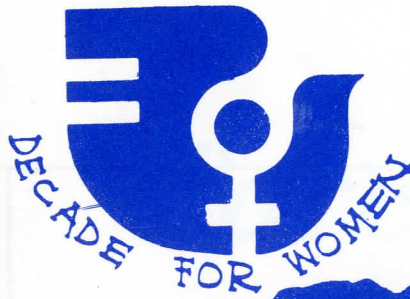


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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER ABOUT CARIBBEAN WOMEN No. 7

May 1982



WOMAN SPEAK!

WOMEN AND
AGRICULTURE

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WOMAN SPEAK!

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Foreword

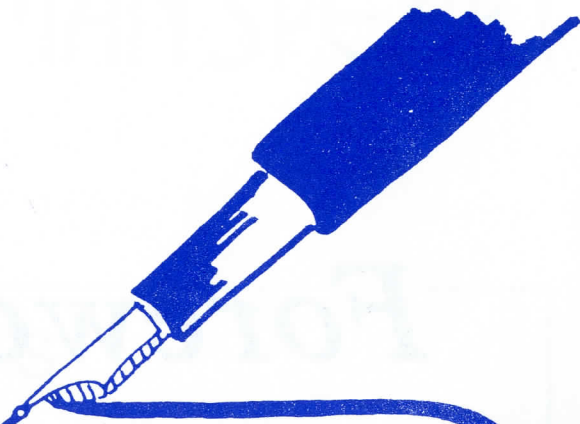
This issue of *WOMAN SPEAK!* departs slightly from our usual format, since most of the material deals with women's involvement in agriculture. We have decided that each of our three newsletters for this year should focus on a specific theme, and we started with agriculture, given its importance to the region. This newsletter, then, is a record of WAND's recognition of the role agriculture can play in solving many of the problems of the region—shortage of foreign exchange, unemployment, and rural underdevelopment. It also features the contribution women have made in the field of agriculture.

But we have not completely strayed from our old format, and you will still find there is news from WAND, CARIWA, and CCW—co-sponsors of *WOMAN SPEAK!*—as well as the usual tidbits about women's activities around the region.

The next newsletters will be issued in August and December. As always, your comments, contributions—including guest editorials—and suggestions, are welcomed.

*Sandra
Edwards*
M. Hope

Guest Editorial



WOMEN AND FARMING

In the Caribbean, with the new awareness of the need to feed ourselves and to allow the land to provide for most of our needs, came the realisation that women have played a significant role in agriculture.

Women were involved in supplying most, if not all in some cases, of the food for the family pot. They featured in the marketing both in the villages and the towns as well as in intra-island trade.

Many women continue to practise backyard farming which helps to supplement their small incomes as maids, washers, clerks or housewives. Many more of them participate actively in producing most of the vegetables for their local markets.

The level of continuing education among these women is not very high, as they have little opportunity to capitalise on training as it presents itself. Most of the contribution of these women therefore goes unnoticed, and they remain quietly in the background.

As the interest in self development and rural development continues, with the emphasis on the people rather than on development sectors, it is hoped that more women will become trained as farmers, marketing agents, agricultural extension workers and other specialists in the field of agriculture. When this happens, the role being played by women in agriculture will assume significance. Hopefully this will coincide with agriculture being given its rightful place in our Caribbean community.

Hannah Clarendon

Ms. Clarendon is Crop Protection Officer in the Division of Agriculture, Dominica.

FEATURE

The Nature of Women's Work in Agriculture

by LORNA GORDON-GOFTON

They have been referred to as "the salt of the earth", "the poorest of the poor", "the backbone of the economy". They toil to feed and sustain society, yet their contribution to agriculture goes unrecognised and largely unrewarded.

While much has been learned about the nature of women's work and their multiple roles in recent years, there is still tremendous ignorance of the social, economic and political factors governing the survival, behaviour, relationships, priorities and aspirations of rural women in agriculture.

Research into the totality of their lives has either been ignored or neglected because of: the low status accorded the peasant class; class-biased notions and presumptions about their existence; the scarcity of women researchers to record their experience and views, and the protective invisibility of rural women themselves.

These women play a major economic role in agriculture in the Caribbean, as farm operators, farmers, farm labourers, heads of farm households and marketers of agricultural produce.

They account for 30 per cent of the agricultural labour force in St. Vincent, 47 per cent in St. Lucia and over 50 per cent in Montserrat and Antigua.

Between 30-50 per cent of female heads of households are engaged in agriculture and such related activities as forestry, fishing and agro-industry.

Women are primarily own-account subsistence farmers, landless labourers and producer/traders. They almost completely dominate the distribution and retailing of locally grown food crops.

Since the 1930s they have shifted from mainly provision production to a mixed provision and export crop production, cultivating sugar, bananas, citrus, coconuts, and a variety of vegetables.

Their working day starts between 5-6 a.m.



They prepare breakfast for the family, . . . about five to eight persons and attend to the young (nursing, bathing, preparing for school) before heading to the fields.

In five to six hours of work, they might engage in weeding, hoeing, planting, reaping and food storage. About two hours are devoted to domestic animal husbandry (taking livestock to pasture or for water, milking the cows, collecting eggs).

Another three to four hours must be found for such household chores as cleaning, washing, ironing, collecting water, firewood, and supervising the processing and preparation of food for the family's consumption. This can entail grinding, husking, pounding of grains, drying, sifting and thrashing.

For women in forestry, employed seasonally in mainly nursery work, their workday includes transporting soil for the setting of seeds, potting, weeding and culling dead or drying plants. Women in fisheries engage predominantly in marketing.

Miscellaneous chores such as inventory-taking, accounting, sewing and personal family business, occupy all these women into late evening.

In any given week, their time may be further extended by external duties related to the family and community.

The producer/traders must find a day to sell some 70-80 per cent of the food grown, in the market place. Some operate stalls for the sale of craft and consumer items, others prepare two ready-cooked meals and beverages for sale in open restaurants.

Invariably they have responsibility for the health of their families, necessitating medical visits. There is also household shopping to be done.

At the community level, midwifery, teaching and child care may be required, as well as co-operative efforts at house and road repairs, construction, food processing and food preservation.

Very few can spare the time from economic and domestic activities for active membership in group organisations, outside of their social network or church. Yet, by membership in policy-making, economic, social and political institutions; by regular attendance, participation, voting on issues, and holding official posts, they can bring their influence to bear on the direction of change in their behalf.

Enlightened self-confidence will encourage women on the farms to increase their decision power (in more than 40 per cent of cases, men make decisions alone) over major issues concerning the management of the farm and production.

In short, chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people. Only action, self-reliance, a vision of self and the future can help women in Caribbean agriculture realize the light of their own freedom.

Jamaican Lorna Gordon-Gofton is a communications consultant.



AGRICULTURAL ROUND-UP

ANTIGUA

Cotton Production

The Women's Action Group in Antigua is moving ahead with its production of sea island cotton. Following the success of their 1981 crop, which yielded 2,939 pounds, the group replanted seven acres of cotton to be reaped this year.

They have also planted two and a half acres in vegetables in their effort to "grow more of what we eat".

Showcase on Agriculture in BARBADOS

At Careers Showcase 1982, held in March, the spotlight was on agriculture.

