



# *GenARDIS*

2002 - 2010

Small grants that made big changes  
for women in agriculture



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**GenARDIS 2002-2010:  
Small grants that made big changes  
for women in agriculture**

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## Including rural women improves agricultural production and livelihoods

By Jennifer Radloff<sup>1</sup>




Access to new information and communications technologies (ICTs) affects both men and women living in remote areas. Governments and the telecommunications sector do not prioritise infrastructure in rural areas because the population is generally poor and dispersed. Efforts to roll out infrastructure and training are focused in urban areas where the population is more concentrated and the profits more immediate and reliable. However, for women living in rural areas, access to ICTs means first overcoming multiple barriers relating not only to their location, but also their gender.

Women play a central role in the agricultural economy, which means that their hours of work are long, leaving little time for learning how to use new technologies. Women cannot migrate as easily as men to towns and cities where training in new technologies is more available. Apart from agricultural production, women rather than men have the added responsibilities of caring for children and the elderly. In many communities cultural attitudes disallow



*After collectively learning to use mobile phones, women from south-central Nigeria set up a farmers' cooperative. PHOTO: ARDA*

- 1 Jennifer Radloff is a communications and women's rights activist based in Cape Town, South Africa. She has worked for APC for ten years coordinating the APC-Africa-Women network. She manages the GenARDIS project for APC.



“ Certain GenARDIS projects bring crucial issues to the attention of women and men, such as domestic violence, land rights, literacy, and local markets, some of which the women and men were able to absorb the information and take upon themselves some action of change.”

Kathleen Diga, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

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women from visiting public access points, often because they are frequented by men or because women are not allowed out of their homes without being accompanied by men.

Girls and women generally have lower levels of education and literacy and are not encouraged to pursue schooling, particularly not in the technology fields. In most rural communities, women have far less political and economic power than their male counterparts. The various components of ICTs – the software, the keyboards, the information online and the training materials – are not available in local languages. And most aspects of new technologies are not culturally intuitive. Even radio (and increasingly the mobile phone), perhaps the most ubiquitous communications devices in many rural areas, are often not accessible to women. Men control the radio dial and usually own the radio and the mobile phone.

These all add up to multiple and formidable barriers which constrain and limit rural women's ability to harness new technologies in their lives, and to access vital information shared via ICTs: information that could impact on improving agricultural production, fluctuations in market prices, pensions and child care grants, news on political changes that could affect their lives, as well as health and support services. The urban and gender bias in connectivity deprives many rural women, more so than men, of the universal and fundamental right to communicate.

Development programmes aimed at agriculture and food security realised long ago that to centralise ICTs adds tremendous potential for improving rural livelihoods. They further recognised that a gender-sensitive approach to the design and implementation of initiatives is fundamental to their success. The lives of rural women and men can improve through access to technologies. By demonstrating in tangible ways women's huge contribution to agriculture and household income and the positive increase in livelihoods, gender relations are improved and women's role in communities more valued.

The Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS) small grants fund was initiated in 2002 to support work on gender-related issues in information and communications technologies for the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. GenARDIS recognises the constraints and challenges encountered by rural women, and has disbursed small grants to diverse and innovative projects in order to counter these barriers, to document



*A woman is drying her cassava chips on the roadside in south-western Nigeria. Women from her community use mobile phones to contact potential buyers directly and therefore save on transportation costs to the market. PHOTO: I-DevNet*

the process and results, and to contribute to more gender-aware ICT policy advocacy.

GenARDIS has supported projects which are as diverse as the countries where they are located. Over the years, GenARDIS has learned from and documented projects such as women's community radio drama groups, pest control through information access, and using technology to promote women's inheritance and land rights. Grantees have supported deaf women in Ethiopia to generate their own income through digital photography, and enabled rural mothers to earn additional income for their families because they can market to buyers from outside their community. In some areas, women small farmers are no longer being taken advantage of by the middleman as they now get a fair price for their crops by sending a simple SMS. Farming women in Cameroon were able to purchase new and more appropriate farming tools thanks to increased revenues and the ability to call into town to order the products. And given the endemic and ubiquitous problem of violence against women and girls, using ICTs to combat this benefits women and ultimately families and communities.

“With all the GenARDIS-supported projects, ICTs are only a means – albeit a very powerful means – to an end, rather than an end in themselves. Access to information is the tool that allows women to envision small advances in everyday life and more monumental strides over time.”<sup>2</sup>

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2 Keane J. Shore, an Ottawa-based writer and editor. [www.idrc.ca/en/ev-94448-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-94448-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html)

## From simple farmer to village leader

African Radio Drama Association (ARDA), Nigeria



*Christy Bawa lives in a village in north-central Nigeria. She was recognised as an expert by people from her village after taking part in a radio listeners club where farming issues were discussed. PHOTO: ARDA*

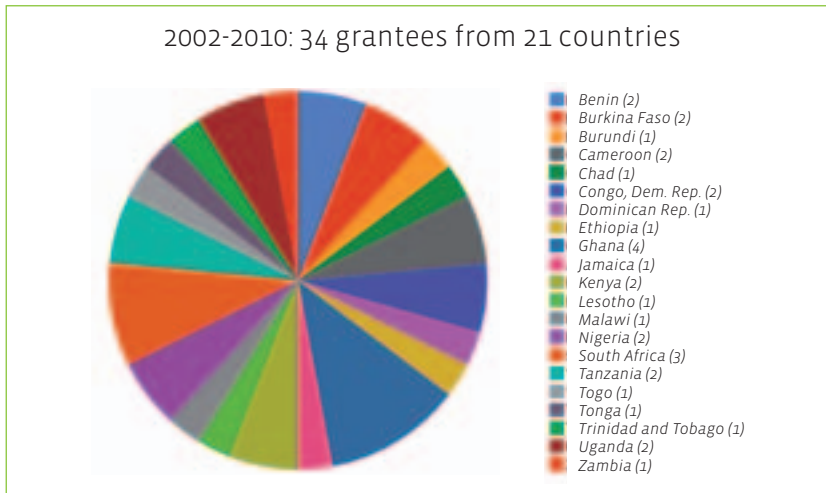
Christy Bawa, a woman of the local Bagi tribe, was initially a simple small-scale farmer, just like many of the other women in her village in Nigeria. On market days, she sold packs of sand and a negligible amount of fruits and vegetables.

