

15th October

MIJARC



«When women are economically and socially empowered, they become a potent force for change.»

IFAD, March 2011

Some Facts & Figures

- ❖ The FAO estimates that women produce over 50% of all food grown worldwide.¹
- ❖ Despite the critical role women play in food production and natural resources, they have ownership of only 1% of the land. Lack of access to and control over land has intensified women's difficulties, their access to credit, technical assistance and participation, all essential for development.²
- ❖ The value of men's livestock holdings is about twice that of women's.³

Woman harvesting potato in Peru , while carrying her child (Martin Mejia/AP)



International Day of Rural Women

The World Rural Women's Day was launched by several INGOs during the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 and the 15th October was proclaimed the International Day of Rural Women by the UN General Assembly in 2007. In its resolution 62/136 (18 December 2007), rural women, including indigenous women, were recognised as having a critical role and contribution to the enhancement of agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.



Young women cultivating a field of maize in Zambia
(Panos pictures)

- ❖ Giving women the same access as men to agricultural resources and inputs could increase production on women's farms by 20-30%, reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 100-150 million.⁴
- ❖ In households headed by women, members have less education than in those headed by men, in all countries.⁵
- ❖ In most countries women in rural areas who work for wages are more likely than men to hold seasonal, part-time and low-wage jobs and women receive lower wages for the same work.⁶
- ❖ Only one third of rural women receive prenatal care compared to 50% in developing regions as a whole.⁷
- ❖ Women bear the primary responsibility for their families' health education and nutrition. Research confirms that putting more income in the hands of women yields beneficial results in all those 3 fields.⁸

You(th) can empower rural women's recognition!



Indian women working in a farm
(<http://thewaterproject.org/water-in-crisis-india-women.asp>)

Women being recognised by the UN (and many other governmental institutions) as having a vital role on rural and agricultural development as well as improving food security and eradicating poverty in rural areas appears not to be enough to change their situation...

Rural women continue to suffer the effects of gender inequalities in **every** continent in the world.

To mark this International Day of Rural Women we invite you to **take action** for their recognition in your village, region, country and continent.

How? We give you some ideas...

Post on your social networks about the International Day of Rural Women

- ❖ Organise a press conference or round table
- ❖ Launch a contest (photo, video, writing) about rural women
- ❖ Organise an evening in your village projecting videos/films about women
- ❖ Collaborate/participate in other events being already organised
- ❖ Contact local and national press and radio stations asking to mention this commemoration day explaining why it is important the recognition of rural women's role and work
- ❖ Create a prize for exceptional rural women in your village/region/country
- ❖ Write a formal letter to your politicians to call their attention to the problems that rural women are facing
- ❖ Organise some workshops related to important issues for rural women in your region (climate change, health, education,...)
- ❖ Create a website for information and lobby
- ❖ Use your creativity!

Spread information about this day through your regular communication tools (Newsletter, newspaper, website)

Call your preferred radio station and ask them to refer this commemoration day mentioning some facts and figures

No time to organise anything? Just check what will be happening around you and participate!

Share this document with who may be interested



"The world has increasingly recognized the vital role that women play in building peace, justice and democracy. As we approach the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, it is time to invest more in rural women, protect their rights, and improve their status. On this International Day, I call on all partners to support rural women, listen to their voices and ideas, and ensure that policies respond to their needs and demands. Let us do everything we can to enable them to reach their potential for the benefit of all."

Extract from Ban Ki-moon's message for the IRWD 2012
<http://www.un.org/en/events/ruralwomenday/2012/sgmessage.shtml>

References/Resources

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). "Climate Change, Biofuels, and Land." <ftp://ftp.fao.org/nr/HLCinfo/Land-Infosheet-En.pdf> (accessed October 11th, 2012).

² International Labour Organization (ILO). "Rural Development, Training, and Gender." Cinterfor, ILO. http://temp.oitcinterfor.org/public/english/region/ampro/cinterfor/temas/rural/genero/fp_doc.htm (accessed October 11th 2012).

³ International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), "Women and Rural Development" http://www.ifad.org/pub/factsheet/women/women_e.pdf (accessed October 11th 2012)

⁴ idem

⁵ idem

⁶ FAO, "The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in Agriculture, Closing the Gender Gap for Development", Rome, 2011. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2050e/i2050e.pdf> (accessed October 11th 2012)

⁷ idem

⁸ idem

Useful links:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/idrw/index.html>

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/CompleteBook.pdf>

<http://www.unwomen.org/infocus/rural-women/>

About Us

Know more about the International Women Commission of MIJARC @ <http://mijarc.net/en/node/95>

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