**CHRONIC CHALLENGES TO WOMEN’S AUTONOMIZATION IN MARKETS**

Access of production. There is an energetic challenge to meet the growing demand as well as a problem of access to water in specific localities where market gardening activity is expanding (Graph.1). Women are also facing problems related to quality standards, financing and equipment especially when it comes to commercialization. Access to general training such as management or women’s leadership trainings is also a major challenge. Additionally, access to land, production factors and basic infrastructure remains a considerable challenge for women. Overall, their shares in market remain limited due to the narrowness of their agricultural perimeter and the low yields. Surpluses do not allow them to position themselves on the market in a sustainable way.

Women’s organizations and GIE empower women in the rural world to become actresses at the heart of the community development. At the same time, they acquire decision-making power that goes beyond their traditional social function as housewives. These women’s organizations are a critical factor for women’s empowerment, allowing to pool resources and buy large supply quantities. They may also share transformation machinery and storage, and support each other through knowledge sharing and social/psychological support. The absence of women’s organizations in some communities reduced women’s economic empowerment, which is why WFP should encourage women’s associations to focus and work on pertinent activities such as school feeding.

**CHART 1. PERCENTAGES OF WATER ACCESS RATES BY REGION IN SENEGAL**
TAKING ACTION

The programmatic solutions of the study specify the need to develop a methodological grid of the gender and market analysis. There are key points for WFP to improve. Monitoring indicators, whether quantitative or qualitative, should be developed. Also, articulating the practical needs of women and strategic interests is crucial. Women’s needs to access resources should be addressed. Therefore, supporting women in accessing resources and inputs, in particular through partnerships is necessary. Finally, in the long term, women must be able to control continuously their resources. It implies having access to different markets, production factors and tenders of WFP. The promotion of new initiatives (virtual market: Jiggéen ci Ték) is also to be encouraged.

Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection offered land lease and promoted land sharing. Initiative of this kind should be reinforced (FiG1.).

In terms of recommendations, and for the success of programs, it is necessary to integrate the gender dimension in tool planning. It is also necessary to popularize the gender dimension and its applications with the partners. Field teams need to be sensitized in the same way as the people who develop the programs. In addition, all assessment and monitoring tools must be gender-sensitive. The expertise of the GIEs of women processors is not negligible and must be taken into account, entrepreneurial initiatives are constantly emerging and are a source of learning for WFP. Finally, strengthening partnerships with the private sector and women farmers’ organizations is important to facilitate trade and create a favorable environment.

TO GO FURTHER:
Gender and Market Initiative: Empowering West African Women through Market-based Food Assistance: https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/106
FOR THE LATEST INFO ON SENEGAL:
http://www1.wfp.org/countries/senegal

SOURCE(S):
WFP, 2016. Gender and market study #6: Gender and markets in Senegal
SNEEG II, Ministère de la Femme de la Famille et de l’Enfance

CONTACT:
rbd.vam@wfp.org

Photo page 1: WFP/Jenny Matthews