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WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Dilorom Fayzieva,
Delegate of the Legislative House of
Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In the recent years, our country is undertaking enormous effort to improve living conditions of the rural population. New living quarters are constructed, where houses of standard design have all necessary conditions for decent life of women and organization of household activities is provisioned. These conditions would lay a foundation for women health and wellbeing, helping their career development and relieving them from household duties occupying most of their time so they could engage in socially beneficial activities.

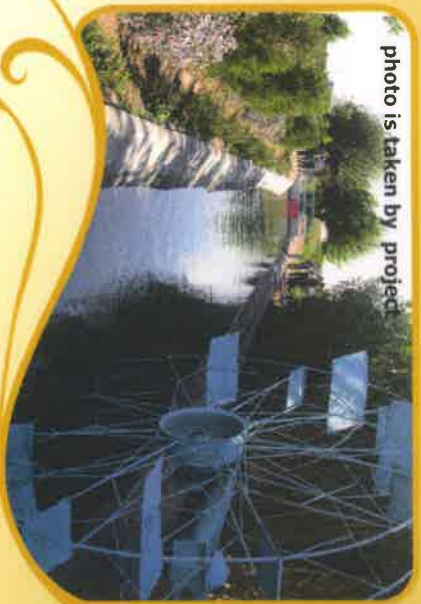


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Dilorom Fayzieva,
 Delegate of the Legislative House of
 Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

—What are the priority areas for the state policy on women in Uzbekistan? Which areas, at your opinion, require special attention?

—Uzbekistan is a member state of the UN Convention «On elimination of all forms of women discrimination». Our country assumed all the responsibilities towards ensuring equality of men and women in the political, business, social and cultural areas of the society's life. Our country undertakes important large-scale efforts aimed at ensuring legal, economic and social protection of maternity and childhood and creation of pre-requisites for improved social stature and welfare for women, as well as their involvement in reformation of all the aspects of public life. At my opinion, special attention today is needed for the issues of women employment and capacity building. Since most of the population of our country lives in rural areas, it is especially important to provide employment opportunities for rural women. I believe that development of farming business among women would serve as a good foundation for rural development. Besides that, there are various types of home employment for women occupied by their households. As of today, there is a high demand for qualified teachers, kindergarteners, medical and social workers in the rural areas.

—Recently, on 15 October, we celebrated the International rural women's day proclaimed by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 2007. What is the significance of this day for you?

—I believe that this is one of examples that the world public once again highlights significance of

the issues related to life and activities of rural women, who provide the country and, in particular, us, the city dwellers, with food and clothes, while carrying the burden of everyday work. At the same time, they are modest laborers and kind and loving mothers to their sons and daughters, rising the new generation that would define our common future. I believe that this day is of high significance, since it once again underlines the necessity of practical actions to improve rural women's living conditions, including their working and living conditions while at the same time ensuring clean environment as foundation of their health and well-being. In the recent years, our country is undertaking enormous effort to improve living conditions of the rural population. New living quarters are constructed, where houses of standard design have all necessary conditions for decent life of women and organization of household activities is provisioned. These conditions would lay a foundation for women health and wellbeing, helping their career development and relieving them from household duties occupying most of their time so they could engage in socially beneficial activities.

—We know that you are well aware of the role of our women in rural development, because in childhood, you lived in a rural area. How do you think is it important to have equal participation of men and women in the water resource management?

—Yes indeed, during my childhood, in 60-70's, I often spent school holidays in the village with my grandpa and grandma. I had to study for two years in a rural school when my parents went on a long business trip. I worked at their home and did the daily rounds, bringing water from far away together with my peers, because there was no water conduit in the house. Thus, being a girl that was born and grew up in the center of Tashkent, I witnessed the heavy living conditions of rural women. Even teachers and doctors, rural women, along with the other, carry the responsibility for raising children, cooking and cleaning the house, but also do the household duties, work in gardens and household plots, care after the livestock, etc., on an equality with men. In the course of my scientific and practical, as well as professional activities, while visiting different regions of our

15 OCTOBER International DAY for rural women

Gaukhar Kudayberganova
Training, Education and
Outreach Specialist

Of course, private water supply conditions in the rural areas are much different from the city. Besides utility and household use, water is needed for agricultural activities of various scale and types. As women work on equality with men, they also have the same rights not only to simply access the water, but also to manage water resources. This is becoming increasingly important because today women, being managers, farmers or ordinary rural workers, should take real part in making decisions on various issues of water resource management as a full-fledged member of society. This is especially relevant considering that policies of our country provide all possible support and encouragement to women initiatives and responsibilities.

—What wishes would you like to convey to readers of the bulletin?

