

**Presentation**

on

**“Appropriate Technology for Rural Women”**

# Back Ground

## **Regional Consultation**

As part of the project, regional consultation was organized by CIRDAP in Yangon, Myanmar on 14-16 August, 2006 to share the findings of the Action Research Project “Appropriate Technologies for Rural Women” of Pakistan and Myanmar

# Introduction of the projects

## **Title of Project: “Appropriate Technology for Rural Women”**

Action Research on Appropriate Technology for Rural Women was implemented in its two member countries i.e.. Myanmar and Pakistan following the recommendation of CIRDAP Research Project “Impact of Increase in Household Income on the Role and Status of women within the Household” implemented as the research study project in 1995, to examine the relationship between the poor women’s increased contribution to household income and the resultant impact on their roles and status within the household.

**Coverage:** Pakistan and Myanmar

**Duration:**

# Goal

**To exploit the potential of rural women by adopting modern technology and enhance their productivity through using various modern techniques.**

# Objectives:

## Major objective

The broad objective of the project was to enhance the quality of life of rural women through provision of appropriate technologies, which is in line with their needs and capacity.

## Specific Objectives

- Enhance the quality of life of rural women through provision of appropriate technologies.
- Identify the needs of women towards adoption of appropriate technologies.
- Identify and suggest ways and means for adopting appropriate technologies by women

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- Adopt different traditional technologies being used by different women vocations in the region for field application in selected countries.
- Introduce improved technologies available within the region and study their adaptability in selected countries.
- Share experiences towards adoption technologies
- Strengthen organizational and institutional linkages between users, manufactures of technologies in R&D institutions

# Implementation of the Project

## **Selection of Project Location**

The villages should have access by roads to and from the implementing agency and other communities. The village people, particularly the targeted beneficiaries have to be agreed to participate in the project.

## **b) Baseline Survey**

After selection of the project sites, a baseline survey was conducted to compile necessary information regarding socio-cultural, economic, demographic, type of technology used, and related characteristics of the selected villages (s) including project beneficiaries and their interest on new technologies etc.

## **c) Formation of Groups:**

The targeted beneficiaries were organized into groups of 10-15 members and a leader selected by the members from amongst them. The group leader was made responsible for management of the group and implementation of the project at the village level.

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d) Formation of Project Management committee.

A three member project management committee consisting of a senior representative from the implementing agency to work as chairman of the committee, project coordinator, and the group leader was formed. Their responsibilities were to take policy decisions and monitor the progress of activities of the project.

e) **Training for the Beneficiaries**

Training programmes were to design based on the needs of the beneficiaries and organized during the whole action process.

f.) **Project Intervention**

Project Coordinator in consultation with the project beneficiaries was to perform the following:



- To identify and provide new and suitable technologies as per choice of the beneficiaries,
- To maintain and foster continuous interactions between the research team and the beneficiary groups,
- To monitor various activities including management pertaining to the action programme on a regular basis,
- To field test and adopt identified technologies with care given to: (1) location specific technologies (II) workable and field tested implementation arrangements (III) affordable by women (IV) scope for increased labour output, and (V) assured market linkages,
- To consider sustainability of the project along with potential for improvement in productivity and income of rural poor women.
- To arrange credit and savings schemes, extension training institutions building and other salient activities.

### **g) Project Monitoring**

The project coordinator was made responsible for monitoring the progress of the intervention activities.

### **h) Regional Workshop.**

The regional workshop was envisaged to bring focus on the issue at a regional level and propose recommendations that will emanate out of the sharing of country experiences of the action research among the member countries of CIRDAP, for future action plans on wider adoption of the lessons learned in their respective countries,

# Basic Socio-economic Characteristics of the Project Location

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Pakistan</u>
<u>General</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The remote village Shah Alam is located in NWFP,</li> <li>•The main occupation of the people is subsistent agriculture and physical labour outside the province.</li> <li>•Tribal oriented customs and traditions.</li> <li>•Women have inferior status.</li> <li>•Agriculture is the mainstay in absence of any major industry or any other economic activity.</li> <li>•Total population of the village 1.031 (52% male)</li> <li>•7.8 per hh</li> <li>•Nearly 16 percent</li> </ul>
Landownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•75 per cent of the respondents were landless tenants/agricultural laborers or politically dependent.</li> </ul>
Unemployment/Underemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Unemployment rate was 18 per cent.</li> </ul>