The annual Showcase, which is organised by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Barbados, is directed at senior students of secondary schools.

This year the focus was on agriculture because, according to a spokeswoman for the Club, that field is very much in the public eye at present.

Organisations with displays at the showcase included the Barbados Agricultural Institute, CARDI, various government departments involved in agriculture, and the Department of Women's Affairs in collaboration with WAND.

BELIZE

Urban Food Project

The Belize Committee for Women and Development reports that it has recruited 10 women to participate in its integrated urban food project, which started last December.

The women, in the 27-40 age group, come from an underdeveloped area of Belize City where the Committee will assist them in setting up backyard gardens.

Committee Co-ordinator, Zoila Ellis, says her organisation intends to help the women select a plot of land in an area where they can work together. A Committee team is already following up this aspect of the project with the Belize Ministry of Agriculture.

"The next step," says Zoila, "is to find out what the women want to grow."

Whatever information the Committee gathers on the project is expected to be used by the Belize Extra-Mural Department of the U.W.I. to start similar projects.

Zoila notes that when the Committee has completed its part of the project it is hoped that women will continue it.

DOMINICA

Food Project Winds Up

The Social League of Dominica wound up its three-year project, "Food for Better Nutrition for Rural Women", earlier this year.

The project, which started in 1978, was aimed at rural women throughout Dominica. It focused on the production and use of local foods to generate income and improve nutrition.

Coming out of this programme were three smaller projects: animal rearing, vegetable production, and nutrition education.

Dominican Hucksters Unite

Moves are underway in Dominica for the formation of a Hucksters' Association.

A draft constitution of the proposed association has already been ratified and an executive elected. Officers are Dora O'garro, president, Beatrice Simon, vice-president; Lucille Romain, secretary; Julietta Wade, secretary/treasurer; Oswald Dupee, treasurer; Ovell Williams, committee member.

The association aims to: promote hucksters' interests; secure financial and technical assistance for members; secure proper packaging material; supply general services such as a storage area, and educate members. It will also act as bargaining agent for the hucksters, set up marketing standards and enforce rules and regulations.

Hannah Clarendon, Crop Protection Officer in the Division of Agriculture, was instrumental in promoting the idea of a hucksters' association. She saw continuation of the hucksters' trade as dependent on the formation of such an association, the first of its kind in the Caribbean.

Already the association has requested technical assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture.

NWO Pushes Agriculture in GRENADA

In an effort to stimulate agricultural production by women in Grenada, the National Women's Organisation is starting a backyard gardening competition this month.

In the Spice Isle, also, the Women's Desk reports that a number of women in the 23 cooperatives started by the National Cooperative Development Agency are showing increasing interest in agriculture as a career. The cooperatives are mostly agricultural.

In fact, according to the Desk, a third of the students in the one-year training course for young farmers and unemployed youth at the Mirabeau Farming School are women.

ST. VINCENT

Women's Group into Agriculture

From St. Vincent comes the news that the Barrouallie branch of the National Council of Women is trying to obtain lands to grow a special kind of root. It seems this root is essential to curry-making, a venture which they hope to start soon.

And in Layou . . . the Women's Progressive Action Group, another branch of the NCW, is being assisted by the St. Vincent Agro-Lab in the preservation of local fruits.

Ms. Erica McIntosh, President of the NCW and Manager of the government Agro-Lab, has been showing the group how to use fruits such as breadfruit, limes and tamarinds to make chips, juices, etc.

The women make the products at home, sell the majority in Layou and small amounts in Kingstown. They are planning to expand these activities and move into a cottage-type industry.

REGIONAL

Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project

The Caribbean Agricultural Extension Project is a regional programme aimed at increasing the effectiveness of national agricultural extension services in the Windwards and Leewards Islands, and Belize.

One of the objectives of the project is to involve women actively and fully in extension policies and programmes.

Collaborating in CAEP are: the Ministry of Agriculture in each participating country; the Faculty of Agriculture, U.W.I.; WAND; and Mid-Western Universities Consortium for International Aid (MUCIA).

Regional Agricultural Coordinating Committee

As the Coordinating Committee of CAEP, RAECC is expected to serve as communication agent for agricultural extension in the region for the duration of the project.

The Committee's objectives are:

- to advise U.W.I. and MUCIA on the implementation of CAEP;
- to link CAEP and the participating territories, and to share insights about regional resources in the development of national extension systems;
- to participate in the periodic evaluation of the National Extension Plans of CAEP.

Serving on the Committee are: CAEP's field team staff; the Chief Agricultural Officer or the Director of Agricultural Extension in each participating country; farmers; representatives of farmers' associations and other extension-related institutions; and a representative of WAND.

The Committee's first meeting took place in St. Lucia in November 1980. A second meeting is scheduled for June this year in St. Vincent.

This country has been chosen so as to include a field trip for committee members to the Rose Hall Pilot Project, noted as an example of integrated rural development.

AGRI- FACTS

Did you know that . . .

of the agricultural labour force in the Caribbean states, women account for:

—30% in St. Vincent

—47% in St. Lucia

—over 50% in Montserrat and Antigua

. . . yet are paid less than the men?

In 1982, in St. Lucia, the guaranteed minimum daily wage paid to general agricultural workers is EC\$9.36 for women and EC\$10.41 for men.

(Source: Caribbean Congress of Labour).

Taking up agriculture as a career? Then you should know that:

The Faculty of Agriculture, U.W.I., has 148 women on its rolls, as compared to 190 men.

And in Grenada one-third of all students enrolled at the National Agricultural College in 1980-81 were women, as compared with less than one-quarter in 1979.*

Women are also enrolled in the fisheries training school in that country.



*(from the updated version of Grenada's report to the 20th Assembly of the CIM, Dominican Republic, November 1980.)

FEATURE

THOSE STRONG WOMEN OF THE GRENADINES

by MORRISON BAISDEN

Agriculture in the world is carried out by women and men and in several areas by very young people. But, because this exercise is visibly dominated by men in the major agricultural countries, we sometimes think that agriculture is a man's field.

This isn't so even among the world's agricultural giants. The huge successes of North American agriculture are based on research and there is many a research laboratory where important work is being done everyday by brilliant, meticulous women scientists.

In the Third World, agriculture in all its forms is carried out by men and women equally. In some cases, only women till the soil.

Closer to home—in the Caribbean—there is not a single crop where women are not involved in its cultivation, harvesting, processing or marketing. In some societies they alone carry out all four phases.

In the Amerindian societies of South America the men clear the land and go off hunting, fishing and lumbering . . . but the women prepare the land, plant and tend the crops, take in the harvest and dispose of it either as food or in the market.

The Amerindians are not peculiar in this respect. In several Eastern Caribbean countries women produce crops for their households and for sale. Perhaps we could look now at one group of women who carry on this practice.

THE GRENADINES

South of the island of St. Vincent lies a string of islets set in turquoise waters and fringed by barrier reefs which teem with every imaginable species of marine life. The lure of the sea is powerful, almost irresistible, here. At the tender age of four or five, girls and boys take to the sea as if it were their natural habitat . . . so much so that their mothers have to battle to keep them in school to finish their education.

But not all the young men can stay away from the water, and eventually they take to the boats while the young women remain at home—some of them—and become expert homemakers.

