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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION
ON AGRICULTURE

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies
vis-a-vis Women Food Producers
in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone
and the Caribbean

WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS IN GUYANA

NATIONAL SUMMARY

Stella Odie-Ali
Beverly Rutherford

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT IICA/IDB/ATN-SF-4064-RE

AREA OF CONCENTRATION IV
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
PREFACE	ix
I. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	1
A. Agricultural Context and Food Production	2
B. Contributions of Women to Food Production	3
II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FOOD PRODUCTION	5
A. Productive Activities	5
B. Reproductive Activities and the Division of Labor	6
C. Water supply	6
D. Awareness of Production and Women's Programmes	6
E. Leisure	6
F. Family Income and Farm Production	6
III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF FOOD	9
IV. TECHNOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY	11
V. AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK VIS-À-VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS	13
A. Land Management Policy	13
B. Credit Policy	13
C. Technology Generation and Transfer Policy	13
D. Extension and Training Policy	14
E. Marketing Policy	14
F. Rural Development Policies, Programmes and Projects	14
G. Existing Policies on Rural Women	14

VI. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND NATIONAL PROPOSALS	17
A. Recommendations	17
B. National Proposals	20
1. Policy	20
2. Marketing and technology	25
BIBLIOGRAPHY	33
TABLES	35
FIGURES	65
APPENDICES	73
Appendix 1. Equality for Women	75
Appendix 2.. Criteria to be Used for Making Selections for State and Government Land	76
Appendix 3. Rural Sociology and Agricultural Extension Education (AGR 457) Course Outline	77
Appendix 4. Ministry of Agriculture of Guyana, Crops and Livestock Department: Strategic Programmes Profiles	78
Appendix 5. Gender Awareness/Sensitizing Programmes	81
Appendix 6. Rural Women Food Producers in Guyana: Summary Presentation on Marketing and Technology	82

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1.	Characteristics of small farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993	37
Table 1.2.	Characteristics of the IICA/IDB survey respondents	38
Table I.3.	Percentage of EAP in agriculture by sex and census year in Guyana (1946, 1960, 1970 and 1980)	39
Table I.4.	Estimated employment category by activity and gender in Guyana in 1993	39
Table I.5.	Participation in on- and off-farm income producing activities by gender in Guyana in 1993	40
Table II.1.	Percentage involvement of family members in crop production activities in Guyana in 1993	40
Table II.2.	Division of labor on the farm. Percentage of family members participating in reproductive activities in Guyana in 1993	41
Table II.3.	Women respondent's use of time in domestic (reproductive) activities in Guyana in 1993	42
Table II.4.	Sources of domestic and farm use water supply in Guyana in 1993	43
Table II.5.	Women's participation in productive and community organizations in Guyana in 1993	44
Table II.6.	Decisions on use of family income and items of expenditure in Guyana in 1993	45
Table II.7.	Women's participation in productive decisions on the farm in Guyana in 1993	46
Table III.1.	Crops by processed product and gender orientation in Guyana in 1993	47
Table III.2.	Agro-industrial activities on the farm surveyed in Guyana in 1993	48
Table III.3.	Percentage of women who have received training or technical assistance and areas in which it is desired	49
Table IV.1.	Inputs commonly used on small farms in Guyana	50

Table IV.2.	Types of inputs used on the farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993	51
Table IV.3.	Instruments and equipment used on small-scale farm units in Guyana	52
Table IV.4.	Types of equipment and tools used on the farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993	53
Table V.I.	Agricultural and rural development policies and programmes in Guyana in the 1966-1993 period	54
Table V.2.	Marketing and technology institutions and programmes in Guyana in the 1970-1993 period	57
Table V.3.	Women's programmes in Guyana in the 1966-1993 period	61

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure I.1.	The rural women food producers problem tree of Guyana (1993)	67
Figure I.2.	Guyana survey areas	68
Figure II.1.	Family member participation in vegetable production by type of activity in Guyana in 1993	69
Figure II.2.	Family member participation in cassava production by type of activity in Guyana in 1993	69
Figure II.3.	Family member participation in sweet potato production by type of activity in Guyana in 1993	70
Figure II.4.	Family member participation in fruit production by type of activity in Guyana in 1993	70
Figure II.5.	Family member participation in rice production by type of activity in Guyana in 1993	71
Figure VI.1.	Gender awareness/sensitizing communication circle	72

PREFACE

The Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies vis-a-vis Women Food Producers in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean, executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under Technical Cooperation Agreement ATN/SF-4064-RE, is the second phase of a program which included 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The first phase of the Program was implemented in 1992-1993 in six countries in Central America, under the auspices of the Council of Central American Ministers of Agriculture. The second phase was carried out by request of the First Ladies during their Summit Meeting on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in February 1992.

Through a better understanding of the economic and social roles played by women in small-scale agriculture, along with a critical analysis of national policies and programs focusing on the agricultural sector and on women, this joint IICA-BID program seeks to contribute to the reorientation and design of policy strategies for the sector and for rural development in general. The objective is to benefit women producers and the small agricultural units with which they are usually associated.

This document synthesizes national research results obtained over nearly a year during 1993-1994 and sets out the principal findings in the four research areas of the program, which were:

- * Analysis of the contributions of women to food production on small agricultural units and to the agricultural sector as a whole.*
- * Analysis of agricultural sector policies and programs and their effects on rural women.*
- * Evaluation of the technology utilized on small agricultural production units and the participation of women in these technological processes.*
- * A study of the roles of women in the processing and marketing of food products.*

Chapter I of this document looks at the contributions of women to national agricultural and food production through an analysis of secondary sources; a new estimate of total women employed in the agricultural sector is also provided. Chapters II, III and IV present syntheses of the principal findings of the IICA/BID Survey and other national studies on women agricultural producers. These chapters also analyze the participation of women in production, in technological processes, and in the processing and marketing of the output of small production units. An estimate of women's contribution to household income and family well-being is provided.

In spite of women's considerable contributions to all aspects of agriculture, from labor to marketing and financial management, they continue to be denied access to credit, training, extension and technology transfer, land tenure, and other benefits. This situation is analyzed in Chapter V.

Chapter VI presents conclusions and recommendations on policies and programs. While preliminary, these recommendations are intended to stimulate the formulation of new policy proposals, joint efforts with the agricultural and planning ministries, the offices of the First Ladies, and public and private agencies working in agricultural and rural development.

The methodology followed was based on the study of macroeconomic policy focused on agriculture, other sectoral policies, and their influence on the participation of women food producers.

I. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The agricultural sector is and always has been the mainstay of the Guyanese economy, contributing some thirty percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Agricultural activity and production are mainly concentrated in rural Guyana, where the recent 1993 HIES¹ estimates that 70% of the total population of 717,458 persons live and work. Therefore, agricultural production and *ipso facto* the major contribution to the economy lies in the hands of rural people, of whom an estimated 250,000 are women.

The historical evidence is that rural women have always been involved in agriculture at both formal and informal levels of production, processing and marketing. However, during this century their involvement has been characterized by statistical under-recording and underestimations; as a consequence, erroneous policies with discriminatory gender biases have been jeopardizing their chances of equal opportunity, contrary to the provisions of Article 29 of Guyana's 1980 Constitution (Appendix 1).

In fact, rural women food producers have over the years been relegated to the role of uninformed participants in agricultural programmes. This is one of the reasons for the continuously low socio-economic status of Guyana's rural agrarian women. Also, such policy omissions have had significant negative ripple effects on the efficiency of the agricultural sector, on the country's food security, and on the economy as a whole.

Based on secondary data, some of the deep-seated and far reaching historical roots of the endemic problems which perpetuate the low socio-economic status of women food producers have been summarized (Figure I.1). This problem tree will be referred to throughout this document.

Reference will also be made to the primary data collected in a survey of 150 women farmers, conducted during November and December of 1993 in the following five agricultural communities (Figure I.2): Upper and Lower Pomeroon (Region 2); Parika/Salem (Region 3); Canals Polder (Region 3); Cane Grove (Region 4) and Black Bush Polder (Region 6). The survey focused on farming activities related to vegetables, cassava, fruits, and rice production.

Table I.1 indicates that, of the total of 150 farms, 88 (58.7%) were small farms under 4 hectares in size; 47 (31.3%) were medium-sized farms of between 4 and 10 hectares; and 15 (10%) were large farms of 10 hectares and over. Small farms therefore predominate in this survey.

The average respondent (Table I.2) was a full-time farmer, between thirty-five and forty years old, and living with a man, either legally married to him (59%), or in a common-law relationship (22%). Only seven respondents (4.6%) claimed to be single. A total of 20 respondents (13.3%) claimed to be either widowed, divorced, or separated from their men, bringing the total number of respondents without men to 27, or 17.9% of the total sample. Only one respondent admitted to a visiting relationship.

¹ Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

A little under two-fifths (38.7%) saw themselves and were seen as the head of their households. Percentage-wise, more East Indian women (40.2%) claimed this status in contrast to their Afro-Guyanese counterparts (34.6%) and to their Amerindian counterparts (28.6%). These findings far exceed —by more than three times— the 1978 Guyana Rural Farm Household Survey (GRFHS), which estimated female household headship at 12%.

A. Agricultural Context and Food Production

Agriculture is the dominant sector in terms of employment, with statistics indicating a 33% involvement of the country's total labor force.

Sugar and rice account for 33% and 23%, respectively, of the agricultural GDP. Fishing and livestock account for 9% and 5%, respectively. Export earnings from agriculture are heavily dependent on sugar and rice. Other crops are in recent times being exported on a small but gradually increasing scale.

With the exception of sugar, and to a lesser extent rice, agricultural production always was and still is predominantly small-farm in nature, with farms of less than four hectares accounting for 60% of the country's estimated 25,000 farms².

With advances in technology, many small rice farmers have over the years been forced out of business.³ In the absence of a recent rural farm household survey, the reasonable assumption is made that at least 74% of farms of less than 4 hectares are presently devoted to the production of "Other Crops".

Records from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) suggest that "Other Crops" cultivation covers approximately 34,000, or 11.8%, of Guyana's cropland. It is from the small-farm sector that over 50% of the country's domestic food consumption originates.

Most of these small farms operate barely above, if not at, subsistence level with the amount of crops planted being limited to the supply of labor in the household. Drainage and irrigation problems, deplorable state of farm-to-market roads, lack of access to extension services⁴ and technical and marketing advice, compounded by a justified fear of credit, inhibit farm enhancement and increased production (See Figure I.1). Livestock rearing is in most cases limited to the household consumption level.

² Based on the 1978 Rural Household Survey - the most recent.

³ For example, in Black Bush Polder the evidence is that farmers are finding it more profitable to unofficially rent their six-hectare rice plots to larger farmers for G\$30,000 per crop - the equivalent of three months earnings for an agricultural laborer.

⁴ Of the 150 women farmers surveyed, 92% have been farming for more than five years. Only 14% have ever benefitted directly from extension services.

B. Contributions of Women to Food Production

Between census years 1946 and 1980, the percentage of the female economically active population dropped from approximately 39.1% to 11.8% (See Table 1.3), erroneously suggesting that Guyanese women have over the years been moving away from agriculture and contributing less to food production. In fact, the 1993 HIES estimates (Table I.4) that of the country's 78,000 economically active women, a mere 13,000 (17%) are involved in agriculture. However, of these 13,000 agrarian women some 9,000 (69%) are self-employed and therefore non-salaried.

The survey found that at the farm family level, where 74% of income originates from the farm, women provide 47% of their income from this source (Table I.5). Why, then, is such a vital contribution not statistically visible? As summarized in Figure 1.1, this research points to several factors, including gender-insensitive planning, faulty and inappropriate statistical instruments, and no gender-disaggregated data, as well as the low priority assigned to data collection by planners, which have all conspired to render agrarian women statistically invisible. Such invisibility minimizes the importance of their participation since the data by which planners are guided under-represent reality.

The 1978 Rural Farm Household Survey put the total number of farm households in coastal Guyana at 24,635. Of these, 21,596 were headed by males and 3,039 by females. If it is reasonably assumed that the situation has not changed much, and conservatively estimated that in each of these households there is one other female who works, whether this work be remunerated or unremunerated, then economically active females would be reflected as: $21,596 + 3,039 + 3,039 = 27,674$.

This re-estimated figure of 27,674 is more than three times the HIES (1993) estimate of 8,859 self-employed women in agriculture (Table 1.4).

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FOOD PRODUCTION

Characteristic of the participation of Guyanese women in food production is their involvement throughout the food chain, from production to distribution.

A. Productive Activities

The survey indicated that in seven out of the following eight food production activities related to vegetables, cassava, sweet potato, and fruit (Figures II.1, II.2, II.3 and II.4), women's participation exceeded that of their male partners in regard to:

- Purchasing and preparation of planting materials
- Land preparation
- Planting
- Crop care^s
- Purchasing/use of fertilizers and chemicals
- Harvesting
- Marketing

However, in the production of rice, a mechanized crop, male participation in all activities was higher, under normal conditions (Figure II.5). Our impression was that women's labor was highest in two activities. One was with regard to the transplanting of seedlings to ease the congestion created by uneven sowing. The other was at harvesting time when, because of adverse weather and other conditions, mechanical harvesting was not possible. In both cases, either as transplanters or manual harvesters of paddy, women are employed as casual workers.

Generally, survey results supported the findings of Odie-Ali (1986) that at the small farm production level there is no rigid division of labor by gender. As a matter of fact, the indication is that the women - both the respondents and the other adult women members of the farm household - participate more than their male counterparts.

Table II.1 indicates the percentage of involvement in pre-harvest, post-harvest, and marketing activities. At the pre-harvest level women contribute 50% of crop production activities; at the post-harvest level they contribute 57%; and at the marketing level, 55%.

^s Male participation exceeds.

B. Reproductive Activities and the Division of Labor

Nevertheless, in regard to reproductive activities which vitally support productive activities on the farm, there is a clear-cut division of labor along gender lines. Table II.2 indicates that at 93%, 89%, 66%, 79% and 83%, respectively, food preparation, clothes washing, ironing, cleaning house, and shopping are clearly not the work of the men of the household, regardless of ethnic group. The indication is that women spend as much as 140 hours per week (Table II.3) on reproductive activities, during which they also coordinate and/or juggle their productive and community managing tasks.

C. Water Supply

Rural women food producers spend an average of 8.4 hours weekly fetching water for both domestic and farm use (Table II.3). Table II.4 indicates that the major sources of water supplies are stored rain water (82%), canals (33%) or rivers/springs/wells/ponds (24%). Apart from the time-consuming and strenuous nature of this activity, there are health implications linked to the use of water from unhygienic sources. Lack of such vital facilities is embedded in the roots of our Rural Women Food Producers Problem Tree (Fig. I.1).

D. Awareness of Production and Women's Programmes

In this task-laden scenario, it is not surprising that as much as 94% of the total sample were unaware of any women's programmes. Of the nine women (6%) who were aware, five were acquainted with the government Social Welfare Department, three with the Women's Affairs Bureau and one with what she called a "woman's centre". Table II.5 reflects the existence of organizations in the communities surveyed. However, with the exception of church clubs and parent-teacher associations, there is very little participation.

E. Leisure

Again, the two major activities considered as leisure - watching TV and listening to the radio - are spent in the home and are concurrent with their reproductive and productive activities. The other activities listed as leisure include getting together with neighbors, speaking to persons considered leaders, and leaving the community to go visiting. These, however, are seldom ever engaged in by as many as 74%, 78% and 77% of the respondents, respectively. The day of the week which affords them the most leisure time is Sunday.

F. Family Income and Farm Production

Tables II.6 and II.7 reflect decision-making at the family income and farm production levels. With regard to reproductive activities, the traditional male/female division of labor is present in the rural farm household. Decisions regarding household activities, nutrition, and clothing

are almost exclusively made by the woman, with the man sharing to a lesser extent in decisions related to education and health, and to a greater extent in housing and leisure matters (Table II.6).

However, with regard to production activities (Table II.7), the indication is that the male/female dyad predominates. Nevertheless, concerning such decisions as what livestock should be raised, pricing of produce, and where to market the latter, the prerogative is the woman's. Again, this coincides with the historical trend of women rearing livestock to contribute to the nutritional needs of the family, and is therefore seen by them as part and parcel of their maternal role. Historically, women have been the marketers of produce.

