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“THE CONTRIBUTION OF RADIO BROADCASTING TO POOR RURAL WOMEN IN WEST AFRICA ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FOOD SECURITY.”



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List of Acronyms

DTR	Development through Radio
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFAD	International Funds for Agriculture Development
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development
RFD	Radio for Development
SLBS	Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFRA	United Nations Population Fund
CDMP	Community Media for Development Productions
AMARC	Association of Community Radio Broadcasters
FEDSAW-SADAC	Federation of South Africa Women –South Africa Development Community
FAMW-SADC	Federation of African Media Women

“ The Contribution of Radio Broadcasting to Poor Rural Women in West Africa on the Achievement of Food Security.”

Introduction

This discussion paper takes a critical view on the possible increase of the role of poor rural women on food security access in West Africa as a consequence of inputs provided by the radio broadcasting. The main purpose of this paper is to give emphasis to the use of communication process to promote rural women's participation and information contact as an initial step for their integration in Globalization progression, social and economic development. Gender perspective will be also discussed. The Promotion of food security in developing countries is often raised by policy makers and worldwide institutions however there is a controversial on the identification of rural women's contribution to food and agriculture expansion. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) based in Rome, Italy, rural women play a crucial role in determining and guaranteeing food security and well being for the entire household. (“Women and Food Security” FAO Global Issues, March 13, 1997). According to FAO once more, communication approach is the key element to enable rural women to take control of their lives and participate as equals with men in promoting food security. (“Voices for Change” FAO by Silvia Blat, 1999). This document is going to appraisal as well the radio influence on rural women's capability approach. Despite several types of communication channel such as television, the internet and the print media, the radio broadcasting is the media vehicle selected as a theme because of its current positive effect on poor rural women's living for instance in Niger the use of community radio as a contribution to the implementation of democracy and good governance in the country had revealed good results (Dimitra Project, 1994) and in Sierra Leone as well, the foundation of community-based radio program to rebuild the livelihood assets and activities of vulnerable groups distress by the civil war (Soul Beat Radio Community Initiative, 2009). Additionally, the radio broadcasting was nominated the most affordable and undemanding communication medium that generally do not prevent illiterate women from access its services. “It offers rural women the opportunity to use the microphone to talk about issues that interest them and they play women's music that is seldom heard elsewhere,” (“Voices for Change” Rural Women and Communication, by Balit, Silvia, FAO, 1999) this paper concludes by presenting a summary of the preceding chapters following by the final conclusion.

Chapter 1

What is Mass Media?

“ Creators of media make their living from being media literate. Consumers need the basic information necessary to critique the messages that shape our values and culture.”

(“What is Mass Media? The Changing Role of Communications and the Media Industries.” Lane, Beth; June 2007).

Before reviewing the role of Mass Media, this first chapter will clarify the definition of Mass Communication in view of the fact that Mass Media is a tool of Mass Communication.

Mass Communication is characterize as a message created by a person otherwise a group of people which is in general sent to a large audience or the market through a transmitting device called medium. (“What is Mass Media? The Changing Role of Communications and the Media Industries.” Lane, Beth; June 2007). According to the author of “ What is media?” The main purpose of the Mass Communication is to motivated impact through its messages, an impact that will theoretically influence its addressees ‘s behavior and lifestyle. Community with population that consist of comparable social, economic and cultural backgrounds might represent the targeted spectators required by a specific media vehicle however it can be represented as well by community members with completely dissimilar environment might.

Yet again Mass Media can be also define as any medium used to transmit Mass Communication through light Mass Media. (“What is Mass Media? The Changing Role of Communication and the Media Industries.” Lane, Beth; June 2007).

The Mass Media is be represented by newspapers, television, radio, the Internet, magazines, books, movies and recordings which are believe to be all the instruments that were created to deliver to the public a wide amount of messages across the world. Mass Media is also defined as an instrument utilize in entertainment business, market transactions among with information source plus education utensil. In order to understand the consequences of the messages provided by mass vehicle, it is most likely necessary to be acquainted with the following four media concepts asserted below:

- All media messages are shaped (information normally is not supposed to be fabricated on the contrary it is must be based on fact. On the other hand its messages can be contain additional illustration in order to enrich its article. It varies from each Corporate Communication standpoint).
- Media messages are constructed using creative language with its own rules. (Creativity is normally important to persuade the spectators. A stimulated message can be delivery through a colloquial sentences, body languages or images).
- Different people usually experience the same messages in their own way (An identical message perhaps will have a different impact on its spectators by reason of peoples’ diverse point of view in numerous topics).

- Media have embedded values and points of view. (It can be classify as a powerful instrument of human being's control).

("What is Mass Media? The Changing Role of Communications and the Media Industries." Beth, Lane; June 2007).

The following bullet points emphasizes the major inquiry that are commonly part of the media's structure:

The five key Media's questions:

1. Who create the message?
2. What techniques are used to attract the public's attention?
3. How might different people understand the message idea differently from the deliver?
4. What values and point of views are represented in or omitted in the message.
5. What is the purpose of the message that is being sent?



The Role of the Media

The role of the media is to delivery information regarding to the matter of public concern in addition to that its responsibilities is also to support the free speech, democracy, human rights, and the public opinion without anticipating information. The media vehicle credibility can sometimes give the wrong impression to non-media professionals due to the conflict-ridden way that some companies represent the press media worldwide.

According to the book “ What is Mass Media?” (“What is Mass Media? The Changing Role of Communication and the Media Industries.” Lane, Beth; June 2007)

Some Communication Corporations are excessively concern about competition nowadays that they purposely allow their companies to utilize persuasive messages elaborated to control its spectators political, cultural and religion point of view. Those bullet points above represent the six models of the Media Code of Conduct according to the Society of Journalist’s manual: (Society of Professional Journalists, “ Code of Ethics for Journalists”, 1996; Associated Press Managing Editors, “ Statement of Ethical Principles”, 1994 by Sigma Delta Chi).

- A professional of the media must have a supervisory body of political and electoral process.
- A professional of the media should not make assumptions about factors before being self-assured. On the other hand a professional must at all times verify sources before publishing any article in addition to“ make a good faith effort” by

obtaining both comments for instance one from the victim and one the allegedly culpable person.

- A professional of the media should be transparent and honest with its reader.
- A professional of the media should act honorably and ethically in dealing with new sources, the public and colleagues.
- A professional of the media should avoid conflict of interest by refusing to accept gifts, favors or other benefits from anyone being covered in an article or from newsmakers, politicians or other journalists.
- A professional of the media should avoid being influenced by advertisers on the content of your reporting.

