



**Asia and the Pacific Regional High Level Consultation**

**on**

**Gender, Food Security and Nutrition: Ensuring the Other Half Equal Opportunities**

**REPORT**

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Bangkok, Thailand

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The success of the consultation hinged greatly on the engaged participation, insights and inputs from the Member country stakeholders, including representatives of national bodies, independent and non-governmental organizations, whose energy and commitment to gender equality we recognize and commend. Finally, it goes without saying that it would be difficult to execute an event of this magnitude without the dedication of ADB and FAO staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, especially, Ms Marge Villanor (ADB), Ms Chotika Na-Chiangmai (FAO RAP), Ms Nisha Onta (WOCAN).

## List of Acronyms

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| ADB     | Asian Development Bank   |
| AFA     | Asian Farmer Association   |
| ANGOC   | Asian NGO coalition for agrarian reform and rural development              |
| APWLD   | Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development                           |
| ARROW   | Asian-Pacific Resource & Research Center for Women                         |
| ASEAN   | Association of Southeast Asian Nations                                     |
| AVRDC   | The World Vegetable Center   |
| GMS     | Greater Mekong Sub-Region  |
| CSO     | Civil Society Organizations  |
| CEDAW   | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CEOs    | Chief Executive Officers   |
| FAO     | Food and Agriculture Organization  |
| IFAD    | International Fund for Agricultural Development                            |
| ILO     | International Labour Organization  |
| IOM     | International Organization for Migration                                   |
| NGO     | Non Governmental Organization  |
| PIFS    | Pacific Island Forum Secretariat   |
| PWC     | Philippines Commission on Women  |
| RAP     | Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, FAO                              |
| MSDHS   | Ministry of Social Development and Human Security                          |
| SAARC   | South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation                           |
| SEWA    | Self-Employed Women Association  |
| SOs     | Strategic Objectives   |
| SOFA    | The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in Agriculture                    |
| UN      | United Nations   |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific     |
| USAID   | United States Agency for International Development                         |
| WHO     | World Health Organization  |
| WFP     | World Food Programme   |
| WEAI    | Women Empowerment Agriculture Index  |
| WOCAN   | Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management |

## Executive Summary

The Asia and the Pacific Regional High Level Consultation on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition co-organized by ADB, FAO, and WOCAN was convened to advance ongoing efforts to promote gender equality as an effective strategy to achieve food security and nutrition in the Asia-Pacific region. It was the first regional high-level consultation focusing on the linkages between gender, food security and nutrition issues.

The consultation was an opportunity to raise awareness on the gender dimensions of food and nutrition insecurity and their implications for rural poverty, agricultural productivity and national development in Asia and the Pacific. The ADB and FAO publication '*Gender Equality and Food Security – Women's Empowerment as a Tool Against Hunger*', authored by Prof. Olivier de Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food was launched on the first day of the event, and served to anchor the discussions around the pressing challenges of gender discrimination in the Asia-Pacific region that are serious impediments to achieving food security and nutrition.

The consultation was attended by key stakeholders, including leading representatives of the Member countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/civil society organizations (CSOs), and women leaders of rural communities/institutions from seventeen countries around the Asia-Pacific region. The event was designed to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on strategic efforts to enhance gender responsive food and nutrition security interventions between the latter, United Nations and other development organizations, research institutions and the private sector.

The event ensured a highly engaged exchange on good practices and lessons learned in this regard, and led to agreements on follow-up measures that would advance gender equity and women's empowerment. There was general agreement on four critical approaches that would contribute to the overall goals of gender-responsive food and nutrition security outcomes: i) the importance of relying on human-rights based approaches; ii) the advantages of working in collaboration across the region through partnerships; iii) the crucial role of inclusivity of rural women, including indigenous women and marginalized and vulnerable groups through their organizations and networks in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programs and strategies; and iv) the importance of male involvement in gender transformative process to ensure the sustainability of future action in this regard.

The participants identified and agreed to undertake follow-up actions in their respective countries to close the gender gap in agriculture and empower women so they could fully contribute to improve food and nutrition security in the region along key actions identified in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66-129, on the *Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas*.

## I. Summary of conclusions and recommendations

The Consultation achieved the following expected outputs namely:

**Improved knowledge of the participants on the linkages between the gender gaps in agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural poverty, including good practices.** The Consultation allowed participants to improve their knowledge on the linkages between the gender gaps in agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural poverty. The keynote address by Prof. Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, highlighted how women play significant, if not dominant roles in all four pillars necessary to achieve food and nutrition security in developing countries. The keynote address was completed with presentations of interventions linking gender and food and nutrition security by ADB, the Institute of Nutrition in Thailand and the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry from Malaysia as well as presentations of existing regional and sub-regional frameworks related to food security and nutrition.

**Country specific strategy that promotes gender inclusive food and nutrition security presented and shared among participants.** The Consultation enabled participants to present country specific strategies that promote gender inclusive food and nutrition security. This was done through break out sessions to enable participants to learn from each other and identify challenges and lessons learned and through the presentation of selected policies and country level initiatives by the Philippines Commission on Women, Self-Employed Women Association, WorldFish and FAO, that could inspire countries to plan new interventions.

**A set of recommendations for priority actions at country and regional level identified and agreed to promote gender equity for reducing poverty and achieving food and nutrition security in Asia.** The Consultation provided an opportunity for dialogue between representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs)/civil society organizations (CSOs), and women leaders of rural communities/institutions on the need for urgent follow-up actions to address the gender disparities in food security and nutrition outcomes.

The key recommendations include:

- Formulate national strategies on food security and nutrition that are multi-sectoral and right based, and take a phased approach to move from recognizing the real constraints women face, and redistributing roles.
- Promote effective coordination and collaboration among different sectors such as agriculture, health, education, social welfare and finance/investment to close gender gap for improving nutrition.
- Support political and socio-economic empowerment and full and equal participation of women in decision making. Policies and mechanisms need to be set up to ensure that women participate in the decision making processes.
- Enhance access by women to resources, such as microcredit, land, inputs, information and technologies, education and trainings, including services for livelihood and economic security and decent employment in agricultural and non-agricultural fields so they could contribute fully to the wellbeing of their family.
- Provide social protection mechanisms and social security measures.
- Collect timely and reliable sex disaggregated data in agriculture, including gender analysis as part of the regular national food security and nutrition assessments, and its dissemination.
- Scaling up, promoting and replicating good practices through knowledge sharing, south-south cooperation, exchange visits between and among countries, including regional and national networks.

These follow-up actions were discussed and agreed in accordance with the *United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66-129: Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas* (Annex 3) and should contribute to:

- Supporting the political and socio economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels;
- Advancing the adoption of the appropriate social protection/social security measures to support rural women, including older women in rural areas;
- Facilitating access to rural resources and services to enhance rural women's livelihoods and economic security through access to microcredit, extension, other key productive resources including investments and capacity development;
- Strengthening opportunities for decent rural employment for rural women, including expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;
- Enhancing availability of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data that will guide policy and program decisions, including to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyze and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy.



## II. Background

There is a sufficient body of evidence and agreement in the international community that the attainment of food and nutritional security is impeded by gender-based inequalities and gender-specific vulnerabilities and that addressing them are preconditions for overcoming poverty, hunger and disease. Gender inequality is often a cause of hunger and malnutrition, complicated by the cycle of poverty, while it is known to further exacerbate the severity of hunger and undernourishment. Gender disparities in food and nutrition security continue to be a key concern in the international development community and among stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, especially given their linkages to poverty. Food and nutrition security was flagged as a top priority for the world development agenda beyond 2015 at the February 12 global multi-stakeholder consultation in Rome. That one-day consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda stressed that food and nutrition security represent the cornerstone for progress on other development fronts such as employment, education, the environment and health and in achieving a quality future for humankind.

Today, global hunger and malnutrition continue to pose a major challenge for national development, quality of life and wellbeing, and an increasingly complicated concern for the Asia-Pacific region. Of the 870 million people currently undernourished in the world, the largest portion is from the Asia-Pacific region (nearly 62 percent of the world total, at approximately 563 million). Worldwide, 60 percent of the undernourished are estimated to be women or girls. Further, an estimated 26 percent of the world's children are stunted, and almost 30 per cent of the world population suffers from one or more micronutrient deficiencies. Asia and the Pacific region accounts for one third of globally stunted children and nearly three quarters of people with micronutrient-deficiencies.

The comparative proportion of undernourished women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region is likely to be even higher given prevailing constraints in their access to resources and services and a range of gender-specific entitlement deficits in several nations in the region. Widening income disparities and associated social inequities, due in part to the ongoing global economic crisis, together with high and volatile food prices are documented to exacerbate the latter, as these forces have a particular impact on the most vulnerable groups of society, including women and children.

According to the UN, despite progress since the 1990s on reducing the number of hungry in developing areas of the world, overall progress in reducing the prevalence of hunger has not been sufficient to reduce the number of undernourished people due partly to the food price spikes of 2008, along with a confluence of other inter-related factors (climate change phenomena, conflict and natural disasters).

Gender inequality remains a persistent concern in general and is particularly relevant for agriculture, food security and nutrition, given women's key roles in ensuring household and national food security. Gender disparities reduce the effectiveness of women's key roles in assuring household food security and nutrition, in particular child nutrition, which in turn affects the overall health and wellbeing of household/family members, educational outcomes and productive capacities. Despite recent gains in closing the gender gap in some Asia-Pacific countries, ongoing gender discriminatory practices in many thwart the realization of food security goals in the region. Therefore, a more vigorous and bolder undertaking to address the persistent gender inequalities that exist in the region is much needed in order for agriculture development, food and nutrition security policies and strategies to succeed.

While countries in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere in the world have amassed a wealth of knowledge and good practices on food security and nutrition programmes and strategies to advance gender equality, this knowledge is not adequately shared nor documented in a manner that would be easily accessible to national policy makers, programme planners, and other key stakeholders. This consultation is a step in that direction, based on the long-term collaborative work between the FAO and ADB to promote gender equality in the region. It builds on the three-year Asia Pacific Regional Food Security Partnership Framework, an agreement reached in 2010 between ADB, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) aimed to tackle widespread hunger and build food security throughout the Asia and Pacific region. One of the four pillars of this Partnership Framework is the facilitation of sharing of lessons and good practices in policy and institutional response to improve household food security.

The event was also inspired and informed by the jointly published report *Gender Equality and Food Security: Women's Empowerment as a Tool Against Hunger*, authored by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Prof. Olivier de Schutter. In addition, this consultation is sanctioned by the organizational commitments to gender equality of both the ADB and the FAO. ADB's long-term strategic framework, Strategy 2020, recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment are critical for achieving economic growth, reducing poverty, and supporting socially inclusive development. Strategy 2020 includes "promoting gender equality" as one of the five drivers of change. Similarly, FAO's new Gender Policy (launched in 2012) emphasizes gender equality as central to FAO's mandate of reducing hunger and malnutrition. FAO's new Strategic Framework includes Strategic Objectives (SOs) that address food security and nutrition issues, and a cross-cutting focus on gender which underscores the importance of reducing gender inequalities in agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition as a means to enhancing productivity and for broadening economic and social benefits. WOCAN supported the organization of the consultation as part of its mission to build women's leadership in agriculture and natural resource management through organizational and individual transformation. WOCAN focuses on three pillars to fulfill its mission: Women's Leadership Development, Policy Advocacy and Women's Empowerment.

### **III. Introduction to the Consultation**

As noted above, the purpose of the consultation was to raise awareness among the participating high-level representatives on the gender dimensions of food and nutrition insecurity and their implications for rural poverty, agricultural productivity and national development in Asia and the Pacific region; to engage the participants in exchanging their respective efforts and lessons-learned on gender inclusive food and nutrition security interventions, and identify good practice experiences across the region; to agree on priority actions by national agencies and at the regional level to reduce food and nutrition insecurity in a gender-responsive manner; and to promote multi stakeholder partnerships for promoting gender-sensitive food and nutrition security strategies. Some of the outcomes expected from the high-level consultation included agreed strategies on how to deal with gender inequality and food security and nutrition issues in the region.

The three-day event brought together approximately 100 participants from 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific including Ministers and high-level delegates of the Ministries of Agriculture and Women's Affairs. The consultation was also attended, by representatives of leading regional and national CSOs and NGOs, as well as other UN and development agencies (USAID, UNESCAP, IOM, WFP, The World Bank, WHO, ILO). The heads of major donors, private sector and academia, including research institutions were also present.