Again, in reference to our problem tree (Figure I.1), one of the major obstacles with regard to decision-making is reflected as unavailability of information. This is rooted in the exclusion of women from the planning processes, inadequate data collection methods, poor local leadership, the low priority given to the compilation of technical information, and the unorganized collection of local information, be it agricultural, human, physical and/or natural resources. Common to all of these problems is the untimely accessibility of these types of information, a crucial factor in decision-making and in ensuring that resources are not wasted.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF FOOD

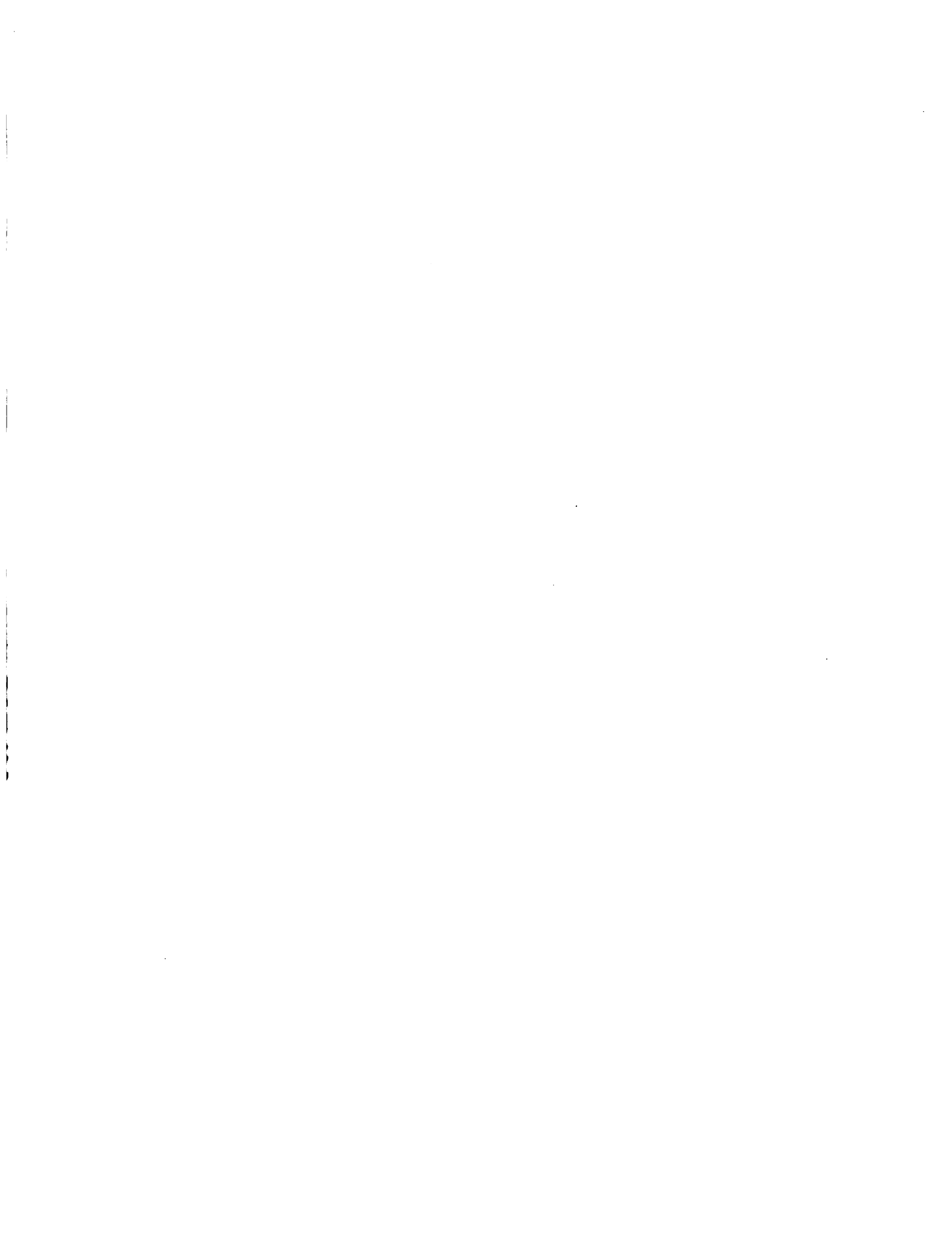
For preservation at the household level, agricultural products are processed in various forms, including drying, frying, setting sauces in brine, salting products, pickling, and the production of concentrates, syrups, jams, jellies, and powders/flours. Table III.1 reflects the gender orientation of participation in the processing of selected crops: women do most of the processing.

However, the survey also showed that very few farm households were actually involved in agro-processing. Where agro-processing was carried out, labor input was solely that of the respondents. Table III.2 reflects the incidence.

Three points need to be noted. One is that the constant juggling of their labor-intensive and time-consuming productive, domestic, and community managing tasks leaves women little time and energy for the equally labor intensive and time-consuming processing activities which still need corrective technological updating.

The second is that with regard to physical inputs (Table III.2), the few farm households which do process do not utilize any purchased ingredients. For competitive display and marketing, non-farm economic inputs must be available. If processing as a microenterprise is to succeed, access to financial resources, of which these women have little (See Fig.I.1), becomes very necessary. The third is that women's involvement in processing activities will be dependent on the market opportunities for profit-making. The current economic climate permits unbridled importation of food products, creating uneven market competition for similar products.

It is not surprising, then, that in this unsatisfactory technological, social, and economic milieu only 14% of the sample indicated any desire for training in processing (Table II.3), whereas 31% want training in farm management.



IV. TECHNOLOGICAL CONDITIONS OF WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS AND THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

On Guyana's small farms, traditional technology still characterizes the conditions of women food producers -not because improved technologies are unknown in Guyana, but because the services which disseminate technical information are at the moment not reaching rural women food producers. Figure I.1 recognizes and summarizes this difficulty, which serves to reinforce their low socio-economic status. At the very root is poor policy planning, scarcity of funds, scarcity of human resources and inappropriate technology, which are occasioned by logistical constraints such as poor roads and poor transportation facilities, and weak institutional support services which lead to poor communication systems. Alongside these are the institutionalized non-recognition of women as food producers in their own right, inherited cultural practices, and low levels of cash income, which engender low self-esteem on the part of the women. In some few instances where improved technologies may be available, some women still do not have the self-confidence to utilize them.

Inadequate technical assistance leads to poor husbandry practices, planting of poor quality seeds and germplasm, low use of inputs, unsuitability of equipment, and therefore stagnation at low subsistence level production and productivity and a failure to increase economic returns.

Indeed, the Ministry of Agriculture, which has overall responsibility for agriculture in Guyana, has prepared technical packages which contain recommendations on the following:

- **Planting varieties.**
- **Methods and forms of land preparation.**
- **Use of organic and inorganic fertilizers.**
- **Planting methods.**
- **Crop husbandry practices.**
- **Poor harvest handling and storage.**

The problem, as discussed above, is reaching rural women food producers, which the Ministry seeks to do at the moment through its Extension Division.

Table IV.1 categorizes the inputs commonly used on small farms, and Table IV.2 lists the types of inputs used in the surveyed farms by district and by family members. However, as was indicated in Table III.3, the women surveyed seem to have received very little training in the use of farm inputs. No woman farmer in our sample claimed any training in seed selection and seed production. Only two women (1.3% of the sample) had received training in the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Table IV.3 lists some of the instruments and equipments used on small scale farm units. Because these farms production activities are not characterized by rigid sexual division of labor, women use almost all of the traditional equipment listed.

In Table IV.4, however, which describes the types of equipment and tools used on the farms included in our survey (93.5% use ploughs and 94.3% use tractors), men were almost exclusively the users of such improved technology. In general terms, hand tools were used by 75% of both men and women. The impression is that because women seem not to make very much use of equipment, their participation in production activities remains more labor-intensive and more time-consuming. The need, therefore, is to promote gender awareness and self-confidence among women food producers so that they will be more apt to adopt labor saving technology.

V. AGRICULTURAL POLICIES AND THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK VIS-A-VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS

Over the years, Guyana has instituted various agricultural policies, programmes, and policies in regard to land management, credit, technology generation and transfer, extension and training, marketing, and rural development. More recently, there have been a few women-directed policies.

But, generally speaking, policy-making in Guyana has always been a male prerogative and evident in most of the programmes has been the failure to recognize and consider women - their roles, their contributions and their needs.

Some of these policies and programmes, their major characteristics, and their orientation in terms of farm size and gender are summarized in Tables V.1 and V.2. Table V.3 summarizes women's programmes in Guyana. A brief discussion of these follows.

A. Land Management Policy

Section I of Table V.1 indicates that with regard to land acquisition and land tenure, few women own leases and titles. Apart from the non-female oriented policies⁶, the constraints include cultural and inheritance patterns.

B. Credit Policy

Formal credit for agriculture requires collateral, preferably titles to lands located in properly irrigated and drained areas, and is therefore not easily accessed by rural women food producers. More recently, however, a private sector, non-profit organization, the Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED), which mobilizes funds from local and international donors and lending agencies, has been encouraging women to access soft credit not requiring strict collateral.

Section II of Table V.1 indicates at (c) and (d) that women have always had relatively easier and quicker access to, and, therefore, a preference for, informal credit.

C. Technology Generation and Transfer Policy

Section III of Table V.1 and Table V.2 list technology generation and transfer institutions, policies and programmes. The National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), which works closely with regional and international institutes and agencies, is the nation's largest technology generation effort. Its programmes include soil development, seed propagation, and tissue culture. While NARI may have problems in reaching most of them, its activities are, in fact,

⁶ See Appendix 2 - Criteria to be used for making selection for state and government land.

also oriented towards the small farmer. It seems that they do recognize the need to build gender sensitivity into these programmes.

D. Extension and Training Policy

Formal training in agriculture, as summarized in IV (b) of Table V.1, has been reaching women farmers, albeit at an average male/female comparison ratio of 4:1. At CXC Agri-Science the ratio is highest, at 5:4. At the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) and the Regional Educational Programme for Animal Health Assistants (REPAHA) the ratio is 4:1, and at the University of Guyana's Faculty of Agriculture (UG/FA) the ratio is 7:2.

It has not been possible to detect any evidence of gender sensitivity in the outlines of the courses offered. At the UG/FA, the 15-week AGR 457 (see Appendix 3) can be structured to accommodate gender training, which the authors list as a recommendation.

On the other hand, as indicated in Section IV (a) of Table V.1, the Commodity Programmes (see Appendix 4) now being given focus by the Extension Division of the MOA, does not cater to subsistence level farming, in which category most of Guyana's women food producers fall.

E. Marketing Policy

Table V.2 lists marketing training by gender orientation on the part of public institutions, including the Guyana Cooperative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It has not been possible to find evidence of gender orientation in these programmes, despite the historical presence of women as marketers.

F. Rural Development Policies, Programmes, and Projects

Section V of Table V.1, notes the absence of gender orientation in two major rural development programmes: Land Settlement and Cooperativisation. As a matter of fact, the authors of this report have been advised of only seven functioning agricultural cooperatives in which women play a major role.

G. Existing Policies on Rural Women

1. Women's Affairs Bureau (WAB)

Conceived in 1975 under paragraph 46 (n) of the World Plan of Action arising from the International Women's Year Conference, as an interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral mechanism within government for accelerating the achievement of equal opportunities for women and their full integration into national life, this national machinery created at the instigation of the Conference on the Affairs and Status of Women in Guyana (CASWIG), was finally set up in 1981.

Since its inception, the WAB has been foster-parented by six different ministries, and within this scenario, conceptualization of the staffing and functioning of the Bureau has never been fully implemented. Losing institutional support because of its constant moving and being perpetually understaffed, the Bureau has over the years been limited in its ability to bark and/or bite. At the time of writing, we were advised that the Bureau's full-time staff numbered three.

The Bureau's most recent accomplishment has been the Draft Policy Statement on women's production, in 1993. At the moment, the WAB is housed in the Ministry of Labor, Human Services and Social Security. Table V.3, 1.a. summarizes some of its activities.

2. Ministry of Education

In 1988, the Ministry of Education did actually write into its policies, provision for girls in technical and vocational training (See section 1.c. of Table V.3).

Also in 1988, the Ministry of Health embarked on programmes to reduce maternal and child mortality (See section 1.b. of Table V.3). These programmes have been beneficial to rural women food producers.

The Social Impact Amelioration Programme (SIMAP) has been in existence since 1988, and mobilizes local and overseas funding to ameliorate the impact of structural adjustment on rural women (among other vulnerable groups). Its work is excellent, but has not been reaching very many rural women food producers (See Table V.3, section 1.d.).

3. The Futures Fund

Like SIMAP, this NGO is also doing excellent work. However, in spite of the Women in Development (WID) components of its programmes, it seems to be having some difficulty reaching most of Guyana's rural women food producers.

4. Other NGOs

Section III of Table V.3 summarizes some types of NGO women's programmes and activities. The Guyana Federation of Women's Institutes (GFWD), in existence since 1942, deserves special mention for its continued focus on rural women.

5. International agencies

Section IV of Table V.3 lists some of the international agencies which have been ensuring the inclusion of WID activities in their programmes. Again, not very many rural women as food producers are being reached.

6. Political groups

Two political groups stand out for their continuous striving to foster awareness among women in Guyana. They are the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement, now the National Congress of Women (NCW), and the Women's Progressive Organization (WPO). (See section II of Table V.3.)

VI. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND NATIONAL PROPOSALS

The work of rural women in agriculture falls into the following three major sets of roles:

- Productive
- Reproductive
- Community managing

Generally, only women's productive work is recognized. Domestic and community managing work have historically been seen as "natural" and "non-productive", and, therefore, not valued.

It is important that this triple set of functions be recognized, because such recognition will bring to the fore the severe constraints faced by women in their burdensome task of balancing their domestic, productive, and community managing tasks. Such recognition is necessary for advising and guiding policy-makers and programme planners because the women's role trilogy has important implications for policy, programmes, and project implementation, and their consequent effects on rural and national development.

This recognition takes on even greater importance in light of the fact that approximately 250,000 -one-third of Guyana's entire population- are rural females.

A. Recommendations

The needs of women and men are not always the same. Therefore, we offer the following gender-sensitive recommendations:

1. Definitions

- a. That the definition of "work" be reviewed and that household chores and community managing activities be incorporated so that national and other statistics reflect the reality of women's working lives.
- b. That, given the implications of the role trilogy, the term "employed" with respect to rural women be re-examined to reflect the realities of their domestic and community managing tasks.

2. Data collection

- a. That gender-disaggregated data collection mechanisms be put in place both at census and survey levels.
- b. That the 1978 Rural Farm Household Survey not only be updated, but gender disaggregated.

3. Gender awareness/sensitivity

- a. That gender awareness/sensitizing programmes be mounted⁷.
- b. That women be made aware of the value of their contribution to production and therefore to economic development.

4. Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

- a. That the MOA review, rethink, and restructure its programmes to accommodate gender specific needs. In this regard, current extension services programmes and projects need immediate attention.

5. Marketing

- a. That the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC) be assisted in establishing communication linkages to ensure that information on current prices reaches the farmer.

6. Research

- a. That more attention be given to crops such as vegetables and fruits.
- b. That a systematic approach be instituted in the collection of production data in order to promote sound planning.
- c. That an Agricultural Documentation Centre be established within the UG./FA.

7. Training institutions

- a. That the vocational/tertiary level agricultural institutions work in collaboration with the Women's Studies Unit, University of Guyana, and the WAB with regard to gender planning in their courses, in order to meet practical and gender strategic needs.

8. Access to land

- a. That criteria for the issuance of government land be reviewed and revised to accommodate women as farmers in their own right, and not simply as wives and daughters.

⁷ See Figure VI.1 and Appendix 5.

- b. That the agricultural training institutions incorporate as part of their course work the modalities for access to and acquisition of land.
- c. That such information be documented and made available at the community level.

9. Access to credit

- a. That lending institutions not only review and revise their male-oriented lending policies and criteria, but that they also expand their consideration to include women both as de jure and de facto owners and cultivators of land.
- b. That lending institutions include access to easy collateral credit terms for rural women's microenterprises.
- c. That such information be made available at the community level.

10. Education

- a. That educational programmes for rural areas be designed to permit rural people to dare to dream of lifting their heads above their survival level.
- b. That with regard to distance education, emphasis be given to generating relevant and timely local-specific educational content and materials.
- c. That the idea of "generalized mass education programmes" be reviewed and appropriate adjustments made.

11. Women's organizations

- a. That women's organizations in rural Guyana be given the necessary technical and other assistance so that they may effectively represent women's concerns and needs through the Women's Affairs Bureau (WAB) and its affiliates.
- b. That the WAB pay attention to issues affecting rural women, both in its National Policy Statement and its anticipated National Action Plan.
- c. That the WAB immediately focus on rural women's access to developmental activities and funding of microenterprises.
- d. That the WAB, together with such ministries as Agriculture and Regional Development, work closely with project implementation agencies such as SIMAP and FUTURES FUND.

In summary, therefore, it is recommended that policy reform be balanced by effective sectoral strategies for raising the productivity of rural women's work in agriculture and microenterprises.

B. National Proposals

1. Policy

In attempting to provide solutions to any problem, it is necessary to tackle it at its roots. The national proposals outlined in this section emerge from the problems reflected at the base of the problem tree in Figure I.1.

The following proposals, which will of necessity overlap and which will inform and support each other, are all intended to improve the socio-economic status of rural women in agriculture:

a. Improving Rural Women's Statistical Visibility

Definition/justification

Because of under-recording and underestimations of statistics reflecting women's involvement in the agriculture sector, erroneous policies with discriminatory bias result in unequal opportunities, contrary to the provisions of Article 29 of Guyana's 1980 Constitution.

Goal

Provide planners with the information necessary for gender sensitive policy and programme planning through statistically visible, gender disaggregated data.