But with ARDA's radio programming, she was able to expand from simple farming and small-scale trading. As she learned how to use a mobile phone and voice her concerns over the radio through ARDA's various gender, farming and ICT programmes, people began to recognise her and ask her for advice. She is one of the few women who were able to push the local pastor and other elders to open a literacy school, and is now very involved in community activities.

She has also been influential in the radio listeners club itself, as it has become an official organisation. She now enforces rules and management standards and is recognised for having knowledge and integrity.



## About GenARDIS



The Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS) small grants programme started in 2002 to support work at the grassroots level on gender-related issues in ICTs for agricultural and rural development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.

In 2002, there was still relatively little known about gender issues and the implications of ICT-enabled initiatives in agriculture and rural development in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. Based on the awareness of this lack of knowledge, GenARDIS was conceptualised and established as a small grants fund in order to address this gap, increase the knowledge base and contribute to overcoming the gender digital divide.

Because GenARDIS facilitates local capacity building in ICTs to empower women, the small grants programme gives grassroots initiatives the kick-start they need to bring about economic empowerment in their communities.<sup>1</sup>

The first GenARDIS round took place in 2003 and awarded nine grants<sup>2</sup> from 360 applications, a clear indication that there is an interest in addressing gender and ICTs and agriculture. The second round, in 2005, received 312 applications.

<sup>1</sup> See the list of grantees and honourable mentions of the three rounds on page 41.

<sup>2</sup> [www.iicd.org/articles/IICDnews.import2116](http://www.iicd.org/articles/IICDnews.import2116)



*Women from an agro-processing cooperative in the Dominican Republic use spreadsheets to record the recipes of the fruit preserves they produce. PHOTO: Fundación Taigüey*

After evaluating the first two rounds of the project, the third and most recent round, which started in 2008, received 231 applications, shortlisted twenty projects and awarded small grants to fifteen.<sup>3</sup> All shortlisted projects attended a “kick-off” workshop in order to increase the capacity of organisations in their understanding of gender and ICTs in rural and agricultural contexts and in project formulation.

Since the inception of the project, GenARDIS has seen different needs arise from participants and the communities they work with. Each round of GenARDIS has seen some changes and this evolution has been vital to ensuring that GenARDIS continues to be relevant to the people it strives to help. For example, the latest round of grantees were given tools to take their research to the next step, beyond GenARDIS: using the results for policy advocacy, formalising research and publicising it through mainstream media, and learning about new monitoring and evaluation tools for future use. Donors, APC and grantees alike all share a common conviction to see this project carry on, so that new small-scale initiatives can benefit from seed grants, face-to-face capacity building and opportunities to network regionally and internationally.

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<sup>3</sup> [genardis.apcwomen.org/en](http://genardis.apcwomen.org/en)



*The GenARDIS projects provided numerous practical insights regarding how ICTs can promote successful gendered outcomes for livelihoods, food security and food sovereignty. Radio drama, mobile phone and open software applications were some of the original approaches that I've found particularly inspiring."*

**David Dolly, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago (GenARDIS grantee 2005 and jury member 2008)**

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## **Confidence and happiness through income**

**Mikochei Agricultural Research Institute (MARI), Tanzania**

Deep in Tanzania's mountainous region lives a woman named Flora Emilia. The mobile phone has helped her access the latest market prices, and therefore get better rates for her crops, rather than being taken advantage of by the middlemen. She can now contact buyers on her own and search for market prices in town, none of which she could do before being involved with the GenARDIS project. "I am a better woman now," she says with pride. She has learned that the mobile phone has important economic advantages: it is not just something to keep in touch with family, but also something that can facilitate her work. She no longer has to borrow mobile phones from relatives or friends and pay them for the airtime. Owning her own phone means that she can do her work at the times that are most convenient for her. By being able to search market prices, she can now bargain and is looking into ways of increasing her crop production and expanding to different crop types. She also says "the love has increased in my house." Now that she has a certain degree of financial independence, she no longer needs to ask her husband for money to buy everyday items. This, in turn, has made space for more equality, respect and harmony in the household.



## In the blue sky: A brief history of GenARDIS

By Helen Hambly Odame<sup>1</sup>



There are significant moments when different sources of know-how and the passion to act on them come together. This was the kind of moment, in 2002, when GenARDIS was created. The people who made this possible were women and men from all over the world. Most of them were from Africa, others from the Caribbean and the Pacific, Europe and North America. Some were specialists in agricultural information and others were leaders of community and international organisations involved in agricultural and rural development. They met in the town of Wageningen, in the agricultural heartland of the Netherlands, in September 2002 as participants in a meeting referred to as an “observatory” convened by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). CTA is charged with developing and providing services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, obtain, use and exchange information for development.

CTA’s observatory brought twenty people together to focus on how to bring together three so far distinct fields of policy and action: 1) gender issues in the world’s vast and growing information and communication resources, 2) women’s key role and gender relations in development, and 3) agriculture and rural development. The result was a convergence known as Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society (GenARDIS). By the end of our meeting in 2002, we had drafted a plan to mobilise a new small grants fund that would provide the opportunity for organisations in ACP countries to strengthen gender-related work on ICTs in agriculture and rural development. In this “blue sky” anything was possible, and the architects of GenARDIS, including myself, Nancy Hafkin, Aida Opuku-Mensah, Peter Ballantyne, Mercy Wambui, Gesa Wesseler, Dorothy Okello, Isolina Boto and Oumy Ndiaye, argued for funding with minimal paperwork so that every effort could be made to strengthen gender equality which had so far proved to be such an elusive goal in global development.

