

First Announcement



GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



13-15 March 2012
NASC Complex, New Delhi, India

Organizers

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
with support from GFAR under Gender in Agriculture Partnership

Co-Sponsors



Website: <http://www.gcwa.in>

PREAMBLE

Women farmers represent more than a quarter of the world's population. Women comprise, on an average, 43 per cent of the agricultural work force in developing countries, ranging from 20 per cent in Latin America to 50 per cent in Eastern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet women have less access than men to agriculture related assets, inputs and services. Had they enjoyed the same access to productive resources as men, women could boost yield by 20-30 per cent; raising the overall agricultural output in developing countries by two and a half to four per cent. This gain in production could lessen the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17 per cent, besides increasing women's income (FAO, 2011).

As farmers, agricultural workers and entrepreneurs, women form the backbone of agricultural rural economy in the developing regions, and yet, together with children, they remain one of the most vulnerable groups. With far less access to education and technology, a host of other socio-economic factors have had an adverse impact on the lives of women farmers in recent years. These include the accelerated pace of globalization, the associated policy and institutional changes including economic liberalization and commercialization of agriculture, rapid pace of population growth and urbanization. Rural-urban migration, growing pressure on land, water, agrobiodiversity and firewood and natural disasters associated with climate change have been unfavourable to women in agriculture, and they have often not been able to take advantage of opportunities from new technologies, markets, or contract farming. The constraints and opportunities that women face in agriculture vary across regions and countries, depending on the socio-cultural and agroecological contexts. Despite many policy reforms both at the macro and micro level, gender issues have not received the attention they deserve. Hence, the current situation has to urgently change.

Today, there is a growing realization and commitment of the global community to achieve more sustainable and broad-based agricultural growth by addressing gender related issues in agriculture through national, regional and global initiatives and partnerships. There is also greater convergence of initiatives undertaken by international institutions such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, Global Forum on Agricultural

Research, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, regional fora and many National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS). The Global Conferences on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) Road Map too has called for a radical reorientation of the agricultural research agenda to overcome the existing gaps and to face the emerging challenges of sustainable development and livelihood of resource poor small holder farmers, especially the women farmers.

It is, therefore, timely to undertake a stock taking exercise in a holistic manner by drawing on the existing evidence of the impact of policies, institutions and programs to empower farm women and to learn lessons for the future so as to ensure higher economic growth in agriculture sector. With changes sweeping agriculture and other sectors, gender issues have become more important and dynamic. Therefore, it has become necessary for the scientists, policy makers, development professionals and the civil society organizations to understand the issues in national, regional and global context and share their knowledge and experiences to design more focused action for enhancing and harnessing the capability of women who are an important human resource for agriculture in the developing countries.

Against this backdrop, a Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (GCWA) is being organized with participation of researchers, policy makers, women farmers and other stakeholders from different regions of the world.

GOAL

Empowering Women for Inclusive Growth in Agriculture

OBJECTIVES

- To discuss and deliberate the prevailing and emerging gender issues in agriculture and food systems and the lessons learned for future sustainable development,
- To take stock of evidence on experiences in enhancing role of women in agriculture,
- To collate lessons on strategies for strengthening gender research in agriculture to make technology generation and dissemination, agricultural planning and policy making gender sensitive and disseminate them through an edited book,
- To lay the foundation and a framework for action for stronger collaboration by international organizations, regional fora, national agricultural systems and civil society to empower women and address gender issues in agriculture.



