

Gender Speak



Volume 2, Issue 1
November 2005

Partners Joined World Rural Women's Day

**Fight Poverty and
Globalisation!
Participate in Building
Local Economies!**

CERD, NIRD, ZOTO and WISE Act joined the recently held World Rural Women's Day Celebration last

October 17-20 held in Quezon City. These partners are members of the Pambansang Kongreso ng

Kababaihan sa Kanayunan is the National Rural Women Congress. The Philippine Peasants Insititute. (PPI) seats us the secretariat.

Rural Women meets Urban Poor Women

Rural Women and Urban Poor Women joined forces meeting along the streets of Quezon City Memorial Circle last October 17. It is also the day of Solidarity with the Women's Global Charter for Humanity.



*Women Can Also be Fishwardens
Members of PKKK*

2nd Rural Women Congress

PKKK held its 2nd Rural Women Congress at Ciudad Christia Resort at San Mateo Rizal. Speakers on the said Congress includes Ambassador Rosario Manalo of the CEDAW Committee and Ms. Luz

Rodriguez of UNIFEM/CEDAW-SEAP.

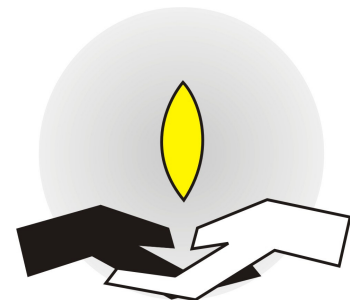
World Food Day March

Rural Women's

Organizations joined the march protesting against hunger and claiming for the protection of our staple food "Rice" last October 18. The theme of the World Food Day Celebration is "Give Us this Day Our Daily Rice". Philippine NGO Liaison

Committee for Food

Sovereignty and Fair Trade (PNLC) leads the activity. AFRIM, PHILRIGHTS and WISEACT are members of PNLC.



World Food Day 2005

HIV/AIDS MAINSTREAMING WORKSHOP

Partners of BFTW, headed by Consulting Team Inc. will conduct an HIV / AIDS Mainstreaming Workshop on November 11 and November 18 for Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao Partners respectively. The objectives of the workshop is to mainstream HIV/AIDS as a development issue among partner organizations. *BFTW recognizes the importance of the impact of HIV epidemic globally and the need for urgent interventions.* (BFTW HIV/ AIDS Policy).

Mr. Olaf Hirschmann, Adviser for HIV/AIDS and Ms. Beate Hahn, Project Officer of Bread for The World will join the Philippine Partners in the Workshop. An HIV/AIDS Pool was already formed for this endeavor. They are from CTI (John Mark Cajuat), WISE Act (Len Manikan), ZOTO (Nini Balaquio), KAPPAG (Ninfa Abad) and CERD (Gaynor Tanyan). Dr. Carolyn I. Sobritchea, Director, Center for Women's Studies coaches the Working Group.



From the Executive Director Jocelyn F. Cajiuat

"The development of gender relations is an essential component in the support of all projects and programmes. All projects are assessed in terms of whether and how men and women are involved in decision making processes, as well as how such projects impact women and men." (Justice and for the Poor -2000, Bread for the World)

In partnership with Bread for the World-Germany and its partners in the Philippines, *Capacitating NGOs on Gender Mainstreaming or CNGM* was launched in 2002 as a special project of WISE ACT. This is in line with Vision-Mission-Goals of WISE ACT and its core program referred to as the *Integrated Programs on Gender and Development*.

The CNGM project, that started in May 2002, is a package of programs that aimed to address gender issues at various levels in a programmatic manner:

- Mainstreaming GAD approach
- Developing, with partner groups, strategies, tools and indicators for gender mainstreaming based on (sub) sector-specific needs assessment.
- Reaching a desirable level of gender-integration in development programs and projects.

CNGM also facilitates an enabling environment for women's empowerment through:

- Affirmative action (change or transformation of a situation to a positive force).
- Advocacy of best practices from experiences of the grassroots and institutions.

Overall results of assessments and that of the audit processes (GAP) show that there is still a need to guide and assist emerging efforts of NGO towards mainstreaming gender in a sustainable manner. Partners have thus identified needs and requirements for extending the CNGM, among these include - thematic focused activities as working areas for gender integration and mainstreaming; specialized training for increased capability; models and "best practices" for replication; manualization of modules and instruments, and so on.