Chapter 2

The most widespread Mass Communication tool in West Africa:

The Radio's history

According to Mary Bellis a researcher and author of “Inventor Guide” radio is defined as an electronic piece of equipment that people exploit to listen to a variety of programs for instance information news and entertainment. The radio was launched later than the discovery of radio waves, which is characterized as an electromagnetic radiation with a capacity to transmit music, speech, as well as additional information invisibly through the air.

According to the researcher once more, the discovery of the radio broadcasting was divided in many eras, such as: for the period of the 1860s, a Scottish physicist named James Clerk Maxwell, who did not have any experience with radio waves forecast that time, was able to document most of the laws that governed radio waves propagation. As a result of the experience, it was undemanding for the physicist to compare them to light waves.

In the year of 1866 an American dentist named Mahlon Loomis, recognized the wireless telegraphy, which was characterized as an electrical signal without the electric wires to connect the end point. According to the author, Loomis tried to link a meter by connecting to one kite to another one provoking that result in a scientific movement. As a result it became the first known example of wireless aerial that time.

Afterward in the year of 1886, a German physicist named Henrich Rudolph Hertz once more through experimentation had an opportunity to demonstrate that velocity of the electric current which that time could be projected into space in the form of radio waves similar to those of light and heat. Later on in the year of 1895, an Italian inventor named Guglielmo Marconi by experiences could prove the feasibility of radio communication. The discoverer experience was based on transmission speed by first sending a letter S through wireless signal across the English Channel as a form of message and two years after receiving the message in return, the letter S telegraphed from England to Newfoundland. Consequently the success of many experiences was attribute to the first transatlantic radiotelegraph message transmitted (Bellis, Mary “ Inventors Guide” 1997).

Development through Radio

The rural population, the urban poor, the illiterate and the marginalized are the greatest risk of being left out of information and knowledge revolution. This therefore means that such communication technologies cannot be accessed by rural communities and thus puts radio on center stage. In Africa, radio is and will continue for a long time to be the most appropriate communications technology that is available to the majority of people in developing countries particularly the disenfranchised communities, women, children and the youth. (Sibanda, Jennifer “ Federation of African Media Women-SADC”, 2001).

According to the Federation of African Media Women- SADC Organization, communication media channels present small chance of benefiting large quantity people equally due to an assortment of issues people normally confront such as social, cultural,

economic along with political. Even supposing modern communication technologies are gradually expanding in rural and urban underprivileged regions, quite a lot of poor rural women in African countries are yet being prevented to access such technologies for instance the internet for the reason that they are deprived from knowledge in addition to skills to make the most of them. Additionally, most radio stations in rural areas normally go for men as its listeners target in preference to including women as well. Most certainly rural women's absence of knowledge and skills also retard their inclusion on communication process which is undoubtedly a tool of agriculture expansion as well as sustainable rural development. According to "Voices for Change" FAO's 1999 publication, illiteracy and low-quality of training services availability are the major reason that the radio broadcasting is in all probability the most functional media vehicle for rural inhabitants. The following bullet points below highlight the radio broadcasting constructive characteristics:

- The radio is doubtless more affordable media vehicle for poor rural population.
- The radio is most likely the easiest channel to use comparing to advanced media for instance the Internet.
- A radio station such as community –based radio normally has as regulation to prioritize activities that engage information, educational plus entertainment programs for rural inhabitants.
- Radio is a media vehicle that normally provides community feedback; in addition to offer to its members an opportunity to exchange experiences among them besides incentives participatory techniques as a development strategy.

- The use of radio broadcasting in all likelihood does not require that women perhaps have need of discontinue their domestic duties. Radio is a portable instrument, which permit women to manage additional activities while listening to it.

“Technologies and media are becoming more appropriate for conditions in rural areas. Democratization, government deregulation policies and pluralism have encouraged the decentralization of information production away from central governments while horizontal, people-to-people process are replacing vertical, traditional lines of communication. Participatory approaches have paved the way for community-based ownership and the use of various communication media, for example rural radio” (“Voice for Change” Rural Women and Communication, Balit; Silvia FAO 1999).

According to FAO, communication process can only succeed as tool for rural women’s economic and social activities expansion if they receive appropriate skills training to access communication channels as well as the media. Through the appropriate communication channel rural women can certainly obtain the information and ability that most likely will facilitate their participation in decision with reference to their own livelihood and in so doing increase their general involvement in development.

Participation is presumably central to the task of defining and achieving development for the reason that it focuses on empowerment of local people; through building their confidence that they are not “permanent victims of any situation.” By empowering local people first, participation probably will not become an extractive process of information, enlisting or mobilizing community support for centralized projects conceptualized, planned and controlled outside the local environment. (“Participatory and Development Communication: A West African Agenda” Bessette; Guy, 1996).

According to Bessette, participation is therefore centered on providing a conducive environment and discussion through which communities are helped to understand their socio-economic challenges and act upon the debated issues. (“ Participatory and Development Communication: A West African Agenda” Bessette; Guy, 1996).

For instance, Development through radio (DTR) is a distinctive model of participation approach that has been applied in many Southern African countries for instance South Africa and Zambia for well over 10 years. The DTR is commonly recognize as radio listening clubs, which objective is to provide marginalized groups such as women, the youth and elderly population the opportunity to former partnerships with existing community in addition to support residents participation in debate and discussion regarding with current matters within their communities. Consequently, the DTR radio differ from the regulars local radio station in rural African regions because it focuses on provide services for inhabitants who do not have an access to rural radio which has been described quite often as the means of communication by the Government with rural people. .” (“What is Community Radio”, a resource guide by AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998). Furthermore, the DTR which works essentially as a center for collective discussion and interaction on development perspectives has also as a main concern to target policy makers along with development actors. According to AMARC, as a result of successful implementation of DTR in Southern African countries, the Forum of African Media Women, (FAMW) a non-profit organization established in the city of Portsmouth, in the South of England with the purpose to provide opportunities to mutual communication and social contacts as well as emotional support to Africans women and youths in cooperation with a Human Rights NGO named Forum of

Conscience (FOC) in the year of 2006 implemented the Development Through Radio project in Sierra Leone . According to the organizers, the project described as DTRP was run for and by Sierra Leone's rural women. It was focus on rebuilding efforts by providing a channel through which women could voice their views on Truth and Reconciliation provision process in addition to bring gender issues to the forefront of the process. According to the organizers once more, before the project initiation they evaluated the best way to integrate with local communities. Subsequent to study followed by consultations with the selected communities, a training-of-trainers workshop in the community was created to incentive capacity building by promoting skills and knowledge development. Afterward FAMW in conjunction with FOC agreed to use the DTRP to encourage communities to undertake projects that promotes sustainable development. (" Gender and ICT For Development: A Global Source Book" A Critical Review and Annotated Series Bibliographies, by Helen Hambly Odame, 2005)