WOMEN AT WORK

When the rains fall on these semi-arid islands the women are out in their gardens preparing the land and planting corn, pigeon peas, black-eye peas, lettuce, tomatoes and seasoning. Happy laughter rises from below their wide-brimmed hats as hoes rise and fall, transforming what for many months looked like barren earth into fertile fields.

In succeeding weeks the hillsides and valleys become neat patchwork sheets of light and dark green, bordered by rows of white coralline stones.

It is all the work of women and when, in the sun, the sheaves of corn turn to gold, it is they and their children who break the ears, plait the sheaves and hang them close to the houses to dry. It is they who shell the corn when it is sufficiently dry and put the seeds into bins to be stored near the fire where pests will not attack them.

Peas and beans are treated similarly. After the one growing season—for there is only one per year—these industrious women store the produce for the dry season, which lasts the rest of the year.

Meanwhile . . . the men, who no longer ride the oceans, fish along the reefs and on the fishing banks between the islands and return with their catch on evenings to the shore where the call of the conch is soon heard. Those who need come down to the sea to make their purchases.

The women gut and prepare the surplus for drying, some of which will be sold later on in St. Vincent or to the French yachtsmen, but only after a satisfactory quantity is stored so that when the land is parched and the fish no longer bite, the families will still be fed.

STRONG WOMEN

In these Grenadines the families are built around strong, responsible and faithful women; women who know lonely nights and fearful mornings, for their menfolk are at sea—their husbands and sons, fathers and sons-in-law. They are warm, compassionate women . . . strong, brave and industrious.

They are the agriculturists of the Grenadines. They raise the crops, tend the animals, process the fish, manage the money, hold their families together and keep their menfolk hurrying home whenever they can from the arms of Neptune.

They are only one of the many groups of women in agriculture, one of the many groups of women around whom the world revolves.

Morrison Baisden is Agricultural Officer with the Barbados-based Christian Action for Development in the Caribbean (CADEC).

WOMEN IN THE FIELD

Women are going in for more specialised areas in agriculture, as demonstrated by the posts held by the women listed below. All of these women hail from Antigua, the newest independent member of the Caribbean Community.

JILLA BIRD

is a chemist in the Antigua sugar industry with responsibility for the process aspect of the country's sugar production. She is also required to design training programmes for other technical staff. She holds a degree in chemistry and applied chemistry from U.W.I.

DIANNE HOPE

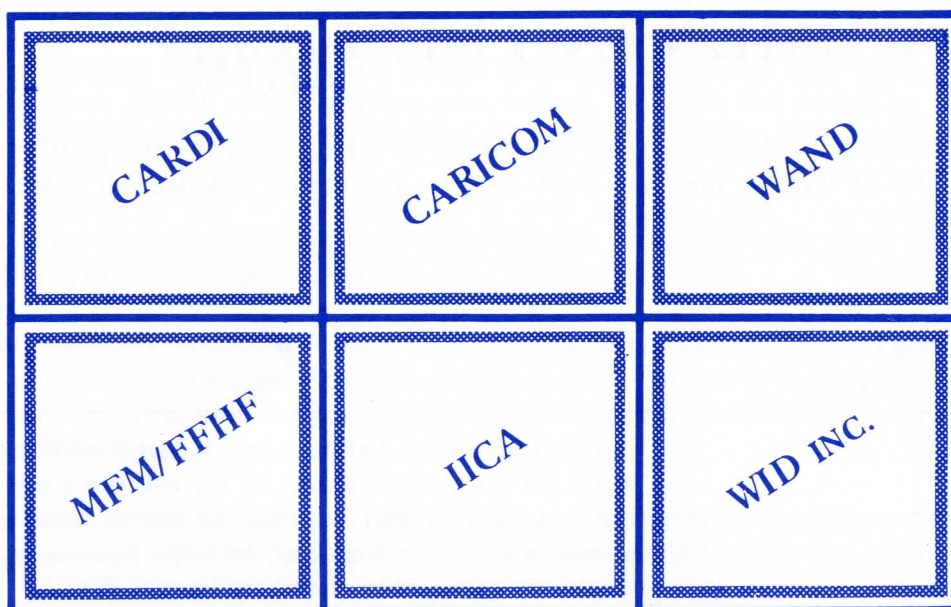
is an economist in the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, a graduate of U.W.I.'s Arts programme and the University of Guelph, Canada, from which she received the degree in agricultural economics and extension education.

FLORITA BOSTON KENTISH

is plant protection officer with the Department of Agriculture. She is a graduate of U.W.I. and the University of Florida.

JENNIFER MAYNARD

is a horticulturist who is presently studying for her MSc (agriculture) at the U.W.I.



A WINDOW ON AGRICULTURE

Within the Caribbean there are a number of regional organisations involved in programmes and projects which wittingly or unwittingly highlight women's contribution to agriculture. In this section we take a brief look at the work of six of these organisations.

CARDI

The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) is carrying out a project which aims to increase small farm production and profitability. Some 120 small farmers, among them women, are involved in the project. One such farmer is the Window Personality of this issue, Leola Davis (*page 16*).

CARDI is also carrying out research into farming systems in *Nevis*, with the aim of designing improved systems.

According to CARDI's country team leader in *Nevis*, Jennifer Lowery, the new systems will consider the constraints farmers face, such as lack of water, capital, markets, etc.

Women farmers outnumber their male counterparts in *Nevis*.

CARICOM SECRETARIAT

The Women's Desk of the CARICOM Secretariat has been directed to investigate the extent and nature of women's economic participation in agriculture.

This directive is the result of a request from the Meeting of CARICOM Ministers Responsible for Women in Development (Dominica, April 1981), that the Secretariat prepare a paper on the role of women in agriculture.

In June last year, the Women's Desk, in collaboration with the Agriculture Development Section,

... Agriculture Window ...

submitted a project summary to the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture. The project was approved and the Desk directed to conduct a study, to investigate women's role in agriculture.

The study, which will cover the CARICOM countries, will focus on one agriculturally active area within each country.

Components within the study will be work and employment; health; education and training; decision-making and community participation.

WAND

Over the past year the Women and Development Unit has been involved in three projects which are attempting to pave the way for the greater involvement of rural women in development.

In *St. Lucia* . . . WAND has collected data about women in agriculture for the research project "Survey on the Economic Role of Women in Small Scale Agriculture". Detailed information was collected on women's role in small-scale agriculture; their tasks; their access to resources—training, credit, land and other services; their perception of their needs; their feelings of self-autonomy; their self-esteem, and their role in the community.

Based on the recommendations of this survey WAND, in collaboration with the St. Lucia Ministry of Agriculture and the Caribbean Research Centre, is carrying out an evaluation of the Apprenticeship Scheme of the St. Lucia Agricultural Extension Service. Under this scheme more rural women could be trained as para-professional extension agents, to disseminate technical information to other rural women.

The data from this evaluation will be used to develop a pilot project in St. Lucia—another recommendation of the survey. The project will focus on the "farm family" and on the women within that family.

Emphasis will be placed on rural women as food producers and on increasing their and their families' economic well-being, improving their health and nutrition and increasing their incomes. Rural women will be involved from the initial stages, and attention will be placed on building their self-esteem, confidence, skills and self-reliance.