Proceeding from this, Phase 2 of CNGM, a two-year extension program, is now underway. We thank all participating partners who have not only shown interest but have actively involved themselves in making this CNGM project works.

We look forward to more fruitful engagements!

Gender and food facts and figures

- 2/3 of all women in Asia, 1/2 of African women, and 1/6 of women in Latin America are anaemic, caused simply by a lack of the right kind of food.
- Babies of young mothers are only half as likely to be born healthy as those born to physically mature women. The most common problem for these newborns is low birth weight, and this is usually a result of the mother's own inadequate diet.
- Women begin life with a greater chance of survival than men, but lose it quickly. Overall mortality rates at birth for girls are lower than those for boys, and equal to those of boys between the ages of one and two. But by the time they reach five, girls' infant mortality rates run double those of boys. Why? Because in allocation of food and health care, boys get most of the attention.

(Women: A World Report)

Source: http://www.rehydrate.org/facts/women_at_risk.htm



Gender Responsive Parenting
Food Security Question
 By : Vivian M. Galvez

Did you know that 15 million children die of hunger?

The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is well fed, one third is under-fed while one third is starving. For the past few minutes, at least 200 people have died of starvation. Over 4 million will die this year.

One in twelve people worldwide is malnourished, including 160 million children under the age of 5 according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Indian subcontinent has nearly half of the world's hungry people. Africa and the rest of Asia together have approximately 40%, and the remaining hungry people are found in Latin America and other parts of the world. (Hunger in Global Economy)

In the U.S., hunger and race are related. In 1991, 46% of African American children were chronically hungry, and 40% of Latino children were chronically hungry compared to 16% of white children.

The infant mortality rate is closely linked to inadequate nutrition among pregnant women. The U.S. ranks 23rd among industrial nations in infant mortality. African-American infants die at nearly twice the rate of white infants.

One out of every eight children under the age of twelve in the U.S. goes to bed hungry every night.

Half of all children under five years of age in South Asia and one third of those in Sub-Saharan Africa are malnourished.



In 1997 alone, the lives of at least 300,000 young children were saved by Vit. A supplementation programs in developing countries.

Malnutrition is implicated in more than half of all child deaths worldwide—a proportion unmatched by any infectious disease since the Black Death.

About 183 million children weigh less than they should for their age.

Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger.

It is estimated that some 800 million people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, about 100 times as many as those who actually die from it each year.

So what can we do in our little way to alleviate world

hunger? Perhaps, we could focus in our own neighborhoods. In the Philippines, one of the biggest causes of drop outs in the elementary school is hunger. Small children who are unable to take

their breakfast go to school hungry, unable to concentrate in learning the day's lesson.

How much would a breakfast cost? A bowl of instant noodles hardly costs P 5.00. A bowl of goto would hardly cost P 10.00. If I could set aside P 200 a month, I could help provide daily breakfast to at least one malnourished child every month in a public school. I need not provide breakfast to every child in school. I need to choose only one who has been pinpointed by the teacher as the most malnourished in her class.

Providing the child breakfast will be an incentive for that child to come to school everyday and prevent him from dropping out.

If there are ten (10) of us, then that would be ten children who will be saved from perpetual poverty due to lack of education.

What is 200? The cost a theatre movie ticket plus burger and coke.

Come on! Let us start now! Save our children! They are the future.

Vivian Martinez- Galvez is WISE Act's Administrative and Finance Officer. She has three children.

Photos: Food for the Hungry Int'l



Preparing the Policy-mix: A Gender Analysis of Food Security

Ma. Daryl Leyesa

Why discuss gender and food? The answer is obvious unless one denies the fact that food is independent of who consumes it, who cultivates it, who demands it, who wastes it, who controls it, who profits by it, etc. Gender-based roles in food production as well as gender-based food requirements or needs are integral in the whole discourse of food, with food being more than just an economic commodity but also as product of socio-



cultural and political forces.

Hunger is not gender-neutral especially when one views hunger as basis of inequality between men and women. From a rights-based perspective, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) recalls that discrimination against women, including discrimination in access to food, violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity. Such discrimination serves as "obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity."

Unequal access to food between men and women is closely related with the inequities in access and control over resources. CEDAW recognizes that

women in dire or impoverished situation have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs. Meanwhile, the celebration the World Rural Women's Day stresses the fact that "investing in rural women means investing in food security," as cited by Food and Agriculture Organization. The celebration was also an offshoot of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.