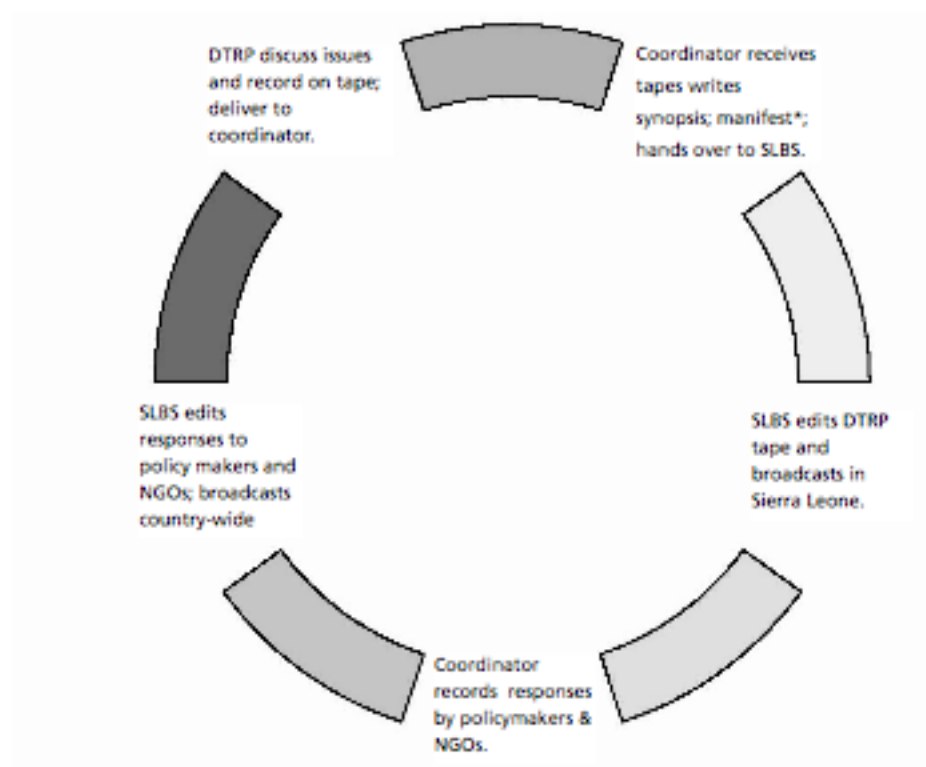
A case study of Development Through Radio Project in Sierra Leone:

The Development Through Radio Project (DTRP) in Sierra Leone has been implemented over 10years. The radio issues normally are first discussed, determine and agreed upon by the club members. Currently it has been active in 30 communities in the North, South and Eastern provinces. According to the organizers the community club size range the size from 30 to 80 members with age between 14 to 60 years old. In addition to that the project club members include widows, some amputees and people affected by the war by bereavement and enslavement. According to the organizers, the selection of the group that most needed to be in the project was done through a verification on a document owner by the two

organizations which relates the effect of civil war in women. The document helped the project production on programs for interaction and healing of wounds inflicted by the war.

Example of Development Through Radio Project In Sierra Leone

Figure 1: The DTRP workflow process



Source: Mercy Wambui (author).

Rural Radio Communication Approaches

“Radio remains the most powerful, and yet the cheapest, mass medium for researching large numbers of people in isolated areas. Thanks to the revolution of the transistor, even remotest villages have access to rural radio, which builds on the oral tradition of rural populations. Although men own the majority of radio receivers, women can listen to

programs at home in the evenings when the main chores of the day finished.” (“ Voice for Change” Rural Women and Communication, Balit; Silvia FAO 1999).

The rural radio normally does not require its listener’s participation within the radio production but it still important information too to connect the villages’ residents to the local market, the National government as well as their regional neighbors. The bullet points below highlight the likely rural radio communication approach to rural women’s development:

The Rural Radio Communication Approaches

- To provide poor rural women information about Government news on issues concerning to them such as health, education, output, weather, environment.
- To delivery information regarding to National Government, plus possible Donors and NGOs development projects and policies.
- To incentive poor rural women to participate on decision-making relate to their livelihood sustainability and food security access.
- Increase women participation as a listeners (as mentioned in a previous pages, many rural radio programs are direct to men).
- To turn into an education tool to a young girls and non- educated women by creating programs which speak about HIV/ Aids, domestic violence, food and water utilization, health, nutrition, along with hygiene.

- To promote gender equality by resealing information that can help rural women agriculture development, for instance:
 - a. Domestic market prices
 - b. Agriculture crops and inputs
 - c. Financial services
 - d. Off agriculture employment
 - e. Weather conditions
 - f. Population growth
 - g. Ecosystem

“ The Station has helped us understand the importance of literacy for our commercial activities. It has encouraged the women to devote more time to this. To begin with, we worked separately but after listening to radio programs we had the idea of coming together in association. Other women have done the same and have been successful”. (“Rural Listeners Talk Back” Voices for Change, FAO, 1999).

Chapter 3

Gender and Development

According to the United Nations Development Program, equality between men and women is more than a substance of social justice but a fundamental of human rights. “Six out of ten of the world’s poorest people are women who must, as the primary family caretakers and producers of food, shoulder the burden of tilling land, grinding grain, carrying water and cooking.” (“Gender and Poverty” UNDP report, 2010). Early in the 70’s Esther Boserup, a Danish economist, writer and former United Nations worker wrote books and articles about “Economy and Agriculture Development” and also about the “Role of Women in Workforce”. According to the author, her intention that time was to raise a worldwide awareness about women’s marginalization in society. Afterward in the 80’s, the United Nations established a concept of Gender and Development (GAD) with the purpose to include women’s labor as beneficial contribution to the world’s socio-economic development in addition to support the egalitarianism among men and women. Rural poverty is deeply rooted in the imbalance between what women do and what they have. Building women’s capabilities and dressing gender inequalities are crucial factors in enabling them to transform their lives and the lives of their families and communities. (“Working for Change” IFAD’s Gender Approach report, January 2010).