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1 Co-instigator of GenARDIS in 2002, Helen Hambly Odame is an associate professor at the University of Guelph in Canada. She has lived and worked internationally for more than twenty years.



*In Tamale, Northern Ghana, women-only ICT trainings were organised for the first time thanks to GenARDIS. In their mostly Muslim environment, women are not allowed to share a room with men, which has prevented them from attending ICT trainings in the past. PHOTO: Kalang ICT Centre*

Undoubtedly, GenARDIS was born at a time when the world could no longer pretend that gender does not matter. Forty years ago, very little attention was given to women's role in economic development. It took many efforts to build an agenda for action that recognised the disparities between men and women in society, the economy and political processes and structures. Perhaps most significant is the 1976 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which in Article 14 specifically lays out the need for gender equality for rural women (see box on page 14). The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field." Every four years, national reporting on CEDAW identifies the often slow and difficult progress towards a world without gender discrimination, where technology enables women to realise their full potential as human beings.






*GenARDIS is a concept that was born on careful understanding of what is needed to empower Africa's information and knowledge sharing gap. As a member of the jury I was struck by the extensive number of applicants from many African countries and the*

*ideas these applications proposed are so diverse in content and methodology.”*

**Stella Williams, PhD, Mundus maris – Sciences and Arts for Sustainability, Nigeria (jury member 2008)**

In recognition of the dilemma between a potentially powerful set of tools – ICTs – and the failure to achieve the goals envisioned by CEDAW – especially for rural women – since 2000, the GenARDIS small grants fund has sought to support innovative activities that contribute to the understanding of gender issues in ICTs and to the gender-sensitive application of ICTs in ACP agricultural and rural development.

From the “blue sky” visions of the first group of individuals and organisations who launched GenARDIS to the efforts of many who joined it over the years, including Hivos, WOUNET and APC, but also, and most importantly, the thousands of women and men in ACP nations who were part of so many efforts towards gender equality in ICTs for agriculture and rural development, there can be no doubt that GenARDIS created awareness and action for rural women's rights that previously did not exist. CEDAW challenges us all to do more. This publication will tell this remarkable story.



## Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women - Article 14

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:
  - a. To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
  - b. To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;
  - c. To benefit directly from social security programmes;
  - d. To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, inter alia, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
  - e. To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self employment;
  - f. To participate in all community activities;
  - g. To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;
  - h. To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.



## Fifteen ways to change rural women's lives

In 2009 fifteen organisations received €7,000 each to implement ICT projects to empower rural women. This is how they did it.

### Better fish conservation techniques lead to more business

AquaDeD ONG, Benin



*Through ICTs, women from Benin learned new conservation techniques for the fish they process.*  
PHOTO: AquaDeD ONG

In Benin's rural fishing areas, women are the ones who purchase fish after it has been caught and turn it into various food products. AquaDeD has worked with poor rural women using ICTs to train them in an effort to help increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods. By using basic ICTs like video, television and mobile phones, the women were able to learn new conservation techniques (such as smoking the fish) and to use mobile phones to increase their market, expanding as far as the neighbouring countries of Togo and Nigeria.

Since the women have been able to access these new technologies, their quality of life has improved drastically. They can now contact buyers without waiting for buyers to come to them. They can purchase medicine and food and



pay school fees for their children without having to wait for their husbands to give them the money. With children on their backs while they work on computers, their desire to learn is strong – and life at home has also improved as a result: women are now contributing to household finances and this has encouraged men to get more involved in domestic chores and child care.

[www.aquaded-ong.org](http://www.aquaded-ong.org)

### Defending women's needs in male-dominated farmers associations

FEPPASI, Burkina Faso



*Thirty women leaders from farming organisations were trained in the use of computers in order to help them to manage their production. This new knowledge gave them more confidence and they now actively participate in meetings of large farmers federations. PHOTO: FEPPASI*

Thirty leaders from women farmers organisations in the province of Sissili in Burkina Faso interacted with computers for the first time thanks to GenARDIS. They have acquired skills that will allow them to better manage their revenue-generating activities (mostly small-scale farming) and learned to use tools that will help them to train other women, such as presentations and digital photography.

After the training they were also in a stronger position to promote their interests and concerns in mixed (male and female) farmers federations, where women were traditionally seen as “weak”. They were able to present information on their farming activities in a more effective way; they were more confident and did not hesitate to participate when they felt they needed to.

One of the challenges that the project team faced stemmed from the lack of electricity. Women struggled to apply the knowledge that they had acquired because of power failures. Thanks to GenARDIS, the farmers federation that implemented the project was able to engage in policy advocacy at the provincial level, in order to promote alternative solutions such as solar energy. Due to this work, three information centres running on solar panels will be opened in 2010.

[www.feppasi.org](http://www.feppasi.org)

### Mobile phones bring better farming techniques and better tools

SB Mathur Foundation, Cameroon



*Women from rural Cameroon were trained in the use of mobile phones. This has enabled them to access official information and thus buy subsidised (and much cheaper) potato seeds.*

PHOTO: SB Mathur Foundation

In Cameroon, the SB Mathur foundation works on the ground with rural communities and ICTs to promote sustainable agriculture and development. By providing women in the most remote areas with mobile phones and information files where there was no internet access, the women were able to search off-line content on farming techniques specific to their crops and conditions. Women with the highest education levels became the focal point, responsible for making the information accessible in the local language. Within the organisations they worked with, the network allowed the women to increase their market base to purchase pesticides and healthy seeds, to the extent that they saw a 3% increase in their revenue over the previous year.



They also witnessed what they considered to be surprising and massive male participation. Since the women had taken on this training and the men could see the benefits of it, they also became interested in learning more and assisting the women. The increased income allowed them to switch from outdated and archaic farming tools to more modern and efficient ones, which they ordered from the city using a mobile phone, something they could not have done without added revenue or a mobile phone. This will likely increase their yield in the coming years in a sustainable way.

