

Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Award



United Nations
Rio+20 Summit
Rio de Janeiro
20-22 June 2012

*Women's contributions to Sustainable
and Equitable Economies*

RIQ20
Women Creating a Sustainable Future

Women's contributions to Sustainable and Equitable Economies



Women are catalysts for sustainable development in many communities worldwide.

However their contributions are often overlooked. Throughout the world, many women are contributing to society's wellbeing, prosperity and development in ways that protect our health and environment, support equitable decision-making and strengthen women's empowerment and livelihoods.

During the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, six women will receive the Women Rio+20 Best Practice Award.

The Women Rio+20 award highlights the essential role women already play in making our economies more equitable and sustainable. The award aims to raise awareness about existing best practices, as exemplified by women as leaders in sustainable development from developing countries, and:

- Show-case best practices from women in developing countries on sustainable and equitable development to policy makers, media and the general public
- Raise awareness among policy makers that women's best practices for development need enabling policy frameworks with specific gender targets and indicators
- Enable grassroots women to present their solutions and priorities to international actors and thus ensure that women's perspectives, needs and contributions are strongly reflected in the policy outcomes of the Rio+20 conference
- Publish the best practices and their key success factors and disseminate widely, allowing them to inspire and be replicated by women and men around the world

The awards focus on women-led initiatives in five areas: 1) food sovereignty, 2) climate adaptation, 3) decent jobs & health, 4) water & sanitation and 5) sustainable energy.

The Women Rio+20 Award was inspired by the annual meeting of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment held at UNEP in Nairobi, in February 2012. The Ministers agreed to highlight grassroots women's initiatives and good practices. The winning women's initiatives have all shown that their good practices are transferable to other settings and can be replicated by others. They are an inspiration for women and men around the world.

With over 150 submissions, there were many excellent initiatives which did not get an award, but they are listed on the project website www.wecf.eu. The sixteen winning entries are presented in this booklet to allow wide dissemination of the good practices.

We would like to thank the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to fund our project the "Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Award" and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Programme „Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights" for their support.

At the same time we would like to express our gratitude to our co-organisers from the Women's Major Group, from UNEP, and the women NGOs for their contributions and inspirations.

I hope that reading about the Women's Rio+20 good practices will inspire all our readers, and that you will share the examples widely!

Sascha Gabizon,

WECF-Women in Europe for a Common Future /WICF-Women International for a Common Future

Winners

CATEGORY **1. Food Sovereignty**

- First Prize** **Mastery of Agro-Ecological Techniques and Hydro-Agriculture by Rural Women for Food Sovereignty in Guinea,**
Guinean Association for Women's Burden Alleviating, Republic of Guinea
- First Prize** **Organisational Strengthening and Rural Economies of the OMIKSE**
Organisation of Indigenous and Peasant Women Planting Hope, Ecuador
- Second Prize** **Women Together in Development,**
Land Access Movement of South Africa, South Africa
- Third Prize** **Challenging Food Insecurity through Collective Community Action by Rural Women of Kerala,**
Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement, India

CATEGORY **2. Climate Adaptation**

- First Prize** **Risk and Vulnerability Mapping, Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Implementation of Resilience Practices,**
Mayan Women Coordinator for Integrated Development, Guatemala
- Second Prize** **Project to Support Sustainable Management and Conservation of the Mangroves of the Gbaga Channel in Benin,**
ECO - ECOLO, Benin
- Third Prize** **Promotion of opportunities for mountain women's adaptation to climate change. An Integrated Approach at the Local Level,**
Women of Mountains Group (WMG), Uzbekistan

CATEGORY **3. Decent Jobs & Health**

- First Prize** **Recyclers for Life,**
Cooperative Recycling to Live, Brazil
- Second Prize** **Traditional Community Health Care for Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Region of Vietnam,**
The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Vietnam
- Third Prize** **Protecting Women's Cooperatives for Jobs, Biodiversity, Health and Climate,**
Mohammed VI Foundation for Research and Preservation of the Argan Tree, Morocco

CATEGORY **4. Water and Sanitation**

- First Prize** **Engage Rural Women in the Fishing Communities to Increase Their Access to Clean Water, Adequate Sanitation and Improved Hygiene,**
Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda
- Second Prize** **Pan in the Van- Innovative Onsite Approach for Inclusive WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene),**
Energy Environment & Development Society Bhopal, India
- Third Prize** **Action: Jolodhara,**
CommunityAction, Bangladesh

CATEGORY **5. Sustainable Energy**

- First Prize** **Sustainable Energy & Income Generation RETs for Women,**
All India Women's Conference, India
- Second Prize** **Solar Sister: A Clean Energy Revolution Powered by African Women's Enterprise,**
Solar Sister, Uganda
- Third Prize** **Market Access to Clean Cook Stoves for Health and Wealth,**
Solar Cooker International East Africa, Kenya

