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RESEARCH NOTES

Mother's Education and Youth's Future Orientation in Albania.

By Aida Orgocka, M.S.

Research in countries of the Western World has shown that mother's occupational and educational status affects daughters' plans for their future life (Pearson, 1983; Rosenfeld, 1978). In developing countries of Africa and Asia, mother's education also plays an important role in the future education of young girls (Handa, 1996; Hyde, 1993; Tilak, 1993). This article contributes to this literature offering the perspective of a country of Eastern Europe: Albania. The study demonstrates that mother's education is of importance in the plans adolescents make with regard to their future education, work and marriage/family.

Several psychologists have concluded that adolescence can be conceived as a period of thinking about the future in preparation for transition to adulthood (e.g., Erikson, 1959; Poole & Cooney, 1987). Perceptions of the future for adolescents play an important part in their identity formation, which is often defined in terms of exploration and commitment concerning future-oriented interests (e.g., Marcia, 1980; Nurmi, 1991).

Studies of adolescent development cross-culturally have identified three main interest domains for the future: education, occupation and family (e.g., Gillispie and Allport, 1955; Nurmi et al. 1995). In the present study, future orientation toward education, work/career and marriage/family is defined as the degree of involvement adolescents display with regard to these domains.

Future orientation does not develop in a vacuum. Relevant literature has shown that parents set standards for the future orientation of their adolescent children. Trommsdorff (1983) emphasizes that educational and social status of the parents determine their socialization goals and behavior toward their children. Their own experience in responsible activities and long-term planning may guide their socialization practices, which in turn moderate the future orientation of their children. According to Nurmi (1991), parents contribute to adolescents' future orientation by (1) setting normative standards, thus moderating the development of their children's interests, values and goals; (2) serving as models for solving different developmental tasks; (3) providing support that may serve as a basis for adolescents' internal and optimistic attitudes toward the future.

Ideally, a measure of parental socioeconomic status (SES) would have contributed to more precise results. However, in the present study it was not possible to measure SES. According to Entwisle and Astone (1994), the three factors that could indicate socioeconomic

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REPORT FROM THE FIELD

The Integrated Technology, Education, Information, and Communication (ITEIC)

Project: Malawi. By Dr. Kate Cloud

Project Goals

To develop, through collaboration among several non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and government ministries, a gender-sensitive process of participatory planning with poor rural villagers in addressing their most pressing problems in food security, population and AIDS.

To develop a cadre of trained front-line workers and a manual for training others in methodologies relevant to this approach.



Project member summarizing discussion

Setting up the process

The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through an International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) program of small grants for gender-sensitive development initiatives. Because the project coordinator is from the Ministry of Agriculture and the project manager is from an NGO, Self-Help Development Institute (SHDI), it presents an unusual opportunity for collaboration across institutional lines which has been successfully exploited.

Because the project is framed as a process of collaborative learning between villagers and development workers from different disciplines, the first step was to secure the collaboration of relevant

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WID ACTIVITIES AT UIUC

Dr. Gale Summerfield, Director of WID, will be giving a talk on "Women's Employment and Housing Capabilities in Urban China" as part of the Seminar Series of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. This talk will be held on Friday, February 5, 12:00-1:00, in Room 101, International Studies Building, 910 S.Fifth St., Champaign.

Vrinda Deva, a Ph.D student at the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, was nominated to attend the Center for International Business and Economic Research (CIBER) Conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor on January 21-23, 1999. She participated in an interactive workshop with faculty presentations on issues connected with International Research and Methodology and locating contacts for data collection.

We welcome the two new research assistants at WID, Ben Hafele, undergraduate student in Statistics, and Silvana Dushku, graduate student in Educational Psychology. Ben and Silva will be involved in WID research projects.

The office of WID is co-sponsoring Abena P.A. Busia's talk: "The many things I call myself. Or what does it mean to work out an "African Feminist" Identity." This event is organized by the Center for African Studies on February 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Levis Faculty Center, 919 West Illinois St., Urbana.

