



**First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and
Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region**

and

**The Launching of the Caribbean Network of Rural
Women Producers**

IICA OFFICE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

IICA
OM A2/TT
no. 99-03

00000998

BV11049

Edited by: Marlene Antoine
Typing and Layout: Tricia De Gannes

ISSN - 0534 - 5391
A2/TT-99-03

October 1999

The views expressed in these articles are those of the authors and
do not necessarily reflect those of the Inter-American Institute
for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD

1. OPENING CEREMONY – Excerpts 2

1.1 **Chairperson’s Opening Remarks – Dr. Vincent Moe**

1.2 **Welcome Remarks - Dr. The Honourable Daphne Phillips**

1.3 **Greetings from Ottawa – Ms. France Pégeot**

1.4 **Overview of the VIII Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government
of the Americas – Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney**

1.5 **Feature Address – Mrs. Oma Panday**

2. WORKING SESSION 1 9

2.1 **Opening Remarks – Mrs. Oma Panday**

2.2 **Presentation on the Programme for the Entrepreneurial Development of Rural Women
in the Caribbean (PADEMUR) – Magali Quintana**

2.3 **Open Discussion**

3. WORKING SESSION 2..... 14

3.1 **Comments by Professor Joycelin Massiah, UNIFEM**

3.2 **Comments by Madame Geri Beniof Préval, HÂITI**

3.3 **Presentation by Dr. Shirley Jhagroo, BARBADOS**

3.4 **Presentation by Ms. Maria Sharma, GUYANA**

3.5 **Presentation by Mrs. Yvonne Hinds, GUYANA**

3.6 **Presentation by Mrs. Patricia Henderson-Browne, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

3.7 **OPEN DISCUSSION**

3.8 **Conclusions**

3.9 **IICA’s Commitment**

4. LAUNCHING OF THE CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS ... 23

4.1 **Vision, Mission and Goals**

4.2 **Conclusion**

5. DECLARATIONS24

5.1 **The Port of Spain Declaration**

5.2 **The Declaration of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers**

ANNEXES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....29

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....34



FOREWORD

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as the specialized agency for agriculture within the Inter-American system, responds to the need for technical cooperation within its 34 member countries. Our general objective is to support the efforts of the member states in achieving sustainable agricultural development within the framework of hemispheric integration and as a contribution to human development in rural areas.

Our work with the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas began in 1992 when we responded to the request by a group of First Ladies at the Geneva Summit to focus on the condition of rural women. Following a comprehensive research project within 18 countries between 1993 and 1995, we completed the design of an hemispheric programme entitled "*Programme for the Entrepreneurial Development of Rural Women*" (PADEMUR). IICA is now intrinsically linked to the hemispheric conference through PADEMUR. Today we are poised to take off and thus IICA promoted the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean to build upon the operational framework to ensure the implementation of programme activities.

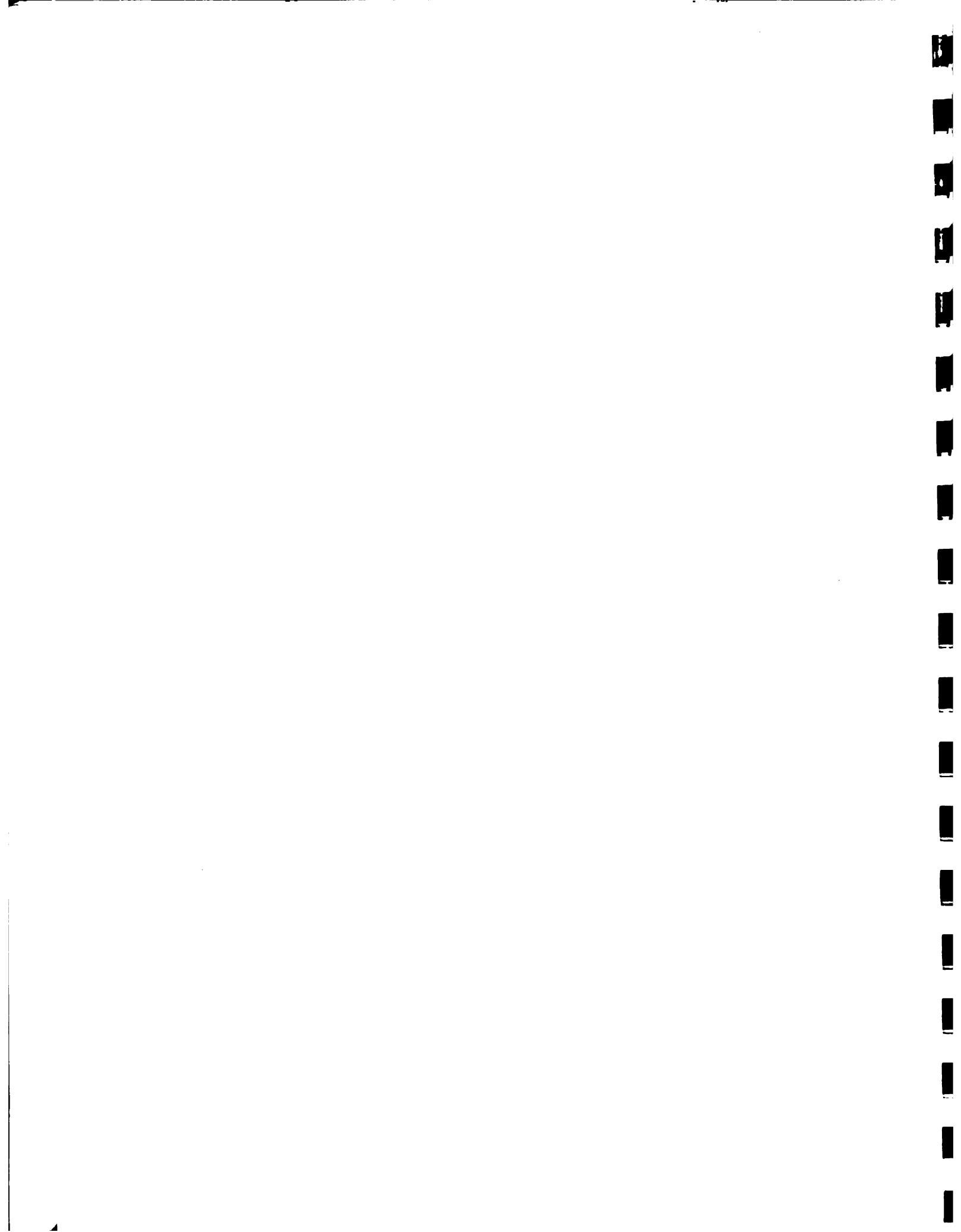
The main objective of the Meeting was to promote a collective, regional effort for the purpose of developing successful initiatives and cooperative strategies to deal with the social problems affecting Caribbean countries, specifically to:

- ✦ gain consensus on the major issues to be tabled at the Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas scheduled for October 1999 in Ottawa, Canada;
- ✦ create an institutional framework for cooperation among the Wives of the Heads of State and Heads of Governments in the Caribbean;
- ✦ make women more visible through empowerment; and
- ✦ obtain external funding on behalf of rural women through the design of a regional project amongst other activities.

We believe that this meeting was both historic and momentous. It represented the initiation of dialogue amongst the Caribbean most important females: a dialogue which would assist in the articulation and consolidation of a regional position on issues relative to the enhancement of the economic and social development of Caribbean women, in particular, rural women.

This report provides excerpts of the presentations at the Opening Ceremony and highlights of the Working Sessions. This is followed by some conclusions, which are based on agreements reached in the working sessions and in caucus.

IICA wishes to express its sincerest thanks to the Heads of Delegations for the opportunity provided for us to work with your and your team at the *First Meeting of Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean*.



Opening Ceremony



Backrow (l-r): Dr. Vincent Moe, Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (T&T); Mrs. Norma Hughes (Anguilla); Dr. The Honourable Daphne Philips, Minister of Culture and Gender Affairs (T&T); Mrs. Edris O'Neal (Tortola, BVI); Dr. H. Chesney, Director, Caribbean Regional Centre, IICA.
Front row (l-r): Mrs. Marietta Mitchell (Grenada); Mrs. Beverly Arthur (Barbados); Mrs. Oma Panday (T&T); Mrs. Geri Préval (Haïti); Mrs. Joan Musa (Belize); and Mrs. Yvonne Hinds (Guyana).



1.1 CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Vincent Moe - Adviser to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, Trinidad and Tobago

This is an historic occasion, the very first time such a distinguished gathering of Caribbean First Ladies has come together to collectively address the major issues confronting women and particularly, rural women in the political, social and economic development of the region.

The opportunity will be taken to design a regional programme for the entrepreneurial development of rural women producers as part of a wider, hemispheric initiative and to launch the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.

Traditionally, women in society have been marginalised. Despite the challenges they face, women have managed to achieve more with less. The history of rural women is one in which "surrender has never been considered an option". This determination seeks to strengthen the participation of women in the political, social and economic development of our society. The occasion affords yet another opportunity to recognize the many capacities of all women as nurturers, providers, mothers and nation builders.

in which "surrender has never been considered an option".

1.2 WELCOME ADDRESS

Dr. The Honourable Daphne Phillips – Minister of Culture and Gender Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

We are all indeed blessed to be part of our region's developmental process at a pivotal time in our history. The challenges of the new millennium are quite different from those of the past and require insightful and appropriate strategies and solutions in the context of the changing reality. Rural men and women are often engaged in a range of commercial and economic activities, which transcend attempts to place them in any singular category or to put any particular label on them.

in a range of commercial and economic activities, which transcend attempts to place them in any singular category or to put any particular label onto them.

Increasingly, women and people in general, in rural settings have expressed the need for improvement in their working conditions with respect to agricultural access roads, access to water supply, housing, school places for children, health facilities and related services; needs which are felt by all people. There has also been the expression of the need to access loans and appropriate systems of credit. Women identified the need for training and information in scientific agricultural techniques, as well as, in health issues, nutrition, self-enhancement, agricultural industrial development and access to improved technology, among other needs.

We will explore the Programme for the Entrepreneurial Development of Rural Women (PADEMUR) which has been tried and tested in other countries; which promotes and supports efforts to improve the living conditions of women and their families, as well as, to contribute to the sustainable rural development processes in Latin America and the Caribbean. You will be inclined to be identified with those who have influenced rural development in the past. As significant women, you can influence the future improvement of our rural communities. As Wives of Heads of CARICOM Governments and as First Ladies in your various states, you certainly have the opportunity to be influential in this regard.

I hope that this conference makes a difference in your lives and in the lives of thousands of women, who may not have an opportunity for such an exposure.