### **Women overcome fear of ICTs and break their silence**

**GRAFED, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

GRAFED in the DRC created a network for rural women through the use of ICTs in order for them to exchange agricultural information as well as for women's advocacy. Despite low levels of education and literacy, women in the Uvira region of the Congo were trained on computers – internet, word processing and email – and were introduced to the idea of networking using ICTs. Thanks to their networking efforts, the women of Uvira were able to get better seeds from neighbouring countries like Burundi and Rwanda.

Before initiating the project, ICTs were something reserved for men, and it was taboo for a woman to want to use them. However, as the project progressed and the women began to appropriate the new technologies, people's views began to change. Men and women alike started to see the women as competent, and using the technology allowed the women to expand their network and market base. In communicating with other women at the local and regional level, the women of Uvira have broken their silence, and their use of technology is now accepted by men.



## Internet research brings solutions to crop diseases

IFDAP, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



*Cassava root growers in the Uvira region, DRC, were trained in the use of mobile phones to contact potential buyers, which saved them expensive trips to the market. PHOTO: IFDAP*

In the DRC's border region of Uvira, women's cassava root crops were being destroyed by pests. In order to help the women of this community increase their healthy crop production and agricultural knowledge, IFDAP trained them on internet research so they could learn about the diseases affecting their crops. They also provided the women with mobile phones in order for them to contact potential buyers and trained 48 women and eighteen men from nine different women's groups in the area on the use of technology. A weekly radio show ("The Voice of the Woman Farmer") was also created, on which topics related to gender and agriculture were addressed.

As a result of their new knowledge and access to technology, the rural women of Uvira were able to increase their crop production and family income. Increased family income has meant better tools to work with, education for their children and better nutrition for themselves and their families. While the new economic power of women was met with resistance and jealousy from some men, other men have embraced the changes and now also participate in running the household. Through this initiative, the women of Uvira have gained more respect from their families and communities.

## ICTs help Dominican women farmers better run their cooperatives

Fundación Taigüey, Dominican Republic



*A women's cooperative in La Ciénaga, the Dominican Republic, harvests fruits to make eco-friendly preserves. They have access to an ICT centre where they are able to learn tools to manage their business. PHOTO: Fundación Taigüey*

La Ciénaga is a small village in the Dominican Republic where 75% of the inhabitants live under the poverty line. With the support of Fundación Taigüey, women got together and set up an agro-processing cooperative. GenARDIS funded the ICT component of this initiative, which aimed to help them manage their cooperative.

Sixteen women from the cooperative board received training on tools relevant for running the cooperative. Many were 50 years old, which means “old” and “good for nothing” by Dominican rural standards. Most of them had not finished primary school, so Taigüey staff decided to go to the basics: they taught them maths so they could understand the logic of tools such as spreadsheets.

Thanks to the ICT component most of them are not afraid of computers any more. The cooperative's leaders travelled to Uruguay to share experiences with a similar cooperative there. Before taking the plane for the first time they were able to take part in a teleconference and meet their Uruguayan colleagues. This prior exchange made things much easier when they met face to face.

The main learning from this experience is that ICTs do not bring development on their own. They need to be integrated into broader and more inclusive initiatives, and then help make them faster and more effective.

[www.taiguey.org](http://www.taiguey.org)

## High school drop-outs become employable through ICTs

Mekelle University, Ethiopia



*Women from northern Ethiopia used computers and digital cameras to record their traditional knowledge in agriculture. PHOTO: Mekelle University*

Mekelle University went into northern Ethiopia's Tigray region, an area where many development initiatives do not make it, and trained twenty high school drop-out students – mostly female – on how to use information and communications technologies like the internet, mobile phones and digital cameras.

One participant was a deaf woman who was taught how to use a digital camera. This means she can now work. She, like her fellow trainees, now feels recognised in the community and empowered because “not hearing is no longer a reason for not working.” Though the internet remains slow and expensive for the rural communities, they were still able to launch a community knowledge management centre. The goal is to complement the strengths of traditional knowledge and expand existing services and programmes, as well as to create new options for accessing information for the local community, like distance learning. This means that traditions can be passed on, and information can be made accessible to newer generations. The centre focuses on computer training, media dissemination and photography.



The project helped stimulate the interest of geographic information system (GIS) researchers, geologists, and administrators wanting to use the land registry to learn more about crop varieties, productivity, health, etc. As a result of this interest, ICT experts now have a better understanding of the importance of working with rural people regarding their connectivity.

[www.mu.edu.et](http://www.mu.edu.et)

### From shea butter producers to businesswomen

Kalang ICT Centre, Ghana



*In Tamale, Northern Ghana, ICT training schedules were adapted to the availability of women involved in time-consuming shea butter production. PHOTO: Kalang ICT Centre*

Not many girls and women enrolled in ICT courses in Tamale, Northern Ghana. This was, among other things, because they did not feel comfortable sharing rooms with men and boys, which is not culturally accepted in this mostly Muslim environment. On top of this, women involved in agro-processing activities could not attend most trainings because of their busy schedules.

With the support of GenARDIS the Kalang ICT Centre organised group trainings for female shea butter producers in the evenings. The fact that they were in groups made their husbands more supportive, which was key to the success of the initiative. Women were then trained on how to use computers. The focus was on how to find information about shea nuts in order to get better quality products, alongside training in business management, mainly through spreadsheets for basic accounting skills.

The fact that they became computer literate boosted the women's self-esteem. Some of them even started their own businesses: they have bought

used computers and set up telecommunication centres, with the help of their children. Others felt confident enough to travel to Mali to meet other women's organisations and advertise their products.

The most important change was that it became usual and not surprising to find girls or women coming alone to the ICT centre to browse or to learn to use computers. Parents now understand the necessity of letting girls go to study ICTs in internet cafés and telecentres.