Specific objectives

- To provide gender disaggregated data on a continuing basis.
- To train decision-makers in the use of gender information

Expected outputs

- Increased priority for data collection on the part of policy makers and planners.
- Improved design of appropriate statistical information instruments.
- Gender disaggregated data collection on a regular basis.
- Improved rural women's statistical visibility

Activities to be executed

i. Preparatory activities

— Redefinition of the following census terms:

- work
- head of household
- self-employment activities
- agricultural activities

— Building gender specificity into all data collection and compilation processes

ii. Pilot project

Conduct a pilot project for the collection of gender disaggregated data on rural farm households in five communities (as preparation for carrying out a new National Rural Farm Household Survey).

iii. Training of decision-makers in the use of gender information.

Expected duration: 6 months

b. Increasing Involvement and Gender Awareness among Rural Women

Definition/justification

Agricultural policies, programmes, and projects often fail because of either non-participation or very low levels of participation by women in the planning processes. Erroneous assumptions are made which result in incorrect policies, which cast rural women in the role of uninformed participants at the project implementation stage. When planners move off, projects become unsustainable and project failure results.

Goal

Actively involve rural women food producers in the policy formulation and project implementation stages of agricultural development.

Specific objectives

- **To strengthen the communication systems**

- To make women more aware of their capabilities as food producers
- To increase their cash income
- To foster high self-esteem

Expected outputs

- More and stronger communication systems
- Institutionalized recognition of women as food producers
- Better policy planning
- Stronger institutional support
- Higher self-esteem

Activities to be executed

- Training programme for planners, implementors, NGOs, and rural women leaders, for involvement in communication/gender sensitizing activities
- Strengthening of NGOs at the community level by providing technical help
- Involve women food producers in policy and programme planning

Expected duration: 6 months

c. Generating and Accessing Information for Decision-Making

Definition/justification

Because of a lack of information at the local community level as well as the technical level, there is continuous erroneous decision-making by rural women food producers. This leads to a high degree of failure and therefore wasted resources. All of this is reflected in the continued low socio-economic status of rural women in agriculture.

Goal

Provide the legal and technical data base for informed decision-making on the farm, thereby ensuring a high degree of success and increased economic returns.

Specific objectives

- To institutionalize organized and periodic information collection on community resources
- To organize the availability of technical information
- To put in place systems which afford easy access to this important decision-making information

Expected outputs

- Inclusion of women in planning processes
- Priority given to technical information
- Better leadership
- Information on the community's agricultural, human, physical and natural resources collected on the basis of an organized and periodic system
- Accessibility to technical information

Activities to be executed

- Training in leadership
- Compilation of community resources
- Selection and training of resident women food producers to serve as extensionists
- Make technical information available and easily accessible

Expected duration: 6 months

d. Improving Economic Returns of Rural Women Food Producers

Definition/justification

The continuous perpetuation of the poverty cycle among rural women food producers is embedded in their inability to enhance their own as well as their family members' capabilities. This is a direct result of their inability to improve on the economic returns of their farming activities, because they operate under the disadvantages of inadequate technical assistance, poor

access to credit, and scarce economic resources.

Goal

To improve economic returns for women in agriculture

Specific objectives

- To provide access to technical assistance
- To provide access to credit
- To improve the low/subsistence level of production and productivity
- To provide marketing information and opportunities

Expected outputs

- Better husbandry practices
- Better use of inputs
- Increased production and productivity
- Easier marketing
- Increased economic returns

Activities to be executed

- Training in husbandry, recognition of quality seeds and other inputs
- Training in use of suitable equipment
- Training in use of fertilizers, weedicides, and pesticides
- Information-related activities with regard to modalities and procedures of agricultural land acquisition and farm enhancement credit facilities

Estimated duration

Estimated duration of simultaneously-run exercises in five selected communities - 6 months.

2. Marketing and Technology

a. Proposal for the implementation of an awareness programme for women in agriculture

Background

Guyanese women farmers have often remained "behind the scenes" because of uncertainty of their rights in all aspects of life. Complicated legal systems, credit regulations, land tenure systems, and trading regulations have magnified their problems and uncertainties, resulting in withdrawal or dismissal of issues which may be vital for their progress.

Women farmers in Guyana demonstrate a lack of knowledge of the legal system, credit procedures, market information, the use of chemicals, etc. This situation has caused considerable loss of family income.

It is therefore proposed that an "Awareness Programme" be launched to educate our women on issues relating to agriculture that may have direct or indirect influence on the improvement of their lives as well as their families.

Goals

- Construct and design pamphlets on various issues that relate to agriculture for distribution to women producers and processors
- Educate Guyanese women farmers in operations of:
 - Legal system
 - Credit procedures
 - Marketing and selling
 - Use of chemicals

Approach

- Preparation of pamphlets in simple language on the topics mentioned
- Distribution in collaboration with women's groups in farming communities
- Distribution should be aided by short, informative meetings of groups of women to allow for clarity, especially for those who may have reading limitations

Topics to be discussed

Legal issues

- Procedures in land acquisition
- Rights to land tenure
- Legal requirements for starting a small business (processing)

Credit issues

- Identifying credit needs
- Types of credit available
- Sources of credit
- Borrowing and banking regulations

Marketing and selling

- Identification of markets
- Quarantine regulations
- Exporting - how to export
- Customs regulations
- Quality control regulations

Chemicals

- Sourcing agri-chemicals
- Use of chemicals
- Drug regulations

Funding

Funds for the introduction and running of this programme could be accessed by non-governmental organizations such as the Social Impact Amelioration Programme and the Futures Fund.

Impact

Such a programme will ensure that:

- women understand the issues discussed
- barriers created by lack of knowledge will be removed
- self-confidence will be developed by the beneficiaries
- living standards will be improved

b. Proposal for the establishment of a research centre and a documentation centre within the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Guyana

Background

The consultant experienced difficulty in obtaining information on the agriculture sector in Guyana, due mainly to:

- Inadequate and poor research
 - very little is documented
 - research is done by untrained personnel
 - badly constructed questionnaires
 - poor data collection
 - poor data analysis
- Ill-equipped and disorganized storehouses of information
 - lack of all types of resources
 - collections are not properly catalogued, classified, or indexed
- unavailability of past research papers
 - researchers selfishly keep their papers
 - papers locked away in cupboards

This situation is a result of the country's economic constraints and government's seeming non-recognition over the years of the importance of information to the developmental process.

Planning and policy-makers in this sector are bound to rely on timely and relevant information to enhance their decision-making. The issues and problems of small farmers, particularly women, cannot be timely addressed if information on their operations are not properly documented and made accessible.

The absence of information can, therefore, result in decisions being made too late, or not made at all. In some cases wrong decisions are made.

Past plans which did not address women's issues on land tenure, credit, technology, marketing, and social needs serve as indicators of information needs.

The process of agricultural development, therefore, presents challenges and opportunities for the establishment of an effective and efficient research and documentation system which is so badly needed in Guyana.

It is recommended that the University of Guyana establish:

- i) A Research Centre
- ii) A Documentation Centre within the Faculty of Agriculture

Both must be well equipped and adequately staffed by suitable personnel. Each head will report directly to the Dean of the Faculty.

The Research Centre

Goals

- To conduct in-depth research on all agricultural development, including the contribution made by women
- To satisfy the research needs of established organizations (GAIBANK, NARI, Repaha), as well as unrecognized community groups, including women's groups.

Objectives

- To assess the agricultural research needs of the country and initiate relevant studies
- To establish a core of trained researchers specifically for the effective functioning of the centre
- To conduct seminars/workshops for staff, students, and external researchers in research techniques and methods
- To deposit a copy of every research paper in the Documentation Centre

The Documentation Centre

Goals

- Identify, acquire, process, and store for retrieval and dissemination information which is relevant to agricultural research and development
- Fulfill the information needs of staff and students of the Faculty of Agriculture, as well as researchers from external agricultural agencies
- To act as a depository for all research papers produced by the Personnel Centre

Objectives

- **To engage in an effective acquisition policy**
- **To catalogue and classify all documents**
- **To offer an effective current awareness service**
- **To maintain an efficient staff and inter-library loan system**
- **To maintain a close relationship with other libraries, especially the major ones, as well as agencies pertaining to women's affairs**
- **To acquire and organize all research papers produced by staff of the Faculty**

Impact

The work of these two centres will complement each other and be an integral part of the Faculty of Agriculture. Their goals and objectives must be integrated into those of the Faculty, and they must operate within its policies and regulations.

Funding for the proposed system could be provided by international agencies as well as the university.

The former could be approached for the establishment of the centres and the latter for their maintenance.

The establishment of the proposed research and documentation centres will ensure that:

- **Research is performed in almost all areas of agricultural development**
- **Research will be better planned and conducted**
- **Researchers will be better equipped**
- **Information will be properly organized for easy retrieval and dissemination**
- **Analysis of issues in the agricultural sector will be based on adequate information, the basis for decision making and planning**
- **The benefits of correct decisions made by agricultural planners will impact on producers and marketers in the production system.**

c. Proposal for the development of a policy paper on micro and small-scale enterprises in agriculture

Background

Micro and small-scale enterprises make up a large part of enterprises in developing countries and are increasingly valued by governments and donor agencies as units of production and generators of employment. While few precise definitions exist, this form of production can be characterized as being relatively small scale, family-owned, reliant on raw materials using indigenous material and labor-intensive technology, and operating in unrelated markets (USAID, 1983).

The scope of activities in the informal sector is varied. For women with family responsibilities and few formal skills, the informal sector is often their only source of income.

In Guyana, while there is an awareness of the potential economic contribution which small/microenterprises can make to development, there are no definite public sector policies and programmes to assist growth and development in this vital sector. The small and micro-sized entrepreneurs, therefore, continue to operate under very difficult conditions mainly as a result of organizational, systemic and financial problems.

In principle, it is desirable that all sectors of the economy - small, medium and large - be permitted to function in the most efficient manner through the government's sound and effective economic, financial, and fiscal policies.

Definitions

One of the country's major problems in small business development is that government has failed to define the small/microenterprise. This has led to much confusion and very often the exclusion of women in agriculture (processing) from benefits on tax concessions, developmental programmes, etc.

The definitions of the small/microenterprise are thus governed by the interests of the perceiver and usually upper and lower limits are set to such parameters as volume of labor, the amount of capital employed, or annual sales figures.

The Guyana Manufacturing and Industrial Development Agency (GUYMIDA), perceives a small enterprise as one with a maximum capital investment of US\$200,000 but not less than US\$5,000, while the Guyana Small Business Association (GSBA) defines it as one employing a maximum of 25 persons with annual sales of G\$50,000 - G\$5,000,000. The Deeds Registry sets an upper limit of 21 employees. Such an enterprise may be single proprietorship, a partnership, a cooperative, or a private company.

Clearly, where do small producers of agricultural products fit in with these definitions? Where

do women fit, when capital investment in small agri-enterprises can be as low as US\$1,000?

It is against this background that a proposal is made to assess small/micro enterprises in Guyana and, based on its findings, to define such enterprises in order to allow those involved to benefit from training, marketing, fiscal incentives, financing, and developmental programmes.

Goals and objectives

- To produce a policy paper on micro and small-scale enterprises with clear definitions
- To ensure that women who operate small enterprises benefit from programmes and policies on small/micro enterprises
- To reduce restrictions in production of local agri-processed goods by developing a system which allows small scale operators to legally source credit and other forms of financial assistance
- To improve the quantity/quality of output
- To promote the standard of living of women in agriculture and their families

Approach

- In defining small and micro enterprises a set base should be established. It is important that a distinction be made between small and micro enterprises in agriculture. Such a definition should consider:
 - number of persons employed by the business
 - maximum capital investment (equity)
 - type of business
- After defining the two groups of enterprises, a register of the business should be compiled by the Deeds Registry and classified according to:
 - size of business (small and micro)
 - type of business
 - economic sector
- The Ministry of Finance and other policy institutions will then have a guideline for allocation of fiscal incentives and other concessions.
- The approaches and policies for lending by public institutions will then have a guideline for allocation of fiscal incentives and other concessions.

- **Market information should be disseminated on the basis of enterprise definitions.**
- **Research should also be approached on a similar basis.**

Impact

- **The institutionalization of small and micro-enterprises in agriculture will have a direct impact on the operational standards of such businesses.**
- **It will aid in increasing the total agricultural output.**
- **It will increase the income of women and families.**

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TABLES

Table I.1. Characteristics of small farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993.

Type of Farms	No. and size (in ha) of farms by survey area																			
	All Farms N = 100			Upper & Lower Pastures N = 20			Pasturelands N = 20			Cane Fields N = 20			Cash Crops N = 21			Black Bush Fields N = 20				
	Total	<4	4 to <10	Total	<4.0	4 to <10	Total	<4.0	4 to <10	Total	<4.0	4 to <10	Total	<4	4 to <10	Total	<4.0	4 to <10		
Total	100	69	31	20	10	10	20	10	10	1	1	19	10	10	9	10	14	10	6	
Own	70	44	26	7	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	21	10	7	1	10	0	0	3	1
Rent	16	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Lease	40	17	23	0	1	1	14	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	11	0	4	1	13
Family Land	10	10	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	4	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Share	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partnership	3	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Joint Ownership	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Stated	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table I.2. Characteristics of the IICA/IDB survey respondents.

Union Status	Total of Respondents	Average Age	Average Level of Education							Head of Household		Responsible for Running Farm	
			Pri	Sec	Voc	Ter	N.F.	Other	N.S.	No.	%	All Year %	1-6 Month %
Total	150	40	117	20	2	4	2	1	4	58	38.7	89.55	10.45
Single	7	33	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	4	57.1	5.22	-
Married	89	40	72	12	2	1	-	1	1	20	22.5	50	8.21
Widowed	14	48	10	2	-	-	1	-	1	14	100	10.45	-
Divorced	3	54	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	66.7	2.24	-
Separated	3	41	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	100	2.24	-
Common-law	33	37	26	3	-	1	1	-	2	14	42.4	18.68	2.24
Visiting	1	55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100	0.75	-
<u>Neuro</u>													
Total	28	36	15	8	-	2	-	1	-	9	34.6	17.91	-
Single	8	33	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	3	60	3.73	-
Married	12	33	8	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	18.7	8.21	-
Divorced	2	50	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	50	1.48	-
Common-Law	7	36	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	42.9	4.45	-
<u>East Indian</u>													
Total	117	40	96	12	1	2	2	-	4	47	40.2	67.18	10.45
Single	1	36	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100	0.75	-
Married	74	41	62	9	1	1	-	-	1	16	21.6	39.55	8.21
Widowed	14	48	10	2	-	-	1	-	1	14	100	10.45	-
Divorced	1	64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100	0.75	-
Separated	3	42	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	100	2.24	-
Common-Law	23	35	18	1	-	1	1	-	2	11	47.8	12.89	2.24
Visiting	1	55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	100	0.75	-
<u>Amerindian</u>													
Total	7	45	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	28.6	4.48	-
Single	1	30	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.75	-
Married	3	53	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	66.7	2.24	-
Visiting	3	49	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.48	-

Pri - Primary, Sec - Secondary, Voc - Vocational, Ter - Tertiary, N.F. - Non-Formal, N.S. - Not Stated

Table I.3. Percentage of EAP in agriculture by sex and census year in Guyana (1946, 1960, 1970 and 1980).

Census Year	Male	Female	Total
1946	41.9	39.1	41.1
1960	37.8	25.4	35.0
1970	33.6	13.0	31.9
1980	31.6	11.8	26.8

Sources: West Indian Census 1946, (Part 1) Tables 49 and 50
 Population Census (Guyana) 1960, Vol II; Part B, Tables 14 and 15
 Population Census (Guyana) 1970, Vol 4, Part 16, Table 1
 Population Census (Guyana) 1980, Vol 2, Table 2.4.1

Table I.4. Estimated employment category by activity and gender in Guyana in 1993.

	Agriculture			Industry			Services			Not Stated		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Self-employed	32608	23747	8861	20088	15858	4230	39798	21198	18600	4853	2480	2103
Regular salaried	3112	298	2814	39428	30172	9256	83607	83117	30380	2674	1813	1181
Casual Labour	1189	113	1076	4492	4350	142	13347	10934	2413	677	668	111
Total	38809	24158	12734	64018	59377	13642	136882	78220	51432	7834	3859	3375

Source: HES, 1993, Table 1.8.1

Table I.5. Participation in on- and off-farm income producing activities by gender in Guyana in 1993.

	On-Farm	Off-Farm	Total
Men	.39	.14	.53
Women	.35	.12	.47
Total	.74	.26	1.0

Table II. 1. Percentage involvement of family members in crop production activities in Guyana in 1993.

Activities	Respondents (%)	Other Women	Men (%)
Pre-Harvest	43	7	50
Post-Harvest	46	11	43
Marketing	46	9	45

Table II.2. Division of labor on the farm. Percentage of family members participating in reproductive activities in Guyana in 1993.