1.3 GREETINGS FROM CANADA

Ms. France Pégeot – Acting Director General, Food Bureau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The Government of Canada, in particular, the Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food (CDAAF), is engaged in multiple fronts with IICA, in particular, with the Northern Regional Centre (NRC) along with the United States and Mexico. As part of the NRC's action plan, our department is participating in the development of a 'Cooperative Program for Research in North America' (PROCINORTE). The NRC countries also have an initiative called "Strengthening Agriculture Library Network to support the Agricultural Sector" in which our library is participating. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency took the lead role in organizing a "Workshop on Equivalencies" which was held in Atlanta, Georgia in May 1999. In the same month, a meeting of the Northern Regional Council took place and there was discussion regarding the development of a cooperation program between the NRC and the Caribbean Regional Centre.

The IICA Office in Canada and our department have identified assistance to St. Lucia in the establishment of a National Water Irrigation policy as a possible scientific exchange project. We have also offered to the NRC the "Great Globalization Game" which has been developed by our department, in cooperation with two farmers' associations, (the Quebec Farmers Union and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture) for training agricultural organizations for the upcoming round of WTO negotiations. On this subject, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has several projects in the Caribbean to assist with the development of your trade policies and negotiation enterprise. In early June this year, the Montreal Conference took place and had for its theme "The Americas". One of our provinces – New Brunswick - offered to assist in crop diversification.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) recognizes farm women's essential role as economic partners for a prosperous agri-food industry and promotes initiatives that enable farm women to participate to a much greater extent in policy decision-making for affecting the operation and development of the agricultural sector. We have made some progress on

appointments of women to industry boards and agencies. We are at present about 26 per cent which is progress, although it is not yet enough.

The department is proactive in advocating and promoting partnerships with rural women for the equitable representation of women in these fora. To move forward on these objectives, we have established a National Farm Women's Talent Bank for use by the Minister when considering appointments to voluntary paid positions on federal agencies, boards and commissions.

Last February, the Minister met with the Federated Women's Institute of Canada, the Women of the National Farmers Union, L'Association les Collaboratives et Fartenaires en Affaires and the Fédération les Agricultures de Quebec. This gives you an idea of the scope of organizations in which rural women can get involved to network and to advocate their issues. AAFC, through the Farm Women's Bureau, also supports farm women by providing information services such as a quarterly newsletter and a toll-free telephone line.

Canada is very pleased to host the Ninth Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas in Ottawa from September 29 to October 1, 1999.

1.4 OVERVIEW OF THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE AMERICAS

Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney – Director, Caribbean Regional Centre and Representative in Trinidad and Tobago

On behalf of my Director General, Dr. Carlos Aquino Gonzales and myself, I wish to state what a great honour and privilege it is for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to collaborate with Mrs. Oma Panday in the hosting of this, the *First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean*, which is preparatory to the Hemispheric Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas to be held in Ottawa, Canada later this year.

Research done by IICA in the Caribbean and Latin America has shown that women are a major economic force in the agricultural sector.

I wish to answer the main question that persons have been asking IICA. The question is "*Why does IICA, the specialized agriculture agency for the Americas, involve itself in these hemispheric meetings and indeed co-host same in the Caribbean?*" The reasons are simple. Firstly, research done by IICA in the Caribbean and Latin America has shown that women are a major economic force in the agricultural sector. This economic force is both quantitative and qualitative. With respect to the qualitative aspect, it is especially significant in the areas of adopting new and innovative technologies and adding value to the products, for example, through agro-processing.

... her dominant role within the home as an informal educator and health specialist.

Secondly, women's role in the community goes beyond the primary agricultural sector; for example, her dominant role within the home as an informal educator and health specialist.

This is a phenomenon that is consistent with the vision of IICA and other progressive organizations and individuals for the development of the sector. A vision of a sector that is holistic,

that is, involving the farm but ending at the point of purchase of the fresh or processed product by the final consumer; a sector that has direct linkages with the other sectors, particularly tourism, health, education and services.

For the region, whose farmers are mostly small and generally disadvantaged, this transition is likely to be painful and requires the sympathy, understanding and support of the entire community

Thirdly, the agricultural sector has to make a paradigm change to meet the challenge that is being posed and will continue to be posed by globalization and trade liberalization. For the region, whose farmers are mostly small and

generally disadvantaged, this transition is likely to be painful and requires the sympathy, understanding and support of the entire community, including and particularly women as the major purchasers of agricultural products.

Fourthly, we acknowledge that the wives of the decision-makers can use their privileged status not only to call for legislation where these have not been enacted, but to make sure that all support systems are put in place to ensure effective implementation of legislation. Together, they can use their positions to speak for those less fortunate and create an awareness of high economic and social cost of domestic violence in our countries.

Together, they can use their positions to speak for those less fortunate and create an awareness of high economic and social cost of domestic violence in our countries.

It is within this context that the keen participation of women at all levels, is extremely important. Women represented at the highest level by the Wives of the Heads of State and Heads of Government and at the grassroots level by the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers, which IICA is sponsoring and which will be launched by Mrs. Panday this morning.

It is also within the context of total community involvement and support that this meeting initiates the First Annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture from July 05-10, which is being sponsored by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and IICA, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources.

This meeting is therefore of critical importance in the development of the regional sector and IICA's role in the support of same.

Through our participation in previous Hemispheric conferences, we have witnessed the increasing effective support that this forum has brought to

support that this forum has brought to the benefit of our fellow citizens and specifically of the most vulnerable, children and women.

the benefit of our fellow citizens, and specifically of the most vulnerable children and women. As was noted by the President of Chile at the VII Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, this is a unique experience, unparalleled in the other regions of the world and which was all the more noteworthy because the forum operates in spite of the lack of a well-defined, supportive legal framework.

This is desirable because more and more it has become evident that the agenda agreed upon at the different hemispheric summits of the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas can be enhanced by these meetings of the wives, since (i) they have a distinct advantage in being able to move the agenda forward; and (ii) they can initiate and foster strategic alliances with international agencies, such as, UNFPA, PAHO/WHO, IDB, IICA and the private sector such as the Merck Company.

Among the issues discussed at the VII Conference, under the theme "The Americas, Build Today, The Roads for the Year 2000" were education; the promotion and elimination of domestic violence and child abuse; and health.

The VIII Conference also discussed the relationship between the action plan of the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile in April 1998 and other conferences on related topics. It was agreed that there should be coordination with the agreements and resolutions.

The later development is important because it is IICA's intention to form an institutional link between the Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean and the Conference of the CARICOM Heads of Government, such that the resolutions agreed upon by the wives are included in the CARICOM Declaration. This points to the need to develop solidarity and coordination among the delegates of the region to advance the agenda.

At IICA, our mission is to support the member states in achieving sustainable development in agriculture and the rural environment in the context of the integration of the Americas. Accordingly, IICA is willing to provide technical cooperation services to enhance the work of the wives.

IICA has the honour once again, today, of cooperating with you, Honourable Ladies, in providing a space for moderation, discussion and articulation of common actions that will, without doubt, achieve greater gender equity in the economic, cultural, social and political spheres.

1.5 FEATURE ADDRESS

Mrs. Oma Panday – Wife of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

*"... I am a woman, just like water,
sweet, soft and strong, the rain of
the rainbow"*

**"Just Like Water"
Cornelia Frettlot**

My Caribbean sisters, I believe that by working together, by joining forces, by forging a strong link and working as a network, we will generate the power to make a difference, a decided difference.

Our intention is that we will set ourselves the mission of making that difference through programmes in support of women producers in rural development in our region.

Today, we put in motion a mechanism for enhancing the participation of women in the rural development process within the Caribbean. Because of the size of the task that we have ahead of us, we have to hit the ground running. In many of our islands, when we speak of rural development, agriculture immediately comes to mind. This is the first focus of the Caribbean Network. I know that agriculture is an important matter on the Agenda of the Meeting of Heads. So, in this particular instance, we are on the same wavelength as our significant others.

Most of us are island people, and even though the largest number of people live on the coast in a number of Caribbean territories, rural dwellers are a large proportion of the Caribbean Community; and large proportions of our rural dwellers are in agriculture.

There is information that women produce between 60 and 80 percent of basic agricultural foodstuff in the Caribbean. There is also information that women are the heads of almost 20 percent of rural households in the Caribbean.

It is interesting, in that, in spite of their major role as producers in agriculture, women own less than 2 percent of land. One reason is that it is very difficult for rural women to get access to credit. That is as true in our societies as it is anywhere else. Rural women are definitely at a disadvantage.

The reality is that very many women, particularly young women, are severely handicapped by limited education and opportunities for well paying jobs for unqualified women are very limited.

One of the paradoxes in our societies is that while so many women toil endlessly in the production of food crops and home making and care-giving to elders, they are numbered among the unemployed. They do back-breaking work. They are the backbone of the informal economy. They are badly overworked, but they get no pay. These women are our "invisible workers". They deserve a much better deal than society has been granting them.

That is why we are launching the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers today. I am involved, as patron, in a similar network, here in Trinidad and Tobago. We have been operating training courses for women in rural communities. We have taken part in the launching of similar Networks in Barbados and in Jamaica. We have been talking with groups in Guyana and Suriname. So the critical links for the Network are in place.

I must give much credit and thanks to Dr. Carlos E. Aquino Gonzales, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. I must also give credit and thanks to the staff of IICA for all that they have already done in support of the establishment of the Network of Rural Women Producers, here in Trinidad and Tobago and in other Caribbean countries.

I take this opportunity to thank IICA in advance for the support that I know that the Institute will continue to give to the various national Networks and to the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.

On behalf of the Wives of Heads of State and Governments of the Caribbean Community, I thank the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture for the great kindness in sponsoring the *First Meeting of the Wives of the Heads of Caribbean States and Heads of Government of the Caribbean*.

Ladies and Gentlemen, My Dear Sisters, I am privileged today to launch the Caribbean Network of Women Producers. The essential aims of the Network are these:

- ✦ to provide rural women with better employment opportunities and with self-employment through income earning activities;
- ✦ to provide rural women producers with access to credit for micro business projects;
- ✦ to ensure that government policies are sensitive to and supportive of the special needs of rural women producers;
- ✦ to eliminate the gender bias in the ownership of land, so that women will have the same opportunities as men to own land;
- ✦ to provide marketing support for rural women producers; and
- ✦ to provide training, research, technical support and outreach services for rural women producers.

My Dear Sisters, we have taken on a major task. Our cardinal mission is the empowerment of the women who toil in rural areas and who have the capacity to make a meaningful contribution to the well-being of their families, their communities and their countries. Once we give them a start, they will finish the course on their own. Let us work together to give our sisters that start.