As mentioned above, the inspiration and centerpiece of the event was a report authored by the UN Special rapporteur for the Right to food, Prof. Olivier de Schutter, on ‘Gender Equality and Food Security – Women’s Empowerment as a Tool Against Hunger’. Published jointly by ADB and the FAO, the report was launched on the first day of the event, and served to anchor the discussions around the pressing challenges of gender discrimination in the Asia-Pacific region that are serious impediments to achieving food and nutrition security.

The proceedings of the three-day consultation succeeded in engaging the participants in intense and active discussions, fruitful exchange of strategies, information and ideas, a professed heightened awareness of the issues related to gender, food and nutrition insecurity, stronger commitment to addressing the gender disparities in food security and nutrition outcomes, and a consensus on the need for urgent follow-up action. The participants reached agreement on five specific actions to be undertaken, modeled along UN Resolution 66-129, signed at the UN General Assembly on 19 December 2011, appended to this report in Annex 3.

The consultation was designed along eight sessions structured along a mix of panel presentations, café-style discussions, break-out working groups, and plenary reports and exchanges, as outlined in the agenda, (Annex 2). Highlights of the presentations, comments and discussions of each session are documented in the following.

#### **IV. Summary of the Consultation**

##### ***Opening session***

The Consultation commenced officially with welcome remarks delivered by Ms Imrana Jalal, ADB’s Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), followed by comments from H.E. Mr Yukol Limlamthong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives in Thailand, Ms Shireen Lateef, ADB’s Advisor (Gender), Ms Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), and Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

H.E. Mr Yukol Limlamthong, emphasized that empowering women could make a major contribution to economic growth and sustainable development. He reminded participants that the Government of Thailand through the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has been supporting women by providing capacity development and promotion of savings. However, he also noted that there is still much work to be done with more efforts in improving legal institutions, increasing productive resources for women and increasing women’s ability to actively participate in the development process.

Ms Shireen Lateef highlighted the importance of investing in women and girls as a weapon against food insecurity and hunger. She noted that the task of promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment is complex and requires joint efforts, leadership and sustained attention and interventions across multiple sectors while managing cultural and traditional behaviors.

Ms Jeannette Gurung, reminded the audience that while there is an increasing recognition of the importance of gender equality for food security and nutrition, much work still needs to be done to change the way gender issues are tackled and enact those changes in appropriate policies. She emphasized the importance to strengthen women’s leadership; when women are given leadership

skills and organized in groups, they stand a better chance to influence local and national policies and programmes, and benefit from them.

Mr Hiroyuki Konuma noted that this consultation was an opportunity to draw attention to the gender-food-nutrition nexus and identify gender-sensitive actions to enhance food and nutrition security. Addressing malnutrition requires gender equality and the empowerment of women in agriculture and the food system. He indicated that the objective would be to reach agreement on a set of follow-up actions in this regard, to be undertaken by the Member countries across the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66-129, on the *Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas*.

### ***Keynote address***

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, based on his latest report *Gender and the Right to Food* presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2013, and the joint publication by ADB and FAO that was launched at this event, [Gender Equality and Food Security – Women’s Empowerment as a Tool Against Hunger](#). Prof. Olivier de Schutter introduced his topic by explaining that the contribution of gender equality and women’s empowerment could be understood by taking as departure point the key dimensions of food security, as they have been defined in the late 1990s. These are: food availability (there must be enough food to satisfy demand), food accessibility (each individual must have access to food, physically and economically), food adequacy (the diets must be sufficiently balanced and include the required range of micronutrients), and utilization (food intake is not enough: in addition, adequate health care, water and sanitation matter for nutritional outcomes). “Hidden hunger”, which refers to the lack of essential micronutrients such as zinc, iron, iodine of certain vitamins and minerals, must be seen today as a problem of a magnitude equal to that of undernourishment, understood as the lack of sufficient calorie intake. Prof. de Schutter clarified how women play significant, if not dominant roles in all four pillars necessary to achieve food and nutrition security in developing countries, albeit in the face of enormous social, cultural, and economic constraints.

Prof. de Schutter elaborated that women and girls have a right to food as an intrinsic human rights principle– given their contributions to all four dimensions of food security. He argued that barriers to their access to adequate diets must be removed because gender equality and empowerment of women have a significant impact on the reduction of hunger and malnutrition. He clarified how removing the obstacles that women face as food producers improves food availability; how removing discrimination against women improves not only their access to food, but also of children, since women will make choices within the household that will benefit the nutrition of children; and how improving the education of women and girls can reduce fertility rates and encourage better feeding practices.

Prof. de Schutter identified the primary reasons why gender and food security are important issues to focus on at this particular moment in time by citing two critical events dating back to 2008 that had an impact on hunger and poverty. He noted that for one, the global food price crisis led to the realization that there was underinvestment in agriculture generally; in small-scale family farming in particular. The renewed focus on the latter led to insights on the considerable importance of women's role as food producers, and how gender discrimination detracted from agricultural productivity and food security. He commented on the "feminization of agriculture", yet the devaluation of women’s labor, despite the increased importance of women's role in agriculture. The discrimination they face as food producers therefore has major impacts on productivity losses in agriculture, that in 2010, the FAO estimated to represent between 2.5 and 4 per cent of total

agricultural outputs in developing countries.

The second factor that contributed to a greater awareness of the gender and food insecurity issues is the research findings reported in the 2008 Lancet series on child malnutrition, demonstrating the incredible impacts of maternal malnutrition on child development. Prof. de Schutter argued that these two factors led to important shifts in an understanding of the causes of hunger and malnutrition, where the intersection of gender and food security became strikingly apparent. His report "*Gender Equality and Food Security*" elaborates on these factors shifts, providing evidence that empowering women and achieving gender equality is the most cost-effective measure to ensure food security. He emphasized that doing so does not require massive investment and that in fact some measures (the removal of discriminatory barriers in law, having more women in extension services, establishing school-feeding programs that source from women farmers, etc.) are costless, yet their impact can be huge in improving nutrition within the household.

He identified three key efforts that are essential in this regard: a) recognition of women and the time and mobility constraints they face in society; b) reduction of the burdens faced by women, i.e. public services that would support their multiple roles; and c) redistribution of roles. He also commented on the importance of transformative social protection policies and programmes that could address these issues, such as cash transfers to women beneficiaries; public works that are directed to women and create infrastructure that relieves women from the burdens they shoulder asset transfers that lessen the burden of women, and school feeding programs.

He outlined the following key recommendations on the grounds of a rights-based approach:

1. Remove all discriminatory provisions in the law particularly concerning access to productive resources.
2. National strategies that are multi-sectoral and rights based, and take a phased approach to move from recognizing the real constraints women face, and redistributing roles -- since there is a fine line between recognition and the reinforcement of stereotypes about gender roles. Such strategies should of course involve women in their design, taking into account the risk of "norm internationalization", i.e. that women may express preferences that are shaped by the perception of limited opportunities.
3. At the project level, ensure the effective participation of women.

## **V. Gender, food security and nutrition priorities for the Asia-Pacific Region**

### **Session 1 Sharing experiences on gender, food security and nutrition in the region / sub-region**

**Objective:** Sensitize and increase awareness on the important linkages between food security, nutrition and gender and its impact on rural poverty and sustainable development.

**Method/Format:** Panel format featuring three speakers, followed by a question and answer (Q&A) on interventions linking gender and food and nutrition security and lessons learned.

Ms Lourdes Adriano, ADB (Advisor and concurrently Practice Leader- Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development), presented ADB's approaches and strategies for ensuring food security in the Asia region. She provided an overview of the key food security challenges facing Asia, including volatile and high commodity, food and energy prices, a yield gap, scarce water and land resources, and persistence of under-nutrition and "hidden hunger". She clarified that in the context

of a feminization of agriculture, closing the gender gap is critical for feeding Asia's growing population. She reminded participants of ADB 's commitment to support this agenda through their Strategy 2020, which puts emphasis on *gender equity as partner and agent for change*, will be implemented through a new Operational Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Based on the last 14 years of ADB's experience in agriculture operations, Ms Adriano made the following recommendations:

- Adopt a participatory and community-driven approach and include multi-pronged interventions;
- Build productive assets that will increase income for women;
- Encourage innovation and demand driven capacity development;
- Strengthen women's organization as they play a key role as drivers of change at the community level;
- Ensure effective multi-agency coordination and better implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as a sustainable exit strategy;
- Ensure Government is supportive.

Ms Adriano concluded her presentation by calling for joint efforts to achieve the outcomes identified by Prof. de Schutter: i) **Reduction** of the gender gaps in economic opportunities; ii) **Recognition** of women's multiple roles and reduction of the workload; and iii) **Redistribution** of asset and income opportunities and sharing in responsibilities fairly.

Mr Kraisd Tontisirin, Nutrition Senior Advisor from the Institute of Nutrition of Thailand, discussed the role of nutrition as an essential link between food and health for the fulfilment of energy, protein and micronutrient requirements throughout the human life cycle. He discussed the main causes of the persistent child malnutrition in the region, including poor maternal nutrition and health, declining of breastfeeding practices, inadequate and inappropriate complementary feeding, recurrent illness and inappropriate eating habits. Mr Tontisirin clarified Thailand's efforts to improve its food and nutrition security situation through the implementation of Development Plans and a Poverty Alleviation Plan, which included training men and women community volunteers to ensure assistance will reach those who are most in need. Mr Tontisirin's presentation included the following recommendations:

- Adopt an integrated and participatory-based approach, ensuring women's participation.
- Provide an interface (community volunteers/facilitators) to facilitate access to basic social services at community level is crucial for high coverage and effective actions.
- Give special attention to nutrition indicators, which are most useful for goal setting and follow up actions.
- Educating women is essential to improve the nutrition and wellbeing of all family members, but they also need equal access to job opportunity and decision making.

H.E. Mr Dato' Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based industry from Malaysia presented the National Policy on Women adopted in 1989 with the objective to ensure equitable sharing of resources and development of opportunities between men and women. He noted that in Malaysia, more than 30 percent of policy makers are women, appointed to various important posts (e.g. Ministers, CEO's and even Governor of the Central Bank). His presentation highlighted other national interventions to support women entrepreneurs in agriculture, such as the *Agropreneur* Program and *My Agrosis*, targeting young and educated generations, particularly women involved in the agricultural sector (sixty-five percent out of 15,000

entrepreneurs in Agro-Based Enterprises are women-owned). His presentation concluded with the following comments:

- Education and access to microcredit schemes for women are essential so they could contribute fully to the wellbeing of their family and the country's economic progress.
- Political stability and commitment to invest in agricultural and rural infrastructure are important.

## **Session 2 Strategic efforts and regional coordination in the Asia-Pacific region**

**Objective:** Present regional and sub-regional existing frameworks related to food security and nutrition and show potentials for synergies to design and implement gender-responsive interventions.

**Method/Format: Presentations by** two speakers on sub-regional frameworks and opportunities to enhance cooperation on gender and food and nutrition security.

Mr Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Manager of Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) Agriculture Working Group Secretariat<sup>1</sup> provided an overview of the opportunities for regional and sub-regional synergies and cooperation in the food and nutrition security area. He has emphasized the importance of joint efforts at the regional and sub-regional levels for more efficient and effective interventions on gender, food and nutrition security. He has highlighted the need for gender equality to be taken into account as a crosscutting issue and not a mere add-in and the need to pool resources at all levels - political, economic and scientific - in the food and security area. He referred to the main challenges of regional collaboration such as capacity constraints and resources mobilization, and made the following suggestions for stronger joint efforts and improved coordination:

- Collaborations in the global campaigns i.e. 2014 International Year of Family Farming.
- Cooperation and coordination on food security interventions within existing regional policies and strategic frameworks such as ASEAN Socio Cultural Community Blueprint, ASEAN Integrated Food Security Framework, AESAN Connectivity, Regional Economic Corridors (i.e. East-West Economic Corridor).
- Sub regional programmes as ideal platforms for policy operationalization, transboundary cooperation and investment incubation.
- Inter-regional linkages, platforms and community of practices between ASEAN and SAARC.

Ms Seema Naidu, Gender Issue Officer from the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) provided an overview of the gender-specific concerns that affect food security in the Pacific Region. She discussed the link between violence against women and food security, and clarified how: food insecurity in the Pacific islands created stressful inter-relationships, which often erupt in violence. She elaborated how women are subjected to physical violence when they are unable to meet household food needs, given their primary role in ensuring household food security. She pointed out the capacity constraints of national governments and the weak implementation of sub-regional programmes. However, she also noted the progress on gender mainstreaming through the Waiheke Declaration on Sustainable Economic Development and the fact that leaders recognize women's important role for food and nutrition security. She identified the following strategic policy actions:

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<sup>1</sup>Dr Suriyan Vichitlekarn, is also former Head of Agriculture, ASEAN Secretariat

- Promote the idea that “*Women Equality and Empowerment address root causes of gender inequalities*”;
- Political commitment includes action;
- Stronger accountability and monitoring measures are required;
- A Rights-based approach to food and nutrition security, including gender equality and women’s empowerment, is critical in the Pacific islands.