Reproductive Activities	Total												
	Negro				East Indian				Amerindian				
	Women	Men	%	R (%)	Women	Men	%	R (%)	Women	Men	%	R (%)	
	R (%)	OW (%)	%	R (%)	OW (%)	%	R (%)	OW (%)	R (%)	OW (%)	%	R (%)	OW (%)
Prepare food	93.3	9.9	3.7	92.3	30.4	11.6	96.7	6.3	1.5	57.1	-	13.3	-
Gather firewood	23.3	-	16.9	11.5	-	11.8	26.6	-	19.0	28.6	-	13.3	-
Carry water	36.3	7.4	17.7	23.1	16.2	11.6	37.6	6.3	19.6	42.9	-	6.7	-
Wash clothes	89.3	7.4	1.2	100.0	19.2	2.9	96.7	6.3	0.5	85.7	-	6.7	-
Iron clothes	66.0	3.7	0.4	86.5	9.1	-	62.4	3.2	-	42.9	-	6.7	-
Clean house	78.3	16.0	0.8	88.5	27.3	2.9	78.6	14.3	-	57.1	14.3	6.7	-
Child care	30.0	7.4	1.2	67.7	27.3	6.8	24.0	3.2	0.5	28.6	14.3	-	-
Shopping	92.7	1.2	4.9	84.6	-	5.8	84.6	1.8	4.1	42.9	-	13.3	-
Repair house and furniture	6.3	-	2.4	-	-	2.9	6.8	-	2.1	-	-	6.7	-
Sew/mend clothes	16.3	1.2	-	34.6	-	-	11.1	1.6	-	14.3	-	-	-
Pay bills	32.7	1.2	14.4	81.5	-	17.8	27.4	1.6	14.4	14.3	-	6.7	-
Clean yard	42.0	8.2	14.0	30.7	-	20.8	46.3	7.9	13.4	28.6	-	6.7	-
Tend garden	16.0	-	7.4	16.4	-	8.8	17.1	-	7.7	-	-	-	-
Transport children/other	6.7	1.2	1.2	16.4	-	2.9	4.2	1.6	1.0	1.43	-	-	-

x - Respondent, xx - Other Women

Table II.3. Women's respondent's use of time in domestic (reproductive) activities in Guyana.

Domestic Activity	Average Hours per Week Spent by Percentage of Respondents											
	Total			Negro			East Indian			Amerindian		
	Av. hrs.	% of 150 Resp.	Av. hrs.	% of 26 Resp.	Av. hrs.	% of 117 Resp.	Av. hrs.	% of 7 Resp.				
Prepare food	30.78	93.3	34.56	92.3	29.24	95.7	50.43	57.1				
Gather firewood	3.97	23.3	2.33	11.5	4.53	25.6	3	28.6				
Carry water	8.38	35.3	10.21	23.1	8.17	37.6	8.75	42.9				
Wash clothes	7.28	89.3	6.41	100.0	7.62	95.7	9.67	85.7				
Iron clothes	2.67	66	2.04	88.5	2.92	62.4	1.5	42.9				
Clean house	9.21	79.3	9.21	88.5	9.24	78.6	7.62	57.1				
Child care	28.25	30	24.75	67.7	30.67	24	21	28.6				
Shopping	3.71	82.7	3.57	84.6	4.12	84.6	2.6	42.9				
Repair house and furniture	1	5.3			1	6.8						
Sew/mend clothes	1.04	15.3	1	34.6	1	11.1	1.5	14.3				
Pay bills	1.75	32.7	1.27	61.5	1.95	27.4	2	14.3				
Clean yard	5.8	42	6.45	30.7	11.15	45.3	2.5	28.6				
Tend garden	22.62	16	24	15.4	16.47	17.1						
Transport children/other	6.94	6.7	6.25	15.04	8.5	4.2	5	14.3				
Other	7		7									
Total	140.4		139.05		136.58		115.57					

Table II.4. Sources of domestic and farm use water supply in Guyana in 1993.

Source	Total		District*										
	Domestic (%)	Farm Use (%)	Domestic (%)										
			1	2	3	4	5	6					
Public Piped to yard	23.3	0.6	36.7	6.7	-	-	-	73.3	-	-	-	-	3.3
Public Stand Pipe	14.3	-	46.7	6.7	43.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Tank	6.6	-	-	-	33.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stored Rain Water	82.0	6.7	66.7	100.0	76.6	96.7	96.7	80.0	3.3	3.3	-	-	27.6
Private Piped to yard	2.0	-	3.3	6.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private Catchment	3.3	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	16.7	-	-	-	-	10.0
River/Spring/Well/Pond	24.0	30.0	-	6.7	1.0	100.0	3.3	3.3	-	36.7	90.0	90.0	23.3
Canal	32.6	62.0	50.0	73.3	36.7	3.3	3.3	-	100.0	30.0	66.7	1.0	40.0
Rainfall	-	84.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	76.7	96.7	83.3	100.0	63.3
Other	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	0.3	-	-

- *District
 1 - Cane Grove
 2 - Parika/Salem
 3 - Black Bush Polder
 4 - Upper and Lower Pomeroon
 5 - Canals Polder

Table II.5. Women's participation in productive and community organizations in Guyana in 1993.

	Types of Organizations Operative in Surveyed Zone						Respondents Participation				
	Upper & Lower Penetration	Parika/Saleem	Canal Potlder	Cane Grove	Black Bush Potlder	% of Total No. of 150 respondents	Upper & Lower Penetration N = 30 (%)	Parika/Saleem N = 30 (%)	Canal Potlder N = 29 (%)	Cane Grove N = 31 (%)	Black Bush Potlder N = 30 (%)
A. Productive Organizations											
Cooperatives	Yes	Yes	No	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farmer Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1.3	3.3	-	3.4	-	-
B. Community Organizations											
Sports Club	No	Yes	No	No	No	0.6	-	3.3	-	-	-
Church Club	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18.0	23.3	13.8	16.1	3.3	
Community Group	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2.7	6.7	3.4	-	-	
Parent/Teacher Associations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	24.0	60.0	31.0	12.9	10.0	
Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2.0	-	3.3	6.5	-	
C. Women's Programs											
Women's Affairs Bureau	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	1.3	-	6.7	-	-	
• GFWI	No	Yes	No	No	No	-	-	-	-	-	
•• WRSAM (MCM)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	
••• WFO	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	
Social Welfare	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.6	-	-	3.2	-	
Other	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0.6	-	-	3.2	-	

* Guyana Federation of Women's Institute
 ** Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement (Now National Congress of Women)
 *** Women's Progressive Organization

Table II.6. Decisions on use of family income and item of expenditure in Guyana in 1993.

Item of Expenditure	Decision-making			
	Respondent	Man	Both	Other
Household Activities	85.8	2.0	12.2	-
Food	83.3	3.3	13.3	-
Clothing	78.7	3.3	18.0	-
Education	64.7	4.4	30.1	0.7
Health	60.8	3.4	35.8	-
House construction/ repairs	29.8	14.9	54.6	0.7
Leisure	29.8	14.9	54.6	-

Table II.7. Women's participation in productive decisions on the farm in Guyana in 1993.

Decisions Pertaining to	Decision-makers															
	Only Women*				Only Men**				Shared Men and Women				Other			
	N = 160 All	N = 26 Negro	N = 117 East Indian	N = 7 Amer-Indian	N = 123 All	N = 19 Negro	N = 96 East Indian	N = 6 Amer-Indian	All	Negro	East Indian	Amer-Indian	All	Negro	East Indian	Amer-Indian
INDEX																
Crop production	29.5	41.7	26.3	42.9	29.8	12.5	33.9	14.2	40.9	48.9	38.8	42.9	40.9	48.9	38.8	42.9
Purchase Machine/Equipment	18.5	27.4	13.6	50.0	34.0	36.3	34.1	25.0	49.5	39.3	52.3	25.0	49.5	39.3	52.3	25.0
Crops to be planted	30.0	41.7	21.8	42.9	16.0	12.5	17.6	-	54.0	48.8	55.5	57.1	54.0	48.8	55.5	57.1
Livestock to be raised	56.9	54.5	57.3	60.0	6.9	4.5	7.9	-	36.3	39.4	34.8	40.0	36.3	39.4	34.8	40.0
Marketing																
Products to be sold	37.9	62.5	32.8	40.0	13.9	4.2	15.5	20.0	47.6	33.3	50.9	40.0	47.6	33.3	50.9	40.0
What markets	45.2	75.0	40.5	40.0	13.9	8.3	14.7	20.0	36.6	16.7	43.1	40.0	36.6	16.7	43.1	40.0
Price of goods	42.9	78.3	36.4	50.0	34.3	6.7	8.8	-	23.6	8.7	26.5	25.0	23.6	8.7	26.5	25.0
Management																
Use of loans	18.6	37.5	12.5	33.3	16.3	12.5	16.9	-	62.8	50.0	65.6	66.7	62.8	50.0	65.6	66.7
Farm management	31.7	45.5	27.4	56.6	16.9	13.6	19.6	16.7	49.7	40.9	53.0	18.7	49.7	40.9	53.0	18.7
Use of profit	30.0	58.3	23.7	40.0	6.8	-	7.5	20.0	63.2	41.7	66.6	40.0	63.2	41.7	66.6	40.0
Organization of production	30.5	50.0	29.7	50.0	20.5	13.8	22.1	16.7	50.0	36.4	52.2	33.3	50.0	36.4	52.2	33.3
Hiring of farm labor	27.0	55.6	22.0	-	37.0	22.2	40.0	-	39.0	22.2	39.0	100.0	39.0	22.2	39.0	100.0
Other	50.0	100.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.0	-	100.0	-	50.0	-	100.0	-
N.B: Household needs	*90	*11	*47	*2	**90	**15	**70	**5								

Table III.1. Crops by processed product and gender orientation in Guyana in 1993.

CROP	PRODUCT	Gender Orientation	
		M	F
1. Carambola	Dried carambola, carambola juice		x
2. Guava	Jams, jellies & guava chees		x
3. Papaw	Candied papaw & puree		x
4. Tamarind	Shelled tamarind & syrup		x
5. Bilimbi	Hout sauce & pickles		x
6. Nuts	Salted, parched	x	
7. Coconut	Coconut oil, copra, brooms	x	
8. Mango	Achar, syrup		x
9. Ginger	Dried ginger	x	x
10. Coffee	Dried coffee beans		x
11. Pepper	Pepper sauces Dried pepper	x x	x x
12. Pigeon Peas	Dried peas		x
13. Black eyes peas	Dried peas		x
14. Black pepper	Dried pepper	x	x
15. Herbs (Thyme eschallot etc.)	Dried thyme		x
16. Cassava	Cassava bread Cassavareep Starch		x x x
17. Plantain chips	Plantain chips Plantain flour		x
18. Fish	Dried fish Salted fish	x x	x x
19. Shrimps	Dried shrimp	x	x
20. Tumeric etc.	Dried	x	x

Table III.2. Agro-industrial activities on the farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993.

Distribution	No. of farms	% per dist.	% no. of farms surveyed	Origin of Basic Inputs																		
				Physical inputs			Production					Labour		Marketing								
				Farm only (%)	Farm & Purchase only (%)	Purchased only (%)	Resp	Other women	Other family members	Resp	Other Women	Other family members	Other members									
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	12	46.7	8.0	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	4	13.3	2.7	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	10.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table III.3. Percentage of women who have received training or technical assistance and areas in which it is was desired.

Type of Training/ Assistance	Respondents who received training/assistance		Respondents who want training/assistance	
	Total = 4	Percentage of Total	Out of the total 150	Percentage of total sample
Seed selection/ production	-	-	31	21
Use of fertilizers/ pesticides	2	1.3	35	23
Post-harvest storage	-	-	22	15
Marketing	-	-	34	23
Feeding and grazing	1	0.6	14	9
Farm Management	1	0.6	47	31
Packaging	-	-	12	8
Processing	-	-	21	14
Other	-	-	1	0.7

Table IV.1. Inputs commonly used on small farms in Guyana.

Traditional	Improved
	Land Clearing
Fire	Weedicides
	Planting Material
Traditional seeds, stem cuttings, seedlings	Improved seeds (HYV)¹
	Crop Protection
Weeding, Smoking, Burning	Weedicides, Insecticides, Fungicides
	Fertilizing
Animal dung	Inorganic fertilizers, Compost
	Feeds
Farm produce, Household residue	Concentrates

Table IV.2. Types of Inputs used on the farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993.

Inputs	Total no. of farms	% no. of farms	Districts (%)					Use by family members			
			1	2	3	4	5	Women	Men	Both	Other
Traditional seeds	88	58.6	22.7	13.6	27.3	25.0	11.4	18.2	6.8	75.0	-
Improved Seeds	41	27.3	19.5	14.6	41.5	4.9	19.5	14.6	2.5	82.9	-
Traditional Planting material	77	51.3	10.4	31.0	10.4	32.6	15.6	25.0	5.29	68.8	-
Improved Planting material	24	16.0	-	4.0	29.0	-	63.0	16.6	8.4	75.0	-
Inorganic fertilizers	101	67.3	27.7	22.3	30.0	-	20.0	14.08	28.7	56.5	-
Organic fertilizers	28	18.6	17.9	7.1	50.0	3.6	21.4	10.7	21.4	67.9	-
Insecticide	92	61.3	28.3	14.1	31.5	12.0	14.1	19.5	47.90	32.6	-
Fungicide	10	6.6	-	20.0	60.0	10.0	10.0	30.0	70.0	-	-
Weedicide	69	46.0	18.8	37.7	17.4	5.82	20.3	21.7	60.9	17.4	-
Nematicide	4	26.6	-	-	75.0	25.0	-	50.0	25.0	25.0	-
Animal feed	84	56.0	21.4	16.7	19.1	26.1	16.7	61.9	19.0	17.9	1.2
Vaccines	9	6.0	44.4	22.2	11.1	11.2	11.1	22.2	56.2	22.2	-
Supplements	7	4.7	14.2	28.6	28.6	-	28.6	42.9	28.6	28.5	-

Table IV.3. Instruments and equipment used on small-scale farm units in Guyana.

Traditional	Improved
Land Clearing	
Fire, Axe, Cutlass	Power saw (chain saw), Bulldozers
Cultivation	
Shovel, Hoe, Spade, Fork (digger) Cutlass, Rake	Tractor & plough. Tractor and harrow
Harvesting	
Sickle (grass knife), Scythe, Cutlass, Knife	Combine Harvester
Cutting and Chopping	
Knife, Hand chopper	Electric knife
Grinding	
Mortar, Plate-mill (hand operated)	Hammer mill, Electric mill
Cooking	
'Fire-side' (mud oven) Coal-pots, Pots, Pans	Stoves (electric, kerosene, gas)
Drying	
Drying pans, Drying floors (wooden & concrete), Roofs* (troolie roof)	Dehydrators (electric) Solar dryers
Storage	
Jute bags, Bins, Boxes, Concrete floors (loose- bulk storage)	Ventilated silos
Transportation	
Horse drawn carts, Canoes	Tractor & trailer, Van, Mini bus, Boat & engine

* Troolie roof roof made out of the été palm leaf, used for drying cassava bread in Amerindian communities

Table IV.4. Types of equipment and tools used on the farms surveyed in Guyana in 1993.

Equipment and Tools	Total no. of farms	% no. of farms	Survey Districts					Use by family members (%)			
			1	2	3	4	5	Women	Men	Both	Other
Hand tools	148	98.6	20.9	19.6	20.3	20.3	18.9	19.6	4.7	75.0	0.7
Plough	108	72.0	22.2	25.0	26.9	0.9	25.0	4.6	93.5	1.9	-
Cart	21	14.0	52.4	9.5	23.8	-	14.2	-	80.9	19.1	-
Animal Power	21	14.0	52.4	-	23.8	-	23.8	-	80.9	19.1	-
Tractor	106	70.7	70.7	27.3	23.6	27.4	21.7	4.7	94.3	1.0	-
Trailer	32	21.3	59.4	3.1	37.5	-	-	3.1	96.9	-	-
Mechanical digger	2	1.3	50.0	50.0	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	-
Irrigation equipment	14	9.3	-	50.0	42.9	-	7.1	14.3	71.4	14.3	-
Sprayer	109	72.0	25.9	25.09	26.0	10.2	12.0	14.8	50.9	33.3	1.0
Solar Dryers	1	0.6	-	-	-	100.0	-	-	-	-	100.0
Indigenous	3	2.0	-	33.3	-	-	66.7	-	33.3	66.7	-
Other	3	2.0	-	66.6	-	-	33.4	33.3	-	66.7	-

Policies and Programs	Description	Orientation by size of producer			Gender orientation			Comments
		Small	Medium	Large	Women Farmer	Other Woman		
I. LAND TITLING								
(a) Ownership	State and government lands bought by individuals, groups, corporations and companies, etc., 1966-present. Titles for freehold land registered under the Deeds Registry Act or Land Registration Act.	x	x	x			In relation to men, few women own such titles. Cultural and inheritance patterns are among inhibiting factors.	
(b) Leasehold Land Settlement Programs Private Lands	State and government lands. Renewable leases to individuals, business and agricultural development enterprises, cooperation groups. Also leases and sub-leases from private holders.	x	x	x			Lands and Surveys Division responsible for issuance of leases for land settlement schemes. Few leases for women.	
(c) Nationalization	Post-independence (1966) acquisition of lands holding of exportation corporations and companies such as Brothers, Dewcents, etc.		x	x			These lands became Government lands.	
(d) Communal Titles to Amerindian Communities	Invention declared since 1976. Some titles already issued. Grouping of small subsistence level farms.	x	x	x			Women can access as part of the community.	
II. CREDIT								
(a) Agricultural Credit Institutions facilitating agricultural development	Guyana Cooperative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, established 1973, mobilizes local and foreign funds. Originally biased in favour of cooperatives. Specified collateral requirements. Interest rates and local currency loans versus with central bank rates.		x	x			Charges consultancy fees for assistance in preparation of project pre-investment and feasibility studies. No written policy.	
(b) Commercial Banks	Higher interest rates. Stricter collateral policies. Faster service. Five local commercial banks.							
(c) Private Sector organized low interest funding for small agricultural and agro-processing enterprises	Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED), a non-profit organization launched in 1966. Mobilizes funds from local and international donor and lending agencies. Clients are assessed with self loans.	x	x	x	x	x	Offers technical and management assistance free of charge. Encourages the involvement of women. Claims they are credit worthy.	
(d) Informal Credit	Private shopkeepers, money lenders, friends and family. Also box-money.	x	x	x	x	x	Traditional. Little formality. Community sanctions apply.	
III. RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY								
Extension Services, MOA	Pre 1966-1964 major responsible agency. Post 1964 working in collaboration with other agencies.	x	x	x			Plans and programs have been male-oriented.	
GUYANCO Extension Program	Still focuses in the main on technology related to sugar.							
Mekusica/Mehelcomby/Aberty (MAMA) and Guyana Rice Board	Major focus on rice-related technology transfer.		x	x			Few women farmers. Mostly women paid labourers.	
Establishment of National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in 1964. Works closely with Regional and International Research Institutes and Agencies	Largest technology extension effort. Since produced a new blast resistant rice. Tissue culture for selected crops, pest management and weed control technology. Undertakes research in three agro-ecosystems.	x	x	x				

Table V.1. (Cont.).