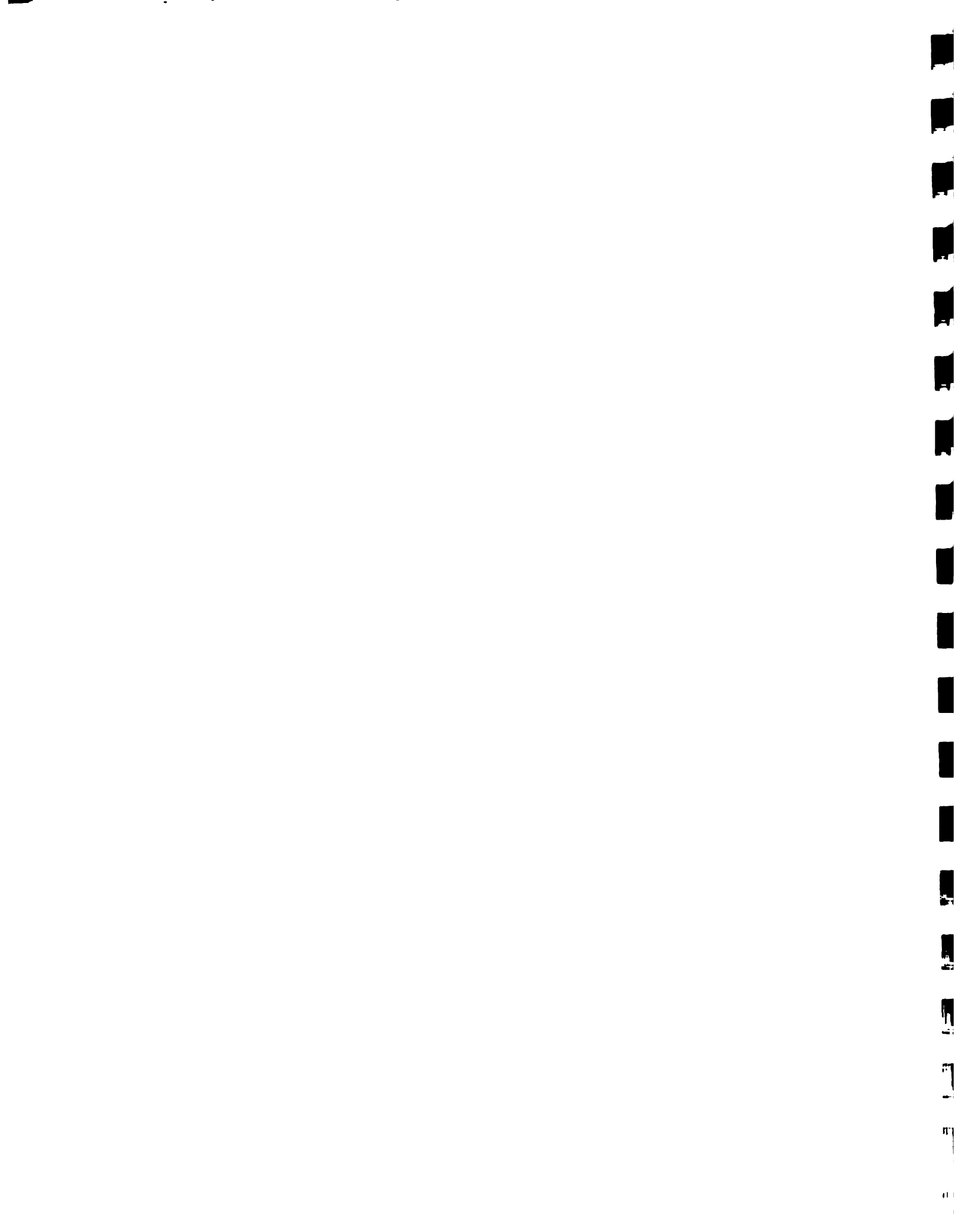
The key task for the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers is to build bridges to a better life for women in our rural areas. Let us strengthen our network of Wives of Heads of State and Government. Let us network with the First Ladies of the Americas, so that we can access potentially sizeable resources to help us fulfill our mission. Let us use every connection to help us build those bridges to better the lives of our rural women.

*The key task for the Caribbean
Network of Rural Women
Producers is to build bridges
to a better life for women in
our rural areas.*



Working Session





2. WORKING SESSION 1

2.1 CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS

Mrs. Oma Panday – Wife of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

This is the first meeting of its kind in the Caribbean. We are therefore breaking new ground for the region in terms of our direct involvement in the development processes. We will agree to the formation of a working network to the benefit of all our peoples to complement the efforts of the Heads of Government. We have the support of IICA in our pioneering stage of development.

2.2 PRESENTATION ON THE PROGRAMME FOR THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL WOMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN (PADEMUR)

Magali Quintana - Coordinator of the Fund for Technical Cooperation, IICA

Antecedents

PADEMUR had its origin in the 1992 Summit Meeting on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, Geneva, Switzerland, when a group of First Ladies requested bilateral funding agencies to have the conditions of rural women as a primary focus and to increase the allocation of resources to projects aimed at same.

Subsequently, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IICA developed research studies on women in 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the VII Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas held in Panama, PADEMUR was presented and approved.

Objective

The general objective of the Programme is to support actions aimed at improving the living conditions and position of women in the society and in sustainable development. Specifically, the programme will:

- (i) provide fora for discussion and policies that support the general objective;
- (ii) provide support to institutions in the public, private and civil society sectors towards incorporating a gender perspective within the organization; and
- (iii) promote the participation of women, at the micro level, in income-earning initiatives and networks of associations.

Organizational Framework

At the hemispheric level, PADEMUR is chaired by the host country of the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. The Conference is responsible for the general execution of the programme and to monitor objectives. It is comprised of a delegate from each region, among others.

At the regional level, it is chaired by a Spouse selected by the other spouses within the region. The Regional Council is responsible for securing external financing and for establishing strategic alliances.

At the national level, the National Committee establishes inter-institutional alliances and participation by other sector of the civil society. The Committee is headed by the First Lady with the participation of the public sector. Usually, it includes the Ministry of Agriculture which is responsible for policy formulation for women and rural development. The Ministry with responsibility for Gender or Women Affairs is also included. The participation of the private sector is important. The objective is to ensure that policies are put into practice. The stakeholders include the members of the civil society, NGOs, as well as, the National Representative of IICA. The component of the Committee varies from country to country, which must decide who are the best partners within the respective national committees.

At each level, IICA provides support to the execution of actions. As the Technical Secretariat, IICA promotes policies, provides a fora for discussion and strengthens groups of women when they form small enterprises.

Although, micro-entrepreneurship benefits the conditions of women, small projects impact upon only 2 to 3 per cent of women. Therefore, the Programme looks at the condition and the position of women. The Programme supports policies toward a heightened awareness of women's issues and promotes more women in leadership positions.

Achievements

In the Caribbean, we have the networks/associations and we now have the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers. In Central America, national committees have been constituted and there is a Regional Committee. At the national level, there are Window Projects such as in:

- ✧ Belize – hydroponics project;
- ✧ Honduras – training programme for women in areas such as iguanas farming, sewing of soccer uniforms, cattle and the production of breads and cakes.

A special fund, referred to as FERURAL, has been approved but not released by the IDB. Negotiations are ongoing towards the creation of a special credit facility; an innovative window, not along the traditional lines. A fund that is similar to the Kredifanm Project in Haiti where the repayment rate is almost 100 per cent. At the national level, the Committees must create a national mechanism that can receive the FERURAL funds.

2.3 OPEN DISCUSSION

Question:

In cases where persons may not have any ideas, does IICA give technical support to the identification of opportunities and markets in non-traditional areas and in the gathering of the data and the writing up of the project document?

Response:

Persons with technical capabilities form the National Committees. The projects come to the National Committee for elaboration and verification. IICA is the facilitator in terms of logistics and technical resources (external and in-house) and through inter-institutional alliances. When the finances come, it can be channeled to the feasible projects.

Question:

For IICA to receive the IDB funds, will specific countries need to have seed money and how much? If not, when the money comes from the IDB, how will IICA disburse the money among the countries?

Response:

How much and how, is still being negotiated. IDB has not stipulated counterpart seed financing. The fund will be managed not only by IICA but also by a Board comprising IDB and the First Ladies of the Americas. Subsequent donor agencies, which contribute to the fund, will be on the Board to ensure transparency. With respect to amount for distribution to the different countries, discussions are still taking place as to the criteria, whether by population distribution or by projects.

Comment:

The first tranche of funds is US\$2.5million, which is approximately US\$70,000 – US\$75,000 per country among the 34 member states. Accordingly, it would be desirable for every country to contribute and to aim for self-sustainability of the national organizations.

Additionally, there is the administrative (or operational cost) to be considered in the provision of technical cooperation services associated with promoting entrepreneurship and self-esteem among the women producers as they learn to deal with credit. In Haiti, although there is almost 100 per cent repayment among the borrowers, the operational cost of the technical support is quite high. Although at this time, we think the women can be weaned, it is difficult to hand over the project to a commercial organization because the technical and administrative costs are inter-linked. In setting up the credit scheme under PADEMUR, it would be necessary to separate these costs.

Question:

How do we link the Hemispheric Conference of the Wives of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to the Caribbean regional forum, which will meet every year parallel with the CARICOM Heads of Government? Next year, the Hemispheric Conference will be held in Haiti, but not necessarily, the regional CARICOM meeting.

Additionally, not all countries have rural women as their priority. At the upcoming Hemispheric Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Americas, the themes are "A Healthy Start: Investing in Children 0-6 Years" and "Women's Health". Each country and each region may have their own theme. Every year, other themes are added. Each year, things are added unto the list of things to be done and it can become onerous on the First Ladies, especially where there may not be an Office attached to her.

The First Ladies may have other concerns and other priorities, for example "Health of the Rural Women". It would be difficult to create national committees on each issue. If we combine these committees would we get the support from IICA for these other issues? Additionally, how do we go about actually setting up? The First Ladies already are doing a number of activities with little or no support of a First Ladies' Office; this is an additional task.

Response:

PADEMUR provides a structure. At the national level, the composition of committees may differ from country to country depending on the national priorities. Our vision of 'rural' is wider than agriculture. IICA has supported health issues related to rural women in the Kredifanm project in Haiti and it is perhaps a model that we can look at in setting up our national committees.

The Forum must tell IICA what are the things are needed regionally and nationally. This would influence the form and composition of the committees and their relationship with the prevailing infrastructure and the role that IICA can play in this regard. IICA will then work with the committees.

Comment:

Each Regional Centre of IICA will have to define its role. Within the Caribbean, we have undertaken, at both the national and regional level, to support the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government in the initial phase of this initiative as part of the regional integration process. As Regional Director, I have allocated some funds. We will provide the seed capital and the seed ideas to get the process going.

Question:

There are four regions listed as part of the PADEMUR. Why is North America (Mexico, Canada and the USA) missing?

Response:

PADEMUR began in Central America as a pilot programme and was followed by the Caribbean. This came about since the studies that were done covered Central, South America and the Caribbean. Last year, the North Region has been included in PADEMUR with the same objectives, although the activities will be different. Mrs. Clinton is very interested. At both the "Women in Agriculture Conference" in Washington last year and recently at Fresno, California, it was observed that inequality existed in USA; different from ours, but it exists. There is a wide gap between the opportunities available to males and females.