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status are financial capital, human capital, and social capital. Financial capital generally refers to household income. In the case of Albania, household income can hardly be classified as an indicator of socioeconomic status. According to the Albanian Human Development Report (1995), the shift to a free market economy has brought about polarization of the population by income. Generally, less-educated people will generate more income due to high demand for construction, transportation and related domains. Professionals and researchers have to survive on the meager income provided by the government. Social capital represents the resources embodied in social relationships. At the family level it includes the number of birth parents in the home, the presence of a step-parent and the presence of any grandparents. In the event of emigration, with family members leaving the house, and in the absence of necessary statistical data, social capital is difficult to be estimated. Human capital consists of the educational status of the parents. Since mother's education is highly correlated with father's education (Kalmijn, 1991), Entwisle and Astone recommend that mother's education be used as the main indicator of human capital at home. Although mother's education by itself cannot be an accurate indicator of socioeconomic status, it has emerged as a powerful variable in a number of relevant articles (e.g., Pearson, 1983; Rosenfeld, 1978).

Mother's education was chosen for two additional reasons: First, in a few studies conducted in the Albanian context related to parental support and adolescents identification with their parents in issues regarding school and family, adolescents mentioned their mothers more often than their fathers (e.g., Dede, 1995). Second, with male migration becoming widespread in Albania, many women-headed households will emerge in the near future. Many mothers will be

primarily responsible for adolescents' socialization and orientation to the future.

Method

The study was conducted in May, 1996. A total of 297 Albanian senior high school students (194 females and 103 males) drawn from four high schools in Tirana, Albania participated in the study (mean



View from Tirana square

age=18.05yrs, SD=0.58). Albanian age-graded context suggests that at this age students are supposed either to pursue further education or be engaged in the work force. Furthermore, for girls this is an acceptable age to start a family. It was assumed that by this age students would have decided what they want to do in the future regarding their further education, work/career, and marriage/family. The proportionately higher number of women in the study is representative of high school population. In recent years there has been a decrease in school enrollment rates for Albanian boys and girls. This decrease may be related to the greater opportunities to participate in market activities. Only about 35 percent of the 14-18 year-olds pursued high school education in both 1993/1994 and 1994/1995, down from 79 percent in 1989. Out of this figure, only 22 percent of the students attended university (Albanian Human Development Report, 1996). However, boys' enrollment rates have decreased more rapidly than girls because of emigration. The INSTAT/UNFPA report (1996) estimated that 30 percent of Albanian male population between 20-24 years of age were abroad by 1992. According to the authors of the Albanian Human Development Report (1995) female students had higher enrollment rates due to these factors: (a) school is considered a good excuse to avoid housework, or (b) school presents one more opportunity to be involved in outdoor, social activities.

Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire which included items/scales indexing the future orientation of Albanian students and their mother's education. Questionnaire administration was conducted in the classroom context.

Future orientation of the students was measured by utilizing an adapted version of the Exploration and Commitment Questionnaire (ECQ) designed by Nurmi, Seginer & Poole (1990). This instrument measures the levels of exploration and commitment manifested

separately in each of the three domains of future life: education, work/career, and marriage/family.

Results

Mother's Education (ME): A 3 (mother's education) by 3 (interest domain) repeated measures ANOVA was run separately for boys and girls. For both boys and girls the results indicated that although there was no main effect from mother's education, there was an interaction of mother's education with interest domain, $F(4,336)=8.01$, $p<0.001$ and $F(4,192)=2.57$, $p<0.05$, for girls and boys respectively. In order to examine these significant interactions, separate one-way (mother's education) ANOVA-s for boys and girls were run for each of the future orientation interest domains. Analysis revealed that mother's education significantly moderated the degree of future orientation toward education, $F(1,169)=11.09$, $p<0.001$, toward work/career, $F(1,169)=3.90$, $p<0.05$, and marriage/family $F(1,169)=4.15$, $p<0.05$ for girls. Furthermore, least significance difference test at $p<0.05$ found that the group of female students whose mothers had college education scored significantly higher in the future orientation toward education scale than female students whose mothers had high school education and students whose mothers had middle school education. Least significance difference found that the group of female students whose mothers had college education scored significantly lower in the future orientation toward marriage/family scale than the groups of female students whose mothers had middle and high school education. For boys, mother's education significantly moderated the future orientation toward education, $F(2,96)=2.41$, $p<0.10$, and work/career, $F(2,96)=2.55$, $p<0.10$. Least significance difference test ($p<0.05$) found that the boys whose mothers had college education scored significantly higher in the future orientation toward education scale than the boys whose mothers had high school education. Also, boys whose mothers had college education scored significantly higher in the future orientation toward work and career scale than boys whose mothers had middle school education.