### Creating a ripple effect: Teaching teachers and mothers Kassena Nankana East Community Information Centre, Ghana



*Radio is a highly popular medium in Ghana. For the first time, farming-related issues identified by women as relevant to them were publicly discussed in Navrongo radio shows. PHOTO: Kassena Nankana East Community Information Centre*

The Kassena Nankana East Community Information Centre in Navrongo, Ghana has been working on training women and girls in the use of ICTs and improving their general livelihood through discussions, forums and training. One method was using radio discussions with experts who address issues that women are often too scared to talk about. They also work with people with functional literacy, such as high school teachers who want to learn how to use mobile phones, computers and the internet.

As a result, teachers are now able to work more efficiently and independently by using computers. As for the radio, crop yields are increasing thanks to the relevant farming information that is shared on the programme. Women have gained credibility within communities because radio programmes also



talk about the same things (like drug or alcohol abuse) that they have talked about with their families. Increased harvests and better access to the market mean that post-harvest losses have gone down significantly.

### Radio listeners club connects women with rural information

African Radio Drama Association, Nigeria



*Gathered together in a listeners club, small-scale farmers from Nigeria learned how to better handle pesticides. While listening to experts they could send questions via their mobile phones. Photo: ARDA*

The African Radio Drama Association (ARDA) has been working in Nigeria's rural communities for some time, using theatre as a means of communicating important messages, but they have now taken it further through the use of ICTs. First, they set up a radio station and a radio programme called Farm Radio for thirteen weeks; then they purchased one telephone for the women of the local Bagi tribe and trained them on it. Because agriculture and gender specialists were featured, women and men of the communities began listening to the programme – in fact, although it was a women's programme, initially 80% of callers were men. As the women listened to the programme, their knowledge and confidence also increased.

As they grew more comfortable with the technology, the next biggest barrier the women faced was a lack of literacy skills and not being able to use the technology as effectively as they would have liked to because of this. Therefore, once the project was completed, they started their own literacy school without any financial support from ARDA. This came as a result of being better respected and seen as knowledgeable in the village – even men would ask

them for advice, something which was previously unheard of. With their new status, they were able to convince their pastors and local leaders to set up the school.

[www.ardaradio.org](http://www.ardaradio.org)

## School teachers, pioneers in marketing information

I-DevNet, Nigeria



*Women from Arulogun, in south-western Nigeria, benefited from a new market information network. PHOTO: I-DevNet*

Arulogun is an agrarian community in south-western Nigeria with high rates of illiteracy among women. After receiving training in ICTs and mobile phone use, the women school teachers from the village were able to create a market information exchange network among rural women farmers, bulk buyers, transporters, traders and retailers of agricultural produce. Mobile phones were particularly useful, since they allowed women to directly contact customers and avoid unnecessary costs and risks related to transporting their goods to the markets.

The project team's regular visits to the community included the installation of computers and a power generating plant, which attracted the attention of locals as well as people from neighbouring villages. This started bringing life back to the community and, eventually, more customers for women farmers.

This ICT training programme coincided with an ultimatum from the State School Board that all school teachers should acquire ICT literacy by the end of 2009. At the time there was no support available and individual teachers were expected to make their own arrangements and pay their own fees to

acquire the skills. This convergence of opportunities boosted the teachers' enthusiasm in participating in training, as well as gaining the support of the education secretary to expand the scope of the training.

### From crop marketing to building a village market

Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute (MARI), Tanzania



*Women from the village of Peko-Misegese, in Tanzania, started working together to look for marketing information and negotiate with their buyers using mobile phones. Eventually they joined forces with the men in the village and collectively decided to build a market in their own village to store and sell their produce. This has saved them time and money and improved gender relations. PHOTO: MARI*

Women farmers from the village of Peko-Misegese, in Morogoro, Tanzania, formed a group they called Tiame, which means “let’s work together” in the local language. Women were not getting fair prices for their crops, and the MARI project aimed to change this by introducing the group to ICTs – mobile phones in particular – so that they could contact potential buyers and gain access to market information. Through this, they hoped to raise the income of the women farmers, as well as food security through increased and better crop marketing. Now the women can communicate with buyers from other towns and sell their crops at a fair price. Since they are informed on crop prices, the farmers can bargain with buyers with the confidence that they will not be cheated by middlemen any longer.

However, the biggest change for both men and women took place when the villagers took the project into their own hands and created a bi-weekly market in their community – Tuesdays and Saturdays – and decided to build it so they could store their produce for selling. Having their own market saves

the women time (they used to walk for two to three hours to get to markets, four times a week), and therefore money, as they no longer need to go to town a day before to store their produce and back again for the market days.

### From marketing techniques to land rights

Union des groupements des femmes, Togo



*In Togo, thanks to an agricultural information centre, women can monitor market prices and decide which supplies to buy. PHOTO: Union des groupements des femmes*

In Togo, the “Union de groupements des femmes rurales” (an association of rural women’s organisations) focuses on women’s property rights and increasing their incomes through a value chain approach. Mobile phones were used to obtain market prices, which were then entered in an internet platform called Tradenet – a market information system – used for agricultural products in the region. Buyers and sellers use the site, and if a woman was looking to sell some of her products, she could simply send an SMS or an email to the buyer. Initially, men were quite resistant to the women learning how to use technologies and especially about them learning about land rights. They did not want “their” women associating themselves with the Union and becoming empowered. But after consulting with the local council and queen mothers (mothers to the local chief or ruler), hearing the women of their community speak on the radio, and beginning to feel a shift in the women, men became more receptive to changes. Now that the women can contribute financially to their families and generate revenue, they are held in higher regard. The Union is growing rapidly and even men’s organisations now adhere.