Question:

It seems that the best way to proceed would be with the formation of a federation of national networks as opposed to the regional network of women producers. In Haiti, there are a large number of associations. IICA works with a large number of groups, but there are many other associations, which do not get funding or assistance from IICA. To get the benefit of the regional network, would it not be better to have national federations formed first?

Response:

The desire to be perfect may be the enemy of the good. Although it would be ideal to start at the national level, we had to make a start at the regional level and IICA took the opportunity of the CARICOM Conference of the Heads of Government and your presence here to make a start. In Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica and Guyana, since there already are national associations, it should not be too difficult to form such a federation. In Haiti, the Kredifam programme can serve as the basis for a national forum. It is better at both the national and regional level to start with what exists and let it grow out of a need.

Question:

There is a hope that this meeting could identify some of the burning issues in the Caribbean, in addition to the rural women, which can be carried forward to the next Hemispheric Conference in October in keeping with the stated theme. Will there be an opportunity to lobby for support for individual proposals, which addresses women's health, for example?

Response:

These concerns capture exactly what we hoped to achieve in the meeting, which were:

- (i) to provide a forum for discussion and agreement on the issues that would be carried forward to the Ottawa Meeting; and
- (ii) to provide follow-up to the issue of 'rural women'. Although 'Rural Women' is not listed among the themes of this year's conference, it is included in the 'Action Plan' as an issue for follow-up.

5. WORKING SESSION 2

3.1 COMMENTS BY PROFESSOR JOYCELIN MASSIAH - UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN:

At the St. Lucia 1994 Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas there was a concern that the Caribbean delegation seemed to be weak and disorganized. Part of the reason is that the First Ladies in this region do not have any institutional backing. This is therefore one of the first and most important things that must be decided. The idea of meeting together on this occasion is really an extraordinary one and one that was very sorely needed five years ago. We must therefore capitalize on this occasion.

On the international scene, the Caribbean is linked with Latin America and wherever that happens, and it happens all the time, the Caribbean's interests and concerns are subsumed under those of the larger entity. The only way that is avoided is if the Caribbean 'hangs together' as a collective and presents a united front.

It is necessary to:

- ✦ institutionalize this process to ensure that the processes continue even when your spouses demit office. When you leave, there is nothing. There is a need to create a system which would carry you forward where you want to go and which can ensure that programmes are there to be carried forward as your membership changes;
- ✦ link to other things that are happening in the region at the same time; other structures and other organizations with similar interests, look at the ways in which they work and the way in which it might be useful for you to work together; and
- ✦ link your own interests with those that have already been identified by the women of this region, at the time of the Beijing Conference which had a very lengthy and strategic process of preparation which ensured that the Caribbean was able to identify their priority issues out of the twelve that the United Nations had asked them to focus on. They selected those that were important to the Caribbean. They carried their interests and data into Beijing and came out of Beijing as perhaps the most powerful and best-prepared regional grouping. This is a reputation, which Caribbean women want to maintain; but it was built around four or five priority issues, namely, poverty; health; education; violence against women; and governance and good leadership.

Since the United Nations' list never included 'Rural Women' your contribution would be to fill the gap which exists and which has been recognized.

With respect to the concerns that were raised on the links at the regional and hemispheric level, the forum or institution of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government must fit

into ongoing processes such as the preparation for the Special Session on Beijing +5 which is scheduled for June 2000.

Finally, UNIFEM can support in the process of institutionalization of the Forum of Wives and in preparation for participation in these international conventions.

3.2 COMMENTS BY MADAME GERÎ BENOIT PRÉVAL - HAITI:

At next year's Hemispheric Conference, we want to promote Haiti as a member of CARICOM. For next year's Conference, the Caribbean should be as strong as the Latin American bloc and prepare our themes and points of view.

In the context of sharing experiences, I would like to highlight some of what Haiti is doing. In preparation for the next Hemispheric Conference, we are planning a national workshop in November, just after the Hemispheric Conference in Ottawa, Canada; we will then have an idea of what issues to address and review what has been done over the last 10 years.

We are thinking about 'Building the Road to the Year 2000'. The Special Session on Beijing +5 will be addressed at the same time and in the same year. At the national workshop, as Professor Massiah suggested, we will address 11 of the 12 themes (excluding armed conflict).

The Caribbean needs to get together to have a meeting of the Technical Advisers in February, to allow for International Womens' Day (March 8) for which a number of celebrations have been planned. In July, the Meeting of the Forum of Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean should take place; and at the end of July the preparatory meeting for Hemispheric Conference should take place, so that by September, the regions would have gotten all their points across.

3.3 PRESENTATION BY MS. ENA HARVEY, BARBADOS ENTITLED "INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (AWIA) IN BARBADOS" (ANNEX 1)

3.4 PRESENTATION BY MS. MARIA SHARMA, GUYANA ENTITLED "STRENGTHENING THE RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK IN GUYANA" (ANNEX 2)

3.5 PRESENTATION BY MRS, YVONNE HINDS, GUYANA ENTITLED "STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECTOR (MHSS) SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK" (ANNEX 3)

3.6 PRESENTATION BY MRS. PATRICIA HENDERSON-BROWNE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Rural women have represented one of the strongest sectors in Trinidad and Tobago. Although the supporting data have not been collected in a final format, the Ministry of Social and Community Development and the Ministry of Gender Affairs will support this statement.

A number of women in rural communities within single-headed households have supported their families and themselves on agricultural production and agro-processing.

Over the last 3 years, the Relief Centre Programme has provided underprivileged persons with a soup, in associations with skills training and technical cooperation to promote agro-processing. A total of 1320 women were trained with an income generating skill. The Paramin Women's Group secured a grant in 1993 and now represents one of our success stories.

At the 'Conference of Social Investment Projects and Productive Programme for Rural Women in Latin America and the Caribbean', Lima, Peru, the presentation by Latin America was quite strong. They are moving ahead with sustainable programmes for women. Included among their Resolutions are requests to:

- IICA to include their declaration in a report for presentation at Ottawa;
- members of the Social System Annual Fund to disseminate the declaration in their country;
- IICA, the World Bank, OAS, IDB and CEPAL to continue supporting the social system to Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in reference to programmes for fighting rural poverty with a gender focus.

3.5 OPEN DISCUSSION

Question:

What is the relationship between the theme of this meeting and the theme of the Hemispheric Conference?

Comment:

At the upcoming Hemispheric Conference, the Caribbean can agree to address the theme of Health, as 'Rural Women's Health' since 80 per cent of Haiti's population is rural and it may be a similar percentage in other Caribbean countries. It is very important for the Region to gain consensus on the issues we are going to address. As small countries, we need external assistance but we need solidarity even to request help and to create a regional bloc.

If we say "health" in general, each country can address specific issues. However, since it is already on the agenda we may need to be specific as a region. If three or four countries submit projects under the theme of health, then it would strengthen our position. Our position can be strengthened by the presentation of one or two regional project proposals.

Response:

The meeting seems to agree on the theme of 'Rural Women's Health'. However, this meeting has received information on only two projects under the theme of Health (Barbados and

Haiti). Therefore, the meeting can note and support the two specific projects that were discussed at this meeting, namely:

- i. reproductive health, specifically, maternal mortality, infant mortality; and
- ii. breast cancer

The view is that if we did not leave the issue of Health very broad as "Rural Women's Health", some countries may not be able to identify with the specifics issues named. For example, Jamaica's concerns may not be included in our resolutions because they were not represented at this meeting.

One point on the agenda of the meeting of the Meeting of Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean should address the Hemispheric Conference of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government.

Henceforth, one point on the agenda of the Meeting of Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean should address issues to be tabled at the Hemispheric Conference.

Question:

What is the role of the First Lady in the National Committee? If the First Lady does not give consent to the National Committees, would it fit into the framework of PADEMUR? Additionally, how will PADEMUR be linked to other regional initiatives bearing in mind that there are monies available for other issues/programmes?

Response:

The participation in the programme will be a decision of the National Committees. The structure as described in PADEMUR are guidelines with recommendations that it be headed by the First Lady, with the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Women Affairs, the private sector and civil society. The First Lady may decide not to head the committees. So far, only Belize has a national committee.

At the regional level, within the Forum, the First Ladies can use the framework that will be provided under PADEMUR to address other concerns. Rural women issues, however, encompass areas other than primary production.

Question:

What does 'Strengthening' mean; financial, staff and technical support?

Response:

All of the above. The Forum will be broader than PADEMUR. It should represent a Caribbean bloc which can be used to prepare for Beijing + 5, for example. IICA wants to help create an institution and provide a secretariat which can handle other issues. At this stage, in

terms of project development, we may only be able to address PADEMUR projects. In the future, IICA may be able to develop other project proposals but will not be able to finance the project.

The Hemispheric Conference of the Wives of Head of State and Government is a wider framework. In order to allow the First Ladies to channel requests through PADEMUR, there must be a structure in order to organize different programmes that they have. It is an instrument that can strengthen any initiative that you have. Presently, there is no regional structure. This meeting is to create such a regional forum.

In order to allow the First Ladies to channel requests through PADEMUR, there must be a structure in order to organise different programmes that they have. It is an instrument that can strengthen any initiative that you have. Presently, there is no regional structure. This meeting is to create such a regional forum.

We want the Heads of Government of CARICOM to recognize the Forum of the Spouses of Heads of State and Government in an official statement and to endorse the forum's programmes and projects.

As a forum, we are ready to approach our clients and funding agencies and show what the issues are facing the region with the support of the beneficiaries and civil society.

Question:

What is the link with the National Committees and the Forum and why are the Offices of the First Ladies being strengthened if they may not be interested in the issue of entrepreneurial development of rural women but health for example, and may have no direct linkages with this constituency?

Response:

PADEMUR is a structure, which can be fitted to individual needs. For example, in Guatemala, the First Lady used the PADEMUR structure to develop a series of actions on behalf of rural women. However, IICA is only assisting with one project or one aspect of the total package. With the assistance of the Minister of Health, she was able to get financial assistance. With the assistance of the Minister of Works, she is developing construction projects. Through the alliances that are created within the PADEMUR structure, IICA has been able to get assistance from the MERCK Foundation for example, at the regional level.

The National Committees must develop their priorities, plans, and projects, which are submitted to the Regional Council for consideration. IICA can assist in areas that are within our mandate.

Question:

How do we encompass female Heads of State in this Forum?

Response:

Hereafter, change to the term "Spouse".

Question:

Are we setting precedence in asking for support to the First Ladies' Office?

Response:

In Latin America, some of the spouses have offices and some have allocations from the national budgets. There have been requests made to international agencies for such assistance and for administration and projects and programmes. The Regional Council can approach international funding agencies and technical cooperation agencies (such as IICA and UNIFEM) for support. Once institutionalized, the Regional Forum can approach regional and international agencies for regional programmes.

Forum can approach regional and international agencies for regional programmes.