Consequently the concept of Gender was identified as a cultural and social value that are differently imposed on men and women influencing their social, economic and political role in society. Because of that, gender perspective is an important device to analyze the

reasons why certain groups have more opportunities than others (access to land, financial services, information, education for example). In addition to that, through gender perspective it can be also possible to identify how certain groups manage to control others as well to recognize what kind of access those groups might obtain. According to IFAD “Work for Change” 2010 report, gender initiatives should be done at policy level in order to ensure rural women’s integration in development strategies. The following bullet points highlight the definition of Gender:

Gender’s characteristics is define as:

- Gender is not biologically determined
- Through gender it is possible to identify the reason why the activities and responsibility of one group are determined an analyzed in terms of the others.
- Through gender is possible to target the groups that need to be including in development plans for social and economic expansion purpose.

“ Despite the essential role in achieving global food security, the contributions of women are often underestimated and overlooked in development strategies. Rural women are key actors in solving the major issues on the development agenda for the century coming, including the need to manage the environment in a sustainable manner, the exploding rate of population and urbanization, food security, humans, needs with the regard to health, education and literacy, and elimination of poverty”. ” (“ Voice for Change” Rural Women and Communication, Balit; Silvia FAO 1999). Most certainly, women with equal rights are superior well-read, well-informed, healthier and most likely have a good access to land, employment in addition to financial resources. As a result, their improved

earning power in turns raises household incomes. By enhancing women's control over decision-making in the household, gender equality also translates into better projection and greater well being of children, plummeting poverty of future generations. ("Gender and Poverty" UNDP report, 2010).

The next bullet point presented below emphasize the importance of rural women as an economic agents to society in a gender perspective view:

- Women are dynamic organizers and participants in grass-roots organizations.
- Normally women are good savers (they are more reliable to save money than men are) and the investment that they make usually benefits the whole family.
- Women can most certainly increase farm productivity once having an access to agriculture inputs and knowledge (information).
- Issues such as child and maternal mortality, as well HIV/AIDS almost certainly decrease when women have access to education. Consequently, a high life expectancy and literacy rates will affect positively the food security access and human development process.
- Women can certainly hand their knowledge to their children (skills, sexual orientation, information, food consumption, child care).

3.1 Poor Rural Women and its Challenge

“ Women play a critical role in the rural economies of both developed and developing countries. In most part of developing world they participate in crop production and livestock care, provide food, water and fuel for their families, and engage in off-farm activities to diversify the family income. In addition they carry out vital functions in caring for children, older persons and sick. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 428 million women work in the agriculture sector around the world, compare to 608 million men.” (UN Watch Women “ Information and Resources on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women” March, 1997).

Women’s domination in agriculture sector is a confirmation that they play a crucial role in human development and food security access. According to FAO’ 1999 “ Voice for Change” publication, the main problem that poor rural women have been facing lately is exclusion which restrain from having an equal access to opportunities and resources that are vital for enhancing rural living conditions and achieving development goals. The next bullet points highlight some of rural women’s main constraints to progress these days:

- Limit access to information, which prevents them to obtain skills that possible, could help to improve their income earning conditions.
- Lack of empowerment, which normally results on low self-esteem and confidence. Unequal division of labor and resources between men and women

among with limited access to land are some of the constrains that affect women's self-determination

- Poor access to technologies and inputs investment due to the lack of information, knowledge, ability as well as low earning income conditions prevent women from market their products in addition to that it also prevent them from to implement modern techniques that could possibly improve their agriculture production.
- Due to cultural reasons and gender discrimination, rural women frequently have less access to primarily education than rural men do. As a result, women are most likely to be vulnerable to poverty condition because of the low job opportunity accessibility.
- Lack of participation in policies interventions. The implementation of free-market polices by Structural Adjustment Programs followed by Government subsidies in developed nations had caused negative impact on agriculture sector in least developing countries, which is rural women's main source of income.
- National government food security and development policies usually exclude rural women as a topic.
- As a result of culture custom is some African countries, women are subject to food prejudice, for instance in many household routine men normally have the right to obtain a bigger portion of meal than the women. Usually, most of rural women in deprived areas have no access to information on nourishment and health, which normally result in them being vulnerable to malnutrition condition as well being feeble to fight diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

- Limited access to microfinance credit to invest on diverse agriculture crops, inputs, and technology as well as off-farm employment.

3.2 Poor Rural Women and Communication

“Communication can promote changes in attitudes and social behavior and help communities to identify sustainable opportunities and development solutions that are within their reach” (“Voice for Change” Rural Women and Communication, Balit; Silvia FAO 1999).

Communication process is defined as an essential tool for rural women’s evolution for instance social and economic activities integration in society. Nowadays a good number of social support through programs designed for rural women has been given them the opportunity to communicate among themselves and outside of their community as well. In addition those programs such as the DTRP on Sierra Leone mentioned previously, has been also helping rural women to build self-esteem and confidence to be involved in decision that can possibly change their lives. According to FAO’s “Voice for Change” 1999 publication, the communication process in rural areas can be done through the use of traditional culture, which is form of shared attitudes, practices, values and beliefs. Festivals, poetry, proverbs, drama, drawing, fairy tale are described as a traditional forms of communication that facilitates rural women’s participation as well progress in their social environment. Through the communication channels women can participate in debates and seminars in order to talk about issues that affect their capabilities and means of living such as food security access, domestic violence, and adults education programs. Traditional forms of communications can as well include the use of mass media, which

can most likely speed the process of messages being delivery within and outside of communities. Through media channels rural women have an opportunity to be connected with people who can strongly support them on the promotion of social and sustainable agriculture development activities for instance police makers, civil society, non-governmental organizations together with development planners. Limited infrastructure such as poor roads, absence of electricity plus restrict transportation services among with low income earning and lack of education are the obstacles that prevent mostly rural women from accessing contemporary media technology. The next bullet points presented below highlight the role of communication on rural women's development process:

- Communication is technique that rural women can use to exchange messages, share experiences and promote participation.
- Communication integrates rural women in society giving them an opportunity to promote and expand their capabilities. Being informed enables them to make a great effort for social changes. Empowerment.
- Communication enhances rural women's abilities to negotiate their resources:
 - I. Land ownership
 - II. Inputs technology
 - III. Crops
 - IV. Trade.
- Communication normally brings awareness about important issues rural women confront, for instance:
 - I. Food and water consumption
 - II. The importance of being enroll in primary school education

- III. Environment preservation
- IV. Nutrient food
- V. Diseases prevention.
- Communication most likely facilitates rural women food security achievement and sustainable development by enhances rural women's economic activities, for instance:
 - I. Facilitates their access to the market
 - II. Increase their income earning possibilities
 - III. Increase their possibilities to trade and access financial services
- Communication can certainly help rural women to improve their livelihood assets:
 - ✓ Human,
 - ✓ Physical,
 - ✓ Natural,
 - ✓ Social,
 - ✓ Financial capital
- Communication enhances rural women's social network and well-being.