Policies and Programs	Description	Orientation by size of producer			Gender orientation			Comments
		Small	Medium	Large	Woman Farmer	Other Woman		
<p>NGOs' and International Agencies' assistance programs.</p> <p>Channelled through such programs as SIMAP and Future Funds. Also direct to communications.</p>	<p>Cushioning impact of structural adjustment programs since 1989 by way of technical and financial assistance to vulnerable groups.</p>	x	x	x	x	x	<p>Rural women are numbered among the vulnerable groups.</p>	
<p>IV. TRAINING AND EXTENSION</p> <p>(a) Extension and Education Division, MOA</p>	<p>Program of activities impacts on all 10 regions of Guyana since 1976. Presently involved in subsector Commodity Programs on Model farms capable of producing above the subsistence level. Works in collaboration with NARS and other local and international agencies.</p>	x	x	x			<p>Women farmers on subsistence level farms are officially excluded from the program.</p>	
<p>(b) Policy of formal Training and Education in Agriculture. PROBES involve Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Guyana School of Agriculture and University of Guyana, Faculty of Agriculture.</p>	<p>All programs designed in recognition of the importance of agriculture to Guyana's economy.</p>	x	x	x	x	x	<p>Overall the male:female training ratio has been 4:1.</p>	
<p>NGOs and Women's Group Training programs</p>	<p>NGOs include UNFEM, UNICEF, FAO, etc., all of which have Women in Development (WID) components. Women's training programs, especially agro-processing programs by such local women's groups as the Guyana Federation of Women's Institutes (GFWI), Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement (WRSM), Woman's Progressive Organization (WPO) and Red Thread Women's Development.</p>	x	x	x	x	x	<p>Some groups like the GFWI, have been involved in such training since the 1940s.</p>	
<p>V. RURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>(a) Land Settlement Programs</p>	<p>The Lands and Surveys Division of the MOA administers the Land Settlement Program. There are 18 Land Settlement Schemes covering a total area of over 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares).</p>	x	x	x			<p>Lots of these Lands were meant for rice cultivation. But since it is now unprofitable to cultivate plots of 8 hectares, small farmers are reportedly reformally renting their plots to larger farmers for amounts exceeding the equivalent of three months of a farm labourer's wages.</p>	

Policies and Programs	Description	Orientation by size of producer			Gender orientation			Comments
		Small	Medium	Large	Women Farmer	Other Woman		
(a) Cooperatives' action	Ministry of Cooperatives set up in 1962 was asked to assist, train and guide community members in cooperative type agricultural enterprises in order to eliminate the disadvantages of small scale farming. The @SABANE was set up in 1973 to assist such cooperative enterprises.	x	x	x			Cooperativism failed to live up to the government's high expectations. Nevertheless, some 1400 cooperatives are still reflected in the books. Very few are active. We have been advised of only seven functioning agricultural cooperatives in which women play a major role.	
VI. WOMEN'S POLICIES								
(a) Greater opportunities for girls in technical and vocational training	Since 1968 the provision has been embodied in the policy of the Ministry of Education				x			
(b) Reduction of mortality and morbidity rates especially maternal and child mortality	Since 1969 this has been one of five priority programs at the Ministry of Health.							

Table V.2. Marketing and technology institutions and programmes in Guyana in the 1970-1993 period.

Institutions and Programmes	Description	Product Orientation	Type of Extension				Orientations by Size of Product			Gender Orientation
			Research & Development	Training and Extension		Large	Medium	Small		
				Production	Marketing				Post-Harvest Manufacturing & Food Processing	
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS										
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMMES										
Tepicuna Irrigation Project	DAI to benefit: 97,000 acres	a. Rice b. Other Crops				x	x	x		
Black Bush Polder Irrigation Project	88,000 acres	a. Rice b. Other Crops				x	x	x		
Mahaica Mochelony Abary Water Control Project	38,000 acres	a. Rice b. Other Crops				x	x	x		
Food Crop Productions & Marketing Programme	Increase Food Production in 5 Administrative Regions	a. Other Crops	x							
National Agricultural Research Institute PROGRAMMES										
Tissue Culture	General Improvement of Plant Propagation Material	Rice, plantains, pineapples, cassava and sweet potato	x							
Seed Programmes			x							
Variety Development			x							
Soil Development			x							
National Dairy Development Programme PROGRAMME										
Dairy herd improvement	Increase Milk Production	Milk	x							
Pasture Development										

Table V.2: (Cont.)

Institutions and Programmes	Description	Product Orientation	Type of Extension					Orientations by Size of Product			Gender Orientation
			Research & Development	Training and Extension			Large	Medium	Small		
				Production	Marketing	Post-Harvest Manufacturing & Food Processing					
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS											
Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute		Milk, sheep & goats	x								
Intra-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture		Carambola, pineapples	x								N O T
Social Impact Amelioration Programme						x					
Future Fund											
Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation		Rice, fish	x								S T A T E D
United Nations Development Fund		Rice	x								
International Fund for Agricultural Development		Rice & Other Crops	x			x					
Canadian International Development Agency		Fish	x								
Inter-American Development Bank		Rice & Other Crops	x			x					
Institute of Private Enterprise Development		Rice & Other Crops									
OTHER											
Rice Production Association		Rice									NOT
Guyana Rice Milling & Exporters Association		Rice									STATED

Table V.2. (Cont.)

Institutions and Programmes	Description	Product Orientation	Type of Extensions				Orientations by Size of Product			Gender Orientation
			Research & Development	Production	Training and Extensions		Large	Medium	Small	
					Post-Harvest Manufacturing & Food Processing	Marketing				
Extension Division										
PROGRAMME Crop and Livestock Development		Crops other than sugar		x						
Ministry of Education Guyana School of Agriculture			x							
PROGRAMMES • Diploma in Agriculture • Certificate in Agriculture	Two-year Practical and Theoretical Programme	N/A		x	x	x	x	x		
University of Guyana Faculty of Agriculture										N O T
PROGRAMME • Degree in Agriculture	Four-year Practical and Theoretical Programme	N/A		x			x	x		
Carnegie School of Home Economics										
PROGRAMME • Food Preservations Course	Short & long-term courses in various fields	Rice, cassava, fruits and vegetables						x		S T A T E D
New Guyana Marketing Corporation										
PROGRAMMES • Modification and Acquisition of Export Markets	Market Surveys and Price Publication	Food Crops (referred to as non-traditional)						x	x	

Table V.2. (Cont.).

Institutions and Programmes	Description	Product Orientation	Type of Extensions					Orientations by Size of Product			Gender Orientation	
			Research & Development		Training and Extensions			Large	Medium	Small		
			Production	Marketing	Post-Harvest Manufacturing & Food Processing							
Guyana Sugar Corporation												
PROGRAMMES												
• Edible Oil Development	Diversification of sugar-cane	Palm Oil	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	N
• Food Crop Programmes (other than sugar)	Land use	Fish & Sugar-cane	x	x	x							O
• Soil Improvement	Inputs		x	x	x							T
National Rice Grading Center												
PROGRAMME												
Grading and Marketing of Rice	Dissemination of relevant information on grading	Rice				x	x	x				S
Guyana Rice Milling & Marketing Authority												T
PROGRAMME												A
Domestic Marketing & Milling of Rice	Negotiating contracts for rice exports	Rice										T
Guyana Rice Export Board												E
Guyana Agricultural & Industrial Development Bank												D
PROGRAMME												
• Rice Production Credits	Participation in Input Acquisition	Rice and non-traditional Food Crops							x	x	x	x
• Food Crop & Marketing												x

Table V.3. Women's programs in Guyana in the 1966-1993 period.

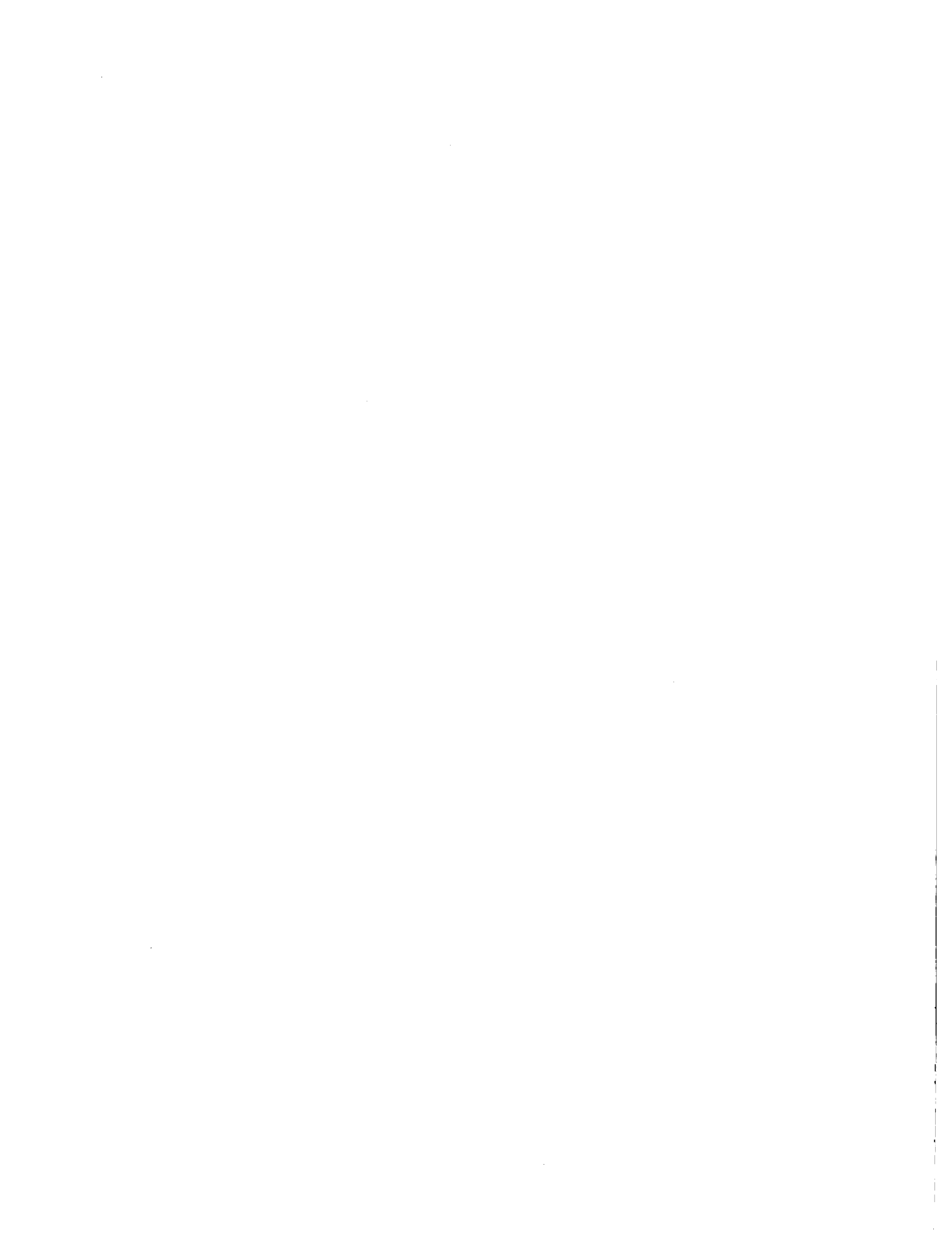
Institutions Programs and Projects	Description	Types of Programs						Orientation	Results/Comments	
		Welfare	Reproductive Activities ^a	Productive Activities			Urban Women			
				Animal Husbandry	Up to Harvest	Post-Harvest and Agro Industrial				Marketing
1. PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS										
a. Ministry of Labour Human Service and Social Security/ Women's Affairs Bureau	Established in 1961. Policy-formulating body, set up to provide administrative, technical and financial assistance to women's NGOs to initiate research and collect data on women and to provide counselling advice service for women. Three full-time staffs.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Has only been able to impact on 20 rural groups, 600 women. Badly understaffed salary disincentsive.
b. Ministry of Health	Reeducation on maternal and child mortality	Yes	Yes							
c. Ministry of Education	Provision of greater opportunities for girls in technical and vocational training - since 1969			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Increase in entrants and passes at CXC Agri - example of evidence of effectiveness.
d. Social Impact Amelioration Program (SIAMAP)	Set up in 1969 to mobilize local and overseas funding to ameliorate the impact of structural adjustment. Thirty women's projects.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Effective but only about 1000 rural women involved in agriculture have benefited to date.

²⁸ Includes education, health, nutrition, child care, etc. programs and projects.

²⁹ Includes any program designed to increase family income, e.g. sewing, artisan work, etc.

Table V.3. (Cont.).

e. UG Women's Studies Program	Established in Sept. 1987 within the Faculty of Social Sciences. It generates a research base on women and disseminates information.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Effectiveness gradually being enhanced.	
IV. INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES									
e.g. PAHO/WHO	Ever since the 1978 International Women's Year World Conference in Mexico, all these agencies have consciously built WDI/Gender components into their programs.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Effective but unfortunately not many rural women involved in subsistence agriculture have been able to benefit. They are not being reached.	
UNDP									
UNICEF									
UNFEM									
French Government									
German Democratic Republic									



FIGURES

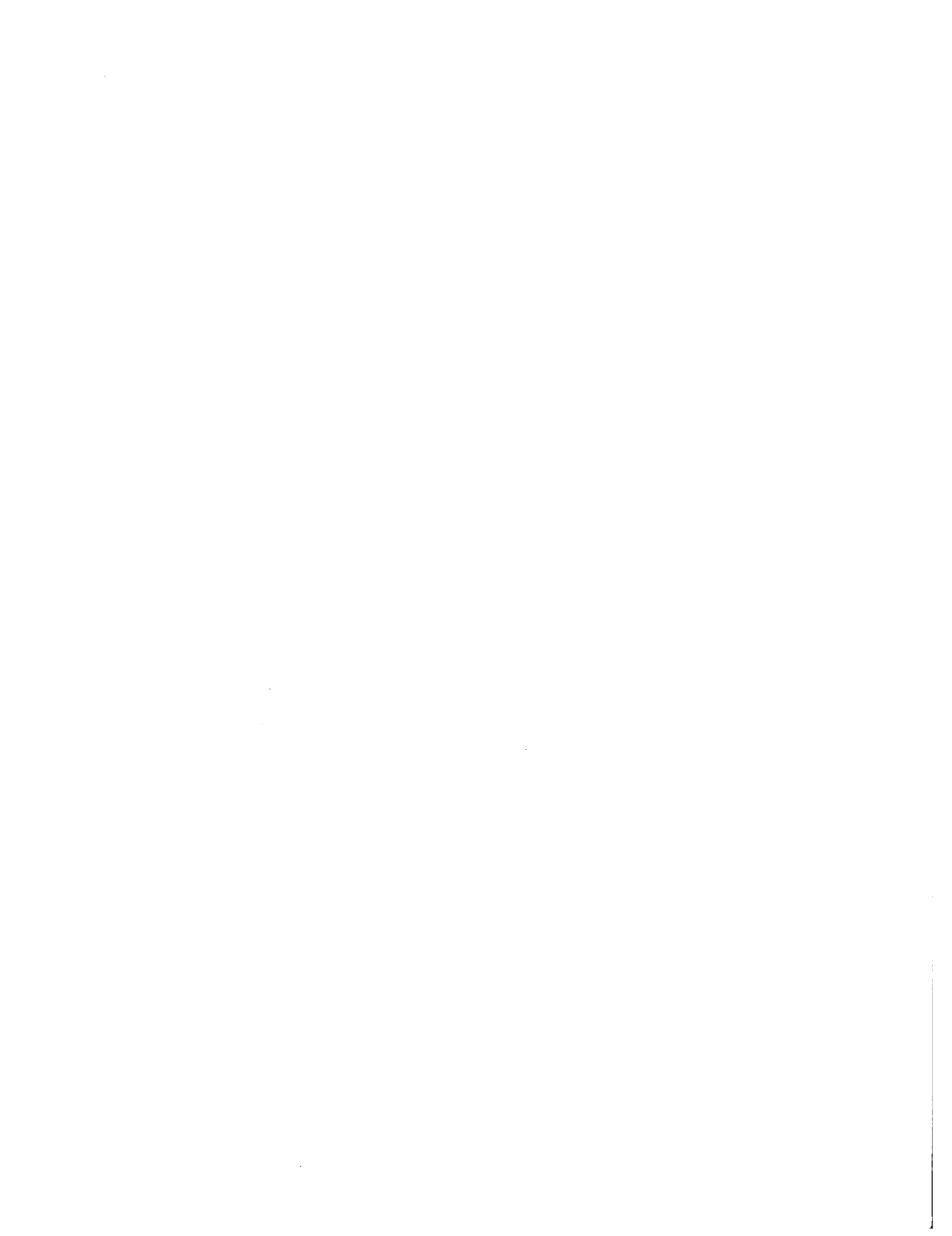


Figure I.I.