Question:

How can we not appear to be competing with other national organizations for funding?

Response:

The projects would be channeled through the National Committees and not as a personal request but one backed by a national representative body.

Question:

If the Council is to be institutionalized, there is need to establish sustainable support mechanisms in terms of administration and secretarial support. IICA is willing to provide the initial support as this first initiative relates to agriculture, but there would be need to approach other agencies for support. What is the link with other Bureaus of Women's Affairs that may be able to provide some of the support?

IICA is willing to provide the initial support as this first initiative relates to agriculture, but there would be need to approach other agencies for support.

Response:

Within the Caribbean, the "Machinery" of the Women's Bureaus can certainly be used to provide such support.

Question:

What is the connection between the Regional Forum and the CARICOM Secretariat?

Response:

The Secretary General of CARICOM is very much aware of this initiative that is taking place and is fully supportive of the process. He insisted that there be a CARICOM representative present and this is the germ of the relationship to be developed. As the possible only constant within the forum of Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government, CARICOM should be included in the secretariat of the Council.

CARICOM should be included in the secretariat of the Council.

Question:

Who will be representing the region in Beijing +5?

Response:

Presently the CARICOM Secretariat works closely with the Ministries of Women Affairs. The Heads/Directors of these Bureaus, who report to the Ministers, is the body responsible for the preparations for Beijing +5. Within PADEMUR, the way it has worked is that the Women's Bureaus are members of the National Committees and there are links, as well, at the regional level. Within Latin America, the First Ladies are represented at the level of an Advisory Board to the President's Social Programme Commission where they can lobby for the inclusion on the Agenda of issues concerning rural women. There is therefore a link between the Summit of the Heads and the Conference of the Spouses. Since the First Ladies are linked to the Ministries at the level of the National Committees and they are linked to the Heads of State and Government through the Advisory Board, there is collusion of interests and the building of networks.

The ideal would be for CARICOM to recognize the role that the Forum can play in helping to carry out social programmes with definite national actions.

3.6 CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusions of the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region were as follows:

- (i) That the meeting be institutionalized as the Forum of the Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean. The Forum would be a formal mechanism which members may change but wherein would lie a sustainable structure. The Forum would comprise a quorum of 8 out of a total of 15 countries at present. A sub-committee would be set up by the Technical Secretariat to develop the By-laws;

As a first step, the special troika (Haiti, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago) would be responsible for planning the next meeting of the Forum. One point on the agenda of meeting of the Forum should address the Hemispheric Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas;

- (ii) That IICA would be the Technical Secretariat and that the CARICOM Secretariat should be included;
- (iii) To devise national and regional strategies to support the office of the spouses in acknowledgement of the lack of administrative and financial support to the spouses at the national level, within the Caribbean region; and
- (iv) To write to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Internal Trade in Canada, in bloc, to request that the next Preparatory Meeting of Technical Advisers henceforth be held at the end of July each year to allow the Caribbean Region to meet around July 4th.

These agreements are amplified in the Port of Spain Declaration (See 5.1).

3.7 IICA's COMMITMENT

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has made a commitment that, within its human and financial capacity, it is prepared to 'walk' with the Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean as follows:

- (i) to co-host, with the particular spouse, the annual meetings of the Forum of the Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean, specifically, to provide, as appropriate, secretarial and logistical support.

It is understood that these meetings are to be held at the same time as the Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community;

- (ii) to provide, if required, secretarial and logistical support to the Chairperson of the Forum and to assist in performing functions associated with same during the year preceding the meeting;
- (iii) to support the spouses in the establishment and functioning of the National Committees within the PADEMUR, through the IICA Technical Cooperation Agency in their respective countries,.

In this regard, IICA recognises that although the Committee is set up specifically for the implementation of PADEMUR, it may be necessary to deal with other matters pertaining to the development of rural women.

Further, we express the hope that this Committee, under the leadership of the Spouse, would spearhead the formation (where necessary) and the strengthening of the national "Federation / Network of Rural Women or Women in Agriculture", which is crucial to the success of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers that was launched during *the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean*; and

- (iv) in the context of (iii) above, to provide assistance to the preparation of project proposals to seek external financial, technical and other support for programmes, projects or activities that the National Committees may identify.

As would be expected, IICA could more readily provide this assistance in the fields of agriculture and rural development, including group organization and group dynamics, which are our areas of skill and expertise.

IICA looks forward to an audience with each and every Head of Delegation to further discussion on these matters in the near future.

LAUNCHING OF THE CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS

4.1 VISION, MISSION and GOALS

The Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers was officially launched at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean, by Mrs. Oma Panday (see 1.5 Feature Address).

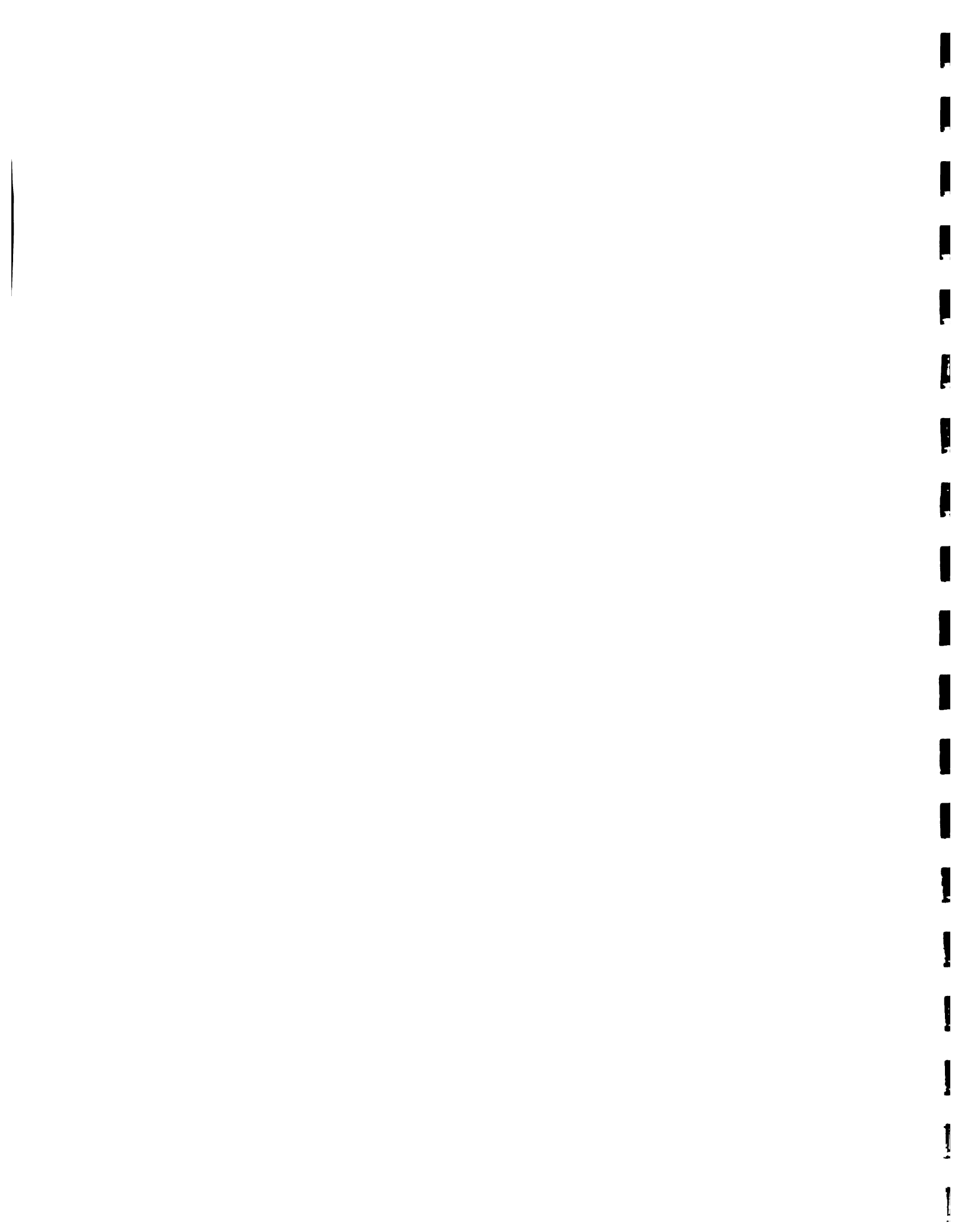
The objective of the interactive workshop, which was held concurrent to the Working Session of the Heads of Delegations and their Technical Advisers, was to arrive at a consensus on the mission and vision of the Network. These were as follows:

- VISION -** to promote cooperation among national networks of rural women and create partnerships with institutions and the private sector to support the private sector.
- MISSION-** to promote the socio-economic advancement of rural women producers in the Caribbean by creating sustainable employment opportunities through promotion of their products, developing human resource capacity and providing credit facilities to enable its members to make best use of opportunities and technologies available.
- GOALS -**
- a) Creation of sustainable employment opportunities for its members
 - b) Promotion of products made by its members
 - c) Strengthen links among rural women producers inter- and intra-regionally
 - d) Advocacy so as to promote and sensitize the wider society to the needs of rural women producers
 - e) Promotion of sustainability of Networks formed by Rural women at the national level

These agreements are amplified in the Declaration of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (See 5.2)

4.2 CONCLUSION

The workshop successfully completed a draft Articles of Association which was copied and distributed among all the participants. It was agreed that each country would provide feedback on the Draft Articles within one month. These comments would be channelled through the respective IICA Technical Cooperation Agencies.



DECLARATIONS

Port of Spain Declaration

We, at *"The First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region"* in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from July 5th to 7th, 1999 coming together for the first time to create the Caribbean Network of Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region which will enable us to speak as a consolidated voice on chosen matters being that the role of the Spouses of the Heads of State and Heads of Government is to support the social programmes of our Governments, hereby sign the following declaration:

1. We, the Spouses of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region, affirm our desire and intention to support and promote policies and programmes that promulgate the rights of Caribbean women to participate in and have access to all social, political, economic and cultural activities in the countries consistent with international agreements, conventions and resolutions which promote the strengthening of democracy, the eradication of poverty and the protection and promotion of human rights, economic stability and social justice for all;
2. We agree to establish and institutionalize this meeting to be known hereafter as the *Forum of Spouses of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region* (Forum);
3. We seek formal recognition and support of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region to execute the goals of the Forum;
4. We support the hemispheric initiative developed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) entitled, "Programme for the Entrepreneurial Development of Rural Women" (PADEMUR) which aims at strengthening the organizations and projects of the Forum and agree that IICA will assist in supporting the regional bodies and at the national level supporting the committees founded by the Forum and we will work cohesively in accessing funds

for other important social programmes dedicated to developing political, social and economic leadership skills among women, and rural women;

5. We agree that the meeting of the Forum take place concurrently with the Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in early July of each year;

6. We agree that a troika for the Forum comprises the Spouse of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the past, current and future host countries. Exceptionally this year the troika will comprise the Spouses of Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

7. We agree to the establishment of a committee comprising that exceptional troika for the purpose of formulating rules and regulations that would guide the operations of the Forum;

8. We acknowledge and support that Haiti be the host of the Tenth Hemispheric Conference of Wives of Heads of Government and State of the Americas. Every year on the agenda at the Regional Conference of the Wives of Heads of Government and State of the Americas, the themes and projects of that year's Hemispheric Conference should be addressed and conclusions and recommendations sent to the preparatory meeting of the Technical Advisers;

9. We request the inclusion on the agenda of the Ninth Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the subject, "The Development and Promotion of Rural Women Producers" and subscribe to the theme of Women's Health to be addressed as "Rural Women Health" and that future hemispheric meetings for Technical Advisers be held at the end of July to allow for resolutions from the annual meetings of the Forum to reach this hemispheric body in time for discussions; and we further agree that these proposals be brought to the attention of the Technical Meeting of the Ninth Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas for the said Ninth Conference of the Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, currently in session in Ottawa, Canada.