Chapter 4

Food Security and Its Dimensions



(Global Knowledge magazine picture, 2008)

“ Without women we all go hungry” (Kenya proverb, World Bank Nov.2003)

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO) food security exists:

“ Food security is when all people, at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life “

Food security is an indicator that cannot be measured, but it can be analyzed by understanding people’s experiences of hunger and the association between food insecurity (lack of physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutrient food) and the limits and opportunities to their existing livelihoods. (FAO, 1996, Rome Declaration in World Food Security).

Food security can present a widespread definition by being divided in dissimilar categories:

1. Individual or household food security: It is associated to income, access to resources and affordability of foodstuff. It can also be associated to purchasing power and local food shortages.
2. Regional food security: It is associated to domestic market trade strategies and policies as well as promotion of investment in regional infrastructure and market information.
3. National food security: It is associated with the ability of the country to produce sufficient amount of food in order to assist its population’s necessities.

4. Global food security: It is related to the capacity of the world's agriculture producers to come upon universal goods demand in addition to build an efficient and adequate trade and distribution scheme. (" Food Security and the UK" Food Chain Analysis Group, Defra, December 2006).

The main point of this paper is to review household food security although references to additional categories of food security have been also referred. Evidences have demonstrated that food security depends on who controls the access to available food at household level. Issues such as gender inequality, opportunity absence, communal norms and values, institutions policies in addition to religious conviction might be the subject matters that prevent poor rural women to enlarge their function on productivity as well as food security attainment. According to the United Nations (UN), an international organization located in New York City, for a long epoch rural women in many African countries have been contributing to the enlargement of rural development through farming and soil harvest task for instance together with household security. Their presence in rural agriculture have been qualify as an indispensable to the food production process, handling and preparation even though most of their effort are not fairly recognized in a national level. " Although, in same cases, particularly in food production, African women handled 80 percent of work. Of total extension agents at work in Africa today, only 17 percent are women" (" African Recover Brief Paper" United Nations Report, April 2008).

Food Security four dimensions: As it was mentioned previously, the objective of this paper is to evaluate the food security in an individual if not household level, though the four food security dimensions are usually considered in National level.

1. Availability: Food availability refers to the volume of food and its steadiness.
2. Access: Food access refers to the capability to afford nutritious food, as well as well-organized transportation, infrastructure and food distribution systems
3. Utilization: Food utilization refers to the nutritious, quality and safety of food consumption.
4. Stability: Food stability refers to steady productivity and availability amount of food without barriers.

(“ Food Security and the UK” Food Chain Analysis Group, Defra, December 2006).

“ Women grow more than half of the world’s food yet often lack access to resources such as agriculture inputs, land, financing, technologies, training and markets” (“ From dialogue to action: how to promote the empowerment of rural women in agriculture “ United Nations meeting organized by FAO, IFAD, WFP and ESCOSOC at New York City on July 2010).

Accessibility is the dimension that is going to be study in the next pages in order to evaluate its importance and effect on rural women’s agriculture productivity among with social expansion. According to FAO, specific deficiency in worldly goods can confirm women’s complexity on capability expansion. The next bullet points highlight women’s lack of accessibility in crucial areas that are in all probability canals to rural development:

1. Limited access to land:

Rural women do not own a large part of the land that they work on in contrast to the number of female as a leader of household has been increasing. According to IFAD 25-60 % of rural households in West Africa is headed by women.” In many countries in Africa there has been a significant increase in a percentage of female-headed household (FHH) in recent years. Among the main causes are male migration, the deaths of male in civil conflicts and wars, unpatented adolescent fertility and family disruption” (“ The issue of poverty among female headed households in Africa” IFAD 1999).

2. Limited access to education, training and extension services:

According to FAO, two-thirds of one billion illiterate in the world are women and young girls. A small number of rural women have been provided with extension services in addition to that, most of the extension services focal point are cash crops sooner than points that are crucial to rural women food security and development achieve such as food and subsistence crops. As a result, many rural women are prevented from directly negotiate their products in the market in addition to participate in regional and national trade procedure

3. Limited access to information, research and suitable technology:

Rural women have information boundaries, which most likely restrain them from being granted from researches, and innovations benefits that can increase their workload.

4. Limited access to credit:

Within the countries where information is obtainable, a very short amount of credit endowment are provide to women due to national regulation with an ordinary law which do

not consent rural women to share property rights with their spouse. The land prevention can also be for the reason that female head of households are excluded from land entitlement plan that consequently prevent them to have a loan of from institutions. Microfinance credit accessibility possibly will offer rural women opportunity to expand their income earning possibilities for instance in off-agriculture jobs or informal jobs such as hair salon, local variety store, shoes shop, bakery, sewing and crafts.

5. Limited access to agricultural inputs:

The habitually deficient amount of income to purchase technological inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers plus pesticides are barriers that unable rural women to be reached by extension services providers. These are supposedly barriers that also unable them to be a part of small- farmers cooperatives that are subsidy by the national Government.

6. Limited access to decision-making:

Rural women's short access participation on decision-making procedure at community, household and national levels occur in most cultures. The main causes of women's exclusion from development strategies are supposed to be due to their reproductive roles as well as their household workload. In addition to that, in many-disadvantaged rural community in Africa countries, especially the ones with more strict traditions, household work is considerate women's requirement as a wife and mother. As a result, women are preventing from working out-of-doors which as a consequence decreases their chance of being part of the national economy. ("Focus on Women and Food Security: The FAO plans of action for women in development" FAO, 1996-2001)

“ There is a striking gender bias in favor of men when it comes to access to and ownership. This gender bias makes agriculture less productive than it could be, and undermines the world’s ability to reduce hunger and poverty and support economic development” (“FAO’s Gender, Equity, and Development Division” by Villarreal, Marcela, director division, FAO, April 2010). Once more, according to the FAO’s Gender, Equity and Development director, poverty eradication will not be reached without the entire involvement of rural women. Poverty reduction is an United Nations strategy named Millennium Development Goal (MDG), developed in 1999 which has as an objective to achieve the eight anti-poverty target by 2015 which include commitments for poor women and child’s health among with initiatives to combat scarcity, hunger and diseases. (“ Millennium Development Goal: 2010 Review Summit” United Nations, September 2010). The following bullet points below draw attention to the implication of rural women involvement in development policies:

- 1.** Rural women development productivity enhancing food availability as a result of:
 - ❖ Sustainable crop production to address local demands needs
 - ❖ Training and income conditions upgrading
 - ❖ Women’s physical as well as trade and industry integration to local market
 - ❖ Financial credit ease of access
 - ❖ Progress of livelihood possessions and activities

2. Rural women development productivity enhancing food access as a result of:

- ❖ Creation of development strategies that intensify rural women's access to resources such as to land in addition to emphasized the importance of women's equal access to labor market

3. Rural women productivity development enhancing food utilization as a result of:

- ❖ Constructions of mechanism that can ensure women's access to food safety and clean water make possible them to improve their consumption perform.