I assume that this bulletin is primarily targeted at rural women. Being a member of the Legislative House of Oliy Majlis delegated by Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan representing experts in ecology and health, I would like to wish all, and especially rural women, to have good environment, which is something human health is much dependent of. I wish that they would always be successful in their good endeavors and active in all areas of social life, including the issues of management and use of water resources required to ensure sustainable development of our country for the sake of future



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International Rural Women's Day takes place each year on the 15th October. This day reminds us about invaluable contribution of rural women to our well being and acknowledging their work for families and society. The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008. This new international day, established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 62/136 of 18 December 2007, was being observed to highlight the role played by rural women in food production and food security. It is essential to note that supporting women and protecting their rights and interests are priorities of the state policy of Uzbekistan. Since legislative documents assigned on the equality of men and women, created favorable conditions for both of them in order to integrate within the society. Furthermore, the Government has adopted special state programs and initiatives for enhancing women's role in governance and their capacity development.

Rakhima is a rural woman from "Mekhnatkash" village of Pastdargom district in Samarqand province. She owns a fruit garden with 60 apple trees and also cherry, peach, walnut, fig, pomegranate and grapes. "I am very proud of my garden," she says. Unfortunately, Rakhima has been facing the decrease in fruit yield due to water stress over the last several years.

The Integrated Water Resource Management and Water Efficiency Plan for Zarafshan River Basin (IWRM) project is planning to rehabilitate a pumping station "Mekhnatobod-3", which provides water for irrigation needs for farmers, villages, including "Mekhnatkash" village. The renovated pumping station will be able to provide

SAFE DRINKING WATER COMES TO CANAL YOQA VILLAGE



photo is taken by project

adequate quantities of water to all users. Rakhima along with many other rural women will get an opportunity to increase productivity of their gardens and ensure well being of their families.

A pilot project on provision of sustainable water supply in Nurobod community of Samarkand district with population of 1,185 people, or about 275 households, is the next initiative of the IWRM project aimed at improving well being of rural women. The active involvement of all stakeholders in construction, operation and further development of the community water supply system will ensure sustainable development of water supply in the rural area.

A new mini-project named 'Community water stewardship to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in the Zarafshan River Basin' as a part of IWRM project is supported by the "Every Drop Matters-II" Regional Water Partnership Initiative, which is a joint effort by UNDP and Coca-Cola Eurasia Group. The mini-project will help with the construction of a sustainable water supply system that will provide safe drinking water for rural women and their families living in Kanal Yoqa village in Samarkand province. Among other activities, the project aims to empower rural women to improve their socioeconomic position and participation through their involvement in community water management activities. Concerning their dreams of the future, rural women desire to improve their access to health services, to promote women's entrepreneurship as well as to enhance the capacity of young rural women.



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The diligence of Uzbek women has been extolled by the greatest poets of Uzbek literature. In the rural areas they are extensively involved in agricultural activities: cultivating the land, harvesting and raising stock. Each apple, fig or pomegranate contains the essence of women's work and diligence. Nature bestows us richly with plentiful harvests of agricultural products due to the labor invested by women. Rural women in Uzbekistan, as well as all over the world, play a major role in ensuring food security.

SAFE DRINKING WATER COMES TO CANAL YOQA VILLAGE

Gaukhar Kudayberganova,
Training, Education and
Outreach Specialist

Why is water so important? Water and sanitation, including basic services, not only contribute to better health but also to the environment and poverty reduction.

The Integrated Water Resource Management and Water Efficiency Plan for Zarafshan River Basin (IWRM) project took part in the "Every Drop Matters-II" Regional Water Partnership Initiative,



photo is taken by project

washing and other needs. Lack of safe drinking water negatively impacts health and the well being of the local population and hence water is a priority. The project will help with the construction of a sustainable water supply system that will provide safe drinking water. People in the community showed interest in taking part in the implementation of the project from the first day.

To learn more on the community needs together with the villagers UNDP reviewed the existing social, economical, environmental and gender dimensions of Kanal Yoga community. To discuss the findings and come up with an action plan for the construction of the water supply system, the community together with UNDP organized a meeting, where Mr. Islom Ne'matov, who is 90 years old and is the eldest

The 'Community water stewardship to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in the Zarafshan River Basin' mini-project is made possible thanks to the efforts of the IWRM project. The mini-project will pilot community-based safe drinking water and sanitation strategies to extract lessons learned which will be taken into consideration during the IWRM plan development for Zarafshan River Basin.

which is a joint effort by UNDP and Coca-Cola Eurasia Group. The initiative supports projects that contribute to inclusive community-based water management and adaptation to climate change. The proposal on community water stewardship to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation submitted by the IWRM received funding in the amount of USD 74,970. The funding laid foundation to a new mini-project named 'Community water stewardship to increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in the Zarafshan River Basin'.