Over in *Rose Hall, St. Vincent*, the Unit is implementing and testing a participatory methodology through its "Pilot Project for the Integration of Women in Rural Development". By using the participatory approach, the Unit is hoping to promote and assess the greater involvement of women in decision-making, planning, and executing activities for their own development and that of their communities.

More recent developments at Rose Hall include a proposed workshop on the role of men in that community.

And in *Dominica, Jamaica* and *St. Lucia* WAND is involved in a project to "Assess the Impact of Rural Development Schemes on Rural Households and on Women". This project will test a strategy for analysing the impact that large-scale development projects have on rural women.

The strategy will also help planners and policy-makers to understand what factors should be considered or included in national development plans to ensure greater access for women to resources, training and support systems.

Collaborating with WAND on this Project are the Ministries of Agriculture, Women's Desks/Bureaus and National Planning Agencies in the three countries.

... Agriculture Window ...

MFM/FFHF

From Antigua . . . the Caribbean Programme Director of the Meals for Millions/Freedom From Hunger Foundation reports on some of the projects that organisation is involved with there.

The Director, Ruth Spencer, notes that 15 women were among 40 gardeners participating in a "Gardening for Self-sufficiency Workshop" sponsored by MFM/FFHF earlier this year. The participants included old gardeners who brought a wealth of local agricultural practices to the workshop.

The sessions, which took place at the University Centre, introduced the gardeners to a variety of methods such as how to test soil samples, how to make liquid fertiliser, and how to save seeds.

MFM/FFHF horticulturist from Arizona, Jane Nyhuis, conducted the workshop. It is expected that a follow-up to the workshop will be the publication of information on local agricultural practices.

Ruth also reports that 31 small farmers, many of them women, are to benefit from the setting up a water catchment scheme in Willikie's, Antigua. Schemes are also being set up in other rural areas to encourage year-round production and to bring people back to the land.

In addition to the above projects MFM/FFHF has also set up a garden at the Carty's Hill Clinic to provide foods for use in demonstration classes for pregnant and lactating women.

IICA

In Jamaica . . . the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is involved in a technology transfer project for women working in production and marketing.

The Costa Rican-based organisation is collaborating with the Home Economics Department of

the Jamaica Ministry of Agriculture to develop production projects such as goat-raising, wood handicrafts, and salt and smoked fish processing in seaside areas.

The Jamaica project is one of a number of "technology transfer" projects sponsored by IICA in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In further news from IICA . . . that organisation reports that it hopes to place a marketing specialist in its Barbados office to provide technical assistance to women's organisations in the Eastern Caribbean.

IICA also sponsors the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development. The award is a public recognition of women in the Americas, Latin America and the Caribbean who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to rural development in general, and to improving rural life in their countries in particular.

Candidates include professional women or other women working, or having worked, in any field involving the participation of women in rural development . . . But their work must take place in the territory of member states of IICA.

The award is granted once every year to one woman.



... Agriculture Window ...

WID, INC.

In *Barbados*, Women in Development Inc. has been working with Green Fingers, a four-member horticultural project which was initiated by the government-sponsored Skills Training Programme.

WID helped the group to understand and use the basic skills necessary to turn their technical training into a business venture. These skills included book-keeping, pricing, purchasing, marketing and human relations. WID focused on the human relations aspect to help the students towards greater awareness and skills in communication and interpersonal relationships. Attention was also given to identifying and examining group goals and the individual's commitment to these goals.

Practical marketing and public relations exercises allowed the students to come into direct contact with the public and so put some of their knowledge into practice.

Green fingers moved from a training exercise to a business activity after the participants purchased gardening equipment and set up a nursery. They are now providing landscaping and other horticultural services to individuals and hotels.

WID has also been assisting Bajanne Producers, a group of women who do fruit preservation, using only local fruit. Their project involves making dunk prunes, mixed fruit, syrups, cakes, raisins and fruit fillings—their ultimate aim being some measure of import substitution.

While the Department of Women's Affairs handled the practical skill training, WID was responsible for the business aspect of the project, such as record-keeping, marketing, banking, pricing, purchasing, budgeting and human relations.

The women tested the market response by setting up stalls outside supermarkets, and selling to friends and at exhibitions. Most of their products are now sold only to a major supermarket. Market research has however shown that the quality of the product makes it acceptable to hotels and other supermarkets. The problem now is to produce a greater quantity to satisfy this demand.

WID notes that this business highlights the urgent need for recognition of the need to either identify or plant enough trees to satisfy the great demand for local fruit which this venture creates. This would mean the creation of employment not only for the women involved in the project, but also for those who are involved in the agricultural aspect which, if not developed to its fullest potential, will deprive the project of the raw materials it needs to move from a small cottage industry to a full-scale business venture.

... Agriculture Window ...

PERSONALITY

One of the 120 small farmers involved in the CARDI project in St. Vincent is Leola Davis. She is not a typical small farmer, but is demonstrating just how successful women in agriculture can be.

Along with her two daughters, Leola has developed a viable farming system on a 2.1 acre holding. Her farm brings in a fair income and she herself is quite knowledgeable about agriculture. For instance, she knows exactly how many banks her fields will hold and how long it will take hired help to prepare them. She balances chemical inputs like fertilisers and pesticides with organic inputs of pen manure and proper field sanitation. When she sells her bananas, only a small portion are rejected.

An additional factor contributing to her success is the close proximity of other members of her family with whom she exchange both food and labour.

Banana and sweet potato are the main crops on Leola's holding. She also grows a wide range of ground provisions—tannia, dasheen, yam—as well as chive, ginger, corn, string beans and pigeon peas. She cultivates eggplant too, a rare but high-value cash crop for St. Vincent farmers. She has two cattle, 10 sheep, some rabbits and about 50 chickens.

Leola astutely markets her produce, using the most common marketing channel—hucksters—two of whom visit her farm regularly. She also sells through the Eastern Caribbean Agencies. She keeps the produce for home consumption, and whatever remains after being eaten or sold is disposed of within the community.

Leola Davis' enterprise makes it difficult for one to believe that despite the fact that women comprise over 30 per cent of the total agricultural labour force, the majority remain at a subsistence level. The difference with Leola lies in her understanding of the farming system and in her years of experience. "I believe it is my ancestry," she says. "My people, who came from Scotland, were farmers and I have been farming a long time."

PROFILE

How many times have you admired a well-kept, refreshingly green lawn or a beautifully landscaped garden? Did you ever wonder about the amount of work that has gone into their upkeep?

Margaret Lovell cares.

In fact, she goes so far as to advise that if you want a lawn you must: "Weed the area, clear away any stones, soak the soil and, if needed, bring in soil to spread over it. Then, wet it down and level it."

Margaret, 23, and mother of a 4-year old, is a horticulturist from Barbados. A graduate of the Barbados Government's skills-training programme, she has been trained in lawn planting and maintenance, grafting and layering.

After leaving Springer Memorial Girls School in 1976 Margaret worked in a garment factory for a while but left because, says she, "I got fed up. You know, I see people who work in a factory for years and they get no pension . . . nothing".

She then tried domestic work but soon quit when she realised she was leaving her housework to do somebody else's. At home for some months, she spent more time in her vegetable garden and developed a 'feel' for the soil. So, it seemed a natural course to follow when she heard on the radio that the skills-training programme was providing courses in horticulture.