Discussion

Results of this study showed that mother's education moderated future orientation of Albanian school youth in the domains of education and work/career. This relationship varied by gender. For boys, mother's education did not moderate their scoring in the future orientation in the domain of marriage/family. For girls, on the other hand, mother's education significantly moderated future orientation in all three domains. The analysis showed that female students whose mothers had college education scored higher in the future orientation toward education scale than female students whose mothers had less than college education. This research finding from a country in Eastern Europe confirms what research in African and Asian countries has shown: mother's education plays an important role in the future of young girls (Handa, 1996; Hyde, 1993; Tilak, 1993).

The other finding related to the association between mother's education and the future orientation toward marriage and family. Female students whose mothers had only high school education scored higher in their future orientation to marriage and family scale than female students whose mothers had college education. This finding may be explained by the fact that the mothers with high school education may see their daughters at the end of high school as having accomplished their duty of becoming educated and are ready for the next commitment prescribed by traditions,

i.e., marrying and starting a family. High school educated mothers may already have embarked on the customary and well-accepted traditions in Albania related to marriage, like preparing a dowry for the daughter who is expected to make a marriage decision in the near future.

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ministries and assure the participation of their front-line workers. Dr. Grace Malindi, the project coordinator and former GRID student, visited the permanent secretaries of agriculture, health/family planning, education, forestry, and community development, explained the nature of the effort and received the necessary permission for extension and supervisory staff to participate. The District Commissioner, who under the new governmental decentralization has increasing day-to-day responsibility for front-line workers, also gave his enthusiastic support and has attended each training session. On the NGO side, SHDI seconded three of their experienced village organizers to work with the process. National and district advisory teams have also been enlisted to support the project.

Thus, the project is firmly linked to the governmental system at national, district and local levels, while also facilitating collaboration with non-governmental groups. The Ministries are eager to participate because they see the benefits of the shared learning in participatory methods as the new government moves towards increased decentralization.

The two villages selected as initial project sites, Fikila and Liphuthu, are densely populated and known to experience perpetual food shortages and high levels of HIV, problems which are characteristic of the southern part of the country. Villagers are Chewa, the predominant ethnic group, which is matrilineal, with land passing thought the maternal line. There appear to be many more women than men in the village much of the time. Indeed during the October plenary in Fikila Village, there were one hundred and six village women in attendance, and eighteen men. Many men are away working, or looking for work, and there are many women-headed households. Thus, much of the planning and execution, of necessity, falls on women. Less than half of the villagers are literate, with more young than old, more men than women able to read and write.

Training

Training is led by a cadre of seven experienced trainers (3 men, 4 women) from participating institutions. Together, they are



Village meeting

generating a training manual which includes a range of tools for participatory planning. There are 20 participants: front-line extension workers and their regional supervisors who are attending a series of week-long workshops at a residential training center. Sessions are scheduled to include village meetings during different

parts of the production /consumption cycle: planting, harvest, hungry season. The first training was in July, 1998, the second in October/November, 1998, the last two will be in early 1999. Participant evaluation of the first two training sessions has been very positive.



Mapping the village

At the beginning of each week's session, participants receive a short overview of the purpose of the training and work with clearly specified objectives at each stage of the process. Because the training is designed as a process of active learning, much of the work is done in demonstrations and dialogue among participants and with villagers. During the first session participants were divided into teams for each village, and work together throughout the training. Tools from the manual are demonstrated to participants in training, which they immediately use in village meetings. Then they debrief one another, assessing both the tools and the villagers response. Between PRA sessions, participants keep notebooks with records of what is happening in villages and share this information during training.