The mini-project will pilot rural community-based safe drinking water and sanitation models in the Kanal Yoga village, which is located in Pastdargom district of Samarkand region on the bank of Eski Anchor Canal. Kanal Yoga is home to 776 people and 150 households with almost half of the population either 18 year old dependents or older than 60 years.

Women from the Kanal Yoga village use water from homemade wells for drinking, cooking,



photo is taken by project

community member, also, took part. Through community mobilization UNDP makes sure that every voice is heard. To make sure that the water system operates and is sustained UNDP will help to establish the Rural Drinking Water Consumers Association. Women will play a major role in managing the water supply system and through this initiative they will also gain invaluable experience in managing and maintaining a vital water supply system through their own efforts. Successful implementation of the project will mean better health and living standards not only for people living in Kanal Yoga but also for the additional 5 neighbouring communities.

With lessons learned and best practices the Kanal Yoga experience will be scaled-up to the Zarafshan River Basin with the efforts of the IWRM project.

WATER

is our common concern,
our future hope and
our life

Natalya Shivaldova
Communications Specialist
of the IWRM Team on development of Training,
Education and Outreach strategy
LLC Info Capital Group

A business trip to Pastdargom district of Samarkand oblast and Karmana district of Navoi oblast coincided with the peak of cotton harvesting. Despite low-water year the dekhkans, through hard labour, succeeded in growing a rich yield. Then, the main objective was to harvest as much as possible before rainy days. It looked like all the attention and effort these days were focused on cotton harvesting only. Yet sympathy and warmth demonstrated by representatives of the district khokimiyats who welcomed strategy development team dealing with IWRM project formulation that arrived from Tashkent was a hard proof of local hospitality and high responsibility.

In a very short time, we were to meet with many people living in the project area in Zarafshan river basin. A colorful mosaic of faces and personalities, huge amount of information, analysis and analytics ...

I produce short write-ups as we talk, recording interesting phrases and thoughts focusing the attention on women role in sustainable water resource management. A well-known fact that fresh water is a valuable and limited resource. Women knowledge and skills are important for effective and sustainable water management, since women traditionally are resource managers, keepers of their families' wellbeing and family members' health.

In the khokimiyat of Pastdargom district, Samarkand oblast, visitors from Tashkent were captured under the wing of Ziyoda Ishmuradova, who gathered a huge audience for us and thus demonstrated her excellent organizational skills. In the morning, in the large and sunlit conference hall of the district khokimiyat we were welcomed by representatives of education and health care system, mass media, Vodocanal and WUAs, farmers, civil society organizations and activists of the nearby makhallas. Under the careful control of Ziyoda Isrolova, we took a trip into cotton fields, tried a nutritious shurpa soup,

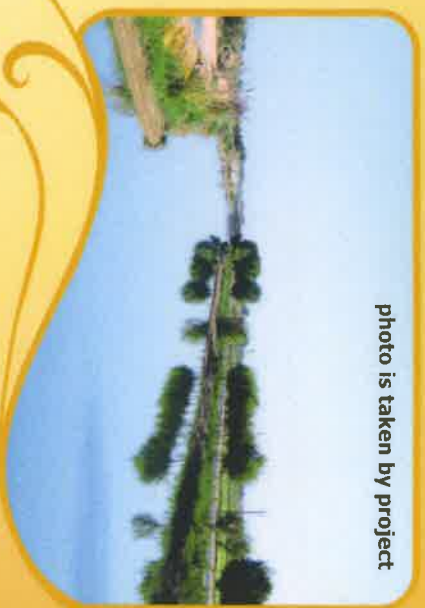


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visited the new city recreation park, but most importantly, were able to complete all the necessary activities on time. **Ziyoda**

Ishmuradova is fresh in the position of deputy khokim of Pastdargom district khokimiyat and is chairing the district Women Committee. She is laconic, but always speaks clearly and pitifully

—How many makhallas in your district?

Z. Ishmuradova: «There is 104 makhallas in total, it is a large territory inhabited by more than 304 thousand people. Each makhalla has its own Women Committee representative. We are hard to catch in the office, because we spend a lot of time in our territories, meeting people, visiting their homes, participating in addressing very different issues. Sometimes we provide advice, sometimes we recommend and sometimes we support simply by paying attention».

—Is it men or women that you believe is closer related to water due to their direct responsibilities?