### **Session 3      Group session on good practices and lessons learned from country experiences**

**Objective:** Share good practices and successful approaches on gender inclusive food and nutrition security interventions. The exchange of knowledge and experience is intended to inspire national interventions and to identify the common ground at regional level.

**Method/Format:** Break-out groups with participants exchanging country experiences and identifying lessons-learned, facilitated by an expert from the FAO, ADB and WOCAN. Working group discussions were presented in summary form to plenary, resulting in a general discussion.

#### ***Break-out Group 1    Rural poverty and linkages to social and gender-based disparities***

Facilitator    Ms Karin Schelzig, Senior Social Sector Specialist, ADB

Participants    APWLD, Bhutan, Bangladesh, MSDHS, Nepal, the Philippines, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Indonesia, IOM, Viet Nam and World Bank

*This group identified the main strategies that had worked in terms of gender-responsive rural poverty reduction in Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, and Viet Nam:*

- Forming rural women into producer groups (self -help groups, credit/solidarity groups) - organized and institutionalized, aware of their rights, empowered with business development skills;
- Upfront gender assessments to inform the design of activities – sex disaggregated data;
- Strong national machinery, including gender-responsive laws and policies, ministry gender working groups, etc.;
- Specific and measurable targets for women’s participation in projects and programs;
- Replicating/scaling up programmes that work:
  - Trainings tailored to women’s need (agricultural, literacy, business, vocational, etc);
  - Targeted social safety net programs, specially for women;
  - Improved access for women to land, market, microfinance (credit, savings, etc);
- Multi-sectoral approaches – involving ministries of agriculture, women & children, labor, health, education, rural development, infrastructure, etc.

#### ***Break-out Group 2    Gender and nutrition linkages for food security, economic and social well-being***

Facilitator    Ms Nomindelger Bayaslaganbat, Nutrition Officer, FAO

Participants    AVRDC, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakisama-AFA, Timor Leste, India, FAO



This group looked at agriculture using a gender lens – how women, men, girls and boys engage in agriculture<sup>2</sup> from the farm to the fork – to examine the myriad linkages between agriculture and nutrition, both good and bad. It also identified ways to strengthen nutritional improvement while mitigating nutritional deterioration. The approach looked through a gender lens at the equivalent of an agricultural lifecycle approach, or value chain, – research; farming choices - crops, horticulture and tree cultivation, livestock production, fish farming; harvesting/fishing/culling; storage; processing; marketing and consumption. The group examined the relevant cross cutting issues in each area, such as women’s empowerment, access to resources (including knowledge), time use/trade-offs for their triple roles, institutions. These cross cutting issues can influence how gendered roles in agriculture can magnify positive impacts on nutrition or alternatively lead to nutritional deterioration.

*The Key lessons-learned experiences in the respective countries were identified:*

- Promote gender-sensitive elements in integrated/multi-sectoral nutrition policies, programmes and actions.
- Incorporate a gender analysis as part of the regular nutrition situation analysis, analyzing the needs, priorities and roles of men and women.
- Effective coordination and collaboration among different sectors such as agriculture, health, education, social welfare and finance/investment to close gender gap for improving nutrition.
- Advocacy, education and awareness raising (communication and behavioral change) on nutrition for family with special emphasis on women’s role in feeding their families.
- Scaling up, promoting and replicating good practices through knowledge sharing, South-South cooperation, exchange visits between and among countries, including through regional and national networks.
- Documenting good practices, lessons learned and make available to the public.
- Increase women’s ability to generate income through training and improved technologies and access to markets.

### ***Break-out Group 3 Gaps and needs for gender-specific evidence and data on food and nutrition security***

Facilitator Mr Seevalingum Ramasawmy, Statistician, FAO

Participants ARROW, ANGOC, Cambodia, Fiji, Lao PDR, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, SAHANIVASA, Thailand, Indonesia, FAO, WFP

Men and women perform different roles in the household and in society. This leads to males and females having different experience, interests, knowledge, skills, needs, access to and control over resources. About 80 percent of labour inputs in rice production in Asia are women. Women are involved in many activities for the welfare of the household and the society. In Asia, a large majority of women is involved in the subsistence food production for the household food consumption. Additionally they have to care for the children and elderly, besides taking care of the daily household chores.

Gender roles can result in one sex having an unequal role in decision-making or being denied the benefits from development. Most of the rural poor are women, who are landless, with no access to basic services such education, health, water and sanitation, etc., depend heavily on the agricultural

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<sup>2</sup> Agriculture includes crop, livestock, fish, and forest products

livelihoods for their living. With the male urban migration, there is a growing number of lone motherhood women resulting in increasing poverty among rural women.

Gender analysis need to explore these differences so that policies, programmes and projects can identify and meet the different needs of women, men, girls and boys for economic and social development. Policies aim at reducing gender inequality and have to be supported with quality and timely evidenced based information. Over the past decades, gender issues have moved forward in national and global agendas, thus creating new demands for statistics. National Statistical Institutions have been slow in responding to the request of policy makers, researchers and advocates particularly in the agricultural and food sector which is closely linked with hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

The State of Food and Agriculture: Women in Agriculture, (SOFA) emphasizes that achieving gender equality and empowering women in agriculture is crucial for agricultural development and food security (FAO, 2011). It calls for improved collection and analysis of baseline data with monitoring and evaluation of gender impacts. The development of gender statistics involves the same steps as the production of other statistics.

The challenges facing the national statistical institution in producing sex-disaggregated data and with quality and timely gender indicators are:

1. Convince statisticians and users, of the importance and feasibility of such data.
2. International Institutions need to develop standards, concepts, definitions and measurements with appropriate manuals, guidelines, tools and training.
3. Political Will to legislate laws to adopt International Conventions on gender indicators.
4. Political Will to take ownership and use gender indicators to support evidence based policies.

Unfortunately, there was no country good practice in terms of gender statistics nor on food security and nutrition. After the presentation of the facilitator which discussed issues of why are gender indicators useful for focused and targeted policies and programmes to reduce hunger and malnutrition, discussion was centered on the data availability at country and regional levels. It was felt that all global and regional data are simply estimates which do not consider country data. Country data should be first available and owned before aggregating at regional and global level. Thus, it was agreed that emphasis should be given to the gender statistics at country level which requires the analysis of available counties data as collected by the agricultural and population censuses, national household surveys and other health and business surveys.

It was unanimously agreed that there is lack of sex disaggregated data at country level as emphasis is only made on gender mainstreaming within government institutions not at community and households levels. It was agreed that the current data collection mechanism should be strengthened as to meet the increasing demand of gender statistics in agriculture which is almost inexistent at country level. There should be an extension of the unit of data collection from household to individuals which will facilitate gender analysis. The need to have qualitative analysis in addition to the usual quantitative analysis has been stressed by the participants.

Furthermore, the lack of national skills for food security and nutrition analysis from the gender perspective was expressed by some countries. The Four Cs convention was discussed, elaborated and agreed upon. They are Capacity, Coordination, Communication and Country Ownership.

The capacity includes the definition of gender concepts within the framework of food security and nutrition by international organizations with simple measures for inter country and regional comparison. These should be supported with appropriate tools, manuals and training.

The Coordination component was centered on the importance of having a multi-stakeholders task force which will act as an advisory authority between the producers and users of gender statistic in food security and nutrition. In addition, this task force will provide all the evidence based information for better food policies which will impact on the life of the rural poor.

*The following key challenges in collecting gender-disaggregated data were identified:*

- Convince statisticians and users, of the importance and feasibility for collecting and dissemination of such data.
- International Institutions need to develop standards, concepts, definitions and measurements with appropriate manuals, guidelines, tools and training.
- Political will to legislate laws to adopt International Conventions on gender indicators.
- Political will to take ownership and use gender indicators to support evidence based policies.

*The group also discussed the following key concerns:*

- Gaps in data (both quantitative and qualitative), especially at national level (i.e. nutrition services from household data from gender perspective).
- Need for greater involvement in participation, multi-sectoral task forces, and country level capacity building, identifying indicators, and educating those who are involved in research at Ministry level.
- Gaps in proper communication with stakeholders.

## **VI. Options to address gender dimensions of food and nutrition security**

### **Session 4 Strategic approaches: Options to address gender dimensions of agriculture, food and nutrition security**

**Objective:** Present specific policy and programmatic actions that successful enhance gender equality towards poverty reduction, improved livelihood, food and nutrition security. The examples presented will show gender-sensitive approaches that could be replicated and adapted at country level.

**Method/Format: Panel discussion, including** a testimonial from a women farmer from Nepal, Nanu Ghatani. The panelists included: Ms Emmeline Verzosa, Executive Director, Philippine Commission on Women (PCW); Ms Nandini Gunewardena, Gender and Rural Development Officer, FAO Gender Equity and Rural Employment Division; Ms Chhaya Bhavsar, Coordinator, Self-Employed Women Association, India, and Ms Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Senior Nutrition Adviser, World Fish. Ms Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director, WOCAN, facilitated the discussion. The panelists shared the most appropriate policy options to address key gender disparities in food and nutrition security programmes.

The testimonial from Nanu Ghatani illustrated the struggle for women's empowerment at the community level. It was an opportunity to highlight the importance for women to organize in groups, breaking isolation and creating solidarity. She shared with the participants that she started her rural women's group with three local farmer women, which has since expanded to 360

members and 21 subgroups in Nepal. This was a cooperative that provides different opportunities to obtain basic necessities such as milk, seed and vegetables. Her current role is to sustain the group by providing information on livelihood activities. Nanu Ghatani noted that men in the community are supportive of women's economic empowerment and respect them more when they understand that this will bring additional income and benefit to the family.

Ms Emmeline Verzosa presented the operational elements of the Magna Carta of Women enacted by the Philippine Congress where empowerment and women's rights and food security is on top of the agenda. According to Ms Verzosa, the law includes institutional mechanisms that spell out the gender mainstreaming and strategy mandating all government agencies to fulfill their duty to implement the law through gender analysis, planning and budgeting. She recommended practicing participatory governance where all stakeholders must not only be consulted and heard but constructively work together. Government has to ensure that implementation of plans are also monitored.

Ms Chhaya Bhavsar shared the experience of the Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA), a trade union who strives for women's full employment and self-reliance in India. To achieve these goals SEWA organizes women in groups, provides needs-based capacity building, facilitate marketing access, access to financial services, and social security. Ms. Bhavsar presented an example of a successful initiative: a local food distribution network managed by women farmers (RUDI). The objective of this network is to provide food security and local food supply chain. Women purchase items from farmers at a fair price so they don't have to depend on middlemen. They are engaged in processing and packaging, and marketing to marginalized groups which can get access to food at a fair price at all times of the year. This network is a model that contributes to develop sustainable local distribution systems.

Ms Nandini Gunewardena clarified FAO's current approaches to ensuring food and nutrition security, within the FAO's new Strategic Framework, and the various efforts of the FAO's gender unit. She emphasized the importance of sound gender analysis across the value chain, considering women's multiple roles in the production, distribution and preparation of food (ensuring food security from plot to plate). She also elaborated on the gains from closing the gender gap— not only for women themselves, but also for their families, their communities and by extension, the nation, through gender issues being integrated into national policies and programmes.

Ms Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, presented the Aquaculture/Agriculture-Nutrition linkages Package developed by WorldFish. It is an integrated system combining production of large fish (for sale) and small fish (for consumption) in which both men and women participate, as well as homestead vegetable production on dikes carried out only by women. She explained that activities take place in the homestead, giving women a better opportunity to manage these tasks in relation to all the other tasks they carry out. She called for a family based approach to food security and nutrition and to include men as much as women in nutrition awareness activities.

## **Session 5      Group session on policy development and concrete programmatic actions**

**Objective:** Develop solutions, innovative approaches, including to improve equal access for men and women to productive resources, to use social protection and employment creation as tools to empower women, to leverage policy reform and programmatic actions at the country and regional levels, strengthening collaboration and partnerships. Participants will be made aware of the role of different stakeholders in the promotion of gender-sensitive food and nutrition security approach at regional level.

**Method/Format:** Working groups where the participants focused on specific topics and discussed appropriate recommendations and solutions.