She started training at the Sayes Court Centre in January 1981 and received her certificate eight months later.

Only two other women were on the course. Now Margaret and one of the male participants in the course have formed a partnership and set up a plant nursery at Sayes Court on a piece of land leased to them by the government. Here they plan to grow fruit trees and plants.

MARGARET LOVELL

Barbadian Horticulturist

Margaret's working day starts at 7 a.m. She and her partner, Glyne Sealy, do jobs mainly for private clients who may want additions or improvements to their garden, or to have their lawns beautified.

The reputation of these two has spread, and clients keep them in mind for future jobs or recommend them to others.

Working the land is Margaret's own brand of happiness. "I feel good," she declares. "It's nothing to be ashamed of; I can find work all year round."

Gardening is hard and, at times, back-breaking. In a day's work this young woman may have to pick up a seemingly endless crop of stones and cart them away before weeding, hoeing and forking the earth. It's all done outdoors usually under a scorching sun.

But the hard work does not daunt Margaret whose motto is, "As long as you are working honestly, go ahead and do it".

In future, she hopes to do lawn maintenance on a bigger scale, for hotels, for example.

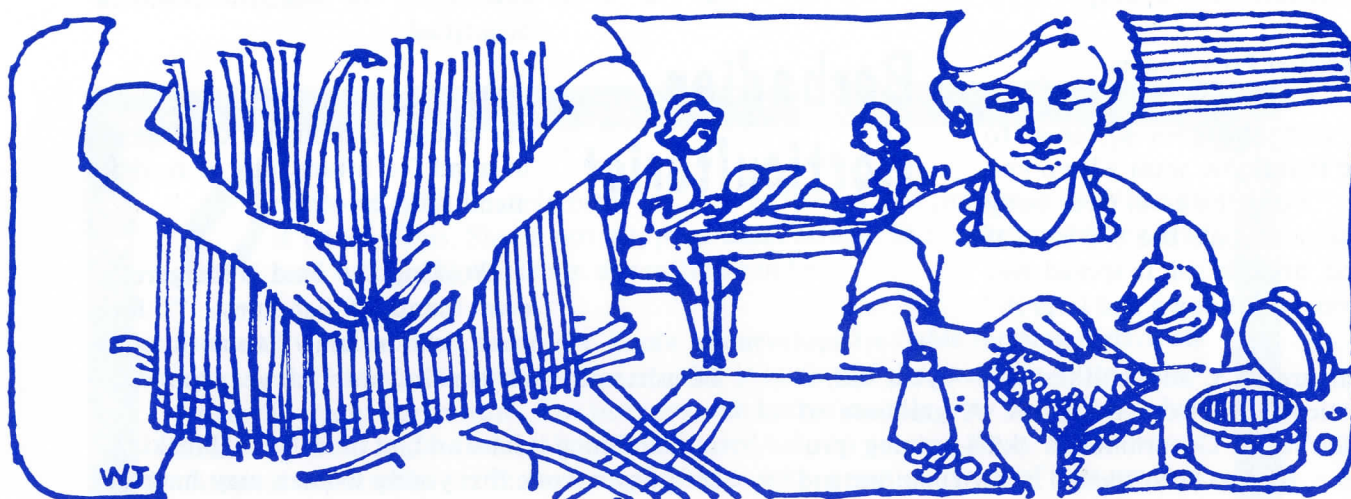
In a society where people shy away from agricultural pursuits, Margaret's chosen field was bound to provoke some negative reaction. Her sisters, for example, felt she should have been a secretary or something along that line.

"I do what I like doing best," Margaret claims. "Besides, I don't like indoor work. And if I go and work for somebody else I wouldn't get the amount of money I am getting now. I don't have any regrets and I don't think I will get any, either."

At her home in Licorish Village, My Lords Hill, Margaret relaxes at needlework—her hobby—not gardening. For although her job is rewarding and satisfying it is also extremely demanding.

... NEWS FROM WAND ...

Nevis Crafts Workshop



Following the "Workshop on Craft Designs" held in Nevis last year, the Ministry of Nevis Affairs has offered the use of the workshop venue, 'Bellevue', to the Nevis Handicrafts Cooperative (NHC), which will use 'Bellevue' as a training and production centre.

The workshop was sponsored by WAND in collaboration with NHC, Nevis Board of Tourism, and St. Kitts/Nevis Youth and Community Development Division. Funding was provided by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Objectives of the workshop were to: improve participants' crafts skills; focus on greater use of local raw materials; examine the importance of quality control in craft production; expose participants to aspects of production and marketing; and increase the awareness of using crafts to generate income.

The 35 participants came from Nevis, St. Kitts, Antigua, Anguilla, Montserrat and Dominica.

Technical Coordinator of the workshop was Michael Nicholls, designer and former craft officer with the St. Vincent Craftsmen's Cooperative. Sheila Leslie-John, WAND's programme officer responsible for craft development, coordinated the planning and administration.

The workshop was opened by the Minister of Finance and Nevis Affairs, Simeon Daniel, and the closing address delivered by Ivor Stevens, Minister of Communications, Works and Public Utilities.

... NEWS FROM WAND ...

WOMEN'S STUDIES AT UWI?

A Steering Committee has been formed to establish a women's studies network on the three campuses of the UWI. The Committee evolved following two days of discussions in Barbados in March on a proposed programme of women's studies for the UWI.

It comprises one representative of each campus. They are Marlene Hamilton—Mona; Kathleen Drayton—Cave Hill; Gwendolyn Williams—St. Augustine (to be confirmed), Peggy Antrobus, Tutor/Coordinator—WAND; and Joycelin Massiah, Deputy Director—ISER.

One of their tasks will be preparation of an indepth proposal for submission to the UWI sometime next year.

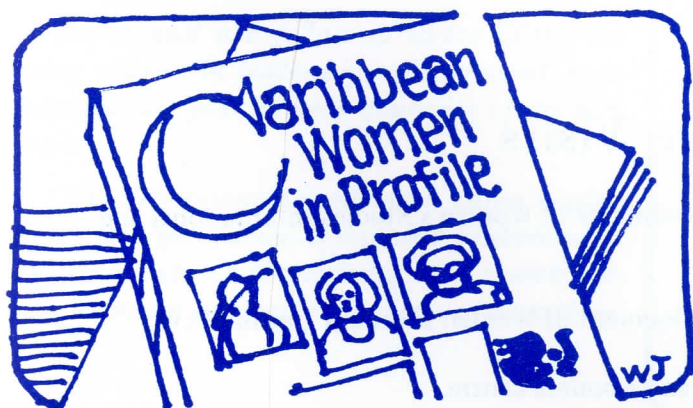
The Barbados meeting, which was coordinated by the Institute of Social and Economic Research and WAND, was chaired by Ms. Joycelin Massiah.

Attending the meeting were members of the staff from WAND, ISER, the UWI campuses, the University of Guyana, the St. Vincent Teachers' Training College and the Caribbean Examinations Council. The participants have all been involved in research and teaching on women's issues.

The meeting discussed a background paper by Rhoda Reddock on "Women's Studies at the UWI: A Preliminary Proposal" and outlined objectives, content and strategies for teaching, research and publications, and extra-mural aspects of a programme.



Profiles of Contemporary Caribbean Women



WAND is producing a book on the contribution of Caribbean women to their societies.