Gender inequities or gaps in food security can be reflected from its different facets: food production and food access where men and women have particular roles and contribution. On the other hand, gender lens can also be applied to the International Fund for Agricultural Development or IFAD's definition of household food security as the "capacity of household to procure a stable and sustainable basket of adequate food." Operationally this definition covers "(1) measures to enhance and stabilize household access to and availability of food across seasons and transitory shortages; (2) activities that would sustain food supply in the long term; (3) constant attention to the adequacy of food while complying with nutrient and safety requirements, and cultural preferences."

For purpose of this paper, the gender analysis of food and hunger shall concentrate on two major aspects --food access and food production, but within the context of both household and national food security.

Gender issues in access to food can be re-stated as "who gets to eat and how is it utilized?" The answer to the question of 'who gets to eat' can be deduced from food distribution or food supply programs of the country and how this is felt at the household level. At present, national programs on food availability ensure that food is not simply available but more so affordable to the majority of the population. To meet this objective, food supply strategies are not particular on how food is sourced,

whether locally or through importation, as long as they can provide consumers food at least cost. With this prevailing policy, bringing food to the home means adequate household income as well.

But income constraints among women have been their primary barrier to food access. There is unequal access to income, employment and other livelihood opportunities between men and women. This is very much evident in poverty-stricken rural households, although it must be noted that lack of cash income earned by rural women doesn't necessarily mean lack of participation in meeting household food needs.

As household managers, women carry the brunt of lack of household income and its implication to food availability. For some women, their way of coping with such situation is to engage in income-augmenting activities like livestock raising, retail selling, or having their services employed in the neighborhood, e.g. laundry services. For women, coping mechanisms include engaging in off-farm livelihood activities, livestock and vegetable raising, or migrating to urban centers for other employment opportunities especially during lean months.

Meanwhile, access to food is also defined by actual consumption at the household level. There is the prevailing culture of feeding first or prioritizing the "income-earners" in the family, to be followed by the children, and then with the mothers usually eating last and of what is left. This illustrates the prevailing inequity



See page 5

Preparing the Policy-mix continued from page 4

In our case, our women farmers are often considered secondary to beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, as well as other land and resource management programs, e.g. stewardship contracts and community-based forest management agreements. Rural women also compose less than thirty percent of the beneficiaries of the agri-fishery support services and receive just around five percent of agricultural extension services. Decision-making can be considered biased towards men since less than twenty percent of agricultural managers are women (in 2000, 18.5 percent); despite the fact that they exceed men by a million in terms of farm work contribution but not in terms of salary received. It has been quoted that in agriculture, for every peso a man earns, a woman earns only 36 centavos.

Offhand, the gender gap in terms of unequal access to resources and opportunities in the rural areas is indicative of the non-fulfillment of rural women's rights. Specifically, Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) states that: "*Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development.*"

Gender issues and roles in food production. The core question here is "who produces food?" This paper posits that gender roles/issues are evident in food production but not consciously factored-in in food security programs. Rural women (farmers and fisherfolk) contribute significantly to food production. In Asia, women are said contribute to more than 50% production of staple food, i.e. rice. In developing countries, women are responsible for 55% of food growth and comprise around 67% of agricultural labor (UN 1997).

Gender roles in food production can be viewed in terms of the activities that men and women perform in the farming and coastal communities. Gender mapping of activities covers all activities that impact on farming or fishing, whether such activities are remunerated or not. Gender roles after all refer to the productive, reproductive and community work, **which men and women undertake as** constructed and influenced by cultural, economic and political structures in society. It is also based on these structures that gender roles are treated or valued.

With the current emphasis on capital and accumulation of capital, however, reproductive and community-based roles/work, e.g. household work and barangay health care, are



not considered at par with productive roles, e.g. "hard" work in the farm, factory, and office. Value of work has often been based on the take-home pay but seldom on the amount of time allotted to finish the task, whether the task was done in the household or in the workplace. Contribution to the economy has been measured in the same way and thus recorded as activities that directly reflect on national income.

