the history of gender inequality and our imaging of future alternatives are very much tied to those iniquitous processes that have characterised our regions from the 16th century up to the present."

Delivering the keynote address to the Women and Development Studies Fourth Disciplinary Seminar on *Alternative Strategies for Agricultural Development: an Analysis of Women and Gender Issues*, Okeoyo said developing world relationships with the international economic system continued to be an extrac-

tive and somewhat rapacious one with the developed countries getting the lion's share of the booty.

Okeoyo, Principal Research Associate of the International Centre of Insect-Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, said some of the obstacles to women's advancement in agriculture could be related to "the lack of access to the basic means of production such as land and little or no access to technological innovations and information."

She said: "Women have also lacked incentives such as credit and extension to help them improve their agricultural work as well as overall policy support to enable them to contribute more efficiently to agriculture and food production."

Okeoyo said the key points that affect women's role in agriculture were:

- emerging developing countries perspectives;
- emerging technological innovations, the role of bio-technology and its impact on the agricultural market;
- social innovation in understanding gender equality and support for it;
- informal sector diversification and investment in agricultural production;
- linking women in agriculture with mainstream development while safeguarding their freedom through organised and participating procedure;
- influencing donor action; and
- relying on more regional markets and knowledge, for example Caricom.

The seminar, which ends tomorrow will include video presentations, a visit to Calypso Spektakula, and a photography exhibit produced by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA).

The seminar is a joint project between UWI, and the Institute of Social Studies at the Hague and is partly funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Development Co-operation, in association with the Institute of Social Studies.

Women's needs

By DEBBIE JACOB

A U.S.-BASED foreign aid organisation thought it had the perfect way to "help" a poor African village. It would bring sophisticated pipes to the small village so that pipe-borne water could save the women from going to the river to wash their clothes. The pipes were installed and the proud benefactors went to collect their many thanks. When they arrived, they found an empty village. The pipes were in place, the water was running but the women were at the river washing their clothes.

Technological fiascos like these are responsible for the world taking people like Dr. Achola Pala Okeyo more seriously. Dr. Okeyo, an anthropologist and senior research scientist in African agriculture and gender analysis at the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, examines the impact of technology on social systems. People like her inform the scientist, who thinks his laboratory invention will save the world, how people in the real world will react to his invention.

In the case of the African village that did not take kindly to the introduction of the pipe-borne water, the social scientist found out the reason: the only time and place where women had the time to socialise was at the river where they washed their clothes. The pipe-borne water eliminated what was an important part of their socialisation.

That incident occurred about 20 years ago. Today, scientists realise the importance of using qualified social scientists hand in hand with research scientists. Social scientists such as Dr. Okeyo are taking

the role of the social scientist one step further. They are examining the impact of technological development on women. They are trying to determine how technology can be designed to be more useful to people and what are the special needs of women who make up the majority of agricultural workers in most of the world.

Last week at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, The Women and Development Studies Group of the University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI, St. Augustine hosted its fourth disciplinary seminar in Women and Development-Agriculture. The guest speaker was Dr. Okeyo. The theme of the seminar was *Alternative Strategies for Agricultural Development, an analysis of women and gender issues*.

"We have learned many things in our studies," said Dr. Okeyo. "First of all, the technology designed so far doesn't increase women's productivity. Most of the technological innovations apply to men while the women make up the majority of the workers," says Dr. Okeyo.

Research shows that women in agriculture have special needs. Their multi-faceted roles mean that many social factors must be taken into consideration if their productivity is to increase.

"Women are involved in home care, trading and child care. Support for women should be structured to take in consideration her other tasks. If there is a conflict of going to the farm or getting a child to the doctor, for example, a woman will choose to take the child to the doctor. This shows that we should look

WOMEN

Continued on Page 38

must be taken into account

'Many policies are not conducive to small producers who are the ones feeding the population'

WOMEN from Page 22

at women's health and other needs. Investment in women's health increases productivity. There should be more linking of women to other social needs," says Dr. Okeyo.

Ironically, although women are taking on the major responsibility in agriculture, discrimination against women in agriculture still exists.

"It has taken many people a long time to realise the importance of women in agriculture. Like any discriminatory ideology, prejudice prevents people from thinking how the oppressed person feels. This has prevented many people from taking into consideration the needs of women while implementing technological change. People are not sensitive enough to women. And women, being the lower end of the scale, cannot make demands. Science and technology needs to be a social movement for women," says Dr. Okeyo.

"Most incentives in the Agricultural Development Bank and most of the technological information don't reach women. Women don't have access to banking and banking institutions. Women don't have access to investment in agriculture. The women therefore, continue to work with traditional methods," says Dr. Okeyo.

"In Asia, particularly in India the Grameen Bank which allows women credit, has proved very successful. In a technological project in Kenya, Women for Health Water Project, women were taught plumbing skills to service and sustain the technology when it was installed. These are two examples that the banking institutions and technology can take

women's needs into consideration for the benefit of everyone involved," says Dr. Okeyo.

Slowly, the world is being forced to focus on women in agriculture. Individual countries are now realising how important the contribution of the small farm, basically run by women is to their economy.

"We have to begin to consider the impact of macropolicies on small producers. Many policies are not conducive to small producers who are the ones feeding the population. The collapse of agriculture in many places has forced countries to go for agricultural aid," says Dr. Okeyo.

The world — from the scientist in the laboratory, to the social scientist in the university, to the extension officer in the field to the politician sitting in his office must learn to take the role of women in agriculture more seriously. Without the contribution of women, agriculture can collapse and the very independence that men have taken for granted while women have been working in the fields becomes lost to all.

APPENDIX 3
RESOURCE PERSONS AND FULL-TIME PARTICIPANTS
FOURTH DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION/ADDRESS</u>
ANTROBUS, Peggy	Tutor/Co-ordinator Women and Development Unit (WAND), School of Continuing Studies (formerly Extra-Mural Department), Pinelands, St. Michael, BARBADOS
BARROW, Christine	Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Government and Sociology, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, BARBADOS
BELLE, Jeanette	Programme Co-ordinator, Women and Development Unit (WAND), School of Continuing Studies (formerly Extra-Mural Department), The Pine, St. Michael, BARBADOS
BHOLASINGH, Deokee	Agricultural Officer I, Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation, St. Clair Circle, Port-of-Spain, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
BREWSTER, Beryl	Occupational Health Nursing Advisor, 17 Gulf View Drive, Glencoe, Point Cumana, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
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DOLLY, David	Lecturer, Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
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HEWITT, Elaine	Programme Officer, Women and Development Unit, (WAND) School of Continuing Studies (formerly Extra-Mural Department), Pinelands, St. Michael, BARBADOS
KELLY, Laurie	Lecturer in Forestry, c/o John de Beer, British High Commission, P.O. Box 625, 44 Main Street, Georgetown, GUYANA
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LEWIS, Charmaine	Agricultural Officer I, Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation, St. Clair Circle, Port-of-Spain, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
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PALA OKEYO, Achola	Principal Research Associate (Anthropologist) c/o ICIPE, P.O. Box 30772, Nairobi, KENYA
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PART-TIME PARTICIPANTS - FOURTH DISCIPLINARY SEMINAR

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MC COMIE, Lilory	Entomologist, Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation, St. Clair Circle, Port-of-Spain, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
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