3. The Process in the villages

During the first participatory rural appraisal (PRA) sessions, the intent of the project was explained to the villagers and, after substantial discussion, they committed to participation. In a series of afternoon meetings, the front-line workers facilitated a series of exercises to help villagers define and analyze their problems and resources. These were done first in gender and age-based groups; then the findings were shared and discussed in village plenaries.

The first exercises mapped the village and features encountered on a transect walk across the village. Maps were drawn first on the ground with a stick, and after discussion, on chart paper for preservation in the village. Institutions operating in the village were mapped in venn diagrams which reflected the villagers judgement of their relative importance. This exercise generated a number of surprises for the outsiders.

Food-flow diagrams looked at the in-flow and out-flow of food through the household, assessing the main sources of household food, the importance of each source for household security, and patterns of utilization. The exercise opened up a useful discussion on food security issues and made it very clear that farm production is not the main source of food in the villages. Their maize runs out two or three months after harvest, and people survive through coping strategies such as casual labor and small business. Although people identify themselves as farmers, their food security depends on a much more complex set of resources.

A reproductive health assessment matrix (RHITA) was used to assess the flow of information and technology on family planning and sexually transmitted diseases. Discussions began in gender and age-graded groups, and were then reported to the plenary. This opened up an effective community discussion between men and women on issues where discussion had always been taboo, and seems to have prompted considerable openness in later sessions, particularly on issues of family planning, and the sexual transmission of AIDS.

The final set of activities dealt with problem identification, analysis and solutions. Villagers generated their desired situation, the problems in achieving it, the underlying causes of the problems, and the relationships among problems. Then each villager in turn walked past symbols for the major problems, depositing markers for the ones they felt were most important. The major priorities that emerged were food production, including seed availability and soil fertility, deforestation, income generation, water sources, health, "too many children", and in one community, AIDS. Finally, each village generated a community action table, which identified the problems, the solutions they could undertake themselves, and those that would need outside help. Last, they generated a change monitor, so that they could judge where they were making progress and where they were stuck.

The whole process was highly interactive, and prioritization brought the problems down to manageable size. The tools helped the villagers to visualize the problems, together with their causes and consequences. During these first sessions solutions were stated in general terms, which will need additional specificity.

The second PRAs in October were designed to assess progress and to work with village committees to deal with the problems in greater depth. The first and last days were devoted to plenaries, assessing progress and planning next steps. The other days were taken up with committee meetings designed to list in greater detail the activities necessary to address each problem. Villagers had been very actively organizing themselves, forming farmer's clubs and women's credit clubs which were hoping for outside resources. Some resources had arrived: hundreds of seedlings for reforestation supplied by the ministry were being tended by the forestry committees. SHDI had provided bean and groundnut seeds to nearly two hundred farmers, and the district commissioner had arranged for a deep bore-hole well to be drilled in each village to provide a cleaner, more reliable water source. Villagers will be responsible for bricking

in the wells and building platforms around them. Other resources such as contraceptives, condoms, credit, maize seed and fertilizers were still awaited hopefully.



Grace Malindi, project director

Gender

Working with the villagers on gender issues presents interesting challenges. Because the project is focused on gender-sensitive participation, attention to differences in male/female patterns of labor, resources and benefits is threaded throughout the activities. The society is based on separate male and female spheres. Everyone knows "what men do, and what women do," but there is very little tradition of discussion among men and women on whether these are always the best arrangements in a changing society. The project is designed to open up this discussion while addressing very concrete problems.

Early in the first training session, participants worked through the Harvard gender analysis framework (Overholt et al, 1985), examining the division of labor, resources and benefits in the communities. In an effort to understand whether men and women might rate the importance of problems differently, during the prioritization process men used stones and women seeds in their voting. Somewhat different priorities did emerge. Agricultural resources and water supply were high priorities for all, but women were more likely to rank AIDs and family planning problems highly.