The Rural Women Food Producers Problem Tree of Guyana (1993)

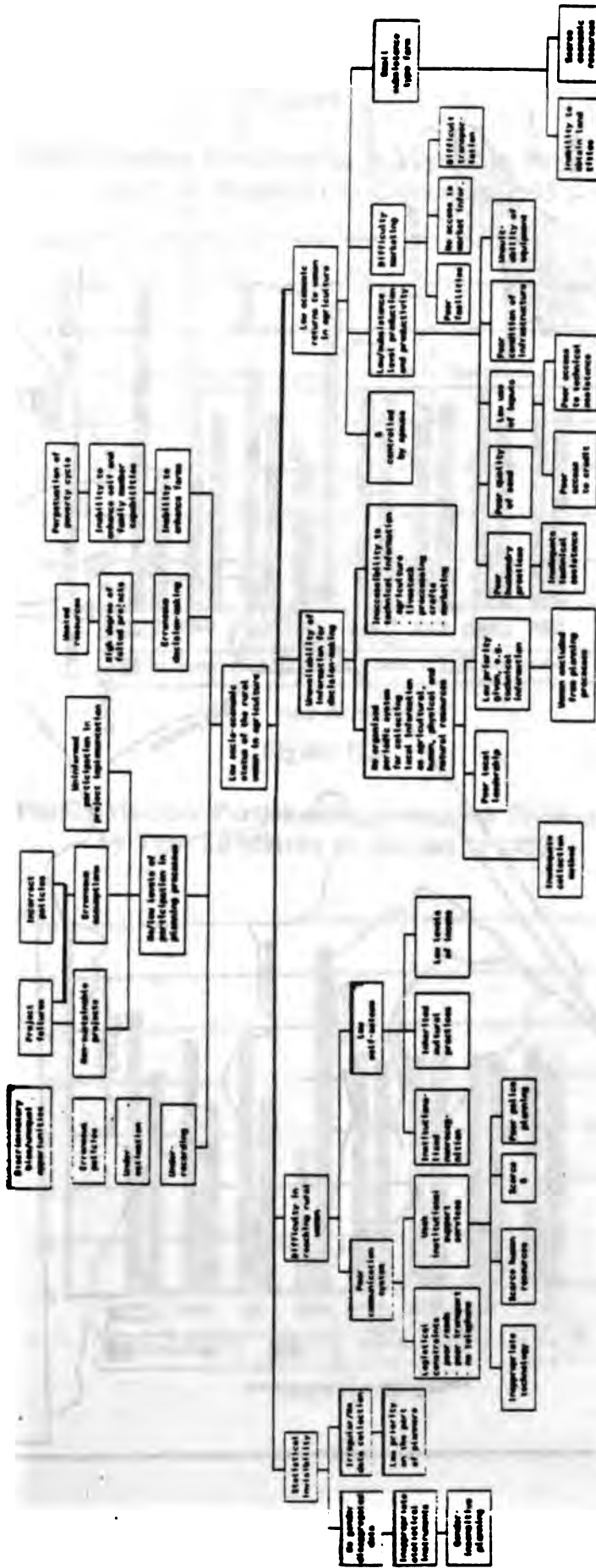


Figure I.2

Guyana Survey Areas

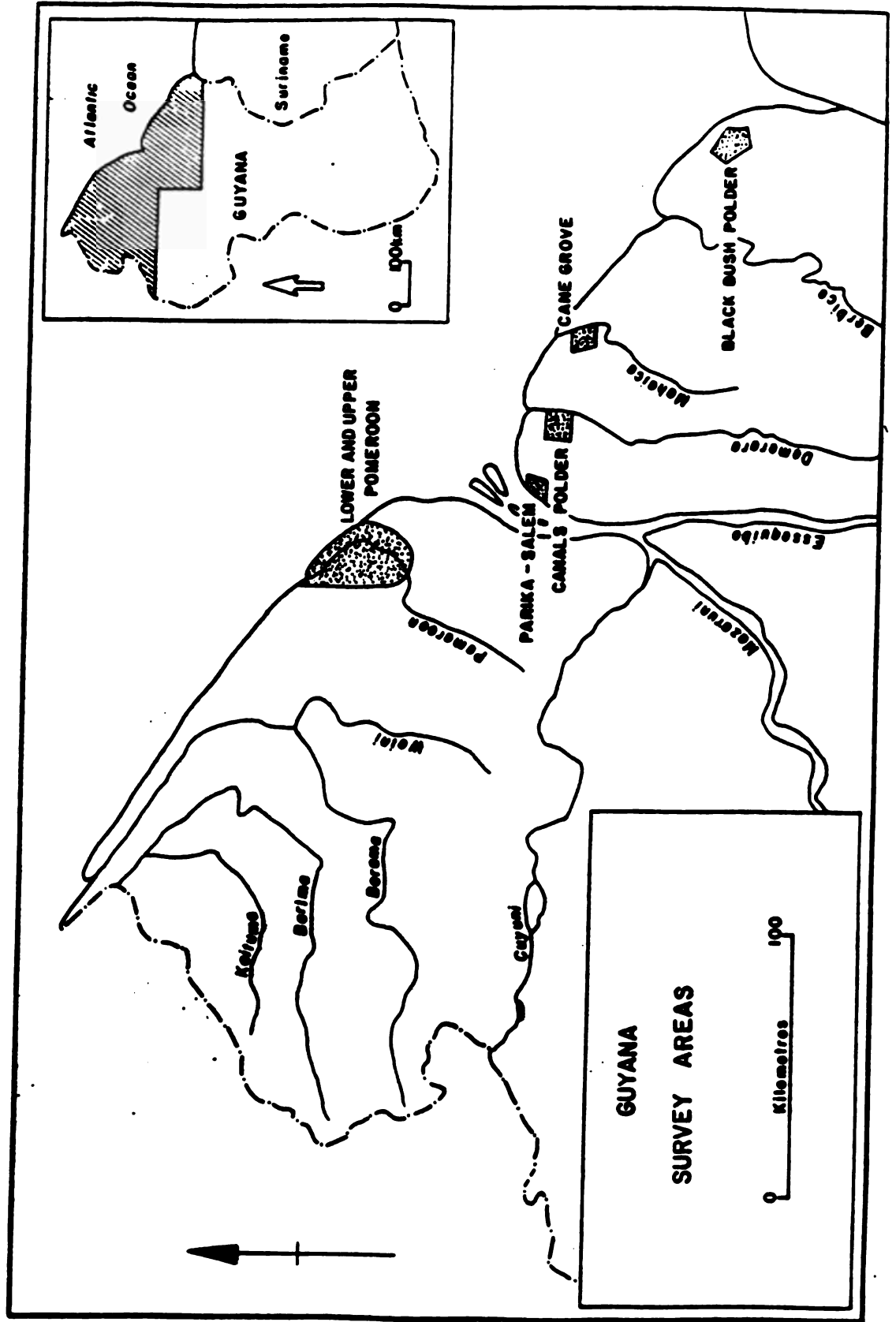


Figure II.1

Family Member Participation in Vegetables Production by Type of Activity in Guyana in 1993

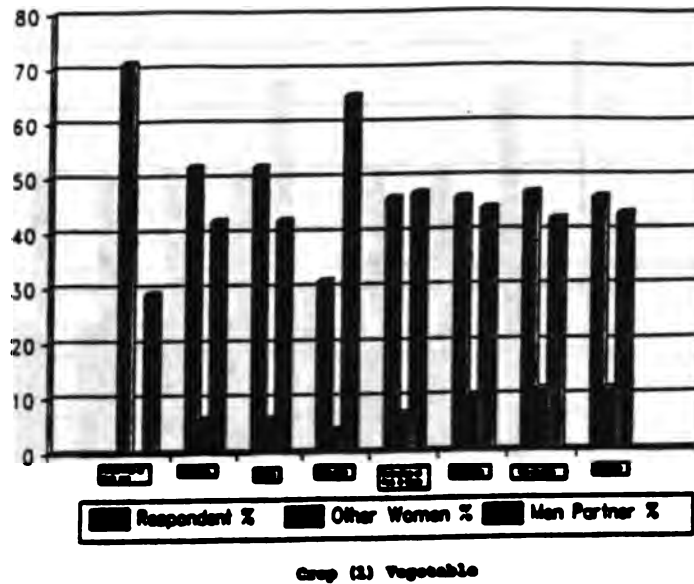


Figure II.2

Family Member Participation in Cassava Production by Type of Activity in Guyana in 1993

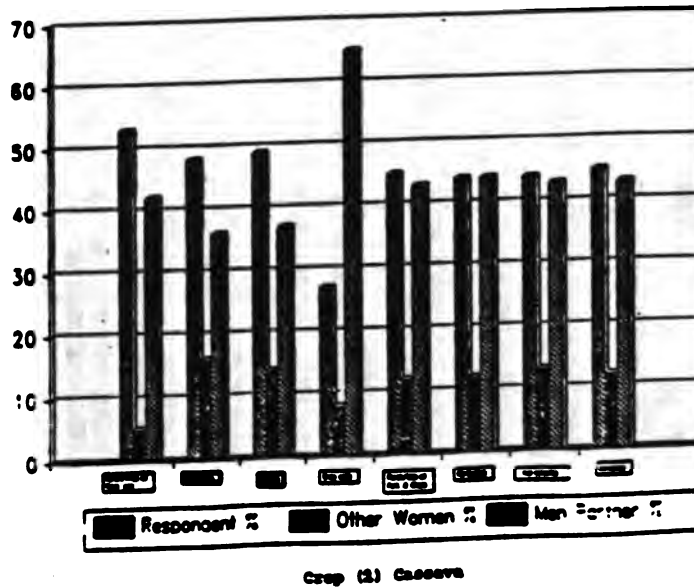
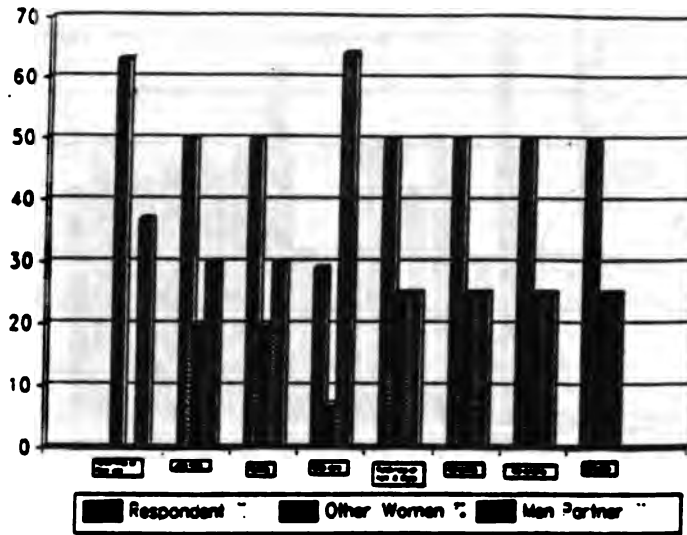


Figure II.3

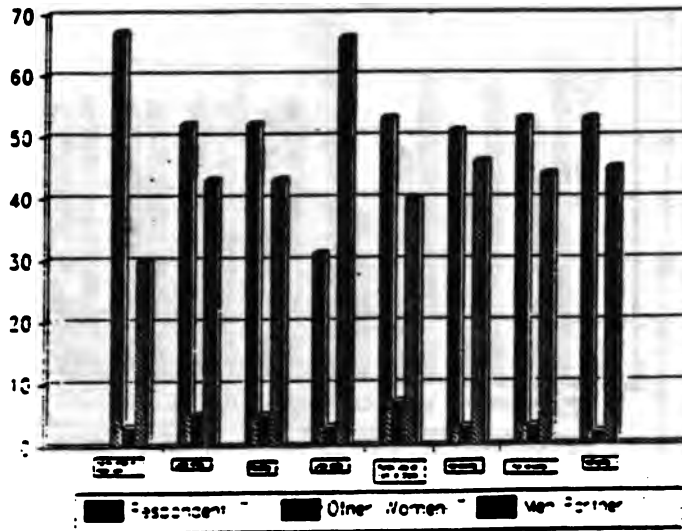
Family Member Participation in Sweet Potato Production by Type of Activity in Guyana



Crop (3) Sweet Potato

Figure II.4

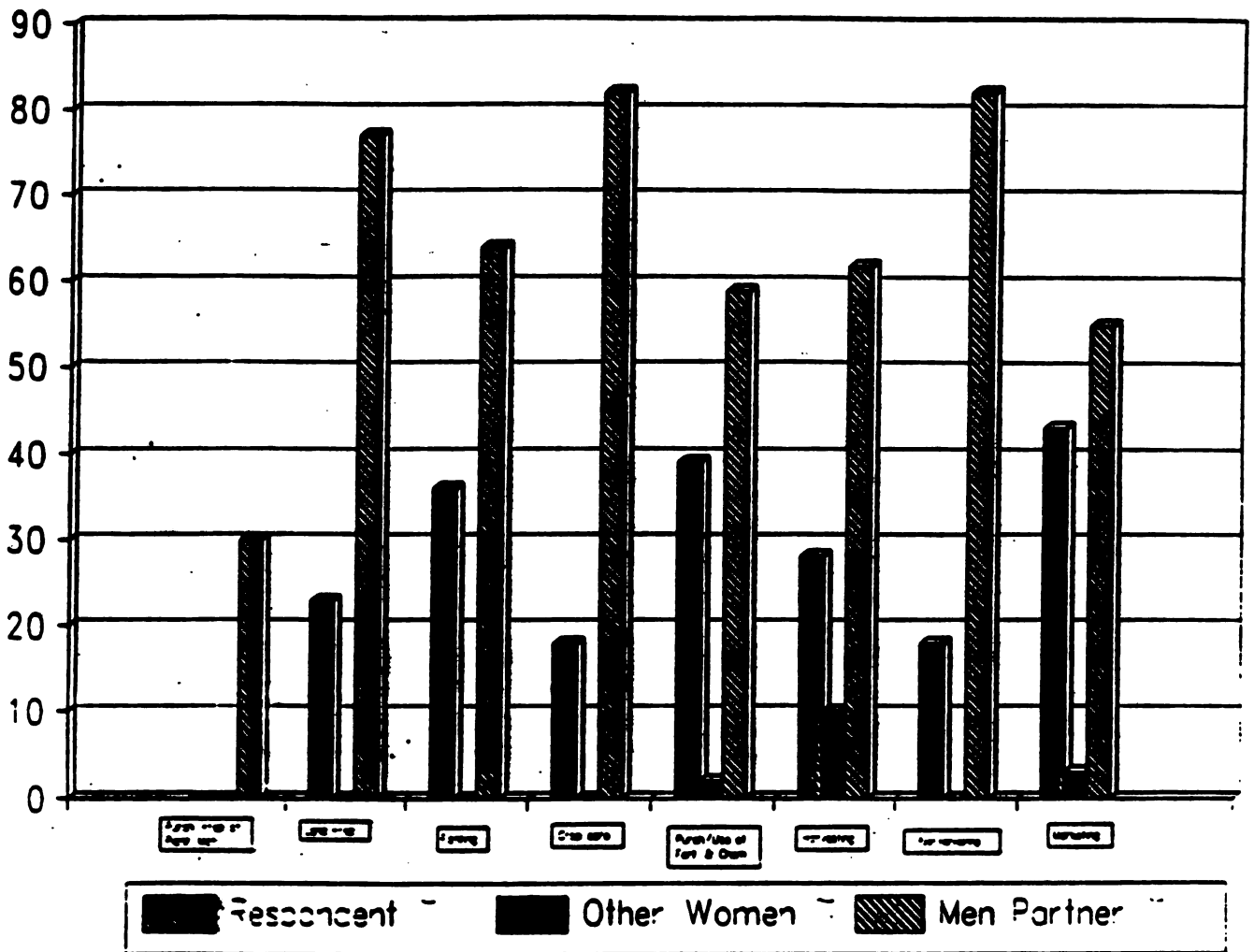
Family Member Participation in Fruit Production by Type of Activity in Guyana in 1993