## Making telecentres a space for all to enjoy

Toro Development Network (ToroDev), Uganda



*Radio shows disseminated market information aimed at women farmers in Western Uganda. The women use mobile phones to communicate more easily and cheaply with buyers in the nearest urban centres. PHOTO: ToroDev*

ToroDev's project aimed at increasing the revenue of small farmers and others involved in agriculture, especially women. Using traditional and modern ICTs like community radio and mobile phones, their aim was to diffuse useful and relevant information and make it accessible to those who needed it. They looked at radio broadcasting and how to target broadcasts in order to deal with gender issues and promote economic development by facilitating women's participation in agricultural production.

A weekly radio programme with information on the prices of certain commodities was set up. Since telecentres were dominated by men, women were not able to utilise these facilities to obtain market prices, but with the radio programme, women could be informed while doing their chores at home. Women were also able to use mobile phones for enquiries, saving them lengthy trips into town. Thanks to this, women, who used to feel complacent, are now showing interest and feel more empowered.

[www.torodev.kabissa.org](http://www.torodev.kabissa.org)






**Women learn by doing**  
Ndola Professional Centre, Zambia



*In Zambia, women received training in free and open source software (FOSS). PHOTO: Ndola Professional Centre*

With a focus on “learning by doing”, the Ndola Professional Centre in Zambia focused on enhancing accessibility of ICTs for women by providing training on new technologies to women’s groups and institutions. A total of 205 women were trained on free and open source software (FOSS) programmes – Open Office, GNU Cash and Gimp – from February to December 2009. With their new knowledge on these programmes, women can now track their sales and make brochures and posters to expand the market for their crops.

Women also took the initiative themselves to form their own ICT cooperative, where they learned to use the internet, create email accounts, produce different types of text documents, etc. Though initially reluctant, their confidence grew as they gained new skills, which helped increase family income. Thanks to the additional income, they can now invest more into their crops and crop marketing, and in turn pay school fees for their children and better nourish themselves. But this was not without challenges: harvesting season and language barriers meant that the women could not always come to the centre to make use of the resources. They are also hoping to launch the content that they collected and created in the provincial local language and then nationwide, and hope to forge strategic partnerships to create an agricultural information service database.



## Becoming a better businesswoman

I-DevNet, Nigeria

Iyaafin Owolabi is a 52-year-old woman and a dealer in palm oil who lives in rural Nigeria. Iyaafin processes palm oil in neighbouring Oyedeji village, and also buys oil from various villages in the area, which she then sells to her customers in various markets. She faced many challenges in transporting her goods in containers to the markets, given the bad roads – she usually needs to hire Okada riders (motorcycle riders who carry passengers for hire). Hiring the riders is a big risk for her, because there are times when no one buys her goods, after she has invested in the transportation. Iyaafin, being one of the most faithful to the project, has visited the centre many times over.

Once the project came to an end, she was particularly satisfied. She can now call her customers and avoid going to the market if they are not interested, saving time and money on transportation. She calls them by phone and informs them of the availability of palm oil. They also call her to ask about the availability of palm produce. According to her, sales have increased tremendously. Iyaafin's testimony shows that she is now a better-organised businesswoman. She only moves her goods to the market when she and her customers agree, and rarely returns home with her goods because of her pre-arrangements with them.

## Lessons learned



*A palm oil processor in Nigeria learned from school teachers from her community how to find agricultural information via mobile phones and computers. PHOTO: I-DevNet*

As in every development initiative, GenARDIS projects had to be flexible enough to adapt to the different realities they were working in. Several unexpected issues came up when implementing them, and project teams incorporated those learnings as the initiatives were developing.

### Lack of support of family, mainly husbands

Many projects were developed in environments that were not supportive of women taking part in meetings, trainings and other activities that took them away from traditional roles. In Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo, the project team asked Aimé Byamungu<sup>1</sup> to be the leader of the initiative. Though without formal education, she was very involved in her community and was

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1 See a digital story on Aimé Byamungu produced during an APC Gender Evaluation Methodology workshop here: [www.genderevaluation.net/mygem/videos](http://www.genderevaluation.net/mygem/videos)





perfect for the job. She was married to a very respected teacher and had five children.

Two weeks after the project was launched she wanted to quit: she did not have the support of her family, especially her husband. He laughed at her and trivialised the important work she was doing; he wanted her to be a “good wife” again. Aimé felt that she could not be a model for other women and a source of power for them. She was supported by IFDAP, the implementing organisation, and eventually agreed to return. She understood that her quitting would discourage other women and would reinforce her husband’s patronising attitude.

### Infrastructure is key

Another issue that affected many initiatives had to do with lack of infrastructure. In Gwagwada, a village in North-Central Nigeria, mobile phones were used to connect a listeners club of women farmers with agricultural experts who gave them advice through radio shows. Although Gwagwada was a former train station, landlines are not available and out of the seven or so mobile phone service providers, only one of them has signals that are visible, and only if boosters in the form of a mast antenna were added on. People had to climb the nearby hilltops to find a mobile phone signal. Women were very enthusiastic about mobile phones and this did not prevent them from using them, but it did take time from the group discussions.

Infrastructure problems also involved more basic things, such as transportation. In Burkina Faso most of the women attending trainings could not count on a means of transportation by themselves: they had to rely on a family member, which made them even more dependent on the support of their family. As a result, schedules had to be very flexible. In Nigeria, the implementing team was in a different village from the one where the trainings took place; even if the distance was very short, bad roads made the trip long and tiring, and this demanded more support for the project team.

Electricity was another challenging issue. In Togo frequent electrical surges affected training and blew up the equipment. This was also the case in Burkina Faso, where women felt frustrated when they could not practise their newly acquired ICT skills because of frequent power cuts. This, however, led FEPPASI, the implementing organisation, to look for alternatives, and they are now opening ICT centres with solar panels.