Z. Ishmuradova: «Women, of course. They are the main users of water domestically, using irrigation water for various purposes like providing water to animals, wash clothes, dishes and irrigated gardens. Such involvement allows them to clearly articulate specific problems and concerns linked with the issues of water use, water consumption, water quality and quantity».

—How can women participate in planning and decision making?

Z. Ishmuradova: «Families where home is

run by a modern, active, single-minded, hard working woman with high intellectual capacity enjoy harmony and happiness in all situations and aspects. Children in such families are usually physically and spiritually healthy, are self-sufficient, have sound values in life, are prepared to challenges and are able to be of benefit for themselves, their relatives and the entire society. The fact that women have naturally high intellectual, moral and physical capacity is obvious. Full realization of this capacity requires adequate conditions to be created. Because of that, Government of our country and, personally, our President is paying close attention to gender policy, problems of women and, particularly, protection of mother and child and provision of young and large families, as well as lone mothers».

—National festival Hosil Bayrami is coming. What will be included in the event program and will it cover the 'water theme'?

Z. Ishmuradova: «This celebration is linked to land cropping calendar. It symbolizes end of the harvesting season, summing up the results of hard work of cotton farmers, glorifying and proclaiming their labor merit. Many good customs and traditions of the Uzbek peoples tested by the time and life are related to the cotton farmer's labor. Cotton farmer's initiation is celebrated, just as is the full, down to a single cotton ball, completion of harvesting campaign, signifying the great respect to the toilsome work of the land cropping farmers.

The event usually includes sport contests and games, national wrestling, horse riding, etc., which may be participated by all residents of makhallia. We invite performers, poets and writers, we try to make this day an unforgettable celebration. To say the truth, we didn't pay enough attention to water during this event. But giving it a second thought, harvest festival is only possible thanks to water. Water gives life, thus 'water theme' must find an adequate place in this year's program. Maybe, we will be followed, at first, by the neighbours, and in few years, all the oblasts of Uzbekistan would support our initiative».

Notably, we hold our meeting literally 'on the run'. We are hurrying to the next room, where health and education workers, along with local mass media and public gathered for the interview.



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It is early October, the sun is gently warming rather than searing. However, chilling breath of a sudden wind reminds that the Autumn has come. It is reaping time. Hosil Bayrami isn't just harvest festival, it is summing up of the labour of dekhkans and farmers, as well as Earth's gratitude for care and attention it received.

Meet Shakhribonu Salimova. She is intellectual and forbearing. It is only kindness and softness in how she glances over her glasses gives up **Sahkhribonu's** profession. She is a pediatricist from the Center of reproductive health Ona-Bola from the town of Zhuma, Pastdargom district.

—Would you please tell about water supply in your town?

— «In our makhallia, water is supplied only between 7 and 8 o'clock in the morning. The problem is that water pipes broke. If we install water meters in each family, we would be able to save and use water more sustainably. We know that people are more careful about their private things. But things in common property do not have to be cared after. As a result of this activity they will understand, when water would have to be paid for and will have monetary value, that saving water is profitable. Until there is stringent control, we will keep using this valuable resource uncontrollably. Our oblast already introduced fines for excessive intake of water».



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—How can women make contribution towards frugal use of water?

— «Taking into account that principal burden of housekeeping is lying on women, their role in this issue is important. In most cases, it is women who supply, use and manage water in the household, ensuring hygiene of the family members and the household. We are becoming more sensitive to the problem of water insufficiency and are ready to actively facilitate addressing this situation. I think that we can achieve this noble goal by developing people's knowledge and improving their literacy in this area. We must do it in every possible way: through dialogue and publications in mass media, through workshops or thematic lessons we can convey the simple truth that there is no life without water to the new generation. There is an artesian well in my yard and I taught my children to use water frugally. For example, we use water used in the house keeping for irrigation. We must organize ecological enlightenment of experts from all areas: doctors, teachers, farmers and housewives. If we join our efforts to use water frugally, we won't face the problem of water economy. Zarafshan river is not unlimited, we have to preserve its water. There are places that water doesn't reach, while in other places, water resource are used uncontrollably.



photo is taken by project

As a woman, I urge all of my landmen and all reasonable people: Save water for water is life!» - said Shakhribonu Salimova.

Our car was darting past motley cotton fields stretching up to horizon. The impression was that far away, cotton stalks supported the clear blue sky dome. In just an hour and a half, we crossed the border of Navoi oblast. Staff of oblast khokimiyat of Karmana district is preparing for the department meeting.

