

United Nations system objectives

- (i) To provide Governments with adequate information regarding women's key roles in rural development, which, if actively supported, can lead to the realization of basic development goals, such as food security, reduction of rural poverty, a rate of population growth compatible with natural and institutional resources, and adequate nutrition;
- (ii) To promote analyses of the relationship between national agricultural policies and family or individual decisions that affect fertility and provide advice to Governments so that the implications for changes in national policy and related programmes can be actively considered;
- (iii) To assist in the formulation and implementation of national programmes of agrarian reform and resettlement that take account of women's concerns on an equitable basis, in particular to promote equal rights to land;
- (iv) To apply data and statistics on rural development disaggregated by sex to all relevant policy and project formulation and to the monitoring of the progress achieved;
- (v) To include women as participants and as beneficiaries in rural development projects designed to benefit the general population, so that negative effects on women will be avoided, and to give assistance to all Governments that request it in the formulation and execution of rural development programmes and projects that benefit women per se;
- (vi) To develop, promote and implement training programmes so that rural development services can reach rural women more effectively through (a) the reorientation of existing staff, both men and women; (b) the recruitment of additional women staff where possible; (c) changes in programme content to recognize the actual responsibilities of rural women in production; and (d) links with rural women's groups and instruction for extension staff in training rural women;
- (vii) To develop credit programmes for rural women for agricultural and non-agricultural production activities;
- (viii) To encourage existing institutions to provide rural women with access to credit in ways that are compatible with their situations and institutional concerns, and to sensitize and train both staff and rural women in regard to the benefits of credit programmes that include women, as part of comprehensive input delivery programmes, including farm management, training, marketing, extension and technology;
- (ix) To develop, promote and disseminate tested, proved and simple low-cost technologies that save time and energy and ensure high returns to women, with particular focus on food security;
- (x) To undertake joint efforts in research on and effective action related to food security and crises and women's roles therein.