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<b>Income/source of income</b>	Nine per cent households were self sufficient in food from their lands. They were the people who had surplus production and sold out the yields/grains and made cash to meet other social needs. Seven per cent had food available for six month, 5.5 per cent for three months and 70.2 per cent bought food items from the bazaars throughout the year.
<b>Technology choice</b>	Adoption of any appropriate technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Tailoring/knitting/sewing/embroidery work.</li><li>•Training in tailoring/knitting rearing/keeping of livestock (mileh cow/buffalo keeping)</li></ul>
<b>Women drudgery</b>	Cooking sweeping the house, washing/cleaning and child rearing were the major activities in which women were involved. On the average the first women in the household worked for 13 hours a day. The second women (mostly daughter in law or elder daughter or sister in law/husband's wife) worked for 8 hours and day and the third women had the least responsibilities of working for 6 hours.

# Project Implementation, Results and Impacts

Features	Pakistan
Types of intervention	<p>A tailoring centre was established under the project to provide hands on training on tailoring, embroidery work, knitting/sewing cutting etc. A total of 90 women were trained in eleven month time span.</p>
Constraints	<p>Acute poverty both economic and social was the main hurdle. The cultural practice in the society hinders every effort to induce a change. The women beneficiaries in Pakistan could not even pay nominal tuition fee, as envisage in the project implementation process, as they had to get consent from their male counterpart.</p> <p>Another major obstacle observed was the existence of women seclusion. They cannot travel independently. They cannot decide on their marriage. The beneficiaries do not have any right to manage familial properties or own any property. They are not allowed to held in the agricultural activities with their male counterparts.</p> <p>Religion is misinterpreted in the area. The people in the study area still think that development workers are working against the ethics of their religion.</p>
Impact	<p>Actual impact is non-visible as the project intervention was only training. Since the project has a component of seed money which was supposed to be distributed among the selected beneficiaries after getting training with technology. But the project coordinator was confined only with training. The reason was not mentioned anywhere in the report.</p> <p>Some women found themselves engaged in income earning process having getting order from outside after the training.</p>

# Basic Socio-economic Characteristics of the project Location (Myanmar)

Features	Myanmar
General	<p>Two villages selected: The wanton village was selected as the intervention village The village has a total population of above 2000 approximately</p> <p>Average Size 5.4 per hh</p> <p>Literacy rate: Among female 40 per cent and male 59 per cent.</p>
Occupation	<p>Major occupations of the villagers were identified as: (i) tending livestock and rearing poultry birds, (ii) small business (selling groceries), (iii) crop production/farming, (iv) sewing, and (v) broom making. Normally all women in a household were involved in one or the other chores such as cooking, washing sweeping and taking care of children and elders.</p>
Income/source of income	<p>Main sources of income are crop production, poultry rearing, pigs and cattle rearing, fruit and vegetable production, broom making</p>

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Technology choice	Buying farm machine, water pump and electrical appliance; crop production and farming mushroom production technology and sewing technology.
Women drudgery	Normally all women in a household were involved in one or the other chores such as cooking, washing sweeping and taking care of children and elders.

# Project implementation, Results and Impacts

Features	Myanmar
Types of intervention	<p>Sixty beneficiaries with provision of 50 per cent assistance on adoption of new technology and 10 per cent assistance on training on the trade chosen by the beneficiaries themselves as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Agriculture 17 persons</li><li>•Animal Husbandry 30 persons</li><li>•Sewing 6 persons</li><li>•Buying and selling 8 persons</li></ul>
Constraints	<p>The first problem identified during the survey was the insufficiency of food production in the village.</p> <p>The second problem of the village is lack of knowledge and skill on modern technology in crop production, and in pig and poultry bird rearing and small landholding.</p> <p>They have only a chance to increase yield on crop production. But most of them generally produce traditional crops.</p> <p>The third problem of the village is inadequacy of investment.</p>



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## Impact

- The targeted beneficiaries of the project site had an opportunity by implementation of the project to receive new and modern technologies.
- Training for the use of the technology
- Self confidence also to do their work, and implementation of the work selected by themselves with proper investment

The savings schemes generated out of the project can save funds for credit from the beneficiaries, and the use of accumulated savings as credit will help the beneficiaries try their best on development for the rest of their lives.