At the beginning of the second PRA, there was an effort to make the process more manageable by integrating several committees that dealt with similar issues, thus reducing the number. At this point an all too familiar process unfolded, which will need explicit attention in the manual if it is to be avoided in other settings. In planning for the village meetings, as the (primarily male and production-oriented) field staff began to discuss simplifying committees, they suggested collapsing AIDs and family planning into one, and added in the health committee. Then they folded in the water issues and called the committee, "Health". Gradually they started referring to it as the "water committee", which would have focused it around well construction. At this point, facilitators stepped in and said, "no, the project is explicitly targeted at population pressures and AIDs, as well as food security, and this focus must be visible." They quickly agreed that the water committee was best dealt with separately, since it would demand considerable labor and resources, and the health

committee would focus on reproductive issue, thus restoring women's priorities to committee status. There was no ill will on the part of the field workers; they were simply gravitating toward doing what they knew how to do best. Given the much lower numbers of health workers at the local level to speak on behalf of their issues, this process is likely to be repeated unless it is dealt with in the training.

At the village level, direct discussion of gender issues was opened by dividing villagers into groups by age and sex, and asking them to do a gender analysis of one proposed activity. Facilitators made life-sized cut-outs of a man and a woman. Villagers were to go through the tasks involved in the activity, one at a time, drawing a symbol to represent the task, and attach it to the figure who would do it. Then they prepared a written listing of all the necessary tasks to present in the plenary. Finally they asked: "Who will do the work? Whose resources will be used? Who decides? Who benefits? Is this the best way to arrange this?"

The young women's group analyzed care of the forestry seedlings. They were very clear that women's responsibility for daily watering added another burden to what was already an overwhelming work load. Because wells have very little water during dry season, women have to rise during night or early morning to fill pails for their own house and to water seedlings. Then they work all day preparing fields, caring for children, and preparing meals. By evening, when husband says, "Come here and be with me", they are too tired to enjoy it. Not only did they report this view to the whole village in the plenary, they also worked it into a traditional song, which they sang with great energy and charm several times during subsequent sessions.

When committees were formed to address the highest priority problems, only women volunteered for the population and AIDS committee -- a pattern that reflects the cultural norm assigning reproduction to the women's sphere. However, when the committee women did the gender analysis, they decided they needed men on the committee. They knew which men they wanted, and asked them to join. The men agreed, and undertook to talk to other men in the informal settings like beer drinking and work groups.

Over time it will be interesting to see what comes of this more open dialogue between women and men on issues that have always been taken for granted. At this point, it is women's voices that spoke out in the plenary about the need to rethink older cultural norms, and women who said

"We will do family planning, but you must give us the weapons." It was the headman's wife who said: "Give us condoms; we will talk to the young girls. We don't want them to be *dama*, (promiscuous), but we don't want them dead."

Reporting

The core of this project is a process of accountability between villagers and front-line workers, with interactive reporting going on at each meeting. Records of these reports are recorded on chart paper and kept by both groups. Field staff are also reporting to the trainers on the usefulness of the tools in the manual, and how they might be improved.

In order to strengthen the ties to participating organizations, during the second PRA it was decided that the front-line team for each village would submit a bimonthly progress report to the District Commissioner and the project team. They, in turn, would share it with the participating line ministries, SHDI and USAID.

Conclusion

Gradually, the project is embedding itself in the on-going activities of the district. With very limited resources it is demonstrating the feasibility of a NGO/government partnership in shifting services toward a more integrated participatory approach. It has great potential for dissemination throughout the country. UNDP, FAO and the World Bank have expressed interest in learning from the project; but if it is to continue and grow, relatively modest amounts of additional resources will be necessary for training, communication and transport.

What makes this project work as well as it does is a group of unusually competent and dedicated trainers. Their good judgment and long experience within the system permit them to knit together disparate elements smoothly. They are already in place, and eager to continue work with this new approach. One can only hope that support for expansion is forthcoming.