## ICTs boost literacy



*Literacy is an issue for many ICT-for-development initiatives. In Nigeria, after learning how to use mobile phones, women were motivated to learn how to read and write and asked the church to start a literacy programme. PHOTO: ARDA*

Last but not least, projects dealt with different degrees of education and literacy among the people that they worked with. In Ethiopia, a group of school drop-outs worked with digital cameras first. Technology gave them the motivation to learn how to read and write. Local politicians could understand better the benefits of these kinds of interventions and were more keen on supporting them, thus ensuring sustainability. In the Dominican Republic, when Taigüey, the implementing organisation, started training on spreadsheets for a cooperative of women agro-processors, they realised that they lacked the logical tools needed and decided to give them math courses as a starter.

## Building capacities around gender and project formulation



*During the kick-off workshop (Senegal, 2008), GenARDIS finalists received training in gender evaluation and project formulation. PHOTO: APC*

Learning also took place within the GenARDIS coordination team. After the first two rounds of GenARDIS, partners saw that there were lots of interesting and innovative projects within the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific regions, but many applications did not make it through the selection process because of a lack of project formulation skills: there was a disconnect between objectives, activities and outputs, budgets were not realistic and often it was difficult to see how the communities/end users would really benefit.

Another concern brought up in the GenARDIS evaluation<sup>2</sup> had to do with the implementing organisations' understanding of gender and ICT issues, and the extent to which women actually benefited from the projects. Indeed, many proposals came from organisations that lacked previous experience in implementing gender and ICT projects. Most of them assumed that including a gender perspective meant to have women as beneficiaries and in the implementation team, without much strategic decision to focus on women (either in terms of their basic needs or strategic interests in ICTs and agriculture). Since one of GenARDIS' aims was to generate new knowledge and awareness of gender dimensions of ICTs in places where they do not exist, it did not make sense to exclude them.

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2 [genardis.apcwomen.org/uploads/GenARDIS\\_evaluation\\_0307\\_EN.pdf](http://genardis.apcwomen.org/uploads/GenARDIS_evaluation_0307_EN.pdf)



*In the final workshop (Johannesburg, March 2010), GenARDIS grantees learned how to use their experience in policy advocacy, in order to address the roots of inequality. PHOTO: APC*

In order to respond to these concerns, Round III of GenARDIS began with a kick-off workshop. Representatives from twenty shortlisted projects got together in Gorée Island, Senegal, in September 2008 for training in project formulation, gender issues – through APC’s Gender Evaluation Methodology (GEM)<sup>3</sup> – and most importantly, to create a space where participants could learn from each other. After the workshop, the finalists re-submitted their proposals, and the jury selected the final fifteen grantees.<sup>4</sup>

The workshop was successful in terms of developing a community of people committed to GenARDIS and its objectives, who had shared contexts, strategies and challenges and have a collective journey. This was reflected in the mailing lists that are still active and where much information on tools, events and resources was and is still shared.

Participants returned to their communities with new ideas and skills and re-wrote their proposals. Even the projects that did not receive the award could use their new knowledge to continue fund raising and all remain members of the GenARDIS community. Every participant highlighted the value of their peers’ feedback and felt proud of participating in a group of people that worked hard to change their local realities.

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3 [www.genderevaluation.net](http://www.genderevaluation.net)

4 See list on page 44.



## Sowing the seed of love

Toro Development Network (ToroDev), Uganda



*The Wilbor and Mugisa couples started up a rural information centre for small-scale farmers in Kibito sub-county. They learned how to look for and use agricultural information, and how to work together as equals to improve household income. In the past such gender equality would not have been possible. PHOTO: ToroDev*

ToroDev has been working with rural communities in Uganda since 2005. In the process of implementing its GenARDIS project, two married couples in particular stood out within the groups it worked with. These couples learned about how to work cooperatively to improve agricultural production and therefore household income. This can be attributed to their learnings during the gender issues discussion. They also learned the value of current information in agricultural production and took it upon themselves to establish a telecentre, where they can now collect information from ToroDev's Kabarole Information Centre (KIC), as well as disseminate it to other members of their farming group. They cover topics like how to improve production, and how the women can be involved in supporting this activity.

Most importantly, though, an attitudinal shift has taken place, as the husbands have started to appreciate the role their wives play in family income generation, helping pay school fees and getting better health care, as well as in projects for the family that will help sustain them and improve their lives.



## Recommendations for policy makers

By **Sonia Jorge**<sup>1</sup>

*Illiteracy, lack of electricity and poor infrastructure are some of the challenges that are preventing rural women from benefiting from ICTs. What can local and national policy makers do in order to address some of these issues? Policy analyst Sonia Jorge gives some insights.*



From an equity perspective, the most basic ICT policy goal should be to increase affordable access to ICTs for all women and men, regardless of geographic location, language, age, race and social class. However, gender considerations are rarely the focus of policy makers. And policies that neglect the specific context of the lives of women and men are more likely to fail, since they will not meet the needs of all people equally. This is

why the inclusion of gender considerations is critical and needs to be integral to the policy process.


There is extensive evidence of the significant impact of gender analysis in development work. This evidence, as well as the experience of several ICT projects around the world, provides the basis for gender analysis in ICT policy and planning. The experience of the GenARDIS grantees and projects illustrates that there is critical work that still needs to take place at the policy and planning levels to ensure that ICTs provide equal opportunities and benefits to women and men in rural areas. It further highlights the need for targeted and coordinated cross-sector policies that aim at improving the lives of women and men in rural areas.

The following recommendations result from the experience of the GenARDIS grantees and projects and should be considered to inform the project itself, but most importantly to inform national policy at the country and regional levels. In fact, these recommendations can form the basis for a policy advocacy programme, specifically focused on gender-aware universal access and rural development policy.

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1 Sonia Jorge is an international consultant in communications policy and regulation, and gender and development. Her work focuses on policy and regulation in developing countries.