***Break-out Group 4 Rights-based measures for improving equal access to information, education and resources***

**Facilitator** Ms Nandini Gunewardena, Gender and Rural Statistics Officer, FAO

**Participants** ARROW, APWLD, ANGOC, Bangladesh, Fiji, Maldives, Pakistan, SEWA, UN Special Rapporteur on Food Security, Viet Nam

The group discussed the key elements of the Human Rights Based Approach (Universality, inalienability, non-discrimination, accountability, participation, empowerment, representation, recognition and redistribution) and the difficulties in implementing such an approach (social/cultural norms and practices, gender-role internalization, lack of knowledge about rights). The group identified the following policy proposals:

- Adapting markets to women's needs and constraints;
- Women should not be responsible for debts incurred by the husband;
- Access to productive resources, including equal access to land (through joint titling), seeds, water, fertilizers – requiring at least protection from land grabbing, implying;
- Free, prior and informed consent at least for indigenous communities (and meaningful consultation in all cases);
- Adequate impact assessments;
- Evictions only in the public interest –relevant instruments are ILO Convention (No. 169) on indigenous people, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (adopted in May 2012 by the Committee on World Food Security)
- More on addressing gender-based violence, including reparation, preventive mechanisms, considering the family-level implication of programmes that support women – while adopting an inter-sectionality approach;
- Frame laws that institutionalize participation and improve accountability in the shaping and implementation of policies;
- Acknowledge links between rights to sexual/ reproductive health and food security and nutrition;
- Rather than having new laws, introduce gender sensitive elements in existing legislation – which may be more economical;
- Education particularly in rural areas – as a condition for rights-awareness;
- Ensuring that new collective actors emerge – women's organizations, representing the different segments of the community.

***Break-out Group 5 Leveraging policy and institutional reform and priority actions at country and regional levels***

**Facilitator** Ms Maris Gavino, Core Associate and Liaison, WOCAN

**Participants** AVRDC, ASIAdhrra, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, PIFS, Pakisama-AFA, Timor Leste, Thailand, Indonesia, World Fish

During the working group session, government participants shared their policies and initiatives on gender mainstreaming. The NGOs, on the other hand, shared their experiences in resolving gender

concerns in the region. From the productive exchanges, the group offered their recommendations and priority action plans taking into account stakeholders at various levels, from grassroots to national to regional and global.

The table and recommendations below are the results of the group discussion.

| <b>GOOD PRACTICES</b>  | <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>  |
|--|---|
| Strategic gender, food and nutrition framework including convergence of all stakeholders.              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen intermediaries (NGOs)</li> <li>• Movement building (coalitions) and strengthening of organization mechanisms (development of mission and vision)</li> </ul> |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive participation - from the grassroots</li> </ul>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stock taking of existing agreements and conventions</li> </ul>   |
| Gender Responsive activities be included in the work plan of government and all ministries/departments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National gender mechanisms be strengthened</li> </ul>  |
| Development of women empowerment Index – (USAID, BUSAN- Development of Gender indicator)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaggregated gender based data at all levels (sex, age, different types of disability)</li> </ul>   |

*Recommendations for national action plan (Grass roots, National, Regional and Global):*

- Increase budget allocation to mainstream gender in food security and nutrition initiatives and activities;
- Strengthen human resources, capacity building for more skilled personnel;
- Interdepartmental collaboration, evaluation and monitoring;
- Strengthen monitoring tools (peer to peer reviews) and improve accountability

***Break-out Group 6 Reducing gender specific food and nutrition insecurity through social protection instruments***

Facilitator Ms Yoshimi Onishi, Gender and Rural Employment Officer, FAO

Participants ADB, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Indonesia, IOM, WFP

The group identified the wide range of social protection instruments, which could have a positive impact on food and nutrition security: input subsidies, crop and livestock insurance, food price stabilization, food subsidies, grain reserves, school feeding, conditional cash transfers, unconditional cash transfers, social Insurance, public works programmes. They proposed the following key recommendations:

- Social protection instruments need to better target women;
- Multiplier effects of social protection programs for women;
- Insurance targeted for women (e.g. crop insurance, livestock insurance);
- Input and food subsidies targeted specifically for vulnerable women;

- More incentives for women;
- Group-based cash transfers for women;
- Active labor market programs;
- School feeding programs (e.g. Take home rations, including breakfast in addition to lunch);
- Public distribution systems to be in place;
- Conditional cash transfers (e.g. to empower women, payments made to women);
- Unconditional cash transfers for people with disability and single widows (social protection);
- Exit strategies should be taken into consideration (especially for input subsidies and conditional cash transfer strategies).

## **Session 6      Tools and guidelines for strategic, equitable, and evidence-informed national policies and interventions**

**Objective:** Build awareness on existing tools and guidelines/capacity building opportunities that participants could adapt to their country context to promote gender sensitive food and nutrition security approach

**Method:** Five speakers presented tools and guidelines that could inspire and inform policies and programmes to be more-gender sensitive.

Ms Nelien Haspels, ILO (Senior Gender Specialist), presented ILO's work on gender equality and decent work in rural development. She explained ILO renewed commitment to work on employment in rural areas and promote gender equality for high productivity. Gender equality and nondiscrimination are crosscutting priorities in the ILO Decent Work Agenda. ILO uses a series of tools and programmes to promote decent work and gender equality, including international labour standards to inform national policies on rights for rural workers and adequate protection of reproductive rights among others.

*She discussed the following key strategies as critical for gender-responsive rural employment:*

- Multi-sectoral, integrated & equitable economic and social policies and support measures geared at social inclusion, including in public works/schemes;
- Use gender analysis to understand both practical and strategic gender needs;
- Engender institutions (sensitize men and women);
- Consider marginalized men and women as agents of economic transformation and equal beneficiaries who have the right to decide how they want to lead and live their lives;
- Tackle all grounds of discrimination (sex, race, ethnicity, color, social origin, religion) at the same time, as women have to cope with cumulative disadvantage due to multiple forms of discrimination;
- Included gender and food security concerns in social dialogue between government, employers' and workers' organizations. Women's voice, representation and agency need to be enhanced in those social dialogue mechanisms.

Ms Tania Tam, USAID (Regional food security monitoring and evaluation specialist), presented on the recently developed USAID monitoring tool for its Feed the Future Programme, the Women's Empowerment Agriculture Index ([www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-empowerment-agriculture-index](http://www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-empowerment-agriculture-index)). This index is a tool to measure the empowerment, agency and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector in an effort to identify ways to overcome the obstacles and constraints they face. In Asia, the WEAI has been collected data in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Nepal. The index is a significant innovation in its field and aims to increase understanding of the connection between

women's empowerment, food security and agricultural growth. It measures the roles and extent of women's engagement in the agriculture sector across five domains: a) decisions about agricultural production; b) access to and decision making power over productive resources; c) control over use of income; d) leadership in the community; and e) time use. Furthermore, it also measures women's empowerment relative to men within their households. Ms Tam presented a case study on Bangladesh, which showed how women were addressing disempowerment through:

- Leadership - Support female-run nurseries for vine multiplication and seedling development; women gave speeches at field days, food fairs, and other public events.
- Income - Support women farmers, women retailers, women entrepreneurs, women job seekers in various sectors, such as home gardening, aquaculture, horticulture, post-harvest activities, business management practices.
- Resources - Increasing access to agriculture extension services, inputs, and credit.
- Production - Organizing women-only producer groups to decide on crops, pricing and sales.

Ms Yoshimi Onishi, FAO, explained how the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) could be used as a tool for gender-sensitive agriculture and rural development policy and programme formulation. This International Human Rights Treaty is the only one that gives specific attention to rural women in its Article 14. Thus it can serve as an important tool to inform the design of country gender assessments, which FAO carry out at national level to understand the situation of rural women and rural gender inequalities. The findings of those assessments together with the concluding observations from CEDAW Committee's can serve as concrete guidance for Ministries of Agriculture and FAO on areas of concern with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment, inform policy, programmes and interventions to respond to the specific challenges rural women face.

The CEDAW guideline:

- provides a set of performance indicators to help Ministries of Agriculture and FAO to measure compliance with the provisions of Article 14 and other strategic articles for rural women;
- contributes to strengthened collaboration among UN agencies and other development partners working on rural women's issues and gender equality in a given country;
- provides evidence for informed programming that is well targeted and follows national priorities (the national government is required to implement the concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee in its national policy making and report on progress in the next CEDAW report).

Ms Nandini Gunewardena, FAO, presented the FAO's recently launched Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, and highlighted its importance as the first global soft law instrument on tenure of land, fisheries and forests ([www.fao.org/nv/tenure](http://www.fao.org/nv/tenure)), a key tool for enhancing gender equity. She discussed the extensive process of consultation with country stakeholders over a three-year period through which it was developed, and its endorsement by the Committee on World Food Security on 11th May 2012. She clarified that the Voluntary Guidelines contain issues related to constraints on access to land for women, a pivotal issue in women's productivity, given the role of land tenure security in access to credit, membership in rural institutions, as a route to voice and autonomy and in enhancing women's decision-making and bargaining power.

She highlighted a few of the *key recommendations from the Voluntary Guidelines in this regard*:



- Acknowledge the different roles, needs, challenges and priorities women and men have and to take specific measures to promote and achieve gender equality in land governance (e.g. removing and prohibiting all forms of discrimination related to tenure rights, including those resulting from change of marital status, lack of legal capacity, and lack of access to economic resources).
- Provide assistance and services that take into account women's needs and constraints; guarantee that land redistribution reforms provide equal access to land for men and women; and monitor the different impact public and private sector strategies have on male and female farmers, so that they benefit equally.

Ms Gunewardena noted that FAO works to generate consensus on the Voluntary Guidelines within countries through a) partnerships; b) technical assistance to countries and c) Monitoring and Evaluation (FAO published a working paper together with civil society to document its perspectives on monitoring of tenure governance; and will also continue to work with the Land Governance Assessment Framework as an option to evaluate the status of land governance in countries).

Ms Nisha Onta, WOCAN (Knowledge Management Coordinator), made a presentation on a capacity development tool named “Reframing Women’s Leadership Training” ([www.wocan.org/trainings](http://www.wocan.org/trainings)). This training focuses on gender analysis in the project cycle. It includes three modules: (1) creating awareness of gender as a social construct, (2) concepts, frameworks and (3) tools for gender analysis in the field. WOCAN developed this training to enhance women leaders’ leadership abilities and competencies so they are able to:

- Recognize the impact of gender dynamics in their organization and community;
- Examines organizational power dynamics and their impact on careers and work;
- Lead strategically;
- Build and lead teams;
- Build a robust network of influential and powerful women leaders.

## **VII. Action Plan to address gender, food and nutrition insecurity in the Asia-Pacific region**

### **Session 7 Future collaborations, agreements and actions**

**Objective:** Building consensus on priority actions needed to address specific sub-regional issues on gender, food security and nutrition.

**Method/Format:** Interventions from Timor Leste, Lao PDR and Vietnam on national policies and action plan on gender mainstreaming including in strategic government positions and subsequently, a breakout session of three sub-groups (South Asia, the Pacific and South East Asia, and South East Asia) to discuss priority action plans in the region and sub-region.

Mr Valentino Varela, Secretary of State for Livestock, Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Timor Leste highlighted the different actions taken by the Government of Timor-Leste towards gender equality and food and nutrition security. His key messages were the following:

- Food security and nutrition is a multidimensional issue and thus requires a multi-sectoral approach.

- It is not only about having a good policy and plan, but beyond that there is a need to have good political will to operationalize all these programmes and plans.
- All entities have to make sure that programmes or projects must be implemented with the active participation of beneficiaries (men and women) from the planning to implementation.
- Involve men or husbands in any training, workshop or gender activities to raise awareness and support women's initiatives.

Ms Sisomphet Souvanthalisith, Gender Specialist, Permanent Secretary's Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR mentioned that women in Lao face major constraints in terms of access to resources, to extension services, technology and information as well as lack of sanitation. The National Commission in Agriculture and Forestry ensures that gender mainstreaming is applied in the agriculture sector. In addition, the country's National Strategy and Nutrition Action Plan include provisions for safe food and water. In regard to women's participation in politics, she emphasized that the female representation in parliament is a high 25 percent.