Nasiba Sadikova, deputy khokim of Karmana district, Navoi oblast, was the first to be interviewed this sunny morning: «There are 37 makhallas in our district, around 28000 families live there. District population is 140000 people including 56000 women. Most of them are housewives and the main users of water for washing clothes and dishes, cooking, irrigation, etc. There are 17 successful female farmers in the district, and the number of business ladies is twice as much. What they have in common is that they are responsible for water use in their families. Basically, it is well known that without water, there is neither fruits nor well-being. Last year, as well as the current one appear to be low on water. There were cases when livestock and agricultural lands were suffered from lack of water».

— What can be changed by a woman? **N. Sadikova:** «We just need to gather rural



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women to hold round table meetings and other activities as frequently as possible. Also, several women assist me when we have to visit the villagers' households to discuss certain issues. Many women work in khokimiyat. I believe that women are capable of delivering and achieving once they take the responsibility to resolve an issue. Regarding water, I would like to note that every woman can continuously teach her children in her family that there is no life without water and that it has to be preserved, and this learning process is to start as early as possible. We can't pointlessly consume water, sparing water use is vitally important.

Women in our oblast are particularly active in the area of ecology. For example, around 16-17 women work in the oblast Committee for nature protection, two work in the lab and two in the production department. In general, 30 to 50 percent of women have an active position towards sustainable use and consumption of water, showing their own example of how and what needs to be done».

Praising woman means praising one's family, Motherland and life. In Uzbekistan, women are freely and fruitfully working in all areas, including industry, agriculture, business, science, culture, art and sports. Women are represented in the upper tiers of the country's government. In economy, women share is 44 percent and among small and private business this rate is 23 percent; women manage over 18 thousand farms.

Nowadays, women make a significant contribution towards further improvement of the quality of education, training of qualified personnel, development of science, process of gradual reformation of public health, as well as improvement of the efficiency of enlightenment and spiritual development activities among the youth. For example, women constitute 60% of teaching staff in secondary schools, 54% of doctors, and 87% of medium-tier medical staff.

Looking straight, with a firm handshake, flawless logic and irresistible charm – probably these are the qualities that help modern woman succeed in business. Be introduced to **Zhumaguli Rajabova**, chairperson of "Scholk" (Silk) limited, an oblast production corporation (Pilla viloyat).

—What are the performance indicators achieved by the eve of the Hosil Bayrami?

Zh. Rajabova - «Being the chairperson of the Zhaloir Community Assembly, I can provide some statistical data. The total population of Zhaloir is close to 170 000 persons, and all of us need water

for drinking and irrigation. We can admit that drinking water quality these days improved significantly. I receive a lot of help from the active women implementing advocacy of essentials of sustainable water use in makhallas. This season, a series of activities was implemented in the Zhaloir Village Council by the Women Committee, devoted to water resources and their sustainable use. We are approaching the Hosil Bayrami with good results. This year, we are harvesting cotton from around 1100 hectares, while in 2000 hectares, the dekhkans have grown and harvested wheat and planted other agricultural crops. Here, people are very hard-working and the land is fertile, however, we won't be able to get the yield without water. So, we have to learn to think of how and for what we spend every drop of this valuable resource».

—What would you propose to do to address this water issue?

«I believe that meeting with experts of ecological education and awareness building today is very useful. We need specialists to provide adequate and high quality training. In turn, the specialists have to be trained first. Training of so-called 'Mirab' experts has to be introduced in the relevant colleges and lyciums, which would teach sustainable water use and provide information on the new technologies, for example, drip irrigation, as well as agricultural

crops cultivation methods and techniques .

Population of Ibragim Muminov, Yoshlik and Kukhna Kurgon makhallias in Karmana district exceeds 3000 people. There is a lack of drinking and irrigation water. I proposed to create a commission and organize khashars (volunteer community services events) to clean the existing canals and ditches. Installing water raising facilities in each farm would provide additional options for irrigation water saving.

In my life, I saw several low-water years. I remember very well my feeling of helplessness when in a low-water year, all mulberries in your plantations withered, many mulberry growths died. As a result, we failed to reach the silk cocoon production plan . We could not change the situation – there was simply no water... Indeed, it is impossible to fully grasp how important is the issue without facing it personally.

Water raising facilities, ditches and canals with reinforced banks, drip irrigation – all these have



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to become essential attributes of our life. This is a real necessity of today. It is not a secret to anybody that so far, we don't have a clear understanding of the problem, which means there is no general population support for the issues of sustainable use of water resources. Very frequently we witness the situation in makhallias, when water is flowing with no purpose from the tap. Nobody is there to turn the tap off. Water is our common concern, our pain and our life. Understanding that, we have to join to protect this priceless resource granted by the nature. We also have to think more frequently of what we will pass to the future generations!».