What becomes invisible in this prevailing notion of work is the actual relation of reproductive roles/activities to over-all economy and to food production in particular. For example, at the national level, food self-sufficiency is measured in relation to the grains or staple food being produced on a per hectare or per cropping basis; in relation, this has equivalent contribution to the gross national product (GNP). But what is not measured is the set of activities in food preparation that lead to actual food consumption in the

household or community level, e.g. where to get the "ulam" – the meat, fish, vegetables, and the water to prepare all these food. Indeed measures of food self-sufficiency should subscribe to the saying -- a person cannot live on bread (or grain) alone. Another example is our women fisherfolk who still struggle to be recognized as active contributors to the fishing industry. Again, the culprit here is the notion that fisherfolk are only those who are involved in capture fishing, which again can be measured in terms of volume and monetary equivalent. Whereas, women's work in the shoreline, i.e. preparation of the nets, sorting and selling of the catch, picking of sea-shells or maintaining mangroves, are often dismissed as non-fishing activities.

With gender gaps in measuring participation in food production, rural women's contribution to specific agricultural sectors might not be sufficient to reflect actual contribution. Nonetheless, it serves as a start in locating areas where women are considerably visible and most likely remunerated, namely these sectors are the grains (rice and corn), livestock, and vegetables sectors. But then, whether these women get just wage for their work is a different gender issue.

On the reproductive level, and often-invisible level, food preparation activities consume almost half of the women's time in taking care of the household. Another undervalued role of women is their knowledge on subsistence farming and the various ways of preparing and making do with what is available in their immediate environment. In one community in Polomolok, South Cotabato for example, women's daily morning schedule includes searching for vegetables, root crops and other edible plants that can be added to their two meals for the day. Without which, families literally make do with rice and salt.

wise, women's role in maintaining passed-on/indigenous knowledge on wild plants cultivation (as source of food) has potential contribution in sustaining biodiversity, which is very important to our criteria of sustainability in food



Preparing the Policy-mix from page
security approaches.

Constraints to women's roles in food production are also tackled here as gender issues as much as they are sustainability issues in food security. Some of the issues include the ff:

Macro policies that stress agricultural production based on comparative advantage in the market (commercial or cash-crop farming, aquaculture rural development) rather than food self sufficiency.

Food production programs that focus on yield, e.g. propagation of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs), rather than Food safety and sustainability. In such programs, small farmers have Lesser control over the seeds since HYVs are often self-terminating or can be planted one-time only. This has displaced women farmers whose traditional tasks were to preserve and select seeds for the next planting season.

Lack of property rights and control over resources, especially among women. Land tenure problems vis-a-vis agricultural land conversion provide little opportunity for small producers to negotiate control over their land.

Legal restrictions to women's Property rights and other forms of entitlements have barred women assert their rights. It doesn't help that they have limited opportunity

to engage as a strong policy stakeholders since there are gender gaps as well in governance and democratization of decision-making in the bureau cracy.

Lack of integrated approach to food security at the level of the communities and local economies, where women's contribution is most visible. At present, women's subsistence farming activities in the local level enjoy little support from government as compared with the yield-oriented farming programs, e.g. hybrid program.

Environmental degradation that threatens biodiversity and the natural resources needed for food production, namely land, water, plants and trees, among others. Mining and logging are some of the activities that lead to environmental degradation.

(Note: This article is an excerpt of [Food Self-Sufficiency and Gender Equality: Strengthening Means to the Right to Food by Ma. Daryl Leyesa. Ms. Leyesa, is a consultant of WISE Act for gender and food security.](#)

Rural Women Photos by:
Zonia Narito)



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About Genderspeak

Genderspeak is our forum.

We will not only talk about concepts, but also our day to day practice towards becoming gender advocates and champions for a just society.

Genderspeak is our space.

This is our way of learning and sharing our views, experiences on integrating gender, gender and development and gender mainstreaming among organizations.

Genderspeak is our right to a voice.

We can talk in our own language and use our voices, mainstream our advocacies, provide a space for people who wanted rightful gender relations for all.

Genderspeak is partnership.

We can talk about our fathers and mothers, our sons and daughters, our nephews and nieces. We can talk about our partners in development whether they are farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples, vendors, workers, housewives and househusbands. We can talk about how a woman or a man was able to decide on a certain concern.

Genderspeak will take us from the kitchen to the workplace, to the farms and meetings, to the streets, to the markets, in our day to day transactions. All labours should be accounted for and are worthy of recognition.

Genderspeak is about peace.

When each one is doing their share to work against violence, we are talking about peace.

Gender Speak Accepts Contributions, Comments and Suggestions,
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