Ms Dang Thi Hue, Officer of Crop Production Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development presented the government's national programs and strategies to achieve food and nutrition security in rural areas of Vietnam. Moreover, the government passed a new law in 2006 promoting gender equality in land ownership, promotion and education opportunities and decision-making. She gave details about the comprehensive New Rural Development Programme (NRD) launched in 2010 with an objective of *Modern- Clean – Sustainable – Secure rural areas*. The programme is based on 11 components related to rural development and poverty reduction: 1) socioeconomic infrastructure development; 2) rural economy development and income raising; 3) poverty reduction and social protection; 4) renovation and development of efficient production methods; 5) health care services; 6) rural culture; 7) improvement of spiritual life; 8) information and communication in rural areas; 9) improvement of clean water and rural environment; 10) improvement of the operation of local party and government system; and 11) ensuring rural security and public order. The NRD Programme aims to achieve the aforementioned objectives in 50 percent of all communes by 2020.

## **Session 8      Reaching consensus and platform statement to reduce gender-specific food security and nutrition in Asia and the Pacific.**

**Objective:** This session was devoted to reaching agreement on the priorities and follow-up actions needed on a short-term framework (by 2015) to enhance gender equity, and gender-responsive food and nutrition security interventions in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Method/Format:** Participants worked in three groups along sub-regional clusters (South Asia, the Pacific and South East Asia) to identify the most pressing concerns related to gender, food and nutrition security; to identify relevant/responsive strategies and actions; and appropriate/feasible partnerships to address the range of concerns.

There were several common points of agreement of the three sub-groups, including on the importance of designing, implementing, and evaluating gender mainstreaming policies and programs, through consultative and participatory approaches that entailed capacity building of national agencies/institutions, and a consideration of the context-specific gender issues and cultural practices. There was emphasis on the importance of national action plans that would incorporate multi-sectoral strategies.

The participants also emphasized: i) the importance of relying on human-rights based approaches for gender integration, ii) forging partnerships, iii) participation of rural women, including indigenous women and marginalized and vulnerable groups through their organizations and networks in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programs and strategies, and iv) the importance of male involvement in gender transformative process in order for action to be effective.

The following principal objectives were agreed upon, as actions to focus on over the next two years (2014-2015):

- 1) Enhancing access by women to resources, such as land, inputs, information and know how, services for livelihood and economic security and decent employment also in non-agricultural fields.
- 2) Support for the political and socio-economic empowerment and full and equal participation of women in decision making. Policies and mechanisms need to be set up to ensure that women participate in the decision making processes.
- 3) Provision of social protection mechanisms and social security measures.
- 4) Collection of timely and reliable sex disaggregated data, including analysis and dissemination of the data.

Based on these agreements, FAO prepared a draft document listing each of the follow-up actions affirmed as priorities, on which consensus was reached with the participants as a key outcome of the Consultation (Annex 4). These follow-up actions are in accordance with the *United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66-129: Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas* (Annex 3) and should contribute to:

- Supporting the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels;
- Advancing the adoption of the appropriate social protection/social security measures to support rural women, including older women in rural areas;
- Facilitating access to rural resources and services to enhance rural women's livelihoods and economic security through access to microcredit, extension, other key productive resources including investments and capacity development;
- Strengthening opportunities for decent rural employment for rural women, including expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;
- Enhancing availability of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data that will guide policy and program decisions, including to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyze and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy.

### **VIII. Closing remarks**

The closing remarks for the Consultation were made by Prof. Olivier de Schutter, Ms Imrana Jalal on behalf of ADB, Ms Jeannette Gurung on behalf of WOCAN and Ms Nandini Gunewardena on behalf of FAO.

Prof. Olivier de Schutter reiterated the importance of addressing gender discrimination and reducing gender inequalities in national and regional efforts to improve food and nutrition security. He also commented on the role of the private sector as a key partner in protecting women in the labor force, and that they together with both state and non-state actors should be better accountable for

enhancing labor market readiness and access. He also emphasized the linkages between gender based violence and food security as a key concern that needed future attention

Ms Imrana Jalal, ADB acknowledged the excellent collaboration between ADB and FAO over the course of several months in organizing this first high-level consultation on gender, nutrition and food security, particularly the contributions of Ms Oshimi Onishi and Ms Nandini Gunewardena, as well as staff at ADB who attended to the various details that went in to the planning and execution of this Consultation. She also acknowledged WOCAN's role in contributing to the discussions. She reiterated the significance of gender disparities in reducing food and nutrition security, and encouraged the participants in their respective roles as national leader to continue their good efforts in addressing gender inequality and toward enhancing food and nutrition security. She reaffirmed ADB's commitments to support countries across the Asia-Pacific in achieving the latter goal.

Ms Jeannette Gurung, WOCAN, acknowledged participants including ministers and other government officials, NGOs – and farmers –for their contributions and sharing of experiences that support gender responsive food security and nutrition policies and programs. She also thanked the facilitator and support team for their efforts in organizing the meeting.

On behalf of FAO, Ms Nandini Gunewardena reiterated the key role of ADB, especially Ms Imrana Jalal in supporting the consultation, and acknowledged the excellent cooperation that had prevailed over the duration of the conceptualization, design and implementation of the event with Ms Jalal and ADB colleagues. She expressed appreciation for the support extended by Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, the FAO Assistant Director General for RAP, as well as the colleagues in the FAO RAP office in ensuring the smooth planning and organization which contributed to the success of the Consultation, especially Ms Yoshimi Onishi who was single-handedly leading the gender mainstreaming efforts of the FAO RAP office, and Ms Nomin Bayasagalanbat, who was leading the FAO RAP efforts on food and nutrition security. She also acknowledged WOCAN's role in the event. She expressed gratitude to the participants for their invaluable contributions to the discussions over the three-days of the consultations, for their sustained engagement in the various sessions, and for the special presentations made by the various national ministers from the Maldives and Timor Leste, as well as participants from India, Lao PDR, Nepal and Vietnam. She She also acknowledged the invaluable role of actors behind the scene in all three collaborating organizations. Finally, she emphasized the critical importance of national leadership and onus in undertaking the follow-up actions agreed upon and outlined in the Outcome actions (Annex 4).

## Appendix

### *Annex 1- Concept note*

#### **Introduction: Gender, Food Security and Nutrition as a Key Global Concern**

Global hunger and malnutrition continue to be a major challenge, and an increasingly complex concern for the Asia-Pacific region. Of the 870 million people currently undernourished in the world, the largest portion is from the Asia-Pacific region (nearly 65 percent of the world total, at approximately 563 million). Worldwide, 60 percent of the undernourished are estimated to be women or girls (United Nations Economic and Social Council 2007; World Food Programme 2009:6). The comparative proportion of undernourished women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region is likely to be even higher given prevailing constraints in their access to resources and services and a range of gender-specific entitlement deficits in several nations in the region. Widening income disparities and associated social inequities, due in part to the ongoing global economic crisis, together with high and volatile food prices are documented to exacerbate the latter, as these forces have a particular impact on the most vulnerable groups of society, including women and children.

According to the UN, despite progress since the 1990s on reducing the number of hungry in developing areas of the world, overall progress in reducing the prevalence of hunger has not been sufficient to reduce the number of undernourished people due partly to the food price spikes of 2008, along with a confluence of other inter-related factors (climate change phenomena, conflict and natural disasters). The attainment of food and nutritional security is impeded by gender-based inequalities and gender-specific vulnerabilities and addressing them are preconditions for overcoming poverty, hunger and disease. Gender inequality can be a cause as well as an effect of hunger and malnutrition.

Gender inequality remains a major challenge, in general and, in particular, for the agriculture, food security and nutrition. For agriculture development and food and nutrition security policies and strategies to succeed requires a more vigorous and bolder undertaking to address the persistent gender inequalities that exist in the region. Gender issues also affect the key role women play in food security, in particular child nutrition which in turn affecting health, education and labour capacity.

Food security and nutrition programmes have amassed a wealth of knowledge and good practices in regard to advancing gender equality, yet often this knowledge remains tacit and is not been well documented, and are not made available and or easily accessible to the policy makers and programme planners. Many stakeholders explicitly recognized that progress on gender equality in agriculture is critical to the achievement of food security and nutrition.

Gender disparities in food security continue to be a key concern in the international development community and among stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, especially given their linkages to poverty. Food and nutrition security was flagged as a top priority in the world development agenda beyond 2015, at the February 12 global multi-stakeholder consultation in Rome. The one-day consultation on *Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition in the Post-2015 Development Agenda* stressed that food and nutrition security represent the cornerstone for progress on other development fronts such as employment, education, the environment and health and in achieving a quality future for humankind. In his opening remarks, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva endorsed the UN Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge and urged the international community to commit to the complete eradication of hunger in setting its development priorities beyond 2015.

Furthermore, a commitment to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and the key role of rural poverty reduction are explicitly outlined in FAO's new strategic framework.

According to Haruhiko Kuroda, former President of the Asian Development Bank, the region's MDG performance lags in the crucial areas of hunger and food security, as noted at the July 2010 ADB-FAO-IFAD joint forum, *Food for All: Investment Forum for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific*. ADB views food security as one of the underlying components for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. In light of this, ADB approved an Operational Plan for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific. It calls for a multi-sectoral approach to improve the productivity, connectivity, and resilience of food supply chains; enhanced partnerships; and increased but focused support for agricultural research.

Several global agreements stipulate attention to this concern: Access to food is a human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (art. 25), and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (art. 11), and the Declaration adopted at the World Summit on Food Security, convened in Rome in November 2009, States pledged to "eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty, including through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food" as part of the "Rome Principles" adopted at the WSFS. Equal access to resources and services is a provision of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). MDG 1, on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger has a specific target for halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger (Target 1.C). The three-year *Asia Pacific Regional Food Security Partnership Framework, an agreement reached in 2010 between The Asian Development Bank (ADB), FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)* aims to tackle widespread hunger and build food security throughout the Asia and Pacific region. One of the four pillars of this Partnership Framework is the facilitation of sharing of lessons and good practices in policy and institutional response to improve household food security.

FAO's Gender Policy emphasizes gender equality as central to FAO's mandate reducing hunger and malnutrition, while FAO's new Strategic Framework includes Strategic Objectives (SOs) that address food security and nutrition issues, and a cross-cutting focus on gender which underscores the importance of reducing gender inequalities in agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition as a means to enhancing productivity and for ushering broader economic and social benefits. SO 1 focuses primarily on eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, while SO3, includes an outcome (3) that focuses on rural poverty reduction, food security and sustainable management of natural resources.

ADB's long term strategic framework, Strategy 2020 recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment are critical for achieving economic growth, reducing poverty, and supporting socially inclusive development. Strategy 2020 includes "promoting gender equity" as one of the five drivers of change.

**Proposed Activity: Collaboration between FAO-ADB on a regional Asia and the Pacific High Level Regional Consultation on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition**

In order to advance ongoing efforts across the Asia-Pacific region by the FAO regional office and the Asian Development Bank, a three-day consultative meeting is proposed jointly with Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management to raise awareness on gender, food security and nutrition issues in the region, and to identify poverty reduction strategies that would increase employment and livelihood opportunities for women. This activity supports

FAO's new strategic framework, specifically SO1<sup>3</sup> and SO3<sup>4</sup> and falls within FAO's efforts to enhance the awareness of and dialogue on gender and food security and nutrition with national stakeholders, as well as SO3's efforts to enhance the enabling environment as a strategic approach to reducing poverty.

The proposed consultation will entail a high level dialogue on key gender, food security and Nutrition concerns organized around:

- a) root and causal factors associated with food insecurity and malnutrition among women/vulnerable groups, particularly on the gender gap in agriculture;
- b) implications of gender-specific food and nutrition insecurity for rural livelihoods and wellbeing; and
- c) policy reforms and sustainable interventions to improve food, nutrition and livelihood insecurity that ensure equity and inclusivity.

The consultation will be designed to enhance awareness, knowledge and common understandings and reach a consensus on the respective strategies to be prioritized by the donor community and country stakeholders (high-level policy making representatives of ministries of agriculture, fisheries, social welfare, women's ministries etc., policy making bodies and research and academic institutions), informed by ADB and FAO gender specialists and the Gender Equity Community of Practice. Sessions and presentations in the consultation will be undertaken by leading experts, including technical experts from the ADB and FAO, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food<sup>5</sup>, and researchers and practitioners with expertise on the topic of gender and food security in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this consultative workshop include the following:

- (i) to raise awareness on the gender dimensions of food and nutrition insecurity and their implications for rural poverty, agricultural productivity and national development among key stakeholders in FAO/ADB member countries;
- (ii) to share relevant experiences and lessons that promote gender inclusive food and nutrition security development and identify the common ground at regional level;
- (iii) to agree on the priority actions at country and regional level that will reduce gender-specific food and nutrition insecurity; and
- (iv) to identify the role of different stakeholders and promote multi stakeholder partnership for promoting gender-sensitive food and nutrition security approach at regional level.