4. Rural women productivity enhancing food stability as a result of:

- ❖ Construction of development strategies that support rural women diversifying farming production along with off-farm employment almost certainly will promote food security constancy. ("FAO's Policy Brief" Issue 2, June 2006).
- ❖ Policies that include gender awareness through adequate data and information can most likely increase in intensity the role of rural women in rural and economic enlargement. (FAO " Police Brief" issue 2, June 2006).

Community Radio building opportunities

“ Radio station has brought about a genuine change in the everyday lives of villagers. It has prompted a qualitative change in a farming techniques (helping in the selection of the best seed varieties, cotton processing and following the farming calendar). It has also brought about change in attitudes: individualism has given way to community spirit and popularity of home improvements has increased as a result of programs broadcast on this subject. The radio station has increased enthusiasm for literacy. Generally speaking, it has helped greatly in raising awareness.” (“ Voices for Change” Rural Women and Communication, FAO, by Silvia Balit FAO, 1999).

The following pages intend to review the community radio mission in rural districts among with its modus operandi then subsequently endorse its potential as a remarkable communication tool to underprivileged women’s food security access and rural enrichment. “ Community radio signifies a two-way process, which entails the exchange of view from various sources and it is the adaptation of media for use by communities. In an ideal world community radio allows members of a community to gain access to information, education, and entertainment. In it is pure sense, it is media in which the communities participate as planners, producers and performers and it is the means of expression of the community rather than for the community.” (“What is Community Radio”, a resource guide by AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

According to the AMARC, community radio stations foundation is a result of a variety of repressive incident that usually occur within distinct communities in African countries. For instance, in South Africa, the apartheid laws, which entered in vigor in 1948, ensured that the majority of South Africa citizens were underprivileged as well as marginalized in the attention of the white minority. According to the AMARC once more, the apartheid exploited the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) as a lobby that in that time controlled the media industry. As a result, minority groups led the establishment of community radio as a tool for development in addition to consider the community radio a trivial instrument for emancipation.” (“ What is Community Radio”, A resource guide by AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

Community Radio regulation characteristically draws attention a two significant points:

- The importance of a comprehensible declaration developed by community radio project.
- The necessity to define its target community for instance, a community with an exacting interest if not a geographically originated group of people broadcasting within a given location.

According to AMARC, prior to to open a radio community program the members aspirant normally are in charge to prepare an inventory in which they relate their indispensable needs for instance:

- i. Access to an efficient health system
- ii. Employment guarantee

- iii. Education programs
- iv. A good quality infrastructure
- v. Job training and research possibility
- vi. Gender equality

According to Nkopane Maphiri, a biographer of “What is Community Radio?” once the list of needs is disclosed community members complexities outcome become the radio station’s mission. Therefore in many African countries community radio mission statements accentuate:

- ❖ The necessities to provide a meeting for debates of local matters as well as find possible solutions to resolve problems.
- ❖ The importance of endorsing inhabitant’s creativity and initiatives as approach to build autonomy and development.
- ❖ The importance of offering support to the education system and health service within community.
- ❖ The importance of conserving community culture and environment by promoting local and African music.
- ❖ The importance of encouraging dynamic community participation within radio station’s operations.
- ❖ The importance of providing precise information from and to the community.

(“What is Community Radio”, AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

According to AMARC yet again, community member’s active participation in each and every one structure of the organization is crucial to ensure their empowerment to run the radio

station. Community radio organization normally supports democracy, which effected in a complete involvement by its affiliates in the election of radio station's board members as well as in additional radio station portfolios. Normally, the role of each affiliate in the radio station assignment is supposed to be clearly identifiable in order to prevent unfairness. In addition to that, AMARC also avowed that community radio stations count on volunteers who are more often recruited within the communities target with the intention of increasing its member's relationship with the station's program. The following examples determine regular community radio structure as well elucidate the majority of community radio's associate responsibilities:

Community radio standard pattern:

- Members plus the Annual General Meeting of the members (AGM)
- The Board of Directors otherwise Trustees
- The Executive Committee of the Board or the Management Committee
- The Volunteers Group also/or The Open Forum
- The Staff (In case that there are any otherwise in at a later period

Community radio members' responsibilities:

1. The election of a leadership (trusteeship)
2. A creation of police-making for the radio station
3. A nomination of manager for the radio station
4. A selection and stipulation of radio indoctrination
5. A selection of the fabrication of the programmers
6. A profile creation of the external representation of the radio station

("What is Community Radio", AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

“ Women can only have access to communication media if they have the skills and training to use them. It is not only a question of training more women, but also of improving and adapting the type of training provided”

(“ Voices for Change” Rural Women and Communication, by Silvia Balit
FAO, 1999).

It is quite certain that the major complexity for rural women who are community radio members is the station’s manufacture. According to AMARC, usually the African community radio’s main challenge currently consist in harmonizing technical as well as the radio program production in conjunction with the participation of community members who are deficient in skills. In view of the fact that community radios require the contribution of commune members, training is part of the radio station process before its programs commence. In order to offer a knowledgeable radio-training program, domestic workshops with an assistance of a superior established radio station journalists, managers plus technicians among with anyone who presents an enthusiastic consideration in community radio stations development. The next bullet points highlight some areas in which radio station’s training programs can provide support for unskilled members:

- A explanation on the entire process of establish a community radio, for instance:
 - a. Initial community radio structures
 - b. Information gathering and design of the project
 - c. Definition of a mission
 - d. Technique to adopt constitution, registration in addition to license application plus frequency allocation

- e. Explanation on fundraising process
- f. Information regarding equipment procurement following by on air demonstration.
- Schooling members on the management of the community radio for instance:
 - a. Offering instruction on how to build police-making
 - b. Guiding members on how to advertise the radio activities
 - c. Providing instruction on how to efficiently manage the radio's account and financial section
 - d. Tips on how to raise: skills development, membership plus community participation
 - e. Instruction on operational planning and programming, together with
 - f. conflict management and a possible structure modification.
- Instruction on how to produce the community radio programs through:
 - a. Preparing the community and local organizations to interconnect to the radio's production scheme
 - b. Supervising the radio's the relationship between radio's volunteers with professionals
 - c. Teaching about ethics
 - d. Schooling the radio's members on how to do a research in addition to develop radio news and features

- e. Guiding members on the utilization of studio equipment among with advise on interviews, presenting, writing and editing method.