Dr. Kate Cloud, (left) former Director of the WID office, is Associate Professor in the Department of Human and Community Development at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently, she is principle investigator for Gender and Agribusiness Project (GAP) jointly sponsored by USAID and UIUC-WID. Dr. Grace Malindi, (right), Director of Women's Programs, Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi, is the ITEIC project coordinator and former GRID student at UIUC.

Congratulations!

Amartya Kumar Sen Wins the Nobel Prize for Economics, 1998

Sen's award is a great boost to all of us working in the area of women, gender, and development. His work has consistently directed the focus of economics from commodities to people, showing a great concern for those most disadvantaged and for the disparities between women and men. He has written about policies to alleviate famines and endemic hunger, the millions of "missing" women who would survive if discrimination were not so great, population policies that stress employment and education for women rather than coercion, and families as "cooperative-conflicts." His work on capabilities, entitlements, and agency has helped shift the development paradigm from an over-concern with growth rates to a focus on people's well-being and participation in society, and he has played an active role in creating the Human Development Index for comparing changes in conditions across countries and over time. For the official Nobel Committee announcement of the award, check <http://www.nobel.se/announcement-98/economics98.html>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (CATIE) is seeking a rural social scientist specializing in participation and gender (ref/2-0199/006). Requirements include (1) PhD or Msc in social sciences; (2) minimum of 3 years of practical field work with rural families as part of a team, preferably with in-depth familiarity with participatory methods; (3) minimum of three years work experience in teaching and training. (4) experience in gender focus in institutions and rural development projects; (5) five scientific publications; (6) working abilities in English and Spanish; (7) interest and ability to work in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams; (8) familiarity with computer software, statistics, and internet; (9) willingness to travel within Nicaragua and throughout Central America. Work site: live in Managua, Nicaragua. Persons interested in the post should send an application letter, curriculum or resume with photograph, salary history including certification of current salary, copies of graduate transcripts, and three letters of recommendation to: Human Resources, CATIE, Código Postal: 7170, Turrialba, Costa Rica or CATIE, Nicabox 112, PO Box 527444, Miami, FL 33152. **Closing date: 5 March 1999.** For more information email: catienic@ibw.com.ni

PROGRAM LEADER, CGIAR GENDER & DIVERSITY PROGRAM The CGIAR seeks an experienced and innovative manager to lead a Gender and Diversity Program that supports 16 international agricultural research centers to attract high quality female and developing country researchers and professionals and to develop work environments that support the productivity and fullest contribution of staff from diverse backgrounds. The ideal Program Leader will be a dynamic individual with expertise in, and a strong personal commitment to, gender and diversity staffing issues; a charismatic and persuasive leader; and a first-rate communicator who can build productive relationships with senior managers and staff in the Centers, stimulate Center initiatives, and promote Center-to-Center interactions. Experience leading and managing in a research or scientific environment is desirable. Knowledge of the CGIAR system or international development organizations will be an advantage. The Gender & Diversity Program will be hosted by the International Center for Research on Agroforestry (ICRAF), one of the CGIAR-supported centers based in Nairobi, Kenya. ICRAF offers an excellent administrative and office facilities, strong support for the Gender and Diversity Program, a collegial, diverse, intellectually stimulating work environment, and an internationally competitive salary and benefits package. The contract will initially be for two years, with an extension possible based on performance and funding availability. Flexible hiring arrangements can be considered. Applicants wishing to job-share are invited to send both CVs and a supporting statement indicating how you envisage job-share arrangements. The CGIAR recognizes the importance of supporting dual career couples to identify professional opportunities for partners/spouses in relocations. Applicants needing further information are invited to provide details in their letter of interest. **The deadline for applications is March 31, 1999.** Applicants are invited to send a letter of interest and summary of qualifications, a detailed curriculum vitae, and the name and address of three referees (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses). All correspondence

should be directed to: Gender and Diversity Program (GCG) , c/o Dr. Deborah Merrill-Sands, Co-Program Leader, CGIAR Gender Program, RR#1, Box 122B, Orfordville Rd., Orford, NH, 03777. Tel: 1-603-353-4306. Fax 1-603-353-9232. E-mail: bdgamache@aol.com. Women and developing country candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. Information about the CGIAR and ICRAF can be obtained by accessing their web pages at www.cgiar.org and www.cgiar.org/icraf on the Internet. **Note:** Please reference code DMC on your application.