### **Outputs**

- (i) Improved knowledge of the participants on the linkages between the gender gaps in agriculture, food and nutrition security and rural poverty, including good practices.
- (ii) Country specific strategy that promotes gender inclusive food and nutrition security presented and shared among participants.
- (iii) Priority actions at country and regional level identified and agreed to promote gender equity for reducing poverty and achieving food and nutrition security in Asia.
- (iv) A conference report outlining the outcomes and recommendations prepared.

**Proposed dates:** 24-26 July 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

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<sup>3</sup> Strategic Objective 1: Eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition).

<sup>4</sup> Strategic Objective 3: Improve the livelihood of rural populations, in particular women and youth, through enhanced employment opportunities and increased access to production resources)".

<sup>5</sup> Prof. Olivier de Schutter.

## *Annex 2 - Provisional Agenda*

### **Day One: 24 July 2013**

#### **GENDER, FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PRIORITIES FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

- 08.00 – 08.45hrs** Registration
- 08.45 – 09.20hrs. **Plenary Session**
- Welcome remarks by **Ms Shireen Lateef**, Senior Adviser (Gender), Asian Development Bank
  - Remarks by **Ms Jeannette Gurung**, Executive Director, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)
  - Remarks by **Mr Hiroyuki Konuma**, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific
  - Opening statement by **H.E. Yukol Limlamthong**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand  
(MC: Ms Imrana Jalal, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development))
- 09.20 - 10.15hrs. **Keynote speech**  
*Key gender, food and nutrition security issues in the Asia-Pacific region (including comparative perspective on the global front)*  
**Dr Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food  
  
(Chair: Ms Shireen Lateef, Senior Gender Adviser, ADB)
- 10.15– 10.45 hrs. Tea/coffee break and group photo (30 mins)
- 10.45 – 11.45 hrs. ***Session 1: Sharing experiences on gender, food security and nutrition in the region/sub-region in intervention***
- 10.45 -11.00 Presentation by Ms Lourdes Adriano, ADB
  - 11.00 - 11.15 Presentation by Dr Kraisit Tontisirin, Senior Advisor, National Food Committee, Thailand
  - 11.15 – 11.20 Presentation by H.E. Dato' Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry, Malaysia
  - 11.20- 11.45 Discussion of root cause of gender inequality, malnutrition and food insecurity /Q and A  
  
(Chair: Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, ADG/RR, FAO)
- 11.45-12:30hrs. ***Session 2: Strategic efforts and Regional Coordination in the Asia-Pacific region***
- Presentation by Dr Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Manager of GMS Agriculture Working Group Secretariat and former Head of Agriculture, ASEAN Secretariat
  - Remarks by Ms Seema Naidu, Gender Issue Officer, PIFS



(Chair: Ms Lourdes Adriano, Advisor and Practice Leader, Rural Development and Food Security, ADB)

- 12:30 – 14.00 hrs. Lunch break / Launch of ADB & FAO Publication – *Gender Equality and Food Security – Women’s Empowerment as a Tool against Hunger* & Media briefing (12.30- 13.15) followed by Lunch with Press members
- 12.30-13.15, Launch
- Moderator: Imrana Jalal, ADB
- Resource Persons
- Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapportuer
  - Hiroyuki Konuma, FAO
  - Launch, Lourdes Adriano, ADB
- 13.15-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 14.15hrs. ***Parallel break-out group sessions***
- Formation of break-out groups of countries and briefing to them
- 14.15 – 15.45hrs ***Session 3: Break-out group session on good practices and lessons learned from country experiences***
- **Break-out Group 1:** Rural poverty and linkages to social and gender-based disparities (Facilitator: Ms Karin Schelzig, Senior Social Sector Specialist, ADB/ Rapporteur: TBC)
  - **Break-out Group 2 :** Gender and nutrition linkages for food security, economic and social wellbeing (Facilitator: Ms Nomindelger Bayaslaganbat, Nutrition officer, FAO/ Rapporteur: TBC)
  - **Break-out Group 3:** Gaps and needs for gender-specific evidence and data on food and nutrition security (*Facilitator: Mr Seevalingum Ramasawmy, FAO/ Rapporteur: TBC*)
- 15.45 – 16.15hrs. Tea/coffee break
- 16:15 – 17:00 hrs. ***Plenary discussion on lesson learned from past and on-going experiences*** - Break-out presentations and discussion(*Chair: WOCAN*)
- 18.30 – 20.30 hrs. **Welcome reception**

## Day Two: 25 July 2013

### OPTIONS TO ADDRESS GENDER DIMENSIONS OF FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY

09:00 – 09:15 hrs. **Recap of day one**

FAO Gender equity video – 2 minutes

09.15 – 10:45hrs. ***Session 4: Strategic approaches: Option to address gender dimensions of food and nutrition security- Panel Discussion***

#### ***Panelists***

- Ms Emmeline Verzosa, Executive Director Philippines Commission on Women
- Ms Nandini Gunewardena, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, FAO
- Ms Chhaya Bhavsar, Self Employed Women's Association
- Dr Shakuntala Thilsted, Senior Nutrition Advisor, the World Fish  
(Chair: Ms Jeannette Gurung, WOCAN)

10.45 – 11.15hrs. Tea/coffee break

11.15 – 12.45hrs. ***Session 5: Break-out group discussions focusing on Policy and Concrete actions***

- **Break-out Group 4:** Rights-based measures for improving equal access to information, education and resources etc  
(Facilitator: Ms Nandini Gunewardena, Gender and Rural Statistics Officer, FAO)
- **Break-out Group 5:** Leveraging policy and institutional reform and priority actions at the country and regional levels - Strengthening collaboration and partnerships  
(Facilitator: WOCAN)
- **Break-out Group 6:** Reducing gender specific food and nutrition insecurity (Social protection, employment etc)  
(Facilitator: Ms. Yoshimi Onishi, Gender and Rural Employment officer)

12.45 – 14.00hrs. Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 hrs. **Session 6: Tools and Guidelines for Strategic, Equitable, and evidence-informed national policies and interventions**

#### *Topics to be covered:*

- Gender and Decent Rural Employment - ILO
- CEDAW Tool for gender-sensitive agriculture and rural development policy and programme formulation – FAO
- Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of National Food Security – FAO
- Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index–USAID
- WOCAN Leadership Training Teaser - WOCAN  
(Chair: Mr Jost Wagner, The Change Initiative)

15.30 – 16.00hrs. Tea/coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 hrs. ***Plenary session on the presentation of the breakout***

Break-out group presentations and discussion

(Chair: Mr Jost Wagner, The Change Initiative)

**Day Three: 26 July 2013**

**ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS GENDER, FOOD AND NUTRITION INSECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

09:00 – 9:15hrs Recap of day two

09.15 – 10.30hrs **Session 7: Action plan to address gender, food and nutrition insecurity in the Asia and Pacific Region**

10.30 – 11.00hrs. Tea/coffee break

11.00 – 12.00hrs. **Closing Remarks:**

Remark - **Dr Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur** on the Right to Food

Remarks -**Ms Imrana Jalal**, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), **ADB**

Remarks - **Ms Jeannette Gurung**, Executive Director, **WOCAN**

Remarks -**Ms Nandini Gunewardena**, Gender and Rural Statistics Officer, **FAO**

**END OF EVENT**

**Annex 3- UN Resolution 66/129. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas**

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly**  
*[on the report of the Third Committee (A/66/455 and Corr.1)]*  
**66/129. Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009,

*Welcoming* the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges as its priority theme at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012,

*Recognizing* that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food and nutritional security in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, and concerned that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to land, water and other resources, their limited or lack of access to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;1

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian

assistance, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(g) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices, to improve the health of rural women and children;

(h) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food and nutritional security and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(i) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(j) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(k) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(l) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater

number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(m) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(n) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by, inter alia, expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(o) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and women to engage in self-employment or participate in the labour market;

(p) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(q) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(r) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment;

(s) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(t) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(u) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, including on time use, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy design and strategy development in rural areas;

(v) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure equal access to justice and legal support;

(w) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men, and girls and boys;

(x) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media;

(y) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty

eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, to adopt gender-responsive rural development strategies, including budget framework and relevant assessment measures, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food and nutritional security;

8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of women in rural areas, including indigenous women, into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*89th plenary meeting*

*19 December 2011*

#### *Annex 4- Outcome agreement*

### **POLICY AND PRIORITY ACTIONS: Addressing Gender Issues in Food and Nutrition Security in Asia and the Pacific**

The Consultation was the first regional high-level event focusing on gender dimension of food and nutrition security to share good practices and lessons learned, to facilitate the multi-stakeholder dialogue among government, civil society, United Nations and international organization and research institutions to identify the areas of priority actions.

The High Level Consultation participants recognized that 870 million people currently undernourished in the world, the largest proportion is from the Asia-Pacific Region (nearly 65 percent of the world total, at approximately 563 million). Worldwide, 60 percent of the undernourished are estimated to be women or girls. Gender disparities in food and nutrition security continue to be a key concern in the international development community and among stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, especially given their linkages to poverty.

Participants emphasized: i) the importance of relying on human-rights based approaches for gender integration, ii) forging partnerships, iii) participation of rural women, including indigenous women and marginalized and vulnerable groups through their organizations and networks in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programs and strategies, and iv) the importance of male involvement in gender transformative process in order for action to be effective.

In accordance with the relevant sections of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66-129: Improvement of the Situation of Women in Rural Areas, the high-level consultation participants agreed to undertake the follow-up action in their respective countries in collaboration with the key national/regional stakeholders, including CSOs, rural organizations and the private sector.

Overarching efforts will be made to integrate gender in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs for poverty eradication and food and nutrition security with systematic attention to the needs, priorities and roles of rural women as per Clause 2 (a) and Clause 2 (e) of the Resolution through the following measures:

- Supporting to the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels as per Clause 2 (b);
- Advancing the adoption of the appropriate social protection/social security measures to support rural women, including older women in rural areas as per Clause 2 (j);
- Facilitative access to rural resources and services to enhance rural women's livelihoods and economic security through access to microcredit, extension, other key productive resources including investments and capacity development as per Clause 2 (l) and 2 (h);
- Strengthening opportunities for decent rural employment for rural women, including expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources as per Clause 2 (n) and (p);
- Enhancing availability of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data that will guide policy and program decisions, including to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyze and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy as per Clauses 2 (t) and (u).



| Actions                                 | Short Term (by 2015)   | Mid Term   |
|---|--|--|
| Gender responsive policies and programs | Design   | Implementation and M & E   |
| Socioeconomic empowerment               | Tools and guidelines on inclusive rural institutions with effective women's representation               | Promote women's representation in national bodies (including legislative bodies) |
| Social protection                       | Identify the appropriate social protection programs through technical supports from development partners | Assess feasibility of select options for implement                               |
|   |  |  |
| Access to resources and services        | Identify the avenues for delivery through collaboration with local and national stakeholders             | Strengthen the rural institutions to enhance access to resources and services    |
| Decent rural employment                 | Raise awareness among rights-holders   | Dutybearers (states) to create enabling environment                              |
| Sex-disaggregated data                  | Capacity development of relevant ministries and NSOs   | Generate, analyze and use for evidence informed policies                         |

## Annex 5 – Biographies of conference speakers and facilitators

### Ms P. Imrana Jalal

**Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development)  
Asian Development Bank**



Imrana is a Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender) at ADB. She has a Bachelors and Masters degree in law from the University of Auckland, New Zealand; and a Masters degree in Gender Studies from the University of Sydney, Australia. She is a lawyer by profession, and was formerly a Commissioner of the Fiji Human Rights Commission. Imrana is the author of *Law for Pacific Women*, and architect of the Family Law Act 2003 which removed formal legal discrimination against women in Fiji. *Law for Pacific Women* is a recommended text book at the law school of the University of the South Pacific. Imrana is a founding member of the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), which in 1998 received the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award for its cutting edge work in women's rights. She has also served as a barrister and solicitor in the Attorney General's Office of Fiji, as Public Legal Advisor, as a

social/political columnist in the daily newspaper, *The Fiji Times*, and as an advisor to many UN agencies. She is a founding member of the NGO, the Fiji Women's Rights Movement. Imrana is also a member of the regional networks - Women Living Under Muslim Law, and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development. She is also a Commissioner on the Geneva-based International Commission of Jurists, as one of its 60 Commissioners, and continues to sit on its Executive Board.