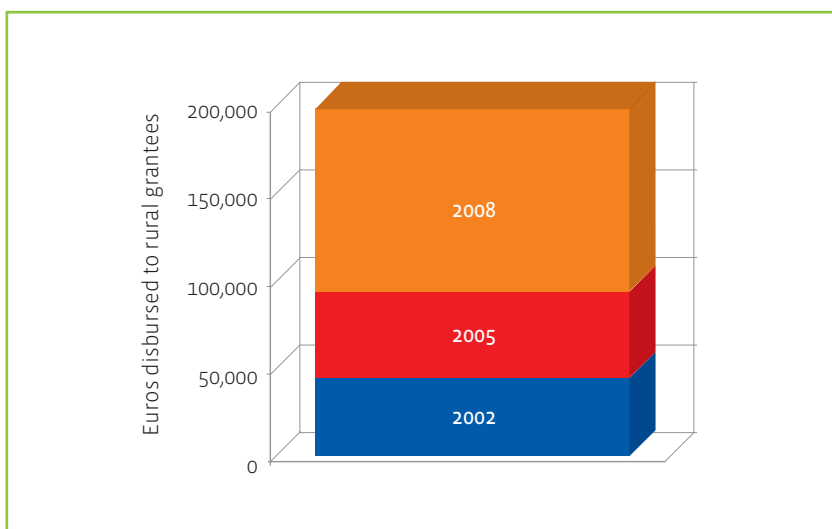




## Policy recommendations for gender-aware universal access and rural development

- 1. Improve and expand rural infrastructure by focusing on public shared access facilities**, with special focus on wireless technologies and required electrical power sources. Policy efforts should include the development and implementation of universal access funds to promote and support the deployment of wireless technologies and infrastructure in rural and remote areas, in coordination with electricity providers.
- 2. Invest in and promote community shared access (e.g. telecentres) for rural areas.** Community-based access makes sense from an economic as well as social perspective. It provides affordable access without the expenses of ownership and it creates the community setting for needed training programmes and support services, including many focused on the needs of women and girls in rural communities. Evidence also shows that telecentre-type projects in rural areas help keep youth in the region.
- 3. Develop and implement an education campaign focused on gender equality and women's rights within the context of ICT for development.** It is critical to ensure that ICTs do not become a reason for gender-based conflict and violence. There is a need for continuing public education around women's rights and gender equality.
- 4. Promote and support the development of local content in local languages.** Local and meaningful content is critical to ensure demand and a market for ICT services and applications. It can serve as an opportunity to build local capacity and/or support local businesses interested in content development, for their communities, and delivered via ICT networks, including radio.
- 5. Support adult literacy programmes in rural areas.** ICT policy and institutions should promote and support the ongoing efforts to educate the population, particularly women in rural areas.
- 6. Promote and facilitate the establishment of public-private partnerships in the implementation of rural projects**, both for financing purposes as well as implementation and operational support. These partnerships may include local or national businesses, including those providing technical support, rural cooperatives, including women's cooperatives, as well as other local businesses with the ability to reach out to users.
- 7. Develop a programme where parliamentarians and government institutions sponsor rural ICT projects to promote their successes and gain political support.** ICT and infrastructure projects have become quite visible in governmental development efforts and provide a great opportunity for visibility as well as guaranteed support for project success.

## The money: Seed grants and training



*Monies disbursed directly in the form of seed grants to local projects*


Since the first round of GenARDIS grants in 2002, the project has disbursed €200,000 directly to 34 grassroots organisations in the form of seed grants.

In addition, €110,000 was also spent on training to build grantees' capacity through training workshops and networking opportunities.

The commitment of partners was crucial in ensuring that the recommendations following the GenARDIS evaluation in 2005 could become reality.

The number of grants made available went up 50% in Round III, from ten to fifteen. The size of grants increased 40%, from €5,000 to €7,000.





## Improvements made since 2005

Following the recommendations made in an impact evaluation in 2005, partners doubled their commitment.

- Increasing the seed grants from € 5,000 to € 7,000 each.
- Increasing the grantees from ten to fifteen.
- Hosting two instead of one capacity development and knowledge sharing workshop.
- Including shortlisted candidates in the first capacity development workshop.
- Providing gender training as well as project formulation training.
- Creating an animated and facilitated online working space as a way of mentoring grantees during project implementation.
- Accessing events, opportunities and potential funding sources for grantees.
- Supporting grantees' applications to further opportunities such as journal publications, conferences and networking opportunities.
- Promoting grantees' projects, communities and organisations on the French and English GenARDIS website.



## Grantees 2003-2010

### Round I: 2003

#### Grantees

- Benin: Renforcement des capacités des femmes fonctionnaires qui oeuvrent pour l'autonomisation économique des femmes rurales pour la sécurité alimentaire et la réduction de la pauvreté au Bénin, Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB).
- Chad: La radio communautaire au service du développement de la femme rurale au Tchad, Grâce Agouna, Audy Magazine.
- Ghana: Proposal to use Participatory Community Planning (PCP): ICTs as tools to give rural women a voice in decision making to promote a new social awareness about their roles in managing natural resources for sustainable agriculture through biodiversity conservation, Participatory Community Development (PACODEV).
- Jamaica: ICT tools and services in support of development of organic agriculture in the Caribbean: A regional training workshop for women entrepreneurs, Networked Intelligence for Development.
- Kenya: Health and Agriculture Community Radio Network, Kenya AIDS Intervention Prevention Project Group (KAIPPG).
- Malawi: FarmWise, Computer Land Limited.
- South Africa: Diffusion of ICTs in communication of agricultural information for rural development among women in Kwa-Zulu Natal, University of Zululand.
- Tanzania: Mainstreaming gender into information, communication and technology in Sub-Saharan Africa: A case study of Northern Tanzania, Community Development and Relief Agency (CODRA).
- Uganda: Women's access to and the use of basic ICTs in accessing information on new agricultural technologies, Makerere University.



## Honourable mentions

- Benin: Renforcement des capacités des groupements féminins pour la commercialisation des produits agricoles, Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB).
- Burkina Faso: Les nouvelles technologies au