CALL FOR PAPERS/INTERNSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "WOMEN FARMERS: ENHANCING RIGHTS AND PRODUCTIVITY": The conference is organized as a collaboration among the Center for Development Research (ZEF Bonn, Germany), Tufts University (Boston, USA) and the University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart, Germany). It will be held in the Center for Development Research in Bonn, Germany on August 26 and 27, 1999. This conference aims to assess current knowledge on the role of women farmers in agricultural (and other rural) growth, to identify current best practices on the enhancement of rights and productivity of women farmers and to give researchers, professionals and politicians a platform for presentations of new research and experiences from the 1990s and discussion on issues of practical importance to development in the next century. The title and abstract (of 300 words) for contributed papers must be submitted to the Program Committee by **February 15th, 1999**. Full text versions of papers are expected by June 1st, 1999. include ALL RELEVANT CONTACT INFORMATION: Name of Paper Proposer, University/ Organization, Department/ Address, E-mail, Telephone, Fax, Suggested Working group, Paper Title, Abstract of Paper (no more than 300 words). Registration deadline for the conference is July 1st, 1999. For more information contact Prof. Dr. Patrick Webb, Tufts University, School of Nutrition, 126 Curtis Street, Medford, Massachusetts 02155, USA, fax: 001-617-627-3887, tel: 001-617-627-2507, email: PWebb@infonet.tufts.edu. Katinka Weinberger at the Center for Development Research, Walter-Flex-Str. 3, 53113 Bonn, GERMANY, fax:++49-228-731869; tel.: ++49-228-731868; email: women.farmers@uni-bonn.de.

GENDER AND RURAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN EUROPE: Past, Present and Future Prospects" 14-17 October, 1999, Wageningen, The Netherlands. Rural women throughout Europe continue to have limited access to all kinds of resources - economic, political and cultural. The risks of increasing gender inequalities is great, and rural women may have relatively less chance to benefit from the opportunities and to influence these processes according to their own visions. At the Conference, scholars and special invitees throughout Western and Central and Eastern Europe will present and discuss gender research from various disciplinary and regional perspectives. They will exchange views among themselves and with others who will be invited to hear, discuss and critique the findings as well as their practical and political implications. The conference will be structured around two major themes, with three sub-themes each. Theme I: Gender in rural households, livelihoods and economies; Theme II: Gender and rural environments, cultures and living spaces. Abstracts for papers should be about 300 words in length.

Proposals for other types of contributions are also encouraged. The deadline for abstracts and other proposals of 15 February, 1999 is extended to 1 April, 1999. Participants, however are encouraged to pre-register and mention the preliminary title as soon as possible! For circulars and further information: Margreet van der Burg, Conference Coordinator, Gender Studies in Agriculture, Hollandseweg 1, NL-6706 KN Wageningen, the Netherlands. Tel. ++ 31 317 483374; Fax: ++ 31 317 485477, Email: Gender.Conf@alg.vsl.wau.nl; Visit the conference website and pre-register at: http://www.sls.wau.nl/crds/congr_gs.htm

FORD FOUNDATION INTERNSHIPS: Informational Meeting for UIUC students on Grants for Internships in Africa, Summer 1999, on Tuesday, February 9, 1:00 p.m. in Room 214 International Studies Building, 910 South Fifth Street, Champaign.

Coming up in March

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: MICROENTERPRISE, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

The WID Office at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is organizing a workshop to be held March 26-27, 1999. The workshop is designed to promote discussion of these topics from a variety of perspectives and to identify new approaches to analyzing the issues and related policies. Papers covering any of the aspects of the workshop topics are invited. **Deadline** for submission is **February 15, 1999**. For more information contact Gale Summerfield or Kathy Martin, the WID Office, 320 International Studies Building, 910 S. Fifth St., Champaign, IL. 61820, U.S.A.; Tel: 217-333-1994 or e-mail: summrfld@uiuc.edu

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