(“What is Community Radio”, AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

With reference to the Experts Consultation that took place at FAO in 1984, it was point out that “ people-oriented and sustainable development can only realize its full potential if rural people are involved and motivated and in formation and knowledge are shared.” In keeping with Experts Consultation, information sharing is essential not counting it entails somewhat an exchange among communication equals. “On the one hand, technical specialists learn about people’s needs and their techniques of production; on the other hand, the people learn about techniques and proposals of the specialists. This means that participatory communication efforts with rural women should begin with development planners and technical specialists listening to them”. (“Voices for Change” Rural Women and Communication, FAO, by Silvia Balit, 1999). According to AMARC, to build a community radio station plus administer its workforce might also present complexities such as:

- Coming across with the specific method to encourage, ensure and sustain community’s inhabitant’s participation. As said by AMARC, in order to keep members dynamically contribution in the community radio’s program plus development procedure, it is necessary to convince them that the radio main purpose is to benefit them.
- The preservation of volunteers group which most of communities’ radio relies on. Normally, volunteers are people devoid of jobs. The

positive factor might be that they will in all probability acquire skills working inside the radio station that might increase their opportunity to search out for a job somewhere else in case they necessitate. In contrast, volunteers frequently have need of ready money to purchase food as well as to afford the transportation everyday expenditure from their residence to the radio station locality.

(“What is Community Radio”, AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

Case Studies

The subsequently pages will present two cases of community radio toward to contributing to rural women’s food security achievement and sustainable development. The first case study presenting in this document takes place in Niger’s with reference to a FAO’s Dimitra project, which was launched in the year of 1994 as a development plan by the European Commission afterward, in 1998, it was developed into a project. Dimitra, which is currently supervised by Eliane Najros, was originate by Belgium and various multilateral funding agencies with the objective to support development projects in rural underprivileged regions around the world.

FAO’s Dimitra Project: A case study of Community Radio empowering rural women in Niger.

“ In Niger which is one of the world’s poorest countries, some of the rural women have never heard a radio before. If anyone had radios, usually they were men, but when they began to hear their own voices on the radio you can imagine their reaction. They heard themselves on the radio, talking about issues that mattered to them. It was

a very empowering experience.” (“Community Radio links into Literacy in Niger”
FAO Dimitra Project Coordinator Eliane Narjos).

The primarily community radio station launched in Niger was the Bankilare radio station to the West of Niamey, Niger’s largest city in the village of Bankilare. The project was established in 1999 by FAO Dimitra Participatory Information and Communication project with the purpose to highlight

The contribution that rural people make to their communities in addition to support rural women empowerment as well gender equality. The Bankilare community radio was created also to support Niger’s most recently democracy system that time and also to enhance governance in order to facilitate the creation of well-ordered development strategies to reduce rural poverty.

Bankilare was considered to be one of the most disadvantaged village in a Niger’s nation where 80 per cent of its 12 million residents were located in rural district. About 2,000 citizens used to live without electricity, telephone service in addition to filtered water that time. Illiteracy was an ever-present issue in the Niger’s villages. The Bankilare radio station was systematized with the help of diverse funding agencies that mutually even nowadays sustain the Dimitra radio station’s educational program concerning rural women’s development. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the SNV, a Dutch Cooperation and Development NGO were incorporated.

The bullet points below underline socio-economic and cultural themes presented by the Niger’s Bankilare radio station that played a role to rural women’s participatory process of social change:

- Broadcasting introduction of sensitive themes that strongly support the expansion of local rural women’s status and living conditions such as:
 - a. HIV/AIDS transmission

- b. Environment sustainability and conservation
- c. Government decentralization
- d. The importance of young girl's education access
- e. Citizenship
- f. The importance of access to quality training

Conversely, the Bankilare's community radio experienced obstacles also for instance the radio station was not allow to discuss explicitly on the subject of women's liberation on the air which possibly would result in the ending of the radio activities by authorities. The reason of that was because 95 per cent of Niger's population was and still at the moment devote to the Islam principle, which normally restrain women from doing many activities increasing their dependability status among with the level of gender inequality between men and women. Even though the Islam in many region in Niger is for ever and a day consider to be based on tolerance of others faith plus free of restriction on personal self-determination such as Niger women usually are not isolated as well as they are not obligated to wear the conventional head covering habit, the Bankilare community radio also faced few obstacles:

- Normally many broadcasting stations do not give to the women a position of responsibility within the radio.
- Although women are noticeable in the management and animation board plus in discussion participation they are still yet regard as subordinate.
- Due to the Internet absence and the scarce means of communication among the radio stations in the local village, funding agencies that together with the Niger's Government lack on radio stations update.

- Nowadays, the Dimitra project is improving its events on supporting rural poor communities development through new methods to collect full information on organizations and assignments regarding rural women food security and sustainable development for the most part in Africa countries and the Near East. Through available information Dimitra project seeks to expand the visibility of rural women's contribution to development by the use of traditional means of communication and innovative information technologies. "By listening to rural women in Niger Dimitra has found that challenges facing them include isolation, illiteracy and women's low social status. Dimitra has address this issue in part by link community radio listener's clubs to literacy training centers. The Listeners 's Clubs have become source of learning, information exchange and local points for rural women's group" ("Giving Voice to Rural Women and Men Through Dimitra" FAO, April, 2010). The Radio Listener's Clubs among with Women Leadership Literacy Training Centers was established in the year of 2006 in Dosso during a workshop prearranged by Dimitra's partners the ONG VIE Kande Ni Bayra in the Shael region. The purpose of the workshop was to evaluate the impact of rural women's literacy training on girls' schooling at that time. According to the Dimitra Project in the year of 2004 merely 28.7 per cent of the mature population in Niger were recognized as being well read with the majority of illiterate population being women. According to the Dimitra Project once more, illiteracy among parents can most likely guide young girls to place less value on formal school education. Dimitra distributed a hand-crank and solar powered radio's to women's group as well phones to every one of the clubs facilitating the communication among them. Through April of 2010 the Dimitra project had arranged 90 listeners' clubs connect to literacy training center in Niger with 25-30 people for each club. The development initiative is combined by the Swiss-funded literacy centers run by

ONG-VIE UNDP, UNFPA, and UNIFEM in cooperation with funding for the radio component provided by Dimitra project. Dimitra events also include many projects engaged in a broad series of activities focusing on health, education, herbal farming, basic education, and micro-finance plus seeding production.