Crop (4) Fruit

Figure II.5

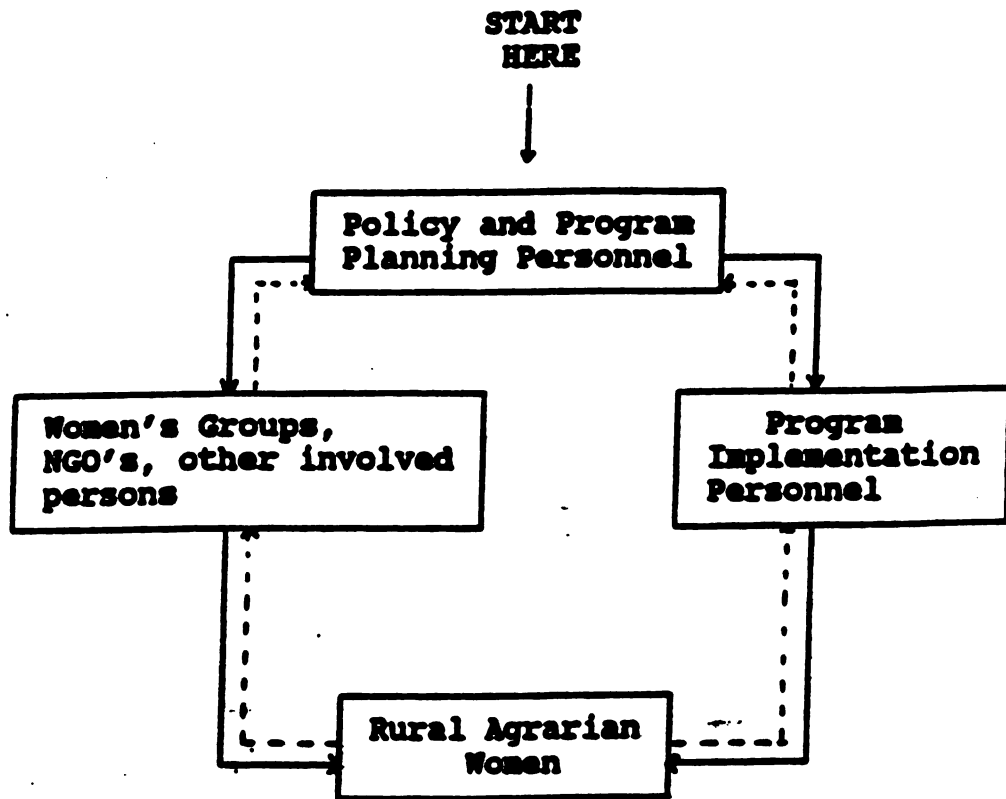
**Family Member Participation in Rice Production
by Type of Activity in Guyana in 1993**



Crop (5) Rice

Figure VI.I

Gender Awareness/Sensitizing Communication Circle



Key: ———> message
-----> feed-back

APPENDICES



Appendix 1

Article 29: Equality for Women.*

25

A.D. 1980]

CONSTITUTION OF THE
CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

[No. 2

29.(1) Women and men have equal rights and the same legal status in all spheres of political, economic and social life. All forms of discrimination against women on the basis of their sex are illegal. Equality for women.

(2) The exercise of women's rights is ensured by according women equal access with men to academic, vocational and professional training, equal opportunities in employment, remuneration and promotion, and in social, political and cultural activity, by special labour and health protection measures for women, by providing conditions enabling mothers to work, and by legal protection and material and moral support for mothers and children, including paid leave and other benefits for mothers and expectant mothers.

* Excerpt from the Constitution of Guyana, p. 25.

Appendix 2

Criteria to be Used for Making Selections for State and Government Land

1. Land Owned or Rented	Points
Over 15 acres	NIL
Between 10-15 acres	5
Between 5-10 acres	10
Between 3 and 5 acres	12
Under 3 acres	15
No Land	20
2. Employment	
Average weekly earnings over 12 months	NIL
For over \$2,000.00 per week	5
For \$1,000.0 and less per week	10
Unemployed	15
3. Size of Family	
Unmarried	NIL
For wife and no dependant	3
For wife and less than 2 other dependants (including adopted children)	5
For wife and more than 5 other dependants (including adopted children)	15
4. Farming experience	
For no experience	NIL
For 1-3 years	5
For over 5 years	10
5. No. of heads of cattle owned by applicant. The allocation of land for such purpose being 3 acres to every 2 heads.	
<p>The committee appointed to make recommendations for the selection of suitable applicants should bear in mind that the Criteria for Selection is based on the need of the applicant. In the case of cattle grazing, the applicant may need land for expansion, because of multiplication of his stock.</p>	
<p>Need can be determined thus:</p>	
<p>(a) Unemployed</p>	
<p>(b) Under employed</p>	
<p>(c) Dependants (size of family)</p>	
<p>The applicants should have some practical experience in agriculture.</p>	

Source: Lands and Surveys Office, Black Bush Polder, Corentyne, Berbice, Guyana, 1993.

Appendix 3

Rural Sociology and Agricultural Extension Education Course Outline

AGR 457 - Rural Sociology & Agricultural Extension Education - 15 Weeks (Lectures).

- A. Elements of Rural Sociology and Human Behaviour**
Definition of sociology. Rural sociology. Significance of the study of rural sociology. Primary concepts of society. Community, association, institution. Difference between rural, tribal and urban communities. Culture, its types, cultural diffusion and the changing agricultural patterns of the Guyanese rural communities. Social change. Factors of change. Obstacles to adoption of innovations leading to socio-economic and technological changes with particular reference to Guyanese villages. Social groups, their types and functions in undertaking extension development programmes. Components of human behaviour and their importance.
- B. Fundamentals of Extension Education**
Meaning, concept, principles, philosophy and steps of extension education.
- C. Extension Methods and Media**
Teaching and learning processes. Classification of extension teaching methods. Selection and use of different extension teaching methods. Audio-visual aids, their classification, selection, meaning and effective use for extension work in rural areas. Working through functional rural leaders.
- D. Programme Planning and Evaluation in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry**
Meaning, principles and programme planning, steps in progress of planning with reference to agricultural planning. Classification of objectives. Concept of need. Purpose, methods and steps involved in evaluation with particular reference to evaluation of an extension programme.
- E. Communication and Adoption Process**
Communication - definition, elements, barriers. Mass communication, interpersonal communication. Adoption process. Diffusion, process concept, stages of adoption, adopter categories and factors affecting adoption of new ideas and practices in agriculture. Elements of diffusion.
- F. Farm Journalism**
Journalism - definition, its role in agricultural communication. Fundamentals of lay-out, editing, publishing of farm journals, leaflets and bulletins.
- G. Psychological Basis of Human Behaviour**
Meaning, definition and scope of psychology in extension. Psychological processes: Learning and motivation. Human behaviour: Definition, component, knowledge, attitude, skill and action. Determinants of human behaviour.
- H. Extension Administration and Organization**
Extension administration - its definition and distinctive characteristics. Administrative organisation of different extension programmes - weak and strong points. Functions of different extension functionaries.
- I. Social Survey**
Elementary knowledge of social survey, methods of conducting survey. Techniques and methods of data collection. Questionnaires; schedule pilot studies. Analysis and presentation of data.

Appendix 4

Ministry of Agriculture (Guyana)
Extension - Crops and Livestock Department (Extension Services)

Strategic Programmes Profiles

Commodity Programme	General Objective	Specific Programme Objectives/Outputs
Rice	<p>To improve quality and productivity of existing cultivations. To reduce the incidence of Red Rice in existing cultivations. To promote quality-oriented technical packages. To collaborate and work participatively with all agencies which have similar objectives.</p>	<p>Upon completion of this project, in the fifth year, a total of 200 pilot would adopt appropriate technology of Red Rice control and water management practices, to improve productivity by 25%, and reduce the incidence of Red Rice by 80% of current levels. This programme will influence 5000 farm families to respond likewise over the same period through informal educational field events.</p>
Vegetables	<p>To promote quality production of selected crops which have export potential. To promote market-lead technological packages. To collaborate and work participatively with appropriate agencies.</p>	<p>Upon completion of this project, in the fifth year, a total of 200 pilot farmers, in six main regions will adopt export oriented technology, to improve the quality of vegetables by 80% above present standards. Over the same five year period this project will influence 5000 farm families to adopt improved practices which will raise quality and productivity by 50% in order to attain export capability.</p>
Coconut	<p>To improve crop production through better field and estate management. To improve quality and productivity through phenotypic selection of mother palms. To monitor and control the incidence and outbreak of seasonal pests.</p>	<p>Over a five year period, 12 large and 30 small coconut estates will be influenced to adopt genetic selection and improvement programmes in order to improve their productivity by 30%. In the same time frame, more than 200 pilot farmers will be influenced to integrate and diversify their estates with biennials and small ruminant stock. The aim is to improve productivity by 30%.</p>
Roots & tubers	<p>To promote the quality and productivity of selected crops. To promote post harvest technology for the marketing and export of selected crops. To collaborate with appropriate agencies in the promotion of these commodities.</p>	<p>In six main regions, 300 pilot farmers would be influenced through formal and informal field events to adopt appropriate technology in order to improve quality by 80% above known levels and lower post harvest losses by 70%.</p>
Seeds, legumes, disease culture	<p>To enhance the production and availability of quality seeds in all regions. To improve the seed production capability of contracted seed growers. To collaborate with appropriate agencies in the pursuit of common objectives.</p>	<p>Contracted to produce 90% of regional seed requirements. Over the same five year period, these farmers would be trained in grading quality control.</p>

Appendix 4. (cont.)

Commodity Programme	General Objective	Specific Programme Objectives/Outputs
Nurseries	<p>To improve the productive capabilities of all existing nurseries.</p> <p>To equip present and future staff with a wide range of nursery skills.</p> <p>To promote the development of privatised operations to diversify and eventually divest this programme into private hands.</p> <p>To promote export orientation of non-traditional fruit crops.</p>	<p>Propagators with skills in propagation of plants in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. This project will increase the availability of plants by 100% over the same period. In Regions 1, 7, 3, 10, this programmes will improve propagating skills by 80% and plants by 70%.</p> <p>Enhance export potential by 90% over the same five year period.</p>
Youth	<p>To promote leadership capabilities among senior secondary school youths.</p> <p>To promote healthy competition among youth groups.</p> <p>To motivate, promote and reward youth groups through "special emphasis" programmes.</p> <p>To collaborate with appropriate agencies.</p>	<p>Over a five year period this programme will attract and equip 300 of CXC grade and clubs, to be equipped with relevant training and experience in leadership, debating skills, and healthy competitive endeavours.</p> <p>Through special emphasis programmes, youths will be encouraged to compete for awards and prizes.</p>
Poultry	<p>To improve the quality of products made available on the local market.</p> <p>To improve the quality of local creole stocks through cross breeding with exotic coxeterets.</p> <p>To promote quality oriented technological packages, with pilot farmers in selected regions.</p> <p>To monitor private commercial agencies which enhance the production and availability of meat and eggs.</p>	<p>Over a five year period, in regions 2, 3, 4, 5, a total of 400 pilot farmers would be encouraged to adopt appropriate technology through educational and training programmes to adopt improved practices aimed at quality output of meat and meat products. All pilot farmers would adopt cross breeding programmes aimed at overall productivity increases of 60%.</p>
Livestock development	<p>To promote the quality, availability and sale of pork, mutton, veal, locally.</p> <p>To promote quality oriented technological packs.</p> <p>To work through pilot farmers schemes to promote better farm management.</p> <p>To collaborate with appropriate agencies.</p>	<p>Over a five year period, 400 pilot farmers would be influenced to improve the quality of meat and meat products of pork, chicken, mutton, and veal. Over the same period, farmers would be influenced to diversify their outputs to reflect a wider range of meat products, especially valued added products. These 400 pilot farmers would be used to influenced 2000 other farm families to adopt quality technology.</p>

Appendix 4. (cont.).

Commodity Programme	General Objective	Specific Programme Objectives/Outputs
Quarantine	<p>To establish and strengthen the first line of defence against disease occurrence and outbreak.</p> <p>To reduce the total dependence on pesticides.</p> <p>To monitor the incidence of known pests and diseases and to detect and prevent the entry and exotic pests and diseases.</p> <p>To establish and maintain monitoring out posts at ports of entry.</p>	<p>Over a five year period, in regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, the major ports of entry would be staffed and empowered with diagnostic skills and legal facilities to enforce quarantine regulations. Over the same period, Regions 1 & 8 would be provided with facilities and manned by trained quasi-professionals for disease surveillance.</p>
Animal health	<p>To monitor and control the occurrence and incidence of exotic diseases.</p> <p>To provide veterinary ambulatory and diagnostic services to principal livestock rearing areas.</p> <p>To train and update staff with skills to manage animal health problems.</p>	<p>Veterinary Services. To provide each region with resident veterinarians and regular and reliable health services capable of responding rapidly to disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Bovine Tuberculosis. To create TB free Regions (2,3,4) and subsequently to delegate the meat inspection function to Public Health authorities.</p> <p>Vampire Bats. To reduce the population by 50% and the subsequent diseases incidence by 90%.</p> <p>Foot & Mouth. To place and maintain the services of a resident vet. in Region # 9, to develop and implement collaborative programmes with Brazil for the surveillance and control of this disease.</p> <p>Brucellosis. To reduce the incidence of this disease to internationally acceptable standards through random serological monitoring.</p>
Special services and visits	<p>To provide interior subsistence-oriented communities with special training and services in order to improve their productive capabilities.</p> <p>To provide communities with integrated development packages for sustained agricultural programmes.</p>	<p>Upon completion of this programme Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 would be endowed with 12 communities, each having a community integrated development programme.</p>
Communication training & conferences	<p>To host annual, quarterly, half-yearly, monthly review meetings to evaluate annual calendar programmes.</p> <p>To upgrade and retool all staff in technical and group oriented skills in order to function as interdisciplinary work teams.</p>	<p>Formative and summative reviews would be done of annual calendar programmes. Annual, quarterly, monthly and weekly training would be conducted at university, School of Agriculture, AITCC, to upgrade and retool all staff.</p> <p>Non-governmental agencies would be solicited to sponsor these programmes.</p>

Appendix 5

Gender Awareness/Sensitizing Program

Step I: Policy and programme planning level personnel are targeted as the starting point in this gender/awareness sensitizing program. The political directorate should sanction and mandate such gender awareness programmes and involve as resource material such agencies as the WAB, CASWIG (the umbrella women's organization) and the Women's Studies Unit of the University of Guyana.

Here the immediate target group would be at the level of Permanent Secretaries' Regional Executive Officers, General Managers, Heads of Departments and Heads of Institutions.

Step II: That gender sensitive components of the policies and programmes be discussed with programme implementation level personnel who should present, discuss and seek the advice of those rural agrarian women with whom they interact.

Step III: That gender sensitive components of the policies and programmes also be presented to, discussed and advice sought from women's organizations and groups, NGOs etc. Further, that such groups be also involved in sensitizing rural agrarian women.

Step IV: That the needs and advice of agrarian women be fed-back through the programme implementors as well as women's groups, community representatives, etc., and that such inputs be used to guide eventual policy and programme planning.

Three points need to be made. The first is that this proposal is only a guide. The second is that gender awareness/sensitizing programmes should not be relegated to a one-isolated event, but should be organized as a continuous process moving from an initial general awareness to specific awareness to meet organizational and other demands. The third is that the need for gender awareness/sensitization is of equal importance at all levels. For example, agrarian women need to be made aware that there is no inherent gender difference in either their understanding and absorption of technical and scientific knowledge nor in the actual manipulation of machinery and equipment. It is equally important that policy and programme level personnel are also aware of this.

Appendix 6

Rural Women Food Producers in Guyana: Summary Presentation on Marketing and Technology*

Background

Agricultural activity has historically been a way of life for most of Guyana's rural women. Their involvement dates back to the days of slavery and indentureship when women worked in the sugarcane fields and rice plots, and dominated participation in drying and preserving agricultural produce. Today, the rural population of about 520,248 persons (68%) continues to make "tilling" of the land their mainstay. In 1993, the Bureau of Statistics estimated "usually employed" persons in agriculture to be 66,605, or 27% of the total workforce. Women contribute to 18.6% of the agricultural workforce.

Guyanese women are involved in all forms of agricultural activities, ranging from planting to harvesting. Unfortunately, they have received very little or no training in the use of improved technology, are unaware of projects which may help them to improve productivity, and are exposed to harsh market conditions.

Women's issues have not been addressed in agricultural research in Guyana. The limited data available is not disaggregated to allow for identification of women's participation and their contribution to production. Extension work assumes that problems in the farming community are identical for men and women.

In 1989, the Conference on Global Consultation on Agricultural Extension emphasized that governmental policies focused on agricultural development should, in their formulation, identify target groups and streamline developmental strategies that will have direct effects on such groups.

"... Subsistence level women farmers, particularly those in female-headed households and young farm families, have special technological and educational needs... These women have many demands on their time and few resources, resulting in low levels of productivity".

To sustain agricultural activity and increase its cost effectiveness, there is a need to improve efficiency and productivity of limited resources. This can only be achieved through national investment in agricultural research, marketing, extension (for human resource development and technology), and investment by farmers in technological inputs and in land and farm improvement. In the process of agricultural development, the contribution of women bears significant importance, and is the focus of this study, which assesses the conditions under which small farmers operate, with special emphasis on women.