Again, the motley spots of fields and gardens are running in the window of the train, the 'tired' sun is rolling towards the sun-down. The team is coming back to Tashkent, keeping the sparks of the 'sun heat ' that were shared by the men and women we spoke to6 deep in our souls. Their



photo is taken by project

enthusiasm and hopes for the better future imbued us with confidence that work performed by the team, as well as by IWRM in general, is needed.

IWRM Plan for Zarafshan River Basin project focuses on the national law and gender

Yusup Rysbekov
IWRM Project National Consultant for Legal Issues

Woman's wit any other's fit
French proverb

Role of women in water resource management arises directly from the four guiding principles of water resource management adopted in the UN Dublin Conference for Water Resource and Environment in 1992, also known as the Ecological, Institutional, Gender and Economic Dublin principles. Other principles of integrated water resource management (IWRM) are derived from these principle-ideas.

The third Principle reads: "Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water". This is a cut-through principle, like, for examples, one related to training, and it refers to, first of all, the social aspect of IWRM.

The project's first component aimed at improvement of legal and organizational framework for IWRM in Uzbekistan is planning to renew the national water legislation. The vision for the new legislation is that it should include the gender aspects of IWRM as one of the key principles of water management, including separate provision of preferential rights for women and mechanisms to facilitate their participation in making decisions on the issues of drinking water supply, water



quality and other issues related to lower-tier water management.

First of all, this relates the issues of drinking water supply and sanitation at the local level arranged via the rural Drinking Water Users Associations as non-governmental nonprofit organizations (NGOs). This task is cross-cutting with Component 2: "Improved Water Communal Services and Utilities within the Zarafshan River Basin" in the part of developing the strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation in the context of improving the population's access to utility services.

Adequate legal base would allow women to have decisive impact in decision making (better make decisions themselves) in the areas that are more related to 'their jurisdiction', including provision of households with high quality drinking water and supporting good environmental conditions being a pre-requisite for their, children's and our health, defining the health of the entire nation.

Therefore, development of the basin-level Water Supply and Sanitation Strategy provided by the project, shall include the issues water supply and sanitation at farm and territories level. The same is applicable for one of the main objectives, namely Objective 3.1 "Socioeconomic and gender evaluation of the situation in Zarafshan river basin" of the Component 3.

Jurisprudence is a science that sometimes is more exact than math. Thus we should mention here, tangentially, that the words 'gender evaluation of the situation', in IWRM understanding of 'gender', assume that the situation would be assessed by women themselves. Off the topic, we should also note that it is hard to figure out the legal meaning of the concept of 'gender capacity',

which is popular among IWRM experts.

As we mentioned before, the Global Water Partnership defined the following key elements of the environment facilitating successful application of IWRM: a) political decisions ("water policy"); b) legal framework ("water policy as law") and c) funding an incentives framework.

In particular, the Strategy of Water Supply and Sanitation for Zarafshan River Basin provided by the project is the 'water policy' adopted by the Government of Uzbekistan.

Development of the similar Strategy at the national level, with a focus on its gender aspects, requires that there is adequate legal framework.

Another starting point and, let's call it that, an 'ostensive policy in action', within the context of the subject of this article, is implementation of the other main objectives of the project Component 3, namely Objective 3.9, "Experimental demonstration projects". In this regard, successful implementation of demonstration project for water supply for a rural community in a specific community, makhallia Nurobod located in Samarkand district of the cognominal oblast, may become a foundation for principally new relations between the government and the beneficiaries. Control over these relations as a model of future relations in the concrete area of water supply and sanitation management may be fixed as a legal requirement in the renewed water legislation.

As for the status of women in our country, it is already well known. Committee of Women of Uzbekistan works at the national scale, dealing with a wide range of issues related to the status of women in Uzbekistan, from social protection to creating conditions for wide involvement of women in all the areas of social life.

Support and protection of women's rights and interests is one of the priority development areas in the country. Legal requirements towards the status of women, protection of maternity and childhood, creation of conditions to improve women status are reflected in the Constitution and relevant Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as other norms and regulations, including Decrees of the President of Uzbekistan and Government Resolutions. Moreover, specialized Government Programs and initiatives to promote women role in public government and realize their capacity in society, were adopted. Among these we can list implementation of activities

BRIEF ON CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

under the dedicated Government Programs related to proclaiming the «Year of human interests» (1997), «Year of family» (1998), «Year of woman» (1999), «Year of healthy generation» (2000), «Year of mother and child» (2001), «Year of health» (2005), «Year of social protection» (2007), etc.