The second case study present in this document is regarding to a community radio project which took place in Sierra Leone with the objective to broaden rural women's access to communication vehicle as well as to support women's capabilities approach through social-economic integration into society by expressing their issues and concerns worldwide. For instance, the project formed participatory workshops in which Sierra Leone women built radio programs that broadcasted issues they identify as significant to them. The Rural Women Reporting was also implemented in Kenya and South Africa.

2. Rural Women Reporting: A case study of Community Radio empowering rural women in Enema, Sierra Leone

The Rural Women Reporting project was a communication strategy through a series of radios workshops which was designed in the beginning of 2008 to involve Sierra Leone's rural women into communication process by developing programs regarding to issues rural women was facing in addition to empowered women who participated in the workshop by providing skills training plus supported women's self-confidence building. The project which took place in Kenya and South Africa as well was launched in 2008 by FAHUMA Network for Social Justice, a non-profit British organization established in 1997 which endorses the intensification of human rights and social justice by promoting innovative use of information and communication technologies in addition to encouraging debates as well as developing and delivering educational classes in conjunction with the Community Media for Development

Production (CMFD), a South African Production Organization which works with local communities, non-profit radio stations as well as media organizations in countries around its region. The CMFD Rural Women Reporting project's main purpose was to strength the use of the media by rural women by creating participatory strategies that supported rural women's communication programs. The Rural Women Reporting project presented three workshops that covered a wide range of issues such as:

- a. Employment
- b. Teenage pregnancy
- c. Women in politics
- d. Women and inheritance rights
- e. Access to health care
- f. Forced, arranged and early marriages
- g. Community crimes

During the workshops course participants created three features around topics that they identified as the most immediately for instance: pregnancy, access to health, early marriages along with theft within community. According to FAHUMA and OMFD organizations that worked in Cooperation with Muloma Women's development Association (MUWODA), the Sierra Leone rural women's group rural, women in Sierra Leone have not much protection from discrimination and additional human abuses.

According with the Rural Women Reporting organizers once more, the workshop activities were categorize by:

1. **Introduction:** In the workshop introduction section the participants decided the radio format which they desire to produce in addition to that the participants also received enlightenment and demonstration on radio stations design such as:
 - a. News Bulletin
 - b. Reports
 - c. Features,
 - d. Interviews
 - e. Debates
2. **The Radio Programs Arrangement:** The topics covered in the radio d program were selected after the evaluation of individual's participants' personal interests and experiences.
3. **The Radio Program Outline:** Participants outlined issues that they considered as important previously in addition to possible interviews and researchers they believed were necessary to be done.
4. **Research:** Participants spent an afternoon searching for their specific topics. In the research process, participants who were computer literate helped those who were not.
5. **Skills Training:** Participants were trained to use the voice recorder as well as fundamentals of conducting an interview.
6. **Conducting Interviews:** Every one of the participants went out of the training program in order to gather interviews. According to organizers, the

experience was awkward for some of the participants on the other hand it resulted in a beneficial empowerment experience.

7. **Scripting:** After participants combined the interview along with the research process they learned about scripting method following by instructions to shape their idea into an articulate report.
8. **Voice and Editing:** All participants recorded its own narration in addition to worked with the sound engineer to place interview clips. According to the organizers, translations were available for participants who required it. In order to confirm the process course participants were able to hear their completed reports prior to the workshop final.
9. **Distribution:** Towards the end of the workshop 12 radio programs were made with varying lengths and formats. In addition to that audio recordings were also made accessible to local radio stations and community groups plus it was distributed over the Internet as pod casts. (“Reporting Rural Women Workshop” Community Media for Development Productions and FAHAMU, August 2008).

Chapter 5

Summary

Access to information and communication has becoming progressively more important to undertake the problems of women's agriculture and rural development. According to FAO's Extension, Education and Communication Service Department, in the year of 1990 it was estimated that in Africa for all 1,000 residents there were merely an availability of 12 newspapers, 52 televisions sets, 14 telephone lines, 5 mobile telephones, 7.5 personal computers plus 200 radio receivers ("Radio Broadcasting Format Adapt to Food Security Issues" by Ilboudo; Jean-Pierre (SDRE), FAO, 2001). As a consequence of local low-quality infrastructure along with a high level of illiteracy among Africans rural women the radio broadcasting turned out to be the only mass medium capable of raising awareness, informing and mobilizing rural populations.

As a result, nowadays in most African countries the radio broadcasting remains relevant to any strategy for rural development including greater public liability and decentralization of services, because it involves a relatively inexpensive technology that effectively reaches rural people in their own languages. The accomplishment of community radio to rural women is mostly due to

the fact that it complements the oral traditional of communication in many rural societies and builds on principles of participatory development. The current existing decentralize community radio broadcasting programs and formats are most likely the key strategy to deal with problems concerning rural women's food security achievement in addition to maintain close ties to the local community and often provide local people with opportunities to voice their opinion and share their knowledge. ("Voice for Change" Rural Women and Communication, Balit; Silvia, FAO, 1999). However, community radio is not devoid of problems for instance balancing skills development within community with the risk of distancing members who do not present skills but demand participation can be one of the issues. As a result, each community radio in order to expand its venture almost certainly needs a translucent mission, constitution, policies in addition to construct efficient capacity-building and training programs. ("What is Community Radio", a resource guide by AMARC Africa and Panos Southern Africa in collaboration with IBIS/Interfund and WACC, by Maphiri, Nkopane 1998).

Conclusion

Rural women's development will only be achieved if policies and technologies are accompanied by participation, equity, dialogue, enabling mechanism and empowerment. The role of Community -based radio is to stimulate and facilitate efforts to increase the involvement of rural women as contributors and beneficiaries of economic, social, and political development.

Poverty, food insecurity along with environmental degradation is recognized as problems that have a conflicting impact on rural women's lives. Therefore projects relate to communication for rural development must be sited on governments, development planners in conjunction with decision-makers outlines, the groups who evidently have need of promoting an active and perceptible policies that enforces rural women's nurturing learning
In addition to support a knowledge- based society that can most likely be more responsive to changes and development issues.

Development of policies regarding to quantity and accessibility of infrastructure in poor villages will most certainly increase the relevance of information to needs and training of rural women. The conclusion of this document will finalize with a key question that can possible be answered in near future: what sets of structures as well as regulations can be require to incentive the merge of community-based radio and the internet as a tool for development in disadvantage countries such as Niger and Sierra Leone?

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