1. Food Sovereignty

Joint first prize

Country: Republic of Guinea
Project: Mastery of Agro-Ecological Techniques and Hydro-Agriculture by Rural Women for Food Sovereignty in Guinea
Organisation: Guinean Association for Women's Burden Alleviating (GAWBA), Association Guinéenne pour l'Allègement des Charges Féminines (AGACFEM)
Representative: Kaba Djakagbe
Email: femrural@yahoo.fr



Food security, land tenure and schooling for women leads to increased empowerment of women in the Republic of Guinea

Agriculture is an activity which occupies all households in the Republic of Guinea, with women doing the bulk of the hands-on work along with their other chores. Despite this, they neither control the land use nor gain income from their crops. Because of the remoteness of the rural communities, access to credit and education is scarce, and illiteracy is widespread.

The Guinean Association for Women's Burden Alleviating set up a field school to pool rural women's knowledge and skills. They aimed to increase crop yields for the women by training them to master agroecological techniques such as soil fertility and preparation techniques, harvesting and drainage, crop rotation and increasing the use of organic fertilisers and manure. The women also received training in how to negotiate with landowners to obtain cultivation areas.

The original concept of the 'school yard training' was designed to help increase rice production through water control and crop rotation. This was developed into training on agroecological technology and then replicated through the grassroots groups. Two cereal banks were created to increase self-sufficiency and improve household food security.

Focusing on smaller growing areas (where previous large scale planting had become unmanageable) has enabled women to make the best use of their time, energy and financial input. The time spent

previously on doing agricultural work, the women could now spend in classes. In addition to the agroecological training, women had classes in civic and gender rights, family planning, literacy, hygiene, STD's and HIV/AIDS awareness and gender violence.

Rural women were involved in the project development work through appointing representatives (from the initial trainees) to the management committee to input on planning and training work. An added project benefit from the training was to empower women to speak out on issues in their communities.

A major challenge in the realisation of this project has been the women's illiteracy and lack of young women in the group. The solutions were to encourage the groups to identify younger women for training, and to strengthen the literacy program. Practical training in the 'field school in the slums' attracted more and more women. As a result, over 200 women had their level of literacy increased and seventy women went on to 'train the trainers'.

Women's groups from Sierra Leone have visited the project and wish to replicate the success. Mastering agroecological techniques helped the rural women in their fight against hunger by increasing crop yields and income, with an added benefit of raising greater awareness in relation to good sanitation, hygiene and cleaner production methods.

1. Food Sovereignty

Joint first prize

Country: Ecuador

Project: Organisational Strengthening and Rural Economies of the OMICSE

Organisation: Organisation of Indigenous and Peasant Women Planting Hope (Organización de Mujeres Indígenas y Campesinas Sembrando Esperanza (OMICSE))

Representative: María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa

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Ecuadorian traditional farming methods contribute to women's poverty reduction and awareness of the value of indigenous plants and seeds

The project works in 25 rural communities situated in the Cotopaxi province in the Cantons of Latacunga, Saquisilí, Pujilí and Sigchos, mostly accessible only by a dirt track road.

OMICSE comprises of 25 grassroots women's organisations reaching out to 2000 women of all ages and from a variety of cultural backgrounds. The 2,500 hectares of land owned by the women's organisations was divided into 3 hectare family plots. The women were given agricultural plots to run in conjunction with their families. Living at such high altitudes (ranging from 2,840 to 4,450 m a.s.l.) meant only 13% of the plots had irrigation water.

The project work was divided into two main areas of activity: improving agricultural output and increasing livestock production. Training was initiated on traditional farming techniques and advice provided on animal husbandry. The reinstatement of traditional Andean crops was encouraged due to their high nutrient levels. Seeds are sold and exchanged between the organisations which decreases market dependency and creates greater awareness of the value of seeds and recovery of ancestral varieties. Increased use of agroecological agriculture helped to strengthen solidarity between the organisations and had an added benefit in reducing chemical pollution through less use of crop treatments and pesticides.

Monthly monitoring field visits were conducted between the leaders of each of the women's grassroots organisations, the project managers, and the agricultural technicians and promoters.

A monitoring and evaluation congress is held every 2 years where development activities are undertaken and emerging issues are discussed. New areas of work are included in

the programme such as, waged a health campaign on deworming and increasing vitamin intake among the community's children.

The profitable production methods meant that part of the profit can be invested in savings banks and utilised to provide further credit in times of hardship or towards growing crops and children's education. Increasing consumer demand for organic products is capitalised on by organising fairs, where the farm based produce grown by the women's organisations is sold.

By raising awareness through various media stories and news pieces, the organisation managed to put pressure on the provincial government to establish a department of the environment to work on agroecological production.

The project contributes to poverty reduction, increasing gender equality including OMICSE women's rights, by supporting productive strategies to increase food sovereignty, while increasing women's leadership roles and participation in local and regional indigenous movements. It also contributes towards greater appreciation of traditional community knowledge which women have always had a crucial role in defining.

"The goal of OMICSE is to transform the current state power which is undemocratic and exclusionary, to build the new communities, collectives, which are egalitarian and intercultural. Our struggle is against capitalist political and ideological systems, repressing and enslaving impoverished people.

We call on all leaders, particularly women leaders to participate actively and creatively in solving the serious problems that beset us historically."

1. Food Sovereignty

Second prize

Country: South Africa

Project: Women Together in Development (WOTIDE)

Organisation: Land Access Movement of South Africa

Representative: Nokhanyo Mhlana

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Women create food gardens to increase food security

In Africa women produce 80% of the food consumed by households. 70% of Africa's 600 million people live rurally.

WOTIDE began after a door to door mapping exercise was carried out to determine the issues faced by the community. Women came together to mobilise others to get involved in dialogues with the local leaders and other stakeholders over rights, policy issues and delivery of basic services within the community.

LAMOSA arranged for WOTIDE members to attend a workshop on Strengthening the Capacity of Grassroots Women, where they gave a presentation and participated in a panel discussion. Two women now sit on the Tribal Council, which tries to solve issues arising within the community.

Training was provided in land rights and reform and how to lodge a complaint on getting back ancestral land. Post Settlement support was provided after land was acquired.

A campaign, 'Fight for the Food' was started where food gardens were created in yards, schools, clinics and community spaces to increase food security. Peer to peer learning allowed women to access training on permaculture design, and organic farming techniques.

Third prize

Country: India

Project: Challenging Food Insecurity through Collective Community Action by Rural Women of Kerala,

Organisation: Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement. (RASTA)

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Self help groups serve as a platform for economic, social and political empowerment of women

Since 1987, RASTA, a women run NGO, has been working in the Wayanda district of Kerala, addressing the problems faced by rural people, especially women. They specifically target issues such as: food security, rural unemployment, water and sanitation, conservation of ecosystems and health and decentralised governance.

Historic farming practices have led to large scale soil erosion. And the reckless use of agrochemicals for pests and plant diseases, has resulted in the pollution of the region's air, soil and water. Cancer incidence is now on the rise. Cash crops have replaced subsistence farming practices, leading to mono-cropping. Once self-sufficient, the region now has to depend on neighbouring states to meet its essential vegetable, grain and fruit needs.

RASTA began a campaign to mobilise rural tribal women to form "Thrift and Credit groups". Later these developed into "Self Help Groups" which spread to involve 1200 families living in poverty. The SHGs organised and facilitated seed exchange meets; mushroom and tuber crop cultivation; and the revival of rice crops. Animal husbandry was enabled through small loans to purchase cattle, and chickens were distributed to encourage poultry rearing. New agricultural methods of composting and organic farming were introduced in conjunction with habitat restoration programmes and biodiversity conservation.

The mobilisation of women in the SHGs has served as a platform for social, economic and political empowerment of women, leading to the implementation of activities ranging from ensuring regional food security, to enhancing the purchasing power of marginalised people through appropriate environmental activities.



2. Climate Adaptation

First prize

Country: Guatemala

Project: Risk and Vulnerability Mapping, Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Implementation of Resilience Practices

Organisation: Mayan Women Coordinator for Integrated Development (Coordinadora Integral de Desarrollo de Mujeres Mayas) CODIMM

Representative: Ruth Serech Icu

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Resilience to climate change in Guatemala involves mapping of risks, and clever women's sustainable agriculture system to adapt to the increase of floodings

Guatemala's location between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean makes it a disaster prone country because of the threats from hurricanes and tropical storms. These disasters bring death and much damage as a result of the ensuing flooding and mudslides which carry away crucial crops and soil. These natural disasters are getting worse with increasing climate change.

CODIMM works with the leading grassroots women's group from the communities of San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango; mapping and identifying community resilience strategies to prepare, respond and recover from disasters.

The main goal of the mapping process is to involve grassroots women in highlighting areas of risk and vulnerability, and identifying those most prone to natural disasters in their communities. The idea is to create a network of such communities throughout the entire Latin American region.

The project wants to increase the capacity for disaster management, and to put in place early warning systems for the communities. The maps would serve as advocacy tools to lobby local and national authorities to call for better management of disaster risks.

The initial training for the mapping process was performed in coordination with Fundación Guatemala (GROOTS International / Huairou Commission). It began with defining the terminology and resilience practices. The 'mapeadoras' then explored the different communities, identifying the threats and vulnerabilities which in future may contribute to the occurrence of disasters like flooding and mudslides. The final day was spent drawing the maps and identifying the best suited resilience practices.

The resilience practice identified for Chimaltenango (a lowland region of the country) was planting vegetables in 'table beds' or '(hanging) terraces'. The vegetables could be used both for household consumption and be sold to generate a small income. The 'table beds' were constructed using an elevated box frame

raised roughly 1m above the ground, and covered in black plastic. This bed was filled with organic compost, and holes made for irrigation. The frame could be covered with transparent plastic when it rains. The height and covering protects crops from attack by animals, pests and flooding.

Fifty 'table beds' were developed by the Chimaltenango women as a pilot project which generated food security and gave them access to familiar crops without the risk of flooding. In addition, several groups learned to build on their resilience by initiating a seed bank. Tools and seeds that were used for training were raffled among the grassroots women.

As a result of this project, a task force of women has been developed in 30 communities in San Juan Comalapa, alerting the rest of the groups in the Resilience Network of Guatemala during the Agatha Tropical Storm.

Several of the women 'mapeadoras' went on to train in emergency response, prevention and disaster recovery. The practice of 'table beds' was replicated from the experiences of the Union of Cooperatives of Women Producers (Les Brumas), Nicaragua, who are part of the same network as CODIMM.

The San Juan Comalapa women's group expressed their thanks and surprise at receiving the award, and extended their gratitude to all those who have supported their work. They reflected on how difficult it is to get recognition for the work of indigenous women.

They hope for greater awareness of the importance of the Rio +20 Summit, to extend the work for and with women, especially in indigenous areas, where there are more natural disasters. They want the leaders attending Rio+20 to provide more support for grassroots women to expand their work because of the importance in creating space and opportunities to work locally, nationally and internationally.



2. Climate Adaptation

Second prize

Country: Benin

Project: Project to Support Sustainable Management and Conservation of the Mangroves of the Gbaga Channel in Benin

Organisation: ECO - ECOLO

Representative: Claudia Amegankpoe

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Women lead on Mangrove reforestation

The degradation of mangrove forests in Benin is mainly caused by climate change, leading to lower water levels, draughts, but also floods. Yet local communities have to rely on the mangrove resources for survival, thus involuntarily making the problem worse.

The project, located at Benin Gbaga channel tackles the lack of adaptation strategies for these problems. It aims at conservation of mangrove biodiversity to reduce poverty and improve living conditions for the local communities. The project especially focuses on women's needs and strengths, as women face more barriers than men in accessing and controlling the resources, which contributes to their impoverishment.

The main activities were the establishment of economic centres for women, education on the possibilities of using solar energy, restoring wildlife habitat areas by reforesting shores and promoting environmental education in schools. So far 200 women have benefited from the programme, 1ha of mangrove shores were reforested by women (10,000 Plants) and 50 girls participated in the environmental education programmes. This project is part of a South - South exchange of good practices and knowledge sharing between Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica, which resulted from the Rio 1992 Earth Summit, and continues successfully today.

Third prize

Country: Uzbekistan

Project: Promotion of Opportunities for Mountain Women's Adaptation to Climate Change.

An Intergated Approach at the Local Level

Organisation: Women of Mountains Group (WMG)

Representative: Nadejda Vakhitova

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Mountain's are good 'barometers' of climate change reflect women from mountain communities

Mountains can be classed as the 'barometers' of global climate change. And those living in mountain communities are often the first to face the effects of climate change. The WMG group aims to create a sustainable mechanism for training and counselling of women on the reduction of impacts and adaptation to climate change.

In the mountain communities of Uzbekistan, both men and women do agricultural work, but domestic chores are mostly carried out by women. The impacts of climate change have meant increasingly men have to migrate to look for work outside the villages. This means women are faced with the added burden of having to take on more of the agricultural work as well as their usual chores. Fewer resources made scarcer by climate stress means journeys to find water, gather firewood, forage for cattle and even to get food, are taking longer.

A case study was carried out which looked at identifying climate change factors such as drought, mudslides, avalanches, and floods, and their impact on income, health etc. The study analysed existing methods of mountain populations' adaptation to climate change. It found that as a rule, women don't participate in decision making processes on climate change and are not represented in local authorities. WMG believes that involving women in the decision making process and the active discussions about local budgets can contribute to solving most of the problems. Building on the training, they hope to establish Climate Change Adaptation centres which would provide training and counselling on the issues of climate change reduction and adaptation. Two documentary films have been made by the group, "Life in the Clouds" and "Adaptation".

3. Decent Jobs & Health

First prize

Country: Brazil
Project: Recyclers for Life (Catadores da Vida)
Organisation: Cooperativa Recycling to Live (Cooperativa Reciclando para Viver) (RPV)
Representative: Claudete Da Costa Ferreira
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Brazilian woman recycler organises street waste pickers in cooperatives, improving health and safety conditions and making sure their children all go to school

For the last 22 years Claudete has worked as a recycler on the streets of Rio de Janeiro. Her mother was also a recycler.

Ironically although society creates the waste these recyclers shift through to make a living, they face discrimination and are viewed as 'dirty' by society as they work with garbage on the streets of Rio. Yet Recyclers provide a vital function and contribute to sustainable development while gaining a small income from their work.

In 2001 Claudete attended a life changing leadership course with the IBISS (Instituto Brasileiro de Inovações Em Saúde Social). She now works as a leader for Recyclers for Life, which is a project initiated in 2001 by the recyclers themselves, in conjunction with IBISS. The project supports 101 recyclers (of which 25 are women) aged 18 and over, who work with recycling material on the streets in the centre of Rio de Janeiro.

Recyclers for Life is a cooperative which aims to get recognition, dignity and respect for recyclers and support from the government and municipality for better working conditions including access to health care and education. The project offers help to recyclers by accompanying them on visits to the doctor and in getting official documentation. It urges them to finish their education and organises meetings and festivals for recyclers, both regionally and nationally.

Recyclers for Life organises proper covered places for the recyclers to work in, with toilets, a canteen and an office. Six more covered working places are planned in the next 2 years. Machines for compressing the recyclable material are provided with trolleys to carry heavy loads. Protective equipment is made available in the form of gloves and masks.

Working with recyclable material makes recyclers more prone to diseases, like tuberculosis and skin disease.

The project has been successful in getting 98% of the recyclers to complete citizenship documentation, and 50% of the recyclers are either already working in the cooperative or aim to join in the near future, when the covered working places will be finished in October. The recycler's children have access to better education and are now all in school.

The recyclers themselves feel a growing pride in the work they do and are aware of their rights as both a citizen and a worker. The project has worked hard to ensure the recyclers are treated fairly and with the respect and dignity they deserve. In the future, the aim for the project is for better organised and segregated waste collection from homes and companies in Rio.

Claudete said on hearing about the prize: "I was very happy, but at the same time I just couldn't believe that I was actually winning this prize. With this award a lot of doors can be opened for me and the recyclers: we get recognition and valorisation for our work. For me, being a black woman, living in Cidade de Deus, mother of 3 children, another dream just became reality. That's why I believe in what I do!"

Her message to the world leaders is: "If I could say something to the world leaders at this conference, I would repeat the words of my colleague recycler Wanderson: "Não me trata como lixo, sou trabalhador assim como vocês" (Don't treat me like waste, I am a worker just like you.) And I would ask the leaders to respect and believe in everybody equally and to act on what they promise to the people. Thank you!"

3. Decent Jobs & Health



Second prize

Country: Vietnam
Project: Traditional Community Health Care for Ethnic Minorities in the Northern Region of Vietnam
Organisation: The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development- SRD Trung tam Phat trien Nong thon Ben vung
Representative: Nguyen Thi Phuong Nga
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Website: www.srd.org.vn

Third prize

Country: Morocco
Project: Protecting women's cooperatives for jobs, biodiversity, health and climate
Organisation: Mohammed VI Foundation for Research and Preservation of the Argan Tree. (Fondation Mohammed VI Pour La Recherche et La Sauvegarde De L'Arganier)
Representative: Mme Katim Alaoui
Email: alaouikma@yahoo.fr

Medicinal plants help to heal and create sustainable income for women living in poverty

In Vietnam, the utilisation of Medicinal Plants (MPs) by people living in poverty in mountainous areas is the main method of disease treatment. Increased usage of MPs in primary health care in Vietnam has led to greater demand for these plants.

Some promising results have been achieved in treating disease, by using a combination of modern and traditional health care.

However, valuable traditional remedies and precious MPs are disappearing because of over exploitation by local villagers and a lack of recorded information about the traditional remedies. Native healers are reluctant to openly share and pass on their knowledge of collection and usage of MPs, to those who are not relatives.

The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development's project works with the Thai and Dao people living in the Yen Bai province, facilitating conservation and sustainability of indigenous plants and traditional remedies (for primary community health care and social economy). The project facilitates ethnic women farmers to increase their income through the sustainable exploitation of these indigenous MPs.

Currently, many people living in poverty survive on collecting MPs and Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as bamboo, essential oils and resins. The project supports planting of MPs in forest gardens and encourages documentation of the remedies for posterity, national identity and conservation of indigenous knowledge.

Oil from ancient Argan trees managed by women's cooperatives supports local economy and protects against deforestation

The Argan tree is native to Morocco growing to a height of 10m and living up to 200 years. Argan nut oil is rich in fatty acids, it forms part of the traditional diet and is used in cosmetics. But it has been severely threatened by overexploitation and deforestation (600 hectares are lost each year).

This development is, on the one hand, a threat to the environment (loss of root systems and biodiversity) but also a socioeconomic one, since 3 million Moroccans depend on Argan oil production as a primary source of income. The degradation of Argan trees has made it increasingly difficult for women's cooperatives to survive as they are the ones traditionally responsible in caring for the trees and for the production of the oil.

The Foundation's project takes an integrated approach by promoting women's education and capacity building to improve the management of women cooperatives, as well as getting legal protection through the establishment of a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for Moroccan Argan oil and all products specific to Morocco. The PGI designation identifies products from a specific region as having unique properties and signals to consumers that they meet stringent standards. It can also help protect traditional knowledge and promote producers' collective rights. Reforestation of Argan trees contributes both to protection of the natural balance and biodiversity.

There is a large social and gender dimension to the project, as the women cooperatives' benefits are shared with all members of the cooperative, promoting local production and saving women's jobs.

4. Water and Sanitation



First prize

Country: Uganda

Project: Engage Rural Women in the Fishing Communities to Increase Their Access to Clean Water, Adequate Sanitation and Improved Hygiene

Organisation: Katosi Women Development Trust

Representative: Rehema Bavuma Namaganda

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Website: www.katosi.org

New, affordable and sustainable water and sanitation facilities become a reality for women of the fishing communities around Lake Victoria, Uganda, whilst protecting the lake on which their livelihoods depend

It was during an initial meeting of the Katosi Women Development Trust (KWDT) that one of their members, Najjum, began crying and explained she was being harassed by local leaders for having poor toilet facilities. She felt this was unfair because at least she had a toilet, many of her neighbours did not.

KWDT did a survey and realised that poor sanitation facilities and lack of access to water sources were a huge problem for their members. Many had to walk long distances for less than clean water and there was very limited knowledge of good hygiene practices in the multi-cultural community.

The Trust works with the fishing communities around Lake Victoria which are characterised by poor sanitation and hygiene and a lack of access to clean, safe water. The communities largely depend on the lake water and other open water sources which have been contaminated due to the fact that the high water table and rocky grounds are not suitable for the construction of sanitation facilities.

The project supported the creation of seed funding to increase access to clean and safe water in households through investing in rain water harvesting tanks and construction of ventilated pit latrines to improve sanitation. Those women who benefited initially paid back to the funding pool in agreed and affordable instalments to allow secondary beneficiaries to access the same facilities over time. The initial beneficiaries were involved in deciding on who subsequently received the funding.

New affordable technologies have been introduced in rural communities such as eco-san toilets and bio sand water filters. Women have attended 'train the trainers' sessions to improve and influence behavioural change in relation to hygiene and sanitation. Training is also given on record keeping, leadership skills, and group dynamics. For each community water source

there is a water user committee, trained and co-managed by KWDT women's groups.

To date, the KWDT women have managed to provide 201 households and 21 schools with access to clean safe water through rain water harvesting tanks. Forty one villages access water from protected sources and 77 households have been supported in acquiring sanitation facilities. Twelve bio sand water filters have been fitted to both schools and households, benefiting over 29,283 people. The project helps develop income streams through greater access to clean water for crop growing, animal husbandry and from the construction of the tanks.

Successful project indicators have been the reduction of water related diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid in the fishing communities especially among the children. To date there is a network of 16 KWDT women's groups with a membership of 365 women who share resources, skills and knowledge building capacity for women to engage in decision making, and to take up leadership roles in their communities.

"KWDT is so excited about winning the Women Rio+20 award, women members of KWDT greatly deserve the prize. Their efforts and the spirit of sacrifice have enabled us to witness a huge transformation within the fishing community in water and sanitation practices."

"The prize recognises the role and importance of engaging women in addressing water and sanitation issues. We are hopeful it brings to the attention of the decision makers the key role women need to play in decisions regarding access to water and adequate sanitation. Women all over the world are the ones most burdened by lack of water and adequate sanitation. The KWDT initiative demonstrates that an empowered woman can transform her life and that of her community."

4. Water and Sanitation

Second prize

Country: India

Project: Pan in the Van- Innovative Onsite Approach for Inclusive WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene)

Organisation: Energy Environment & Development Society Bhopal

Representative: Ms. Ashu Saxena

Email: eedsngo@gmail.com

Women create greater awareness about water, sanitation and hygiene issues

Addressing water, sanitation and hygiene issues is enshrined in the Millennium Development Goals. Lack of basic sanitation affects women and girls in specific ways, often meaning they have to walk more than 300m from their homes to use open areas or available latrines. This can cause particular problems especially during menstruation. Many unsuccessful sanitation projects have shown that a key factor of success is not the technical system, but the first important step which is, to create awareness and knowledge about the need and benefits of safe and sustainable sanitation. For this process, women are essential as multipliers and educators.

EEDS has invented a new approach to strengthen behavioural change for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the form of WASH programmes in communities and schools. Pan in the Van is a mobile unit equipped with various community friendly training materials, models of sanitation facilities and toilets, and onsite demonstrations of the production of items related to rural toilets.

The initial phase of the WASH programme looks at collecting baseline information to understand the target groups and the local situation, information is collected by a team who visits the Panchayat which is the smallest area of local self-governance in rural India consisting of 400-500 families.

The team runs a three to five day camp in the Panchayats from which local Water and Sanitation governance committees are set up. Action plans on water and sanitation are prepared and monitoring visits check their progress after start up. So far EEDS has undertaken 100 of these camps.

This mobile method of training has demonstrated effective behavioural change communication results, while also addressing the key issues (such as governance, capacity building, and technology). As a result WASH parameters are improved substantially in 80 Panchayats, reaching over 160,000 thousand women, men and children.

Third prize

Country: Bangladesh

Project: Action: Jolodhara

Organisation: CommunityAction

Representative: Armin Khan

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Water wells on higher ground help save the lives of thousands of women and children after floods

Surprisingly, the real cause of death in Bangladesh is not from natural disasters themselves, but from the aftermath with the health impact from things like water borne diseases. Over 20% children under 5 years die as a result of diarrhoea, arising from lack of fresh drinking water. That is 69,000 avoidable child deaths each year.

CommunityAction aims to create sources of fresh drinking water that will not get destroyed in the event of a natural disaster and make sure these sources are available to communities at such times.

CA builds community wells on high ground, above 4 feet, which is the highest flood water has reached in Bangladesh. So far 83 tube wells have been built across northern and southern regions, giving 60,000 people access to clean water in these areas.

The wells are run by the community who sign a contract that they will maintain the wells and give free access to all needing drinking water after a flood. The project was initiated, managed and supervised by an all-women team and governing board and implemented by a group of volunteer students of engineering. The project is highly replicable as the cost of installing the wells was less than \$7,000 USD.



5. Sustainable Energy

First prize

Country: India
Project: Sustainable Energy & Income Generation RETs for Women
Organisation: All India Women's Conference
Representative: Ms Kalyani Raj
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Rural Energy Technologies such as solar-food drying create income for women living in poverty in India

Renewable and alternative sources of energy are crucial for the way we counteract climate change. These are also an economic and sustainable solution to the growing demand for energy.

In India, like in other countries, women and children are the ones most affected by floods, cyclones, drought and other climate change related disasters. Of the 1.3 billion people who live in poverty, 70% are women and one third of those households are headed by women. Solar energy has the potential to be a sustainable and effective source of energy for those in need. It can also generate income through selling related skills or renting devices.

AIWC has been involved in Rural Energy Technologies (RETs) for the last 28 years. Initially through their work with National Program for Improving Chulha 'wood stoves' and on a number of renewable energy programs such as: training women in the construction of chulha stoves; bio-gas units and the installation of solar photovoltaic lighting programmes and vermicomposting units.

They now implement RET's projects in almost all the Indian states through their 550 branches. The solar energy devices covered range from solar parabolic cookers to lanterns; charging stations and solar heaters and dryers for fruit, vegetables and condiments.

One of the main drawbacks when using solar energy at a local level is the lack of proper knowledge and skills for installation, repair and maintenance of devices which have the potential to change lives. AIWC has devised a training methodology for women (self help groups) and teenagers where they attend a month long training programme. The programme covers how to do an initial survey, installation, maintenance and assembly of the devices including solar lanterns, home lighting systems, and

the putting together of parabolic cookers.

The general public is informed and educated about these solar devices through Solar Fairs which are regularly organised throughout India. Green technologies are demonstrated, and information provided on how the public can not only minimise the hazards of climate change but also generate income.

Over the last 20 years, AIWC has spent US \$2,000,000 on various RET's projects. They have recently installed two solar charging stations and a solar operated water purifier in resettlement colonies near Delhi. Through local training and awareness raising programmes on RETs, they were able to identify two roof top sites for the stations and charger. Demonstration of a home lighting system at the site led to solar lanterns being rented out to local street vendors at a nominal charge.

Solar energy projects are easily replicated to other countries and communities. The Centre for Rural Technologies in Nepal has replicated the solar dryer project. Less than 2% of the Nepal's horticultural products are processed, unlike countries like Thailand and the Philippines which process more than 70% of their produce. Projects like the solar drying of food can be a good income generator for women living in poverty as a micro enterprise.

"The AIWC is honoured to receive this Award which will encourage the organisation and all of the volunteers to put greater efforts in the unending quest for sustainable development. We would urge the world leaders assembled at Rio+20 to fully recognise and take concrete steps to facilitate bringing all women into the energy mainstream, without which it will be difficult to make any tangible and lasting progress".

5. Sustainable Energy

Second prize

Country: Uganda
Project: Solar Sister: A Clean Energy Revolution Powered by African Women's Enterprise
Organisation: Solar Sister
Representative: Katherine Lucey
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Website: www.solarsister.org



Solar Sister helps women generate income from sustainable energy sources

The founding story of Solar Sister is that of Rebecca, a rural farmer from Mpigi, Uganda. Rebecca knew that chickens only eat when they can see, so she put a solar light into the chicken coop to encourage the chickens to eat more and become healthy. Through selling healthy chickens, Rebecca saved enough money to buy seeds, a goat and even a cow. Eventually she was able to buy a farm and a school to teach children to read and write.

Solar Sister started by training ten women in 2009. Today, there are 143 Solar Sister entrepreneurs in Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan bringing the benefits of solar power to more than 17,000 Africans. The initiative has been replicated in three countries across Africa.

The model can be adapted to other energy products such as cooking stoves and illustrates how sustainable energy sources can be provided to rural communities by low income women. The project equips women with a 'business in a bag', a start-up inventory of portable solar lights, mobile phone and radio charging solutions, training, on-going mentoring and marketing support to launch their micro-solar businesses.

The project is building a gender inclusive and market based grassroots green economy. So far, Solar Sister have brought the benefits of solar technology to over 17,000 Africans while mitigating 5251 tonnes of CO₂ emissions and the displacing of 2 million litres of kerosene use.

Third prize

Country: Kenya
Project: Market Access to Clean Cook Stoves for Health and Wealth
Organisation: Solar Cooker International East Africa
Representative: Margaret C.A. Owino
Email: maggyapondi@yahoo.com

Clean solar energy generates income for women, and reduces exposure to indoor air pollution

Solar cookers are a good way to reduce indoor air pollution. The Solar Cooker International East Africa project targets women groups and links clean cooking energy technology, with women's entrepreneurship development, and has demonstrated health impacts from reducing indoor air pollution.

So far, forty five women have been involved in training as installers and sellers of solar cookers, retained heat cookers, upesi stoves and solar lamps. They earn commission by stocking and installing the stoves in designated locations.

The project has built partnerships with institutions and government departments so as to access the community and gain acceptance. It works closely with the community in a participatory manner, creating linkages that could grow incomes through micro-financing and table banking. Public demonstrations raise awareness and talks to schools and institutions increase the sale of the solar interventions.

Successful outcomes from the project have been the reducing in the use of biomass for cooking which increase indoor air quality and help reduce deforestation through less need for timber and charcoal fuel sources. One of the unforeseen added benefits from using cleaner cooking technology and new kitchen designs, is that it has provided an incentive for men to be in the kitchen which improves family bonding.

Women's self-confidence and esteem have been increased by being able to choose cooking technologies. The stove project has enabled them to save money, and have control over their own money and bank accounts, while being able to pay school fees, buy livestock and even furniture that hitherto were considered a male preserve. Other NGOs have taken up the approach used by SCI but the level of scale up is still in its initial stages.

Women's Rio+20 good practice award winners

This brochure presents the six winning initiatives of the Women Rio+20 Good Practice Award. The awards aim to show-case sustainable development projects by women from developing countries. We hope they will inspire replication by women and men around the world:

- Food security leads to increased empowerment of women in the Republic of Guinea.
- Ecuadorian traditional farming methods contribute to women's poverty reduction.
- Resilience to climate change in Guatemala involves clever women's sustainable agriculture system.
- Brazilian woman recycler asks "Don't treat me like waste, I am a worker just like you".
- New, affordable and sustainable water and sanitation facilities become a reality for women of the fishing communities around Lake Victoria.
- Rural Energy Technologies create income for women living in poverty in India.

Organisers

The Women Rio+20 Good Practice Award is organised by WECF e.V. Germany, which is part of – Women in Europe for a Common Future / WICF Women International for a Common Future. WECF is one of the organising partners for the Women's Major Group for Rio+20 and serves as liaison between the United Nations secretariat and all the civil society organisations worldwide working on women, environment, development and gender equality issues. The women's major group is comprised of over 200 organisations and individuals from 80 countries.

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WECF is co-organising the Women Rio+20 Award in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP, and the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment (NWMLE), as well as the core group of the Women Rio+20 Steering Committee, including; Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA), Global Forest Coalition (GFC), Voices of African Mothers (VAM) and Women's Environment Development Organisation (WEDO).

International Selection Committee

An international selection committee¹ representing women's networks across the thematic areas of relevance to the Rio+20 process has volunteered to assure an equitable and balanced selection process.

Funders

The Women Rio+20 Good Practice award is funded with financial support by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported through GIZ's programme "Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights".

Imprint

The viewpoints expressed in this publication are limited to and the responsibility of the main organiser WECF.

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This Brochure can be downloaded at: www.wecf.eu/english/publications/2012/womenrioplus20-goodpracticeaward.php

¹ The international selection committee includes: Articulación de Mujeres Brasileras, Asian Women Network on Gender and Development, DAWN, ENERGIA, Global Forest Coalition, groupe genre et développement soutenable / Rio + 20, Huairou Commission, Red de Educación Popular Entre Mujeres (REPEM), VAM, WECF, WEDO and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and NRM (WOCAN).

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Women Creating a Sustainable Future