CONFERENCE THEMES

1. Assessing Women's Empowerment in Agriculture
2. Agricultural Innovations for Reducing Drudgery
3. Linking Women to Markets
4. Role of Women in Household Food and Nutritional Security
5. Access to Assets, Resources and Knowledge: Policies and Services
6. Impact and Responses to Climate Change Related Risks and Uncertainties

In addition, Working Group discussions to have a Framework for Action on Engendering Agricultural Research, Education and Extension will also be held.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- New knowledge and experiences shared from cross-country programmes as well as inter-regional/global successes concerning the role of women in agriculture
- Strategies developed for addressing gender issues in agriculture at the local, national, regional and global level
- Technological and institutional innovations developed to better meet the needs of farm women
- Gaps and needs for research, education and extension in issues related to women's role in agriculture identified
- A Framework for Action developed to empower women for inclusive growth through establishment of a global partnership program on gender in agriculture.

VENUE

The Global Conference will be held at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, near Todapur, Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110012, India.

PARTICIPANTS

The participants will include researchers, academicians, gender experts, representatives of UN organizations, CGIAR Centers, officials from Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development, Women and Child Development, Science and Technology, Human Resource Development, Ministers of Governments and Chief Executive Officers of business corporate houses, NGOs and farm women innovators. About 300 participants are expected to attend the Conference.

LANGUAGE

English is the official language of the Conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Conference will have (i) invited papers for oral presentation and (ii) contributory papers for poster presentation.

Contributory papers for poster presentation

Participants are encouraged to contribute papers for poster presentation. An abstract will have to be submitted in advance for evaluation by a Committee of Experts for selection in the poster presentation. The text of the abstract should be in English in the following format:

- Theme (to be specified)
- MS Word document
- Abstract: 250 words
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Font: Times New Roman
- Title: 14 point bold capital
- Author's name (designation, organization and place): 10 point italic
- Main headings: 12 point bold capital
- Running text: 12 point normal

Abstracts are to be sent **online** at <http://www.gcwa.in> or by email at: gcwa2012@rediffmail.com with a copy to: nrcwa@nic.in

POSTER PRESENTATION

Poster should be prepared as per the following format:

- Poster size : 60 cm (width) x 80 cm (height)
- Poster title: Font size: 40- 45 point Capital
- Author(s) and address(organization, place and e-mail): below the title (font size:18- 20 point)
- Sub-heading: Font size: 28-30 point Capital
- Running text: Font size: 22-25 point
- Use diagrams, graphs, figures and photographs

REGISTRATION

Participants are requested to register in advance either by submitting the duly filled in registration form (attached), online (www.gcwa.in) or by sending it through e-mail to the Organizing Secretary on or before the last date with a copy to gcwa2012@rediffmail.com

Mode of payment

The registration fee should be paid in the form of

- a. Demand draft drawn in favor of **Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)** payable at **New Delhi 110012, India and send to Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), Avenue-II, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa Campus, New Delhi 110012, India. (or)**



b. Online in TAAS Savings Bank A/c No: **90292010085467** (payable at New Delhi), Swift Code: **SYNB0009029** of **Syndicate Bank, Pusa Campus, New Delhi 110012, India**

REGISTRATION FEE

	By 15 Feb 2012	After 15 Feb 2012
International participants:	USD 300	USD 350
Indian participants :	INR 3000	INR 4000
Indian student participants:	INR 1500	INR 2000

Those who wish to participate without a paper can also register following the above procedure.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for delegates will be arranged in the guest houses of ICAR institutes on Pusa Campus. For information on accommodation in private hotels, please refer **website: <http://www.gcwa.in>**. For international participants, bulk booking has already been made at hotel 'THE ASHOK', New Delhi at concessional rates which covers bed and breakfast. The accommodation charges have to be borne by the participants unless sponsored by the organizers. They should directly contact Mr. Vishal Sharma at: roomreservations@theashok.com; ashokmarketing@gmail.com, Fax: 91-11-26873216 & 26114401.

The participants are advised to communicate their travel plan and accommodation details (if already made) or send their requirement in advance to the Conference Secretariat.

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of registration form and abstract for Poster Session	: January 31, 2012
Payment of registration fee	: February 15, 2012
Submission of information regarding travel plan and accommodation	: February 25, 2012

MAILING ADDRESS

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