### Dr Olivier De Schutter

**United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**



Mr. De Schutter is Professor of Law at the University of Louvain (UCL) and at the College of Europe (Natolin), and a member of the Global Law School Faculty at New York University. He holds a LL.M. from Harvard University, a diploma *cum laude* from the International Institute of Human Rights (Strasbourg) and a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Louvain. He has been lecturer in law at the University of Leicester (UK) and has been teaching European Union law, international and european human rights law and legal theory at numerous universities, including Paris I-Panthéon-Sorbonne and the Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs. He is a visiting professor at Columbia University on a regular basis since 2008. Between 2002 and 2007, Mr. De Schutter was the coordinator of the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, a high-level group of

experts from the then EU-25 Member States that provided advise to the European Commission and the European Parliament (LIBE Committee) on fundamental rights protection in the European Union. He was the Director of the International Center for the teaching of human rights in Universities, at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg (2001-2006). He is, *inter alia*, the co-founder and General Secretary of the *Journal des tribunaux – Droit européen*, member of the Scientific Committees of the *Revue belge de droit international*, the *Nordic Journal of Human Rights* and the *Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights*. Mr. De Schutter is the author of several expert reports for the Council of Europe, such as in the framework of the accession process of central and eastern European countries to the Council of Europe. He also prepared a number of reports for the European Commission, related to the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and to the preparation of the Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for the European Union. Mr. De Schutter, an expert on social and economic rights and on trade and human rights, served between 2004 and 2008 as a Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). He was appointed Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food by the Human Rights Council in March 2008 and assumed his functions on 1 May 2008.

**Ms Shireen Lateef**  
**Senior Advisor (Gender)**  
**Office of Vice-President Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development**  
**Asian Development Bank**



Shireen Lateef is a Senior Advisor (Gender) in the Office of Vice-President Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, and Chair of ADB's Gender Equity Community of Practice. She was the architect of ADB's policy on gender and development which provides the guiding framework for ADB's gender and development activities. As the Senior Gender Advisor, she provides strategic advice and guidance to management on gender issues, maintains oversight of policy implementation, provides policy and program advice to operational departments, and strategic guidance on ADB-wide gender programs. In this role, she also coordinates

with government agencies and other development partners. She was the Chair of the Multilateral Development Bank's Working Group on Gender until 2012. Prior to this position, she was Director, Social Sectors in the Southeast Asia Department. In this role, she guided the planning, development and implementation of social sector operations spanning education, health, social protection, water supply and sanitation, tourism, and urban development sectors. In this position, she also worked on regional cooperation and integration through the Greater Mekong Sub-regional (GMS) Cooperation Program, managing 2 GMS Working Groups – Human Resource Development and Tourism. Before joining ADB, she held academic positions at Victoria and Melbourne Universities in Australia. She also worked as a development consultant. She has a PhD in Social Anthropology and a Diploma of Education from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

**Mr Hiroyuki Konuma**  
**Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



Mr. Konuma, a Japanese national, holds Master of Science Degree (M.Sc.) in Agricultural Science from Tsukuba University in Japan. He has been with FAO for over 30 years. He started his career in Syria with JICA(JOCV) in 1977. He joined FAO in 1980 as an Associate Expert in animal husbandry in Yemen. He moved to Somalia as the Head of UNHCR Field office in Jalalaqsi in 1983 and engaged in refugee agricultural settlement programme. He returned to FAO in 1985 and posted in the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Ghana for 4 years. Then, he was transferred to FAO HQs in Rome in 1989 and served as a Project Operations Officer. After 7 years of services in HQs, he was appointed as the

FAO Representative in Bangladesh in 1996 and served there till to his transfer to FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific based in Bangkok in 1999. Since then he has been progressively assigned in senior positions in the FAO Regional Office as the Chief of Operations Branch, Chief of Policy Assistance Branch and the Deputy Regional Representative. He was appointed as the FAO Assistant Director-General and the Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific in March 2010.

**Ms Lourdes Adriano**  
**Advisor and concurrently Practice Leader (Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development)**  
**Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security Unit, Regional and Sustainable Development**  
**Department, Asian Development Bank**



Ms Lourdes Adriano received her graduate and post graduate training in Development Economics and Agriculture Economics at the University of Cambridge, University of Sussex, and the University of the Philippines. Her technical and work experiences are in the fields of food security, agricultural, rural and regional development, agriculture trade, and poverty reduction. She has worked as a professor and as senior official and policy advisor to the Government of the Philippines, as well as authored articles and books on topics like market assisted land reform, sub-regional cooperation, and rural development.

Since late 2000, she has worked with the Asian Development Bank and is currently the Advisor concurrently Practice Leader (Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development) and Unit Head of the Regional and Sustainable Development Department's Agricultural, Rural Development and Food Security Unit.

**Dr Kraisd Tontisirin**  
**Senior Advisor**  
**National Food Committee, Thailand**



Professor Kraisd Tontisirin is a Senior Advisor of the Institute of Nutrition, Mahidol University (INMU), the Chairman of the Policy Board of the Thai Research Fund (TRF), the Chairman of the Evaluation Board of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, a member of the National Food Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and was the Chairman of the Planning committee for the Strategic Framework for Food Management” (SFFM) in Thailand covered food security, food quality and safety, food education, and food management. He past experienced included the Director of Food and Nutrition Division at FAO in Rome, the Director of INMU, a planning member of the Poverty Alleviation Plan and the chairman of Nutrition Plan. His contributions in maternal and child malnutrition reduction in Thailand have been recognized widely and has been invited to give lectures at internal level on food and nutrition policy, strategies and actions for food security and nutrition wellbeing. His education included, M.D. with honor from Mahidol University, PhD in Nutrition from M.I.T., USA. He received numerous awards including the Most Distinguished Thai of the Year in 1999 from the Royal Thai Government, Dusadee Mala Kem Silapa Vithaya (the most distinguished medal for contribution in art and science) from H.M. the King in 2005.

**Dr Suriyan Vichitlekarn**  
**Manager of GMS Agriculture Working Group Secretariat and former Head of Agriculture ASEAN Secretariat**



Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn is a dedicated professional in sustainable development in agriculture and food security in Southeast Asia. He is currently Manager of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Working Group on Agriculture (WGA) Secretariat based at the ADB Thailand Resident Mission in Bangkok. His key role and responsibility is to coordinate the planning and implementation of collaborative activities to achieve vision and goals as guided by the GMS Core Agriculture Support Program (CASP). Before joining the GMS WGA Secretariat, he worked with the ASEAN Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia for 5 years. At the ASEAN Secretariat, he was the Head of Agriculture Industries and Natural Resources Division. His main responsibility is to coordinate and facilitate the development and implementation of ASEAN policy and cooperation on food, agriculture and forestry sectors as well as cross-cutting issues related to food and nutrition security, sanitary & phytosanitary (SPS) measures, climate change adaptation and mitigation, etc. Prior to the ASEAN Secretariat, he worked with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) based in Samutprakan and Bangkok for 18 years. At SEAFDEC, he held several positions including the Policy and Program Coordinator whose responsibility is to coordinate the organizational policy and program related to fisheries, aquaculture, fish trade, small-scale fisheries, fisheries management, post-harvest and processing, etc. Mr. Suriyan is a graduate of Kasetsart University, Thailand in Marine Science from Faculty of Fisheries. He also studied Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems (MAKS) at the Wageningen Agricultural University, the Netherlands.

**Ms Seema Naidu**  
**Gender Issue Officer**  
**The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat**



Ms Seema Naidu is the Gender Officer at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. The Pacific Islands Forum is a political grouping of 16 independent and self-governing states. Members include Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. She has extensive experience in the area of human rights and gender technical and policy work in the Pacific Region, Her background is in the area of Law and Sociology. Thematic areas of work with gender as a cross cutting issue has been in the area of climate change, HIV and the law and women in the economy. She is part of the Asia Pacific Pool of trainers on Feminist Law and Practice and currently a global advisory board member on the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

**Ms Karin Schelzig**  
**Senior Social Sector Specialist**  
**Asian Development Bank / Cambodia Resident Mission**



Ms Karin Schelzig, a senior social sector specialist, has worked with the governments of Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam and their development partners to design social safety net policies, strategies, and programs, including CCTs. She has managed implementation of large-scale projects in early childhood care, and rural water supply and sanitation. Prior to joining ADB, Karin managed a USAID-funded global research program on pro-poor growth, and worked on poverty measurement and/or poverty reduction strategies in Mongolia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. Karin has a PhD in development studies from the London School of Economics. She completed her thesis on multidimensional poverty measurement in the Philippines. Within the field of social safety nets, her particular

areas of interest lie in poverty and vulnerability assessments, gender equity, and targeting methods.

**Ms Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat**  
**Regional Nutrition Officer**  
**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



Ms Nomindelger Bayasgalanbat is working on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food security policies, strategies. She works on improving nutrition outcomes through optimized agricultural interventions. She also worked in improving food security and nutrition information systems for evidence based policy and decision making process, better targeted programme planning and increased investment. She has organized several multistakeholder consultations to raise awareness and build consensus among different stakeholders on the value and the contribution of agriculture to dietary diversity, health and nutrition for effective policy and program planning as well as for evidence based research. Prior to joining FAO Regional Office for Asia and the

Pacific, she has carried out various services for FAO Headquarters, IFAD, Italian Development Cooperation, German Agro-Action/WeltHungerhilfe and national governments in linking nutrition with agricultural, rural development, formulation of community and household food security, diversification of livelihoods, poverty reduction, emergency and rehabilitation operations in different countries in Asia. She holds a Doctor of Medicine and the Masters of Science in Food and Nutrition.

**Mr Seevalingum Ramasawmy**  
**Statistician**  
**Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



Mr Seevalingum Ramasawmy, a Mauritian national, graduated in Statistics with a Masters in Poverty and Rural Development Management from Birmingham University. After a long career in the Mauritius Statistics working on population and agricultural censuses and household income and expenditure (HIES) and Labour force surveys, he worked as a consultant with Eurostat supporting SADC countries in harmonizing their HIES before joining FAO Statistics Division in 2001. He has been closely involved in the global assessment and monitoring of the MDG and WFS hunger targets while at the same time supporting countries for the national and subnational assessment of the food insecurity. He has contributed in the development of the FAO harmonized set of food

security and nutrition indicators from HIES using the standardized software ADePT. He has supported a few countries Indonesia, Lao PDR, Tanzania and Cambodia in the gender analysis of food security and nutrition. He is looking forward for developing the gender agricultural indicators from countries from the agricultural census and labour force surveys.

**Ms Jeannette Gurung, PhD**  
**Executive Director**

**Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)**



Dr Jeannette Gurung is a forester and gender and development expert whose career has focused on leading organizational change for gender equality within agriculture and natural resource management organizations in Asia and Africa. She is founder and director of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN). Jeannette has a MSc in forestry from the University of Washington, and a PhD in Gender and Development from the University of East Anglia (UK) with a focus on organizational development and change for gender equality based on her decade of experience leading gender mainstreaming at ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) in the Hindu Kush Himalayas. She has

expertise in training/capacity building, action research, gender analysis, organizational analysis, policy advocacy and network building, and has published numerous articles and books. She is active in international advocacy work within the UN Forum on Forests, Committee on Food Security, Commission for Sustainable Development, and Network of Women Agriculture Ministers and Leaders; she is the Gender Expert of the Program Advisory Committee of the CGIAR Participatory Research and Gender Analysis Program, a Steering Committee member of The Forest Dialogue and the President of the Adelboden Bureau for Mountain Development that is associated with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

**Ms Nanu Ghatani**  
**District Chairperson**

**HIMAWANTI, Kavre District Chapter, Nepal**



As a Chairperson of Women's Cooperative comprising of 500 women from excluded groups (mainly Tamangs and Dalits), she has been able to mobilize local development funds for small infrastructures such as irrigation and rain-water harvesting. She has wide network and together with her cooperative members is able influence the decision of the district line agencies (agriculture, forestry, DDC) and have brought in resources and technologies related to livestock improvement, improved seeds and technical inputs, saplings for tree plantation etc. She is a respected leader in her community. She is known for being a very sensitive and fair leader in her village. She has played a big

role not only in bringing resources to her village and its development, but has been able to motivate and empower a lot of women. She started with 3 member local group which today has 500 women members. She is also a local trainer on women's empowerment and travels to other villages to train.