* Prepared by Beverly Rutherford, July 1994.

Mr. Chairman, before the first major research on **Rural Women Food Producers** in Guyana was conducted, we recognized that:

Rural women's social and economic advancement must be promoted within the framework of national plans for social and economic development. In this process, close cooperation and partnership between men and women is essential. This cooperation must be strengthened at all levels of development intervention by making public policy-makers and implementers aware of the multiple roles of women.

The study therefore not only assessed existing policies which affect women's participation in agriculture, but centered specifically on technology, technology adoption, and the marketing conditions in which women operate.

More importantly, women's perception of farming and their problems, needs, suggestions, and recommendations were given careful consideration before the consultant formulated her own proposals and recommendations.

In order to support available secondary data on food production in small farms and by women, a survey of (150) women farmers was conducted in five farming districts, namely:

- 1) The Cane-Grove District - East Coast Demerara
- 2) The Parika-Salem District - East Bank Essequibo
- 3) The Black Bush Polder District - Corentyne Berbice
- 4) Upper and Lower Pomeroon River - Essequibo
- 5) Canals Polder - West Bank Demerara

Women's Perception of Farming

Mr. Chairman, there is one very striking similarity among the women interviewed, that is, most of them perceived farming as a business. The survey results revealed that out of 150 respondents, 146, or 97.3%, viewed farming as a business.

We therefore have no doubts about the seriousness of the involvement of women in agriculture and should not hesitate to consider their participation in both productive and reproductive activities on the farm.

These "business women" have not merely suggested that farming is a business but can support their views by years of dedication and hard work. Some 13.3% of the women interviewed have spent at least five to ten years in farming; 40% devoted 10-20 years while 38.7% have been in farming for more than 20 years. (See Table 1, below.)

***Table 1. Number of respondents by years in farming and age groups.**

Years in Farming	Total	Age Group (yrs)								
		15 - <20	20 - <25	25 - <30	30 - <35	35 - <40	40 - <45	45 - <50	50 - <55	55 & over
Total	150	1	12	14	20	28	25	25	13	19
>2	3	1	2	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
2 - < 3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - < 5	0	-	3	1	3	1	-	-	-	-
5 - <10	20	-	0	5	3	4	2	-	-	-
10 - <20	60	-	1	7	13	10	14	4	3	2
20 & over	59	-	-	-	1	5	0	10	10	17

***Source:** Rural Women Food Producers Survey, IICA/IDB, 1993-1994.

We therefore appeal to policy and decision makers who are involved in supporting food production to consider and recognize the dedication of rural Guyanese women in this important aspect of our existence.

Women's Participation in Production and Processing

Women participate in almost all of the production activities on the farm (i.e., in crop production and livestock rearing).

Generally, it was found that overall female participation in the production of rice, vegetables, fruits, and cassava was more than that of male participation. The only exception was in the area of crop care, where participation of men was more evident, for example. (See Tables 2 and 3, below.)

Table 2. Participation of males and females in crop care.

1. Vegetables	Men	86.0%
	Women	72.7%
2. Cassava	Men	54.3%
	Women	31.2%
3. Fruits	Men	20.6%
	Women	10.8%
4. Rice	Men	40.0%
	Women	8.2%

***Source:** Rural Women Food Producers Summary, IICA/IDB, 1993/94.

Participation in food processing is also female dominated. Women produce a variety of processed foods, with male participation in food processing being limited to a few product types and at specific stages in production. For example, in the processing of carambola, women participate in all the activities at every stage of production, while men usually participate in only one activity. (See Tables 4, 5 and 6.)

Table 3. Family member participation in agricultural (crop) production by type of activity and type of crop group in Guyana in 1993/1994.

Activity	Vegetable						Cassava						Fruit						Rice					
	Women			Men			Women			Men			Women			Men			Women			Men		
	R	O.W	F	R	O.W	F	R	O.W	F	R	O.W	F	R	O.W	F	R	O.W	F	R	O.W	F			
1. Purchasing/preparation of planting material	44.0		28.6	11.1	34.7	6.2	23.5	17.3	13.3	13.3	1.2	9.0	3.07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12.0		
2. Land preparation	65.3	14.8	47.6	31.7	36.8	24.2	31.2	14.5	15.3	15.3	2.5	10.8	7.8	5.3	0	3.5	11.7							
3. Planting	68.0	13.6	48.9	33.3	40.7	22.2	34.2	18.9	15.3	15.3	2.5	10.8	7.8	10.7	0	6.99	11.5							
4. Crop care	64.7	14.8	72.7	86.0	37.3	19.8	31.2	54.3	15.3	15.3	2.5	10.8	20.6	12.7	0	8.2	40.0							
5. Production of seedlings & chemicals	30.0	13.6	37.2	31.7	24.7	12.3	28.3	14.4	10.6	10.6	2.5	7.8	4.9	13.3	1.2	9.1	12.3							
6. Harvesting	56.7	23.5	45.0	33.7	39.3	19.8	32.7	23.9	13.3	13.3	0.1	9.0	7.4	4.0	2.5	3.5	5.3							
7. Post-harvest operations	48.7	23.4	39.0	26.3	38.0	21.0	32.0	23.5	12.0	12.0	0.1	8.2	6.2	1.3	0	0.9	3.7							
8. Marketing	32.0	22.2	41.6	29.6	36.7	17.3	30.0	22.0	13.3	13.3	0.1	9.1	6.9	15.3	2.4	10.8	12.3							

Key: R - Respondents
O.W - Other Women
F - Total Female Participation
M - Men

* Source: Rural Women Food Producers Survey, IICA/IDB 1993/1994.

***Table 4. Processed crops and gender orientation.**

CROP	PRODUCT	Gender Orientation	
		M	F
1. Carambola	Dried carambola, carambola juice		x
2. Guava	Jams, jellies, and guava cheese		x
3. Papaw	Candied papaw and puree		x
4 Tamarind	Shelled tamarind and syrup		x
5. Bilimbi	Hot sauce and pickles		x
6. Nuts	Salted, parched	x	
7. Coconut	Coconut oil, copra, brooms	x	
8. Mango	Achar, syrup		x
9. Ginger	Dried ginger	x	x
10. Coffee	Dried coffee beans	x	x
11. Pepper	Pepper sauces	x	x
	Dried pepper	x	x
12. Pigeon Peas	Dried peas		x
13. Black-eyed peas	Dried peas		x
14. Black pepper	Dried pepper	x	x
15. Herbs (thyme shallot, etc.)	Dried thyme		x
16. Cassava	Cassava bread		x
	Cassareep		x
	Starch		x
17. Plantain	Plantain chips		x
	Plantain flour	x	
18. Fish	Dried fish	x	x
	Salted fish	x	x
19. Shrimp	Dried shrimp	x	x
20. Tumeric, etc.	Dried	x	x

***Source: Derived**

Table 5. Stages in the production of dried carambola.

Activity	Gender Orientation	
	M	F
Selection and sorting		x
Washing	x	x
Peeling and cutting		x
Preparation of syrup (boiling)		x
Straining		x
Drying		x
Supervision of drying		x

***Source: Derived.**

Note:

Stages in the production of dried carambola

- 1. Product dried carambola**
- 2. Duration of processing approximately 5-7 days**
- 3. Drying method: osmotic drying with the use of sugar and sunlight**

Table 6. Stages in the production of coconut oil.

Activity	Gender Orientation	
	M	F
Picking	x	
Drying	x	x
Peeling	x	x
Grating		x
Squeezing and crushing	x	x
Straining		x
Boiling	x	x
Bottling		x

***Source: Derived**

Note:

Stages in the production of coconut oil

1. **Product: Coconut oil**
2. **Duration of processing: approximately 2-4 days**
3. **Drying method: oil is made by two methods, either by adding water to the grated meat then boiling, or by crushing and extracting the oil from the dried copra**

Table 7. Stages in the Production of cassava bread.

Activity	Gender Orientation	
	M	F
Reaping	x	x
Washing		x
Peeling	x	x
Grating		x
Squeezing		x
Sifting		x
Baking		x

***Source: Derived**

Note:

Stages in the production of cassava bread

- 1. Product: Cassava bread**
- 2. Duration of processing: 2-3 days**

Table 8. Stages in the production of cassava casareep.

Activity	Gender Orientation	
	M	F
Reaping	x	x
Washing	x	x
Peeling	x	x
Washing		x
Grating		x
Squeezing		x
Boiling		x
Straining		x
Mixing		x
Bottling		x

***Source: Derived**

Note:

Stages in the production of cassava cassareep

1. **Product: Cassava Cassareep**
2. **Duration of processing: 3-4 days**

Institutional Support for Rural Women Food Producers

In Guyana, a number of government and non-governmental organizations claim to support rural women food producers. However, implicit in their policies is the approach of gender neutrality, whereby the issues of both male and female farmers are viewed as the same.

The dominance of women in certain production activities (as seen earlier) on the farm is enough evidence to support the view that problems encountered in the execution of these activities will be female oriented. Agricultural support services, such as extension education and training, should therefore be focused on the participants of farming activities. Such an approach will certainly help to improve technology used on small farms and by women.

The survey results revealed that training in pre-harvest, post-harvest, and animal husbandry activities was minimal for both male and female small farmers, as seen in the table below:

Table 9. Women and men farmers who have received training or technical assistance by area in Guyana in 1993/1994.

Type of Training	Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%
1. Seed selection/ production	2	0.8	0	0
2. Use of fertilizers/ pesticides	3	1.2	2	0.9
3. Post-harvest storage	2	0.8	0	0
4. Marketing	2	0.8	0	0
5. Feed and grazing	1	0.4	1	0.4
6. Farm management	2	0.8	1	0.4
7. Packaging	1	0.4	0	0

***Source:** Rural Women's Food Producers Summary, IICA/IDB 1993/1994.

Note: "No." refers to the number of observations.

Women in Marketing

It was found that women produce a wide variety of food crops bearing significant importance to the Guyanese diet.

They were not only responsible for the production of foods but were found to be actively involved in marketing.

Table 10 below indicates female participation in production and marketing of a selected number of crops.

Table 10. Selected crops produced and marketed in small farms by women in Guyana.

Type of Training	# of farms producing crops	% of farms producing crops	# of farms marketing crops	% of respondents that market	% of farms that market
1. Bora	47	31.3	43	78.7	81.5
2. Cabbage	8	5.3	8	82.5	100.0
3. Eggplant	10	6.7	10	80.0	100.0
4. Ota	37	24.7	32	81.2	86.5
5. Squash	13	8.7	13	76.8	100.0
6. Pumpkin	16	10.7	16	81.2	100.0
7. Banana	18	12.0	17	84.7	94.4
8. Eddo	31	20.7	31	86.8	100.0
9. Cassava	57	38.0	55	83.8	86.5
10. Coconut	10	6.7	8	68.8	80.0
11. Plantain	18	10.7	15	73.8	83.7
12. Cucumber	21	14.0	18	83.3	80.5
13. Pak-choi	14	9.3	14	80.0	100.0
14. Hot pepper	3	2.0	3	66.8	100.0
15. Carambola	5	3.3	5	39.3	100.0
16. Orange	8	4.0	8	50.0	100.0
17. Coffee	5	3.3	5	80.8	100.0
18. Pineapple	8	4.0	8	66.7	100.0
19. Rice	8	4.0	8	22.5	100.0

*Source: Rural Women Food Producers Survey, ICA/IDB, 1993/1994.

Problems Women Face in Agriculture and Factors that Affect their Participation

Mr. Chairman, time does not permit me to expand on the participation of women in production processing and marketing. We however will agree that any assistance given to women in agriculture could only originate from an understanding of the problems faced as regards policy, marketing, and technology. A number of problems have been identified, which include:

- Access to credit.
- Lack of and unavailability of farming equipment for women.
- Limited market for produce.
- The burden of strenuous work.
- Poor transportation facilities.
- High input and packaging costs.

- Poor support from extension services.
- The general problem of poor drainage and irrigation and poor roads.

Tables 11 and 12 refer to problems and principal improvements needed, as seen by the women interviewed.

Table 11. Principal problems faced by women in Guyana in 1993/1994.

Problems	No. of women
Strenuous work/fetching heavy loads	40
Poor marketing facilities	17
Poor roads	18
Transportation costs	8
Input/packaging costs	23
Applying chemicals/fertilizers	9
Pest/animal damage	20
No access to land/market	2
Time/household chores	14
Poor drainage/irrigation	44
No price controls	8
No/little access to credit	3
Lack/unsuitability of equip. for women	23
No/unknown extension services	2
No/unlimited market	18
No problems	2
Unavailability of transportation	23
Theft	10
Unavailability of inputs	6
Disease/natural disasters	10
Support from Min. of Agriculture	5
No electricity or water	1
Soil problems	1
Taken advantage of by middleman	1

Source: Rural Women Food Producers Survey, IICA/IDB, 1993-1994.

Table 12. Principal improvements needed for farming/marketing/processing in Guyana in 1993-1994.

Improvements needed	No. of Respondents	As % Age of Respondents
Improved market facilities	20	13.3
Improved drainage/irrigation	81	54.0
More readily available credit	5	3.3
Cheaper inputs, equipment/chemicals	42	28.0
Restrict foreign imports	1	0.7
Improved transportation services	12	8.0
More farming equipment/spares	22	14.7
Training/crop husbandry	7	4.7
More markets (export)	27	18.0
Improved roads/dams	76	50.7
Lenient credit agencies	5	3.3
Availability of Inputs	6	4.0
Better price for produce	16	10.7
Visit/extension officers	14	9.3
Improved potable water/electricity	12	8.0
Capital to expend	9	6.0

Source: Rural Women Food Producers Survey, IICA/IDB, 93/94

Women would like to see improvements in:

- **marketing facilities**
- **availability of suitable and improved equipment to enhance their farming**
- **visits by extension officers**
- **cheaper inputs**
- **roads, water supply and drainage and irrigation**

Significant crop loss was incurred which was directly related to the problems mentioned. The following table summarizes crop losses over the last production year.

Table 13. Percentage of production lost, Guyana 1993-1994.

Crops	Total production (kg)	%						
		Total Loss	Prædial Larceny	Spoilage	Natural Loss	Pest diseases	Not stated	Other
1. Bora	118233.11	1.11	-	0.29	-	0.42	-	0.41
2. Cabbage	21500.64	4.53	-	-	-	2.85	1.58	-
3. Eggplant	9400.88	3.93	0.48	-	-	0.77	2.68	-
4. Okra	47503.40	2.99	-	2.46	-	-	0.53	-
5. Squash	8171.60	1.61	-	0.22	-	0.28	0.83	0.28
6. Pumpkin	27776.48	0.76	0.16	0.59	-	-	5.06	-
7. Banana	80400.21	5.73	2.28	0.35	-	-	2.57	0.55
8. Eddo	48902.24	4.93	0.77	1.02	-	0.29	2.85	-
9. Cassava	304848.93	6.43	0.82	1.54	0.01	1.12	4.63	-
10. Coconut	444500.00	6.96	1.05	0.07	-	-	5.83	-
11. Plantain	280899.80	5.71	1.40	0.20	-	-	4.11	-
12. Cucumber	2984.00	14.11	-	8.11	-	-	6.00	-
13. Pak-ohai	3220.58	2.92	-	-	-	1.41	1.41	-
14. Hot pepper	10750.32	0.42	-	-	-	-	0.42	-
15. Carambola	27674.14	39.34	-	24.59	-	-	14.76	-
16. Orange	14816.84	14.74	7.69	-	-	-	6.14	0.82
17. Coffee	1723.68	14.20	5.28	0.28	-	-	1.06	100.0
18. Pineapple	34415.54	6.12	-	0.66	-	-	7.46	-
19. Rice	767007.34	0.0	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Rural Women Food Producers Survey, IICA/IDB, 93/94.

In view of the foregoing and in concurrence with the findings contained in the main report, entitled "Rural Women Food Producers - Marketing and Technology", the consultant has formulated her conclusions, recommendations, and proposals.

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PROGRAM FOR THE ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES VIS-A-VIS WOMEN FOOD PRODUCERS
IN THE ANDEAN REGION, THE SOUTHERN CONE
AND THE CARIBBEAN

This Program, executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) under Technical Cooperation Agreement ATN/SF-4064-RE, covered 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first phase was implemented in 1992-1993 in six countries in Central America, under the auspices of the Council of Central American Agricultural Ministers in its XII Ordinary Meeting in March 1992. Results were published in the book *Mujeres de Maíz* (IICA/IDB 1995).

The second phase was carried out in the Andean Region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), the Southern Cone (Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Caribbean (Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname), by request of the First Ladies during their Summit Meeting on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held in Geneva, Switzerland in February 1992.

Three documents were prepared for each country presenting the technical results from the four areas of research of the Program: a) assessment of the participation of women in the agricultural sector and their contribution as food producers on small-scale farms; b) analysis of agricultural policies and programs and their effects on rural women as food producers; c) evaluation of the technology used on small farms by women in food production processes; and d) analysis of the role of women in processing and marketing farm food products.

Other Program activities included the elaboration of regional comparative documents, the formulation of policy proposals and related actions, national and regional seminars for discussion of Program recommendations, and the publishing and distribution of the final results.