The book will consist of profiles of two women from each of the 12 English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Some of the profiles are already being tested in secondary schools in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad. They are also being adapted, for use in primary schools, by Ms. Viola Thomas, Vice-Principal of the Teachers' College, St. Vincent, and Austin Nurse, Project Implementation Officer of the Primary Education Project in St. Vincent.

On completion, the book is expected to be used in high school social studies and history classes.

...NEWS FROM WAND...

Taking Off

WAND's Programme Coordinator, Pat Ellis, was off to Costa Rica last November to attend a workshop on "The Improvement of the Quality of Rural Family Life", sponsored by IICA.

Attending also were participants from Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, and Latin America.

Hardly had Pat settled into the workshop before she was winging her way across the world to India to a conference on adult education sponsored by the International Council of Adult Education.

Senior Administrative Assistant, Margaret Sardinha, paid a brief trip to Grenada early in March to represent the Unit at the NNO's International Women's Day rally.

Staff Changes

Since the last issue of *WOMAN SPEAK!* WAND's staff has changed. In addition to the Tutor/Coordinator, Peggy Antrobus, the present staff are:

Pat Ellis	—	Programme Coordinator
Sheila Leslie-John	—	Programme Officer
Norma Shorey	—	Programme Officer
Leslie Whatley	—	Communications Officer

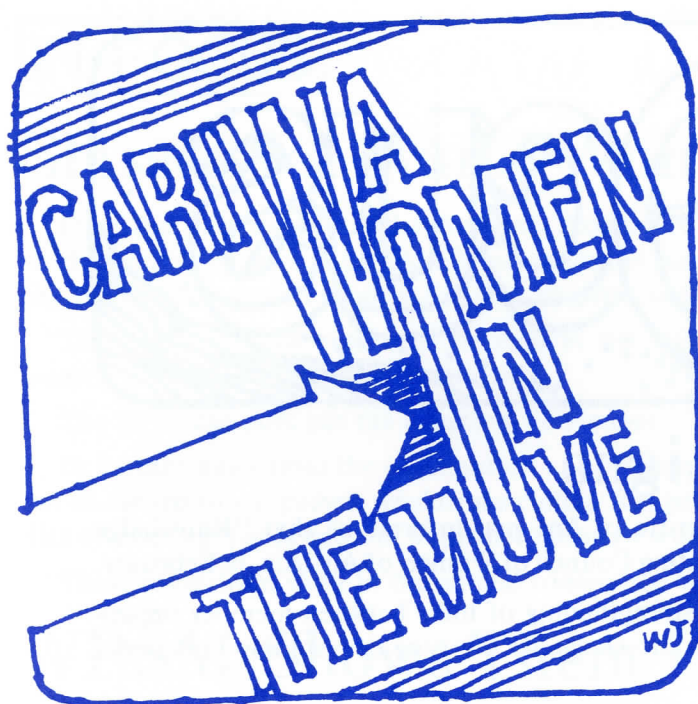
Margaret Sardinha	—	Senior Administrative Assistant
Averelle Mosley	—	Administrative Assistant (Accounts)
Sandra Edwards	—	Administrative Assistant (Communications/Documentation)
Brenda Thomas	—	Secretary to Tutor/Coordinator
Joyce Harris	—	Stenographer/Clerk
Gwen Archer	—	Stenographer/Clerk
Veronica Duke	—	Stenographer/Clerk
Deborah Austin	—	Office Assistant

Florence Howe Visits

Earlier this year, WAND welcomed Florence Howe, Coordinator of Women's Studies International and Director of the Feminist Press.

While here, Ms. Howe gave a presentation on "The Development of Women's Studies", at the U.W.I.

Women's Studies International is a U.S.-based network and resource centre.



NEWS FROM CARIWA

The 11th biennial conference of CARIWA was held in St. Kitts from April 30-May 1 this year, at which time a new executive was elected.

The theme of the meeting was "Women on the Move".

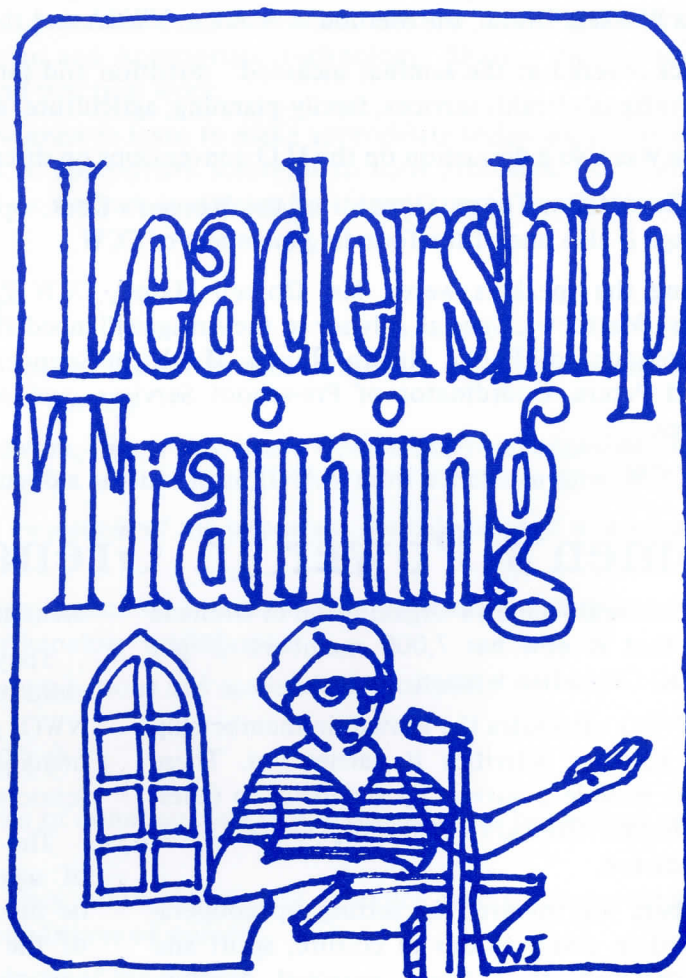
The organisation will be producing a newsletter to mark the conference.

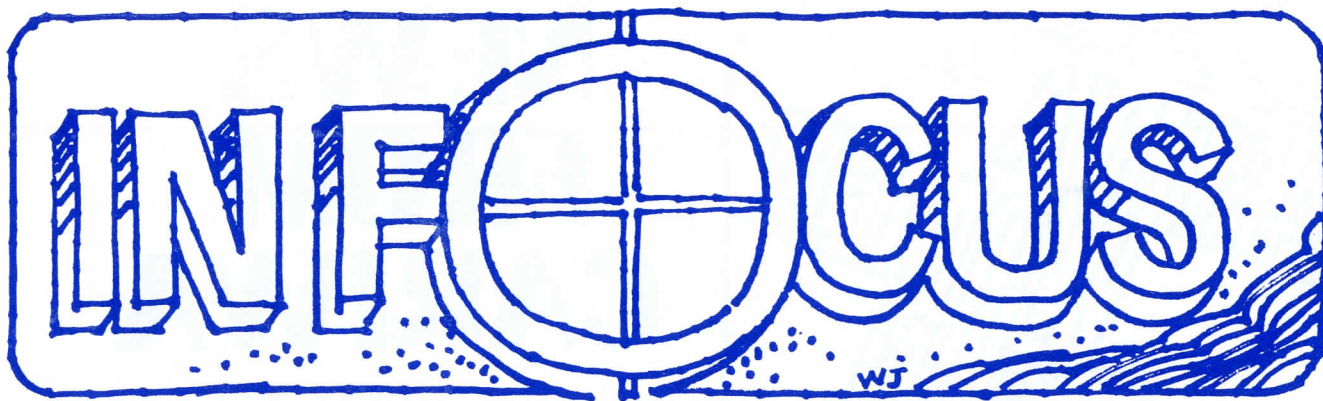
CCW REPORT

The Trinidad sub-region of the CCW has produced a Leadership Training Exercise Manual for women in development.