# Challenge for Future:

- Uneven economic opportunities and gender disparities
- Female literacy and life expectancy rate,
- Effective participation of national government machineries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
- Economic survival due to any economic shock
- Social exclusion has been made in poverty alleviation in the region,
- Importance of appropriate policies and systems to provide economic and social support,
- Greater participation of women in decision making process
- Task of social and economic empowerment of women

# How to make Progress in Technology use:

## **A) Infrastructural Support for Agriculture.**

- 1). Agriculture infrastructure like Farm to Market Roads, farm clinics, farm technologies, training schools, demonstration units, farm technology incubators, processing facilities for value addition etc., are more important.
- 2). By participation, through their own indigenous knowledge, farmers can become entrepreneurs, as it is happening in some countries of Asia (India, China, Malaysia etc.)
- 3) The governments of CMCs can build
  - i. Agro technology parks
  - ii. Technology transfer centres for farming activities
  - iii. Practical training facility etc. to supplement the NGO efforts for better results.

## B. Information Technology in Rural Transformation

- a. It is observed that many countries in the region have launched several projects of ICT with a different approach such as e-governance, information villages, grameen phones, wired villages, rural information kiosks, tele-centres, agriculture marketing portals, knowledge network.
- b. The process is uneven due to geographical boundary, there are inequitable development trends among states, districts and various sectors;
- c. A lot of problems such as lack of reliable connectivity, lack of adequate literacy are there that requires immediate action.
- d. Lack of training, high cost of equipment is a hurdle.

### Action Needed:

Promotion and access to new and emerging technologies including ICT has become a powerful tool for women's empowerment.

# Appropriate Technology for Rural Women (Myanmar experience).

The Project Coordinator was of the view that in order to improve productivity level of women, they should have access to bigger markets for their products. She further stated that projects on women's appropriate technology would be further supported. She highlighted the need to address sustainability of women development undertakings.

## **Comments from CIRDAP.**

Director (Research) CIRDAP viewed that there is the need to undertake an impact assessment of the project to measure its significance for replication in CMCs.

# Appropriate Technology for Rural Women (Pakistan Experience)

Education was viewed as the most effective vehicle to bring about change in perception on the way which may evolve women empowerment in rural communities in the region. Efforts were also taken to provide milk rearing, gas bottle supply and fish hatcheries. A tailoring centre was established under the project to provide hands on training on tailoring, embroidery work, knitting, sewing cutting etc. Fifty women were trained in eleven months

## Comments from CIRDAP

Director (Research) CIRDAP was of the view that there are women advocates address women's concerns in Pakistan. D.G, CIRDAP emphasized that negates women empowerment is significantly influenced by the manner men think about women. However, he further mentioned that cultural issues cannot be addressed in a short period of time.

# Recommendation of the Regional Consultation

The participants were divided into two groups A & B following recommendations emerged from the groups:

## **Group 'A'**

1. The written recommendations from the Completion Reports of Myanmar and Pakistan should be taken up by CIRDAP.
2. CIRDAP to design training programmes where rural women could improve their capacity and introduce projects that provide coping mechanisms for women in the villages,
3. CIRDAP to introduce more pilot projects that deal with entrepreneurship development,
4. CIRDAP to undertake relevant studies on gender/women development e.g evaluation and policy research that would broaden knowledge on the evolving roles of women in rural development RD as an enduring development strategy to facilitate poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific.



## Group 'B' special focus on Myanmar

1. CIRDAP supports policy advocacy for National Policy for Rural Development in Myanmar where strategies would be formulated, programmes and projects are planned, implemented, and monitored,
2. Facilitation for the discussion involving the issues on security of land tenure and landlessness,
3. Establishment of mechanisms towards market access as landmark results of training and increased production,
4. Provision of appropriate technology and infrastructure development e.g water systems,
5. Entrepreneurship development using micro credit as vehicle.

# Conclusion by Dr. Momtaz Uddin Ahmad, Director Research CIRDAP

- Gender concerns in rural development are mainly related to four inter-related issues:
- The existence of a double burden for the poor women resulting from living in poverty and being women,
- Presence of socio-economic, cultural, political and other constraints which prevent them from playing their due role and preclude them from benefiting from the dominate rural development processes,
- Unequal access to and limited positive impacts of conventional rural development interventions under the gender biased environment, and
- Low level of technology used by women which don't enable them to increase their output, having relief and comfort from work drudgery and achieve sustainable increase in incomes.