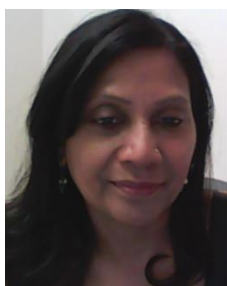
**Ms Emmeline L. Verzosa**  
**Executive Director**

**Philippines Commission on Women**



Ms Emmeline L Verzosa has over 35 years of experience in gender and development, women's empowerment, health and nutrition first as an NGO worker, a nutrition professor, an independent consultant, then currently as Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) since 2001. As head of the Secretariat of this government policy-making and coordinating body for gender equality and women's empowerment concerns, Ms Verzosa manages the day-to-day operations of the office guiding the over-all gender mainstreaming strategy in government and establishing partnerships for participation of key stakeholders especially women's groups nationwide. She also has extensive experience in legislative advocacy leading to the passage of landmark laws such as the Magna Carta of Women, the reproductive health act, the domestic workers act, and ant-violence against women laws such as on trafficking in persons and intimate partner abuse. Health-related laws she worked on are the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers, the rooming-in and breastfeeding act and the law on salt iodization. She earned her Master of Science in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries specializing in Gender, Social Planning and Development and Health Planning and Financing from the London School of Economics and Political Science and her Master of Science in Nutrition and BS in Community Nutrition degrees from the College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines Diliman.

**Ms Nandini Gunewardena, PhD**  
**Gender and Rural Statistics Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



Ms Nandini Gunewardena is an Economic Anthropologist with two decades of research, academic, and practitioner efforts addressing gender disparities in rural development, agriculture, food and nutrition security issues, with particular experience in the Asia-Pacific region. She is currently a staff member in FAO's Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, and her areas of expertise includes strengthening the evidence base on gender and social inequities, including gender statistics, capacity development of member countries on gender mainstreaming, gender analysis of food and nutrition insecurity across sub-sectors, and the gender-specific impacts of climate change on small holder livelihoods. She has a number of peer-reviewed publications on gender inequities

and food and nutrition security concerns.

**Ms Chhaya Bhavsar**  
**Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**



Ms Chhaya Bhavsar is District coordinator of economic rehabilitation of dam out-tees programme implemented by SEWA. The programme is being implemented since 1990. The programme aims at rehabilitation the families at 10 near sights. Host villages have been submerged due to the Sukhi reservoir irrigation project. The programme covers 469 households. The economic rehabilitation focuses on evolution alternative programme such as nursery raising, poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, stone-mining, water campaign along with integrated supportive services, such as health care, child care, Insurance. Saving- Credit services, marketing linkages, under the programme SEWA's approach to build the

local organization out-tees "Sukhi Mahila SEWA Mandal" of 300 villages of 45,000 members. As a coordinator of sustainable livelihood Security programme through food for work such as poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, nursery raising, and plantation and also provide Infrastructure facility such as Hand pump Construction, Electricity.

**Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted**  
**Senior Nutrition Advisor**  
**The World Fish**



Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted is presently senior nutrition adviser at WorldFish, one of the 15 international research centres in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Her broad area of research and expertise is food-based strategies for improved food and nutrition security in low-income countries. She has carried out work in Bangladesh, Cambodia, West Bengal and Nepal, together with government institutions, universities and NGOs, focusing on the potential of nutrient-rich small fish in combating and preventing vitamin and mineral deficiencies, in particular, vitamin A, iron, zinc and calcium, especially in

women and children. At WorldFish, she is developing partnerships and conducting research activities and interventions in Aquaculture/Agriculture - Nutrition Linkages, in relation to the CGIAR Research Programs, in particular, "Aquatic Agricultural Systems"; "Livestock & Fish"; and "Agriculture for Improved Nutrition and Health". She is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee, Nutrition Innovation Laboratory, funded by Feed the Future, USAID; the HarvestPlus China Advisory Committee; and the Board of Directors of Aquaculture without Frontiers.

**Ms Maria "Maris" Gavino**  
**WOCAN CORE ASSOCIATE AND LIAISON (ROME)**

**Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)**



Ms. Maris Gavino is a gender and international agriculture expert and currently represents WOCAN at the FAO, WFP and IFAD in Rome. She served the Philippine government from 1977 to 2007, initially as an international agricultural analyst and later as the Alternate Permanent Representative to the FAO, WFP and IFAD. Her thesis work was on "Women in Development" and professionally, women's issues are at the top of her agenda. Maris has led many efforts to sensitize the leading UN Agriculture agencies to gender issues. Today, these agencies are incorporating gender issues to a greater extent than ever before. Maris currently resides in Rome, where she is centrally located for her work with the FAO, WFP and IFAD.

**Ms Yoshimi Onishi**  
**Gender and Rural Employment Officer, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**



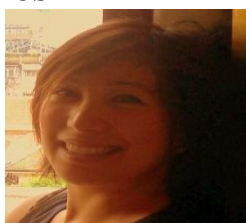
Mr Yoshimi Onishi, graduated with a Masters in Development and Gender from University of Leeds and her technical and work experiences are in the field of communication, rural and social development. She is currently working as a Gender and Rural Employment officer at FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and working on gender mainstreaming into agriculture and rural development policies, reducing social inequalities and promoting decent rural employment in Asia and the Pacific region.

**Ms Nelien Haspels**  
**Senior Specialist on Gender and Women Workers Issues**  
**International Labour Organization**



Nelien Haspels has been active in international development cooperation for around 30 years. Her focus is on gender equality, empowerment of vulnerable groups, decent work promotion and labour protection. She has been with the International Labour Office for 25 years working in the Pacific region, Geneva headquarters and in East and South-East Asia. Areas of expertise include: Equality and discrimination, human, workers', women's and child rights; education, training and employment, youth employment, small enterprise development and financial services; policy, programme and project development, design, monitoring and evaluation; and social dialogue, representation and organization. She has contributed to many ILO publications in the fields of equality and non-discrimination in employment, financial education and women enterprise development, child and migrant workers' rights, action against sexual harassment and programming tools for mainstreaming gender in labour organizations. She holds a Master of Arts in Socio-Cultural Sciences from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

**Ms Tania Tam**  
**Regional Food Security M&E Specialist**  
**USAID**



Ms Tania Tam is a Regional Food Security M&E Specialist for USAID. She has worked for several years on food security, disaster relief, and vulnerable populations programming at USAID. Tania obtained her PhD from Oxford University in 2005 and has published numerous peer-review articles and book chapters on post-conflict reconciliation. Tania originally hails from San Francisco and has a strong background in research and social statistics.



**Ms Nisha Onta**

**Knowledge Management Coordinator**

**Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)**



Nisha is a gender and climate change expert who has recently completed her PhD in Gender and Development studies from the Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Her thesis title is “Gender and caste relations in climate change adaptation: The case of Burgaon village, Humla district, Nepal”. She was a recipient of NORAD fellowship and UNDP Human Development Academic Fellowship. She has been engaged in research in South Asia and South East Asia related to climate change

adaptation, livelihood diversification and gender and climate change. She has also participated and presented papers in various climate change workshops and conferences, and is actively involved in gender and climate change scholar networks. She has also published papers and book reviews in peer reviewed journals.

**Mr Jost Wagner**

**Conference facilitator**



Born 1969, Jost Wagner studied sociology and economics at the universities of Trier (Germany) and Zaragoza (Spain). Since then he has worked in various positions for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in India, the German Embassy in Thailand and a number of private companies. For the last ten years Jost Wagner has been working as a professional facilitator, trainer and process consultant. With his Bangkok-based organization The Change Initiative, he has designed and facilitated more than 100 workshops and large group meetings for various UN agencies, GIZ, AusAID, EU, five German political foundations, ministries as well various international bodies and a number

of private companies. He is a Certified Professional Facilitator by the International Association of Facilitators (IAF) and is currently the IAF Country Representative in Thailand. His ‘Handbook for dialogue and collaborative action’ - was published in Thai, Vietnamese, Urdu and Burmese.

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## ***Annex 7 - Launch of ADB/FAO publication***

### **“Gender equality and food security – women’s empowerment as a tool against hunger”**

<http://www.adb.org/publications/gender-equality-and-food-security-womens-empowerment-tool-against-hunger>

#### **Key messages contained in the publication**

- If agriculture investments are focused on productivity-enhancing measures that are gender sensitive, the benefits go beyond increasing production for food. More women beneficiaries mean more investments for future human capital and for sustainable nation building.
- Strengthening the status of women entails important benefits, both for household food security and for children’s health, nutrition and education.
- Strengthening women’s rights is the secret weapon against hunger.
- Rural women assume critical roles across the agricultural value chain and thus make significant contributions to food and nutrition security. This is especially true in the Asia-Pacific region where women (work in agriculture).
- Supporting social and economic opportunities for women are critical elements in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, given the mutually reinforcing relationship between women’s greater access to education, labor market participation, economic autonomy, decision-making within the household and in public arenas.
- Gender equality and women’s empowerment represent effective tools in hunger reduction, and are now proven through global research findings as key elements in achieving national economic growth and food security. Women’s empowerment is vital for society to benefit from the increased contribution that women can make to food and nutrition security.
- Gender equality is at the same time a human right, enshrined in various internally agreed upon rights and conventions, ratified by many states across the Asia-Pacific region.
- Protecting and safeguarding the rights of women and girls is also central to national development and for the attainment of food security. Delivering on state commitments to ensuring such rights rests on three key strategies pledged by Member countries at the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly:
  - a) Investments in the physical and service infrastructure and labor saving technologies that would reduce the time poverty experienced by women and girls and expand their ability to access education, services and employment, including in better remunerated sectors beyond subsistence agriculture;
  - b) Policy measures aimed at generating full and productive employment and decent work;
  - c) Improved representation and active participation of women in all political and economic decision making processes, including in enacting legislative action.
- Gender discriminatory laws and social and cultural norms in the Asia-Pacific region (as well as other world regions) have specific and negative consequences for food and nutrition security in the region, parallel to social costs such as lower overall agricultural productivity, health and nutrition outcomes, especially among women and girls.
- Overcoming the constraints women and girls face and equalizing their access to opportunities and services is achievable, cost-effective, and a sustainable strategy for reducing food insecurity.
- The involvement and active participation of males in breaking the cycle of gender discrimination, and in redistributing existing roles and responsibilities is essential for bringing about the much needed transition to a more just and equal society.

## Annex 8- Evaluation results

### 5. How do you rate the following points? (5: Very good, 1: Very poor) – N=34

|   | 1 ☹ | 2 | 3 | 4        | 5 😊      | No response | Summary/percentage   |
|---|-----|---|---|----------|----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Presentation Day 1 (morning):<br>"Strategic efforts and regional coordination in the Asia-Pacific region"   |     | 2 | 2 | 13 (38%) | 17 (50%) |             | <b>88 % positive</b> |
| Working group session Day 1:<br>"Good practices and lessons learned from country experience" (Break-out)    |     |   | 5 | 17 (50%) | 12 (35%) | 1           | <b>85 % positive</b> |
| Talk show Day 2: "Strategic approaches linking household, institutions and markets"                         |     |   | 3 | 21 (62%) | 9 (26%)  | 1           | <b>88 % positive</b> |
| Working Group Session Day 2:<br>"Policy and Concrete actions" (Consultant Approach)                         |     |   | 3 | 16 (47%) | 15 (44%) |             | <b>91 % positive</b> |
| Sharing Session "Tools and guidelines for strategic, evidence-informed national policies and interventions" |     |   | 2 | 17 (50%) | 14 (41%) | 1           | <b>91 % positive</b> |
| Possibility for exchanging ideas with other participants  |     |   | 3 | 12 (35%) | 19 (56%) |             | <b>91 % positive</b> |

|  | 1 ☹ | 2 | 3 | 4        | 5 😊      | Summary              |
|--|-----|---|---|----------|----------|----------------------|
| Overall satisfaction with the consultation |     |   | 2 | 17 (44%) | 20 (51%) | <b>95 % positive</b> |
| Content of the Consultation                |     |   | 2 | 16 (41%) | 21 (54%) | <b>96 % positive</b> |
| Atmosphere of the Consultation             |     |   | 2 | 13 (33%) | 24 (62%) | <b>95 % positive</b> |
| Location and meeting room(s)               |     |   | 3 | 8 (21%)  | 28 (72%) | <b>93 % positive</b> |
| Organization / Logistics                   |     | 1 | 6 | 10 (26%) | 22 (56%) | <b>82 % positive</b> |

### Specific comments- feedback from participants

"Those who hold up half the sky and rock the cradle while tilling the fields and putting food on the table must be heard and recognized."

"Men still have the power; if we focus the question only on women's issue, the battle is lost in advance. Strengthening women's rights is the secret weapon against hunger."

"Gender is not only about women, but men engagement is also important. There is a need to also focus and discuss the role men play in bringing about change. "