10. We express our appreciation to the wife of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, in particular, to the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean and for the hospitality extended during our stay;

11. We also thank IICA for its support in facilitating this *First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region* and look forward for its continued support.



Declaration of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers

We, the rural women of Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, July 5th to 7th, 1999, on the theme "Entrepreneurial Development for Rural Women Producers", for the purpose of committing ourselves to working together in the Caribbean Region, to strengthen the national networks of rural women producers and to promote political, social, economical and cultural leadership skills, as well as, to create partnership with public and private institutions, subscribe to the following:

1. We agree to create the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.
2. We commit ourselves to the following vision: "To be recognized as the most effective advocate of rural women producers".
3. We agree that its mission shall be: "To empower rural women to improve their standard of living through training, cultural exchanges, networking and promoting inter and intra regional trade".
4. We reaffirm our commitments to the network goals as the following:
 - i. To develop a marketing mechanism to promote our products at the regional level
 - ii. To develop gender sensitive policies
 - iii. To secure financial resources
 - iv. To establish a legal framework that will give support to women's issues at the regional level
 - v. To develop data collection instruments and facilitate exchange of information
5. We agree to provide feedback on the draft Articles of Association which was presented and has been modified to include the mission, vision and goals agreed on. Comments will be sent to the respective IICA office within a month.
6. We express appreciation for the efforts of the First Ladies of the Caribbean to further our cause.
7. We are grateful for, and accept the courteous offer of the Wife of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs. Oma Panday to host the First Meeting of the Wives of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Region.

8. We acknowledge the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture's (IICA's) technical and financial support in facilitating the launching of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.
9. We wish to thank Marcelle Baneutte of IICA Sustainable Rural Development Directorate, Hyacinth Chin Sue of IICA TCA in Jamaica and Gary Tagallie, Contractor to the Regional Centre, for their contributions to this meeting.

**INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN
AGRICULTURE (AWIA), IN BARBADOS**

Country: BARBADOS

Project Title: Institutional Strengthening of the Association of Women in Agriculture in
Barbados

Starting Date: July 1999

Completion Date: July 2002

Project Cost: US\$15,000 (office)
US\$54,000 (salary for 3 years)

1. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

In accordance with the objectives of the Business Development Program for Rural Women (PADEMUR), this project calls for the strengthening of the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWIA) in Barbados.

About AWIA

The AWIA was established in October 1998. It comprises rural and urban women who are involved in agriculture and agriculture-related activities. The overall goal of the Association is to equip women to be self-reliant, thereby empowering them so as to improve their overall socio-economic status. Within this context, the specific objectives of the Association are:

- the creation of sustainable employment;
- the promotion of self-reliance among rural and urban women producers;
- promotion of products made by rural and urban women producers;
- the promotion of relevant training so as to upgrade and develop the capabilities of rural and urban producers;
- strengthening of links among rural and urban women producers;
- the undertaking of advocacy so as to promote and sensitize the wider society to the needs of rural and urban women in agriculture;
- promotion of the sustainability of each member.

The Motto of the Association, "Agriculture is Our Business" reflects the group's focus on the adoption of a professional and commercial approach to the development of the organisation and to the development of agriculture in Barbados.

The group comprises eighty-five (85) registered members, who are either full-time or part-time farmers. They farm acreages ranging from 0.1 acre to 23 acres. Crops include carrots, beets, onions, tomatoes, beans, chive, cauliflower, cabbage, hot pepper, eggplant, parsley, squash, pumpkin, ochro, beans, pigeon peas, sorrel, lettuce, cucumber, dasheen, cassava, melon, and papaya. There is one poultry farmer/processor and several of the members produce preserved products (such as jams, jellies, fruit cheeses, dried fruit, wines and liqueurs, pickles, sauces, and baked items) for both home consumption and commercial sale.

2. THE PROBLEM

AWIA is a fledgling organisation. The membership of AWIA are all either full-time or part-time farmers, with limited experience in working effectively as a group. Some elements of structure have been put in place. The group has developed its Constitution, and is registered as a member of the umbrella Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS). A bank account has been established and an Executive Committee has been elected. AWIA was formally launched on March 21st, 1999, and the group currently holds its monthly meetings at the BAS Headquarters.

The lack of a central secretariat or administrative unit which would serve as a common contact point for the Association is a serious deterrent to the efficient functioning of the group. To date, the IICA office in Barbados has provided critical support in this regard, but cannot continue to do so on a long-term basis. Basic secretarial services and an office are needed for coordination of the activities of the group and for the day to day operations such as sending out of correspondence to members, contacting clients and suppliers, establishing an information base, and coordination of the programme of work of the group.

The group has identified several issues which need to be addressed in order for the members to operate more effectively as suppliers of both fresh and processed produce. These include marketing, access to cheaper inputs (including irrigation water), advocacy on issues of market prices and competition from imports, and training in better farming practices and in agro-processing techniques.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of the project is the creation of a strong administrative unit which would provide support to AWIA with the conduct of its programmes over the next three years.

The Terms of Reference for this Unit would be:

1. Coordination of activities to support agricultural micro-enterprise development for the women in AWIA;

2. Development of information support services and training programmes for micro-enterprise agricultural projects;
3. Promotion of profit-oriented activities within the organization;
4. Identification of opportunities for rural agro-industry and small agri-business development;
5. Preparation of project proposals for rural agricultural micro-enterprise development.

4. ACTIVITIES

The specific activities of the Unit will include:

1. Development of a three-year programme of activities for AWIA. This programme should include (but not be restricted to) the following:
 - Establishment of the National Committee comprising the First Lady, representatives of the agricultural sector and AWIA. This National Committee would liaise with the Regional Committee of Wives of Heads of State and Government, which is the coordinating body of PADEMUR.
 - The establishment of a database on the members of AWIA, detailing the farming activities of the members, with respect to acreages, crops, equipment, marketing operations, and priority needs.
 - The establishment of a schedule of availability of produce from the membership of AWIA
 - Convening of an industry partnership meeting between members of AWIA and buyers of agricultural produce, including wholesalers and distributors, supermarkets, hotels and restaurants
 - The establishment of a central marketing area or Farmers' Market (either in a fixed location or in specified locations across the island) where farmers and members of AWIA can sell their produce to all buyers
 - The establishment of a packing house cum agro-processing unit which will utilise the members' produce and provide fresh packaged, semi-processed and/or finished products for downstream processing, and for use in the hotel and foodservice industries.
 - Training of AWIA members in basic techniques of food preservation and small-scale processing
 - Training of AWIA members, particularly the Executive Committee, in the

management of the group, conduct of meetings, documentation of minutes and PR functions.

2. **Development of links with agencies to support the interests of the members of AWIA. These agencies include the following:**

- **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**
- **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO)**
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (including Fisheries)**
- **Ministry of Social Transformation, Community Development and Women's Affairs**
- **Ministry of Trade and Industry (particularly the Price Control Division)**
- **Urban and Rural Development Commissions**
- **Barbados National Bank, and other banking institutions**
- **Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC)**
- **Centre for Gender and Development Studies (CGS/UWI)**
- **United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)**

3. **Development of links with commercial companies which provide inputs to members of AWIA, with a view to obtaining financial support and/or concessions for purchase of inputs. These companies include suppliers of tractors and farm equipment, fertilisers and agricultural chemicals, seeds and seedling materials, agro-processing equipment and machinery.**

4. **PRE-REQUISITES**

Steps have been taken to ensure that a number of prerequisites for the success of the project are met. Among them are:

- **The group has held two workshops, facilitated by members who represent the FAO and the private sector (agro-industry consultant). The first workshop, held in April 1999, involved a Needs Analysis which identified Marketing as the single-most important issue for the members. The second workshop, held in May, 1999, sought to identify possible products which could be considered for an agro-processing project, funded under the FAO Telefood facility.**
- **The group has received very positive support from the Barbados Advocate newspaper by way of profiles on individual farmers, newspaper reports on the Official Launch of the association, and reporting on problems with marketing. (See newspaper articles attached);**
- **The members are willing and committed to working as a group;**
- **The women are committed to contributing their own labour and some**

financial resources towards the operation of the projects;

- Members with specific skills have stated their commitment to provide technical advice and training to the group;
- The Ministry of Agriculture has stated its commitment to providing technical and financial support
- The IICA Office in Barbados has provided significant administrative, technical and financial support, and is committed to continuing its support

5. INPUTS

OFFICE:

Secured office with meeting room (possibly provided by the BAS)

Desks

Computer, Printer, Telephone, Fax, Photocopier

Conference table

Chairs

SUPPORT STAFF:

Office coordinator

Basic Qualifications:

Formal training in Agriculture

Training in project preparation (an asset)

Computer literacy

Organizational ability (setting up of administrative systems, filing and information systems, etc)

Ability to network with key agencies and institutions involved in agriculture and agri-business in Barbados

Ability to work independently

Salary Level: US\$1,500 per month

6. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Administrative Unit will be responsible for providing quarterly reports and a final report in an agreed format. The FAO Representation will be responsible for monitoring the progress of the project and ensuring, through independent audit, that the funds are used correctly.

7. RISKS

No major risks have been identified.



STRENGTHENING THE RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK IN GUYANA

01. Background:

The rural sector is very important in Guyana. Over 60% of the population live in rural areas or small coastal towns. Over 35% of the GDP is generated by the agricultural sector. In 1998, over 100 different agricultural products were exported as fresh produce. In 1994 and 1996, IICA/IFAD/IDB executed surveys on socio-economic conditions in rural areas and women in agriculture. Results showed that 60% of the population lived below the poverty level. A high percentage of rural women were found to be engaged in small-scale and subsistence production and/or processing of vegetables, fruits, food crops and fish. Others earn scarce cash income from the production and sale of crafts. Social and support services in the areas of information, technology transfer, communication and transportation systems, technical assistance, credit and others were found to be inadequate to meet the needs of rural people.