The manual is a follow-up to the CCW's ongoing courses in leadership training which were initiated last year in some countries of the sub-region.

CCW Sub-regional Coordinator, Lorna Rigsby, notes that the manual is intended to share some of the inputs of the training with church women's groups and secular women's organisations.





Women's Seminar—Antigua

Dr. Edris Bird, Resident Tutor at the University Centre in Antigua, informs us that "Knowledge Building" was the theme of a seminar held by the Coordinating Council of Women of Antigua, in February.

The seminar aimed to create an opportunity for the strengthening of links between member organisations of the CCW, and to increase those organisations' knowledge of the type of resources in Antigua which could contribute to their effectiveness.

About 25 women attended the seminar. They were drawn from the Anglican Mothers' Union, Green-bay Women's Fellowship, Moravian Women's Fellowship, Catholic Women, A.T.L.U. Women's Auxiliary, Antigua Workers Union, the Methodist Women, YWCA and the Nurses' Association.

Topics covered at the seminar included: nutrition and family health; programme planning; the benefits of Antigua's health services; family planning; agriculture, and fund-raising.

There was also a discussion on the ILO conventions on discrimination and maternity benefits.

Ms. Gwendolyn Tonge, Director of the Women's Desk, opened the seminar and gave the lead address. Ms. Tonge is also one of the founding members of CCW.

Among the speakers were: Ms. Doreen Mason, CCW President; Ms. Lila Simon, CCW Secretary; Ms. Daisy Matthews, Special Adviser to the Antigua Planned Parenthood Association; Nurse Ineta Wallace, Superintendent of Public Health Nurses; Ms. Ruth Spencer, Caribbean Director of MFM/FFHF; Ms. Winifred Peters, Coordinator of Pre-school Services, and Mr. Cuthbert Prince, Acting Labour Commissioner.

The CCW, with assistance from WAND, is producing a document on the seminar.

Women's Power in Grenada

The National Women's Organisation in Grenada reports that it now has 7,000 members—27 per cent of all Grenadian women.

The NWO attributes the growth in membership to the kind of activities it carries out. These activities include a survey by members to determine whether Grenada's Maternity Leave Law is being violated.

Members are involved in setting up cooperatives, and in competitions in culture, sport and crafts designed to enhance personal develop-

ment and creativity.

They are also expecting to raise funds for new child care centres, and two members of every NWO group will be elected to newly created management committees of all pre-primary schools and government nurseries.

The organisation is represented on the boards of several national agencies and, this year, will be involved in the planning and implementation of the new tourism policy, the primary health care system, and the land reform programme.

IN FOCUS

Classes for Rural Women in Guyana

Over the past two years the Women's Progressive Organisation in Guyana has been sponsoring one-week practical courses in handicraft for women in rural communities. The classes also include sessions on the struggle for women's rights; first aid; hygiene; nutrition; birth control and child care.

The first one-week course to be held in the city of Georgetown took place in February, at which women from all over Guyana participated.

The WPO also puts out the quarterly newspaper, "Women Unite".

In further news from the organisation . . . Women at a seminar of working women, held last September in Georgetown, passed resolutions calling for: protection of domestic workers; restoration of subsidies of essential foods and full implementation of women's rights.

These resolutions went to the annual conference of the Guyana Trades Union Congress.

WRSM Shows Them How

Starting last October, the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement went on tour of the Caribbean to share their experiences in appropriate technology with other Caribbean women.

In each island they visited, the Guyanese group mounted an exhibition of their work in the field through a slide/tape presentation entitled "Women and Appropriate Technology: Sharing the Guyana Experience", and through models, photographs and practical work.

From this tour the WRSM expects Caribbean women to learn to make appropriate technology devices to improve their standard of living, and to think of appropriate solutions to their problems. For itself, the group hopes to gain valuable knowledge and experience in developing its programme in appropriate technology for rural development.

Olive Lewin on Tour

Jamaican folklorist and musician, Olive Lewin, recently went on tour of the U.S. east coast as part of that country's celebration of Black History Month, February.

The tour was sponsored and organised by Roadwork, Inc., a U.S.-based women's cultural organisation, in consultation with WAND.

It was aimed at furthering understanding and awareness of the important contributions of women in Afro-Caribbean societies.

On the tour, Ms. Lewin demonstrated the significance of women's roles in traditional folklore in Jamaican culture through music, narrative and participatory workshops.

The tour took in community groups, cultural organisations and academic institutions.

On the Air with Women

"Perspectives on Women" is the title of a series of consciousness-raising programmes being aired on Radio St. Vincent.

To date, 23 programmes have been produced. They deal with a variety of topics, among them women and health, women and business, and the labour conditions of women.

Vincentian journalist, Hyacinth Charles, is producer of the series.

IN FOCUS

News from El Salvador

This month *WOMAN SPEAK!* received a letter from a sister in strife-ridden El Salvador. She wants back issues of our newsletters, and newsletters from women's organisations in the region.

If you do produce a newsletter, send a copy to:

Antonia Cañas Velásquez
Colonia Amatepec
Edificio 37 Apartamento 23
Final Avenida "Los Pinos"
Soyapango
San Salvador, El Salvador

NOW Lectures

The National Organisation of Women in Barbados is sponsoring a series of lectures/discussions on the theme "The Home Builds The Nation".

The lectures are geared to acquaint all women with the social, political, economic and religious issues in Barbados.

They are held on the last Saturday of every other month at the Hilton Hotel.



March 8 was International Women's Day and various women's organisations throughout the region joined their sisters around the world in celebrating this event. But for the reason behind the commemoration of this day we must go back to March 8, 1908. On that day women workers in New York, U.S.A., held a rally to demand trade union rights which would ensure fair wages for their work and safe working conditions.

The success of the rally encouraged women in other American cities and other countries to organise for their rights and, in 1910, Clara Zetkin, a leader of the German Socialist Party, asked that March 8 be celebrated as International Women's Day.

Women's Desk— Dominica

The Desk started a national quiz on March 8 for secondary schools on the theme, "Women in Development". The quiz aims to increase public awareness of women's role in development and to give women a sense of worth.

An exhibition of women's activities in the fields of handicraft, horticulture, agriculture, food and nutrition and preservation, was also held to mark the day.



IWD DAY

Cultural Market Day—Belize

IWD was celebrated this year in Belize for the first time, although a Cultural Market Day organised by the Belize Committee for Women and Development.

Women from four districts of Belize came together in Belize City where they displayed or sold their crops and crafts.