The thesis from IWRM theories that men and women, literally "have different interests and receive different benefits from availability, use and management of water resources", and turning the discussion into the field of hierarchies and positions, where women are lower than men, is assumed to be erroneous. At the same time, there is no question to the conclusion that, in particular, "women participation in the development initiatives allows finding new effective solutions to the issues", which corresponds to the epigraph to this article (this is probably explained by a more practical mindset, which is sometimes difficult to find).

Personally, let us add that in the issues of water supply and sanitation, we should acknowledge the priority right of women's opinions to be taken into account during decision making in this field, and first of all, at the lower tier of water resource management. Men, due to certain reasons, may lack the knowledge (because he didn't try it himself) of the issues of water supply and sanitation in the specific place better than woman, who is dealing with these matters every day, at the same time carrying other duties.

It would be an appropriate step forward to pay adequate attention to the preference right of women to take decisions in the area of water supply and sanitation.

BRIEF ON CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Edwin Ongley Ph.D.
International Advisor

(Articles on rural development in developed countries)

Gender equity has been a major issue, and especially in western countries, since the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Canada is a good example of how good intent and legal protection of women's rights has not yet created a level playing field for



photo is taken by project

gender equity. This has some useful lessons for Uzbekistan.

For example, today in Canada, women are well represented in the arts, humanities, healthcare and education, but are much scarcer in science, technology and engineering. Despite equal opportunity employment conditions, legal recognition of women's rights, and pay equity requirements, the gender gap has not been plugged. This tells us that there are other factors at play that impact on women's choices of career. Partly, this is a cultural phenomenon in which women are, of feel as if they are, pushed into the role of mother/wife rather than a career. Another factor involves the education of girls and young women in which careers involving sciences tend not to be perceived as interesting.

From personal experience in Canada, we have seen a significant rise in the number of women entering environmental sciences, especially in biology that was once dominated by men but is increasingly populated with some outstanding women -- not enough, but enough to bring into the light the ability and strong roles that women can play in environmental sciences. As a professor of environmental science, my best students were almost all women - they worked harder than their male peers and achieved more! Most have gone on to good careers in universities or the public service. In Uzbekistan, we need to motivate young women to consider environmental science as a good career choice. Part of motivation is to ensure that the academic curriculum is interesting, relevant, and modern.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FAMILY FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCE

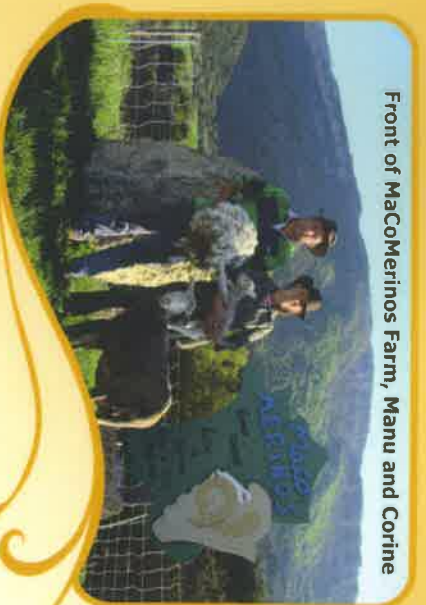
Bakhodir Mirzaev
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As many facts and publications ensuring that women and men have equality of opportunity is an important priority of the developed and developing countries. It is also, quite simply, a practical necessity for the viability and sustainability of rural development. For future will need to ensure that all community

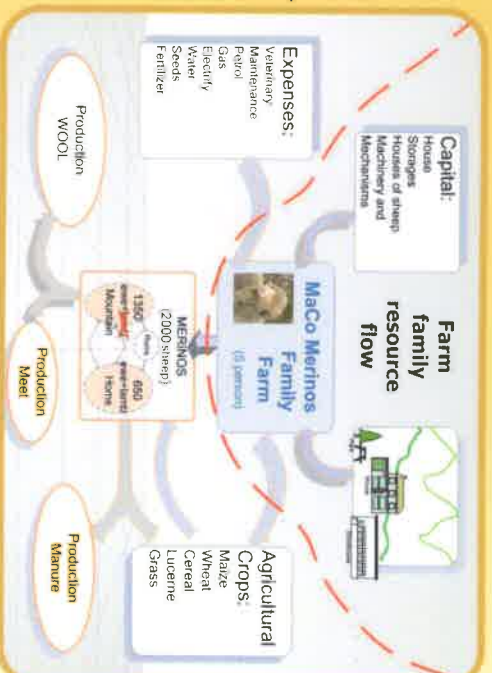
contributes to greater equality between women and men, particularly in employment, enterprise, education and training, and the reconciliation of professional and family life (Fischer, 2000). Women are also very prominent in rural development

organisations and gender equality is a major feature of development programmes (Baldock at al, 2001).

This article highlights some of the key issues that concern rural women and affect their partici-



Front of MaCoMerinos Farm, Manu and Corine



pation in rural development. The aim is to encourage and inspire the people for rural development programmes and projects to take into account the role of women in rural development in developed countries. The case study from Alpes de Haute Provence, France will give more insight of the subject. This study that I want to share is the result of my Internship while studying in the MSc programme in Sustainable Development in Agriculture.

The farmer where I did my internship owned big sheep family farm. They have more than 1500 sheep in the farm. Why "Family farm"? Because they are managing the farm themselves: family members husband (Manu), wife (Corine), one daughter and two sons.

They started this family farm in 2004 by getting loan from bank for tenancy of farming area and to buy agricultural mechanization. It took time and energy to develop farming system but they were all together and they achieved some good results. Quality and quantity of sheep increased up to 2,000, grazing land to 3600ha, and cultivating agricultural land to 150ha.

Most impressiveness is the farmer bought high breed sheep from New Zealand, ten rams and six ewes in the beginning of year 2008. This breed of sheep gives very soft and long wool, as well as good quality meat. He is using this opportunity to increase quantity of such good breed of sheep in



Front of MaCoMerinos Farm, Manu and Corine

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FAMILY FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF FRANCE



The French President Nicolas Sarkozy expressing his gratitude to MacCoMerinos Farm (Manu and Corinne)

Europe. To achieve the new project which is called "Increase New Merinos Breed" mixing with local type of sheep and produce MacCoMerinos wool and meat for the people. They have received several prizes and this year was much intense and MacCoMerinos farm won "prix de la dynamique agricole 2011" 1st prizes of active work in agricultural 2011. Please see for more information the MacCoMerinos farm website:

<<http://macomerinos.free.fr/infos.htm>>

Since 2004, the farm has been developing intensively because whole family benefited economically and socially from the farm. At same time, the farm has a subsidy from the state for sheep farming and for farm location since the farm is located in mountainous area. In such cases the rural development may achieve sustainability as a principal employer in rural areas.

Other alternatives of jobs are rare. A family



farming, with reduced use of inputs and intense work investment, may keep a high rural employment level, and in this way avoid the increase of territorial and social imbalance linked to the



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strong urbanization. In 1997, the activity rate of the women in the rural areas of France reached 78%, for the first time matching that of the same age group of women in urban areas. The proportion of active women employed in the tertiary sector in rural areas of France was 72% in 1997, up from 62% in 1990 (Fischer, 2000). So, it can be economically competitive – in particular, in guaranteeing food security for rural populations via partial self-sustainable, and also for less population in the cities – more effective and social in the natural resources management (Sabourin et al., 2004).

In case of France, the modernization of family farming has demonstrated first the limits of the peasants' integration. The policy of promotion of the modernization of family farming promoted by Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), by means of subsidies, has generated social differences within the category causing social exclusion. This way has permitted an important increasing in the



Family activity in the household and farm

food production.

Main characteristics of agricultural policy in France (Sabourin et al., 2004):



Family activity in the household and farm

- Selective;
- Protective;
- Partially decentralized;
- Family farming diversified discourse but dual approach;
- Classic CAP subsidies for cereal and cattle production;
- Territory aid for diversified.

After this internship I realized: what is family farming? what are its advantages? – since it is different than other farming systems. First of all, working time schedule is very productive, economical, and perspective in a way how budget is managed. Another advantage is that other neighbor sheep family farmers can help each other with exchanging mechanisms or



Extension of grazing land for new lambs



Family activity in the household and farm



Family activity in the household and farm

participate in different agricultural activities. Decision-making process is between husband and wife: sometimes they discuss issues within with a close family farm. Very interesting point that I found is that young family farms tenancies



Extension of grazing land for new lambs

from retired farms. This gives good incentive for good communication within community and good cultivation in the around farmers.

In addition family farm has very good advantage that is expansion of economy and correspondence with wool factory and meet market to sell high quality products in a reasonable price. As they are breeding new MaCoMerinos sheep to expand experience in around farmers and other developed and developing countries. This experience could be one of the sustainable family farms in the rural development.

In conclusion can be seen this family farm is a good example of equally participation and management in the farm of man and woman which sustain the rural development. This example of participation of both parties in management of the farm could be extended not only in developed countries but developing countries as well.

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Project Duration:

January 2010 - January 2013

Total Budget:

USD 1,205,451

UNDP:

USD 1,136,165

SDC:

USD 23,080

Government (in kind):

USD 46,206

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