Within the public sector, the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS) has made important progress in formulating policy guidelines and drafting a five-year action plan to improve support services. Significant achievements include the establishment of: the National Commission on Women (December 1996) to serve as an advisory body to Government; establishment of an Information and Documentation Center and the Women's Leadership Institute; and formation of the Regional Women's Affairs Committee to provide assistance to women's groups in Guyana's ten Administrative Regions.

A number of private sector organizations and NGOs have provided guidance and/or supported the organization and development of rural women's groups across Guyana. The most significant groups are listed below:

- The *Women's Progressive Organization* and the *National Congress of Women*, women's arms of the two major political parties in Guyana.
- *Red Thread Women's Development Project* provides information, technical expertise and training.
- *Guyana Federation of Women's Institute.*
- *Anglican Mother's Union.*
- In November 1998, the *Rural Women's Network (RWN)* was formally launched to promote the development of rural women, the community and Guyana.

A number of other organizations provide support to women's groups, these include:

- The Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED) provides credit to small and micro-business, and has benefited many women's groups.

- The Guyana Volunteer Consultancy (GVC) has been successful in developing its training programme using local volunteers.
- The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program provides technical support and training to handicapped persons across Guyana.
- The University of Guyana's Women's Studies Unit carries out research and provides information on rural women.
- The Institute of Distance and Continuing Education provides adult education, and
- The Guyana Adult Education Association provides adult education and training.

.02 Description of problem:

Given the scarcity of their financial resource and the difficulty in accessing information, appropriate technologies and markets, individual women frequently find it difficult or impossible to initiate productive enterprises. The desire to improve the social and economic conditions of their families and communities often stimulates them to form groups of women with similar motives. While some of the groups achieve success, the vast majority continues to be hindered by poor support services. Consequently, their products are often uncompetitive due to poor quality, small quantities, high costs of production and irregularity of supply. This leads to low levels of income, insufficient economic incentive, disinterest among members and group failure.

03. Justification for the project:

Guyana is rich in natural resource such as land, water, forest reserves, flora and fauna. It is also rich in human resources, linked to the land and the forests and well versed in traditional practices. Much of Guyana's land is free of chemicals, giving it a comparative advantage in marketing organic produce. Its indigenous people have well-developed skills in the production of craft for the growing tourist market. Public and private sector institutions are beginning to work together to improve necessary support services in information, training, technology transfer, credit and marketing. NGOs have been institutionalized to provide small business loans (IPED) and training (GVC). The public sector (MHSSS) is very supportive of actions to strengthen rural women. Leaders of rural women have taken the initiative to form a national network (RWN) and are now poised for providing the training, information and technical expertise required to make rural groups sustainable in social, economic and environmental terms.

04. Objectives:

- a) *General: To promote the sustainable development of groups of rural women and their communities.*

b) Specific:

- to strengthen existing groups of rural women by providing effective training, information and technical expertise;
- to provide a forum for networking, exchanging ideas and promoting each other's projects;
- to guide the respective groups of women into productive projects that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

05. Expected results:

Phase 1:

- a) A critical mass of human resources trained in sustainable development, networking and support services and able to effectively manage the RWN.
- b) Training materials on sustainable development, organization, management, and diverse types of production, processing and marketing validated and published.
- c) At least four productive projects developed and sustainable.
- d) Documentation of experiences and lessons learned and preparation of a proposal for Phase 2 (expanded activities).

Phase 2:

- a) A clear strategy and plan of action for the sustainable operation of the RWN.
- b) The Rural Women's Network strengthened and operating on a sustainable basis.
- c) At least 20 groups of rural women operating sustainable projects.
- d) Over 500 rural women trained in planning, project design, organization, management, and diverse types of production, processing and marketing.
- e) Documented experiences and lessons learned.

06. Description of project:

This project will start small and grow with experience. In its search for sustainable project, it will build upon the experiences obtained by women and their respective groups over the past 20 years or more. Other strategies will include: improvement on known or tested products that have market opportunities; improvement of products that women already know how to produce; improving technologies and lowering production costs; increasing efficiency by developing entrepreneurial skills, and seeking economies of scale by joint marketing, among others.

The main activities to be implemented will include:

- a) A participatory inventory/diagnosis of each women's group will determine their available resources, development potential, on-going activities and other important characteristics.
- b) A diagnosis of common needs that can be supported by RWN will be carried out during the inventory and through participatory group workshops.
- c) Exercises will be carried out to identify and prioritize four projects to be supported by RWN during phase 1. Actions will include market studies and cost/benefit analysis.
- d) Training will be organized and executed to meet the needs of participating women and their groups. Full advantage will be taken of existing expertise, available information and training facilities.
- e) Projects will be formulated in a participatory manner to ensure active participation of all stakeholders. Assistance will be provided to women's groups in accessing funding from whatever source (public, private, donor).
- f) RWN personnel will assist, monitor, evaluate and document project activities so as to develop a useful data base for designing Phase 2.
- g) A series of diagnostic and evaluation exercise will be carried out to design and formulate Phase 2 of the Project using participatory techniques.
- h) Implementation of Phase 2 guided by experiences of Phase 1.

A Small Project Fund of \$20,000 will be established to assist individual women's groups get started. Startup capital, not to exceed \$2,000. Will be provided on a partial or total cost recovery basis, depending upon the circumstances. RWN Small Project Funds will be used to leverage additional funds from other sources. RWN personnel will assist groups in the formulation of projects and in the accessing of either loan or grant financing. RWN personnel will liaise with local institutions, NGOs and donors in accessing technical and financial support.

07. Resource requirements (first estimates)

Main Activities	Amount in US \$	Local Source of \$	Donor Source of \$
Diagnostic/Inventory	6,000	2,000	4,000

Training materials	6,000	1,000	5,000
Training activities	20,000	10,000	10,000
Small project support fund	20,000	-	20,000
Monitor/Evaluate/Document	6,000	2,000	4,000
Administration of project	14,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL	72,000	22,000	50,000

08. Duration of project: Five (5) years (Phase 1 will cover the first two years and Phase 2 will cover the remaining three years).

09. Name & description of implementing organization and name of project facilitator:

- a) Implementing organization: *Rural Women's Network*
- b) Project coordinator/facilitator: *Maria Sharma, President of RWN*

10. Name of support groups:

- a) Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS)
- b) Guyana Volunteer Consultancy (GVC)
- c) Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED)
- d) Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock
- e) Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- f) Ministry of Education
- g) University of Guyana
- h) Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST)
- i) Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- j) Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- k) National Agricultural Research Institute

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECTOR (MHSSS) SUPPORT SERVICES TO THE RURAL WOMEN'S NETWORK

01. **Background:**

In December 1997, the Government of Guyana appointed a Minister of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS) with responsibility for Women's Affairs, as a measure to ensure the advancement of women. The MHSSS has national responsibility for updating and implementing Government policy in relevant areas and in formulating strategies, projects and actions and providing support services to the benefit of women. Two priority services are the MHSSS Information and Documentation Centre and the Women's Leadership Institute, launched in 1998.

The Minister works in close collaboration with the Women's Affairs Bureau (WAB), a Government agency tasked with the mandate of coordinating national efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, ensuring their full participation and advancement in the political, social, economic and cultural life of society. The WAB has specific responsibilities outlined in its 5-year plan. These include formulating, updating, monitoring and evaluating policies, programmes and plans of action to improve the status of women in Guyana, as well as establishing and maintaining effective links with NGOs and other private sector groups.

The Minister of MHSSS also liaises closely with the National Commission on Women, composed of experienced persons and representatives of women's organizations, and responsible for monitoring legislation, conducting formal investigations and making recommendations to the Minister, WAB and the Inter-Ministry Committee.

02. **Description of Problem**

The MHSSS has a very broad portfolio of responsibilities. Although this Ministry has been, and continues to be a strong and active supporter of women's groups, it does not have access to all the human and financial resources necessary to respond to the many demands from rural women and their groups. Consequently, it supports efforts of other organizations, institutions and NGOs to help rural women reach their goals. While rural women have needs in numerous areas, MHSSS has identified information and training as priorities that can impact the greatest number of women and groups. Although it has established an Information and Documentation Centre and a Women's Leadership Institute, it has recognized its financial and technical limitations in providing the information and training necessary for women's groups to establish themselves on a sustainable basis.

Most rural women in Guyana visualize agriculture and agro-processing as activities that help them to feed their families and pay some of their bills. In general, they are not good entrepreneurs and do not understand the intricacies of business and marketing. MHSSS has neither the training modules/ manuals nor the expertise for training rural women in small business management or in the technical aspects of production, processing or marketing. Although manuals exist in other countries of the region, they have not been validated for Guyana.

Guyana has a significant number of institutions, organisations and NGOs offering diverse types of technical expertise. However, each group tends to execute its training activities sporadically,

as resources permit. There are no systematic efforts being made to respond to the needs of rural women on a regular and sustaining basis.

03. Justification for the project:

Guyana is among the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Over 60% of its population is rural based. Over the past five years, thousands of rural women have been motivated to form hundreds of rural groups. Most of these groups have socio-economic goals that they seek to reach by producing and selling some product. All such groups require assistance in improving the efficiency of the production, processing and marketing of a wide variety of agricultural and non-agricultural products.

Both the public and private sectors have recognized the importance of working together to improve the conditions of rural women. The Ministry of Human Services and Social Security is the key institution in the public sector for providing basic services to organized groups of women. This Ministry is fully supportive of the newly formed (1998) Rural Women's Network, representing one of the largest groups of organized rural women in Guyana. These two organizations, working together, can form an effective partnership for development of sustainable groups of women in Guyana. This Project will provide the necessary resources to initiate this process.

04. Objectives:

- a) *General: To promote the sustainable development of groups of rural women and their communities*
- b) **Specific:**
 - to transfer and validate useful experiences, technologies and strategies from other countries to the benefit of rural women in Guyana;
 - to provide effective strategies and guidelines that contribute to the development of sustainable projects beneficial to rural women in Guyana; and
 - to improve the efficiency of the support services (information and training) offered by the MHSSS to groups of rural women.

05. Expected results:

- a) A national rural development strategy beneficial to the sustainable development of groups of rural women in Guyana.
- b) A regularly updated national plan of action conducive to the development of projects that are sustainable and beneficial to rural and urban women.
- c) An effective information and documentation centre that responds to the needs of rural and urban women.
- d) Validated training materials that respond to the needs of rural women.

- e) The Women's Leadership Institute responding to the needs of rural and urban women and operating on a sustainable basis.

06. Description of project

This Project will strengthen the basic services of MHSSS offered to rural women through organized groups. Activities will focus on five basic areas:

- a) the transfer of relevant experiences and strategies from other countries to Guyana;
- b) training of key human resources from MHSSS, and related umbrella groups and NGOs, in sustainable agricultural and rural development;
- c) strengthening of the planning function of the MHSSS;
- d) collection and dissemination of relevant training materials, and
- e) organization of training activities that respond to the demands of rural women.

In the execution of these activities, technical expertise, information and training will be provided to the Planning Unit, the Documentation Centre, and the Women's Leadership Institute (WLI)

Through the Caribbean Regional Network, relevant experiences will be identified and transferred to Guyana using electronic media, training activities and videos, CD-ROMs, and the like.

In collaboration with the Rural Women's Network, specific common training needs will be identified and resource persons or groups will be contacted to prepare training modules, manuals or graphic aids. Training activities will be executed either in rural communities or at the Women's Leadership Institute.

A technical coordinating team will be formed with participants from NARI, MFCL, NDDP, NGMC, IAST, UG, GVC, IICA, CARDI and other relevant institutions or organisations active in Guyana. This Team will coordinate the technical assistance, training and transfer of technologies in organisation, management, agricultural production, agro-processing, marketing and other areas. Training will include both the practical and the theoretical.

The Women's Leadership Institute will be developed into a practical training centre where women can receive training in line with their respective needs, and will have the opportunity to observe and participate in modern, but appropriate, methods of production, processing and packaging.

07. Resource requirements

Main Activities	Amount (US\$)	From MHSSS (US\$)	From Donor (US\$)
Coordination and communication	7,000	2,000	5,000
Support to Information and Documentation Centre	13,000	3,000	10,000
Support to Women's Leadership Institute	35,000	5,000	30,000
Administration	5,000	5,000	-
TOTAL	\$60,000	\$15,000	\$45,000

08. Duration of project: Two (2) years

09. Name & description of implementing organization and name of project facilitator:

- a) Implementing organization: *Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS)*
- b) Project coordinator/facilitator: *Indranie Chandarpal, Minister of MHSSS*

10. Name of support groups:

- a) Ministry of Human Services and Social Security (MHSSS)
- b) Guyana Volunteer Consultancy (GVC)
- c) Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED)
- d) Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock
- e) Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- f) Ministry of Education
- g) University of Guyana
- h) Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST)
- i) Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- j) Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- k) National Agricultural Research Institute

A. WIVES OF HEADS OF STATE AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

ANGUILLA

Mrs. Norma Hughes
Wife of Head of State

BARBADOS

Mrs. Beverly Arthur
Wife of Head of Government

Dr. Shirley Jhagroo
Technical Adviser

BELIZE

Mrs. Joan Musa
Wife of Head of Government

Trinidad Lilia Zaiden
Technical Adviser

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mrs. Edris O'Neal
Wife of Chief Minister

GRENADA

Mrs. Marietta Mitchell
Wife of Head of Government

GUYANA

Mrs. Yvonne Hinds
Wife of Head of Government

Ms. Maria Sharma
Technical Adviser

HAITI

Madame Geri Beniot Preval
Wife of Head of Government

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mrs. Oma Panday
Wife of Head of Government

Mrs. Patricia Henderson-Browne
Technical Adviser

B. IICA PARTICIPANTS

Mrs. Marlene Antoine
Moderator
Regional Coordinator, Sustainable Rural Development
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney
Director, Caribbean Regional Centre and Representative in
Trinidad and Tobago
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Magali Quintana
Coordinator of the Fund for Technical Cooperation
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
GUATEMALA

Ms. Marcelle Banuette
Technician, Sustainable Rural Development
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
COSTA RICA

Mr. Cromwell Crawford
Specialist, Sustainable Rural Development
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
GUYANA

Ms. Hyacinth Chin Sue
Rural Development Specialist
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
JAMAICA

Ms. Tricia De Gannes
Secretary
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Grace Pajotte
Secretary
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Earllene Crawford
Receptionist
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mr. Edwin Franco
Driver/Messenger
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mr. Ricky Franco
Driver/Messenger
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mrs. Gemma Olivier Mc Neal
Secretary
Forestry Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

C. OBSERVERS

Ms. Gemma Tang Nain
CARICOM Secretariat
GUYANA

Ms. Sandra Singh
Member of the Organization for socio-economic Development of Women
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mrs. Dana Maharaj
Member of the Organization for socio-economic Development of Women
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Ena Harvey
Consultant
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
BARBADOS

Ms. Wendy Ramkerrysingh
Legal Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Sylvie Bedard
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
CANADA

Ms. Clarissa Leon
Wife of the Vice President of the
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Professor Joycelin Massiah
United Nations Fund for Women

BARBADOS

Ms. France Pégeot
Ag. Director General
Food Bureau
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
CANADA

Ms. Anita Winsor
Ag. Deputy Executive Director
Pan-American Development Foundation
USA

Ms. Debra Mc Fee
Project Execution Officer
Ministry of Culture and Gender Affairs
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Mrs. Hermian Smart-Findlay
Project Execution Officer
Ministry of Culture and Gender Affairs
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

D. MEMBERS OF THE CARIBBEAN NETWORK OF RURAL WOMEN PRODUCERS

Ms. Ameena Austin
BARBADOS

Mrs. Angela Gallai
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Bibi Andrews
GUYANA

Ms. Renee Selane
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Lurline Brooks
JAMAICA

Mrs. Shanti Soogrim
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Marie Lene Fatal
HAITI

Mrs. Edna Stewart
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Marie Yves Meranvil
HAITI

Ms. Gia Gaspard Taylor
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Marie Martine Guillaume Viard
HAITI

Ms. Sonia Hannibal
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Josephine Blackwell
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Ms. Debra Gill
BARBADOS

**Ms. Gemma Bereton
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Helene Boucher
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Mrs. Yvette Figaro
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Veronica Romany
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Josephine Niblet
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Angenie Rampersad
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Rawl Greenidge
BARBADOS**

**Ms. Alison Alicia Kelly
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Anata Toussaint
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Marie Glaude
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Mrs. Petra Gomez
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Dawn Job
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Rose Rajbansee
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Eula Rogers
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Ms. Rani Hamewaite Seelal
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

AWIA	Association of Women in Agriculture
BAS	Barbados Agricultural Society
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEPAL	Comisión Económica de las Naciones Unidas para América Latina y el Caribe
CNRWP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GVC	Guyana Volunteer Consultancy
IAST	Institute of Applied Science and Technology
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MFCL	Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock
MHSSS	Minister of Human Services and Social Security
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NDDP	National Dairy Development Programme
NGMC	New Guyana Marketing Corporation
NGO	Non governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
PADEMUR	Programme for the Entrepreneurial Development of Rural Women
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
RWN	Rural Women's Network
SARD	Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development
UG	University of Guyana
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
WAB	Women's Affairs Bureau
WHO	World Health Organization
WLI	Women's Leadership Institute
WTO	World Trade Organisation

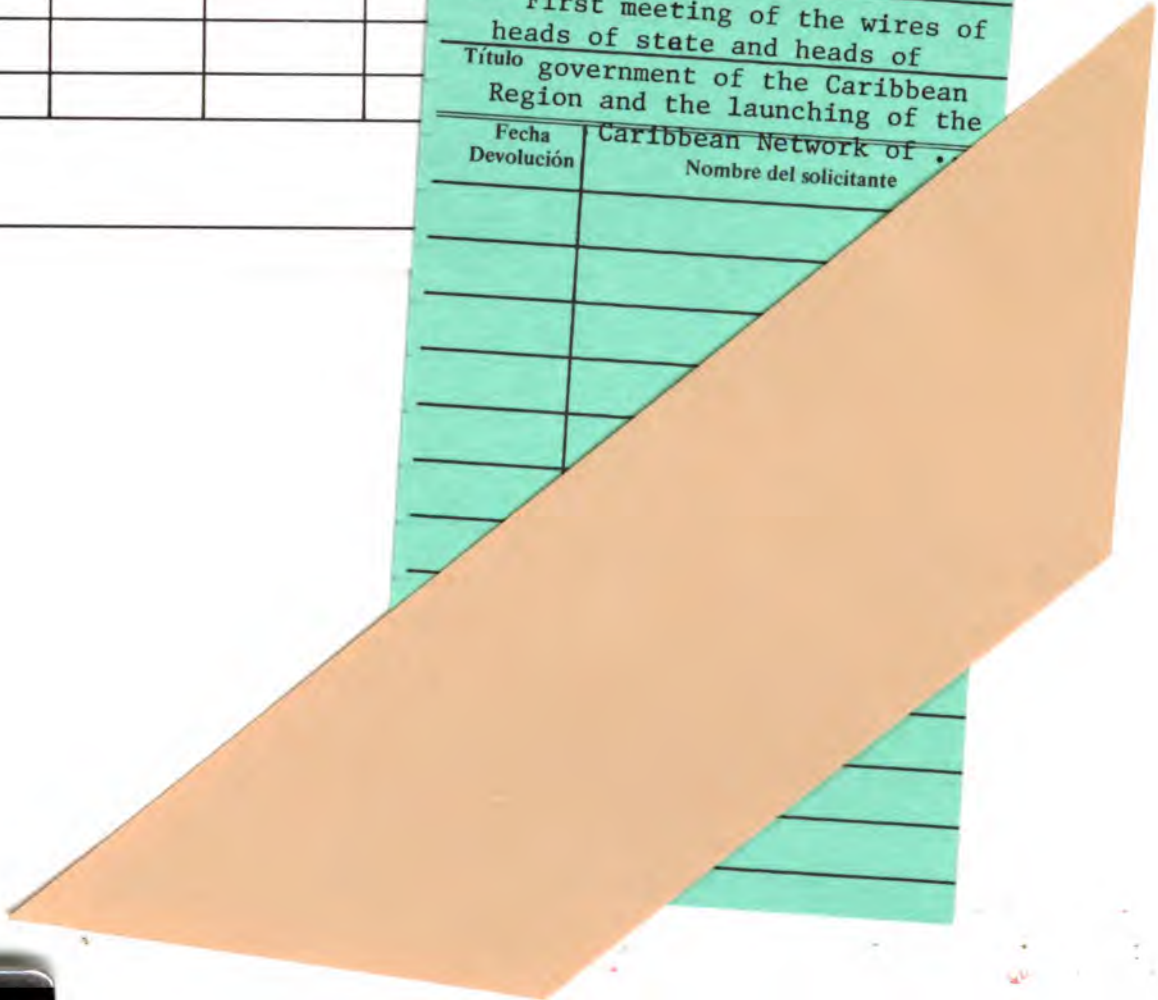
FECHA DE DEVOLUCION

FECHA DE DEVOLUCION			

IICA
PM-A2-TT-99-03

Autor First meeting of the wires of heads of state and heads of government of the Caribbean Region and the launching of the Caribbean Network of

Fecha Devolución	Nombre del solicitante



**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
OFFICE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

3 Herbert Street, Newtown, Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, W.I. / P.O. Box 1318

Tel: (868) 628-4403; 628-4078; 628-4079; 622-7086; 622-7093

Fax: (868) 628-4562 **Cable:** IICAPOS **Email:** iicatt@iicacarc.org