



*Giving women a voice in producer and
farmers' organizations in IFAD: Farmers' Forum and
Rural Women's Leadership Programme*

GENDER, VOICE AND AGENCY

MDB-sponsored workshop, Manila, June 2 – 4, 2014

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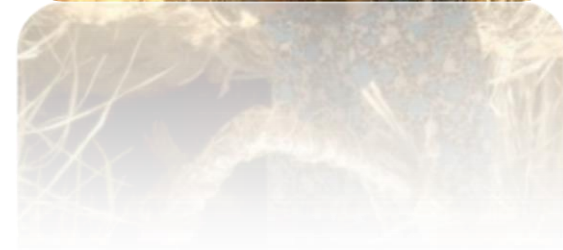
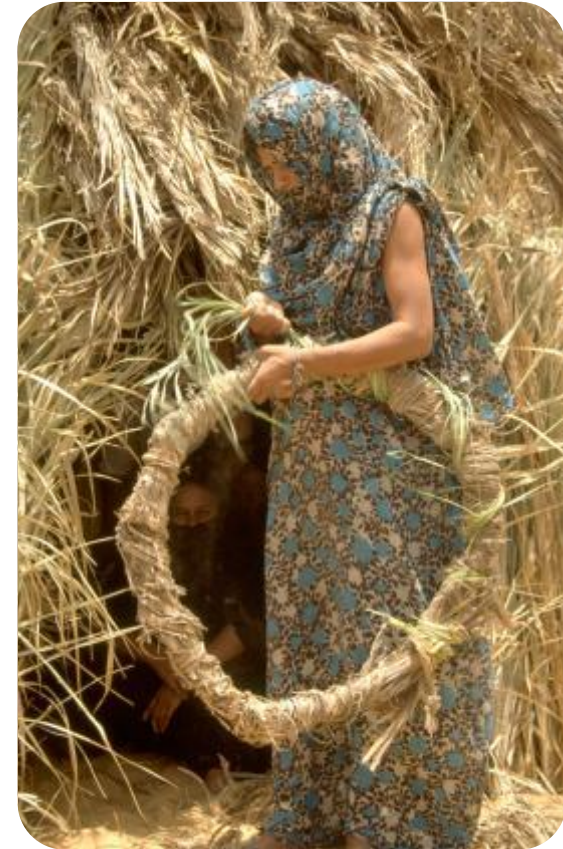
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IFAD Farmers' Forum



Farmers' Forum (FaFo) - what is it?

- Consultation and dialogue among small farmers' and rural producers' organizations, IFAD and governments;
- Engagement with rural organizations at field level, and dialogue at regional and international levels;
- FaFo meets every two years for global consultation, in conjunction with IFAD's Governing Council;
- **Fifth global FaFo meeting (2014)** with more than 80 farmers' leaders representing millions of smallholders and rural producers from all over the world;
- **Special sessions:** Women (2010), Youth (2012), Small-scale fisheries (2014).



FaFo Special Session on Women in 2010

- **Economic empowerment and access to assets**
- **Capacity-building and training**
- **Quotas for women's participation**
- **Culture and institutional change**
- **Supportive networks, fora and other structures**
- **Positive media messages and portrayals of women**
- **Funding of women's organizations or women's structures within farmers' organizations**

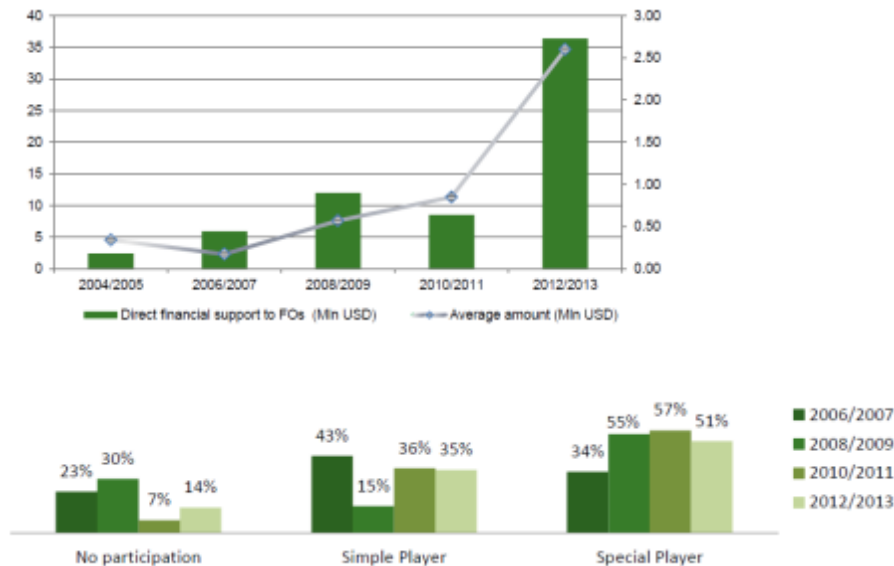


IFAD Farmers' Forum

After eight years, the FAFO changed the way
IFAD and FOs work together

Partnerships evolving around specific
opportunities (e.g. country-level partnership,
support to advocacy campaigns)

Pragmatic and opportunistic approach but fragile



Rural Women's Leadership Programme



Rural Women's Leadership Programme

- **Nepal and the Philippines:
implementing partner Women
Organizing for Change in Agriculture
& Natural Resource Management
(WOCAN)**
- **Madagascar: Ministry of Agriculture**
- **Senegal: National Council for Rural
Consultation and Cooperation
(Conseil National de Concertation et
de Coopération des Ruraux) (CNCR)**





- **PAKISAMA**
(Pambansang
Kilusan ng mga
Samahan ng
Magsasaka)
- **Trainer's Training
for Rural Women
Leadership
Project**



Rural Women's Leadership Programme

**Alma Abales, Kahaponan, Valencia
City Bukidnon**



- **Single mother**
- **Organic farmer for 16 years.**
- **Chair of Board of Directors, Araneta Farmers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries MPC last year**
- **Leader of 50 organic farmers from three farmer organizations**
- **Accessed approximately Php 4 Million for Organic Rice Project**

Rural Women's Leadership Programme – some conclusions

- Support from family is crucial for women's leadership – cultural change
- Demand from women, especially at the grass-roots level, to have their priorities heard in farmers' organizations
- Mobilizing women leaders at the grassroots level requires a holistic approach
- Training enables women to do well



Rural Women's Leadership Programme

Creating institutional space for women takes time – long term support is needed

Gender strategies are a good entry point

Evaluate benefits of women- only groups and mixed groups



Questions for discussion

Partnerships between FOs and other UN organizations and IFIs have grown – what are the lessons learnt and how to strengthen partnership on rural women?

2014 is the International Year of Family Farming – what can be done together? Alliances in support of family farming?

Links : Rural Women's Leadership Programme

IFAD

<http://www.ifad.org/farmer/index.htm>

http://www.ifad.org/farmer/2010/agenda/e/report_women.pdf

http://www.ifad.org/gender/pub/leadership_programme.pdf

WOCAN

<http://www.wocan.org/programs/leadership>

Videos on Rural Women's Leadership Programme implemented by WOCAN in Nepal and the Philippines.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXyBifn7S08>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzCyohzdgG8>

Thank you