But the highlight of the day's activities was on-the-spot cooking of traditional foods—especially

those of the Garifuna (Black Caribs) culture—steelband performances and Garifuna dancing.

The Committee chose this time to share their information about IWD and to invite the women to talk about themselves.

The event was funded by the Belize Council of Churches.

WOMEN'S BUREAU—JAMAICA

The Bureau of Women's Affairs chose this day to launch an on-going training programme in which elderly people with scarce or unusual skills will train young, unskilled women.

The Council of Voluntary Social Services and the National Council for the Aged are also involved in the project.

The training programme started March 8 with the first of two one-day demonstration workshops.

Among the skills demonstrated were traditional methods of preparing food, various types of needlecraft, pottery and restoration of antique furniture. Elderly resource people were drawn from several parishes for the workshop, which were held in Kingston and St. Mary.

The Bureau says its main target group is unskilled, unemployed women between 14 and 25 years—a group now experiencing nearly 70 per cent unemployment.

NWO — GRENADA

In Grenada, they celebrated IWD with a rally which was attended by women from other Caribbean countries, Latin America, and the international socialist community.

Theme of the rally was "Women Committed to Economic Construction".

IT'S THE LAW!

BARBADOS FAMILY LAW

The Family Law Act, which was passed in February this year, gives legal status to the concept of marriage counselling for the first time in Barbados.

The Act integrates marriage counselling, which existed informally, with other aspects of family law by providing for the continuation of the Family Services Division of the Welfare Department. It also provides for other organisations approved by the Attorney General, after consultation with the Ministry responsible for social welfare, to be registered as marriage counselling organisations.

The Act provides also for counselling and reconciliation where divorce proceedings have been started. In such circumstances it is the duty of the judge or magistrate to determine whether or not reconciliation is possible, and if so, to take appropriate steps for counselling.

Attorneys-at-law engaged in issues between parties to a marriage that may result in divorce proceedings are bound under the Act to consider reconciliation of the parties and to take appropriate steps in that regard.

The Act prescribes "irretrievable breakdown of a marriage" as the single ground for divorce, thus abolishing the fault concept whereby the party seeking divorce had to prove cruelty, adultery, desertion or the other party's unsoundness of mind.

With regards to the custody of children, maintenance and alteration of property interests, the Act recognises unions other than marriage. It provides that both parties to a marriage or union have joint custody of each child under 18, thus giving equal standing to both parties in proceedings for the custody of a child.

The Act also provides that a party to a marriage or union other than marriage must maintain the other party where one party cannot support him or herself, whether it be by reason of having the care or control of the children of the marriage or union, or because of age or physical or mental incapacity.

DOMINICA MAINTENANCE ACT

The Dominica Parliament has passed the Maintenance Act, empowering a magistrate to order the reputed father of a child to pay up to E.C.\$30 weekly towards its maintenance.

The amount is to be determined by the man's circumstances.

The Women's Desk in Dominica has hailed the Act as a measure which will greatly improve the plight of single women with children.



ST. VINCENT INCOME TAX AMENDMENT

Meanwhile, in St. Vincent, recent legislation in the form of the Income Tax Amendment Act has given married women the option to file their income tax returns separately from their husband's.

This move brings St. Vincent in line with other Caribbean states such as Barbados and Trinidad.

APPOINTMENTS---

Mair for Top UN Job

WOMAN SPEAK! notes with pride the appointment of Jamaican-born Dr. Lucille Mair as UN Under-Secretary General with responsibility for the Palestinian Question.

Dr. Mair was Secretary General of the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women and more recently was Special Representative of UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean.

She has also represented her country as Ambassador to Cuba and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN.

Minister of Government

Congratulations, too, to the Hon. Jacqueline Creft, who was named Minister of Education, Community Services and Youth in the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada, last year.

High Commissioner

We also extend best wishes to Her Excellency Ms. Ellen Bogle, Jamaica's new High Commissioner to the Caribbean. Ms. Bogle has also been accredited to Suriname as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. She is based in Trinidad.

First Woman High Court Judge

WOMAN SPEAK! congratulates Justice Monica Joseph, who was appointed a High Court judge earlier this year. The Grenadian-born Solicitor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, is the first woman High Court judge in the Eastern Caribbean.

Employers' Chief

Congratulations to Mrs. Gertrude Eastmond who is now the president of the Barbados Employers' Confederation. Mrs. Eastmond is the first woman to be elected to this post in the B.E.C's 22-year history.

University Librarian

And . . . our warmest wishes go out to Dr. Alma Jordan on her recent appointment to the post of University Librarian at UWI. She will be responsible for the coordination of the university's library services on all three campuses.

Dr. Jordan is also librarian at the St. Augustine campus of the UWI.

Caribbean Resource Book, 2nd edition

Produced by WAND in collaboration with the International Women's Tribune Centre, this book contains a guide to funding sources; a description of selected women's projects in agriculture, appropriate technology, communications, education, health and small business/management/credit; organisations offering technical assistance and training in these fields; and a bibliography of related materials.

The book is available from WAND.

BOOK NOOK

Women of Barbados

Women of Barbados: Amerindian Era to Mid 20th Century is the new book by Barbadian writer Jill Hamilton. This book highlights some of the achievements of women in Barbados. A few copies are available from WAND at BDS.\$8.00.

CFNI Teaching Kit

The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute has produced a breastfeeding teaching pack for use by nutrition professionals in the region to encourage pregnant and lactating mothers to breastfeed.

Included in the pack are: a flipchart, a teaching manual, 141 colour slides, an audio cassette, fact sheets, a mother's booklet, a poster and an evaluation postcard.

The materials are designed for use with either small or large groups.

The pack was produced with support from UNICEF and USAID.

Come Cook With Us the Bajan Way

This is a short collection of Barbadian recipes by Barbadian food technologist, Carmeta Fraser. It concentrates on recipes which incorporate locally grown food.

The booklet was published through assistance from the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, as part of the activities to observe the first World Food Day in October 1981. It is available from the National Organisation of Women's headquarters at Gibson House, Spry St., Bridgetown, Barbados, for Bds\$5.00.

Outwrite

From England, the Outwrite Collective writes that they want news of women's groups or publications around the world, for inclusion in their recently launched newspaper, *Outwrite*. The collective intends to "... actively report on the lives and struggles of women, especially Black/Third World women".

For further information on this newspaper, write to:

Outwrite
c/o T.H.I.S.
Oxford House
Derbyshire Street
London E.2 ENGLAND

NEXT ISSUE...

The U.N.-sponsored World Assembly on Aging takes place in Vienna, Austria, from July 26 to August 6 this year. In commemoration of this event *WOMAN SPEAK!*'s August issue will focus on elderly women within our Caribbean community.

We would welcome your views on the issue of aging as well as news of events, projects or groups related to or involving elderly women. Deadline for submission to the editor is June 1, 1982.

Do you wish to become a resource person in the Caribbean sharing your skills, experiences and energy with other women? If the answer is yes, fill this form out and be added to the list of other resource persons in the region.

RESOURCE PERSONS*

PLEASE CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND RETURN TO:

NAME & ADDRESS

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION
(Details, please)

Tutor/Co-ordinator, WAND, C/o Extra-Mural Dept., UWI, Pinelands,
St. Michael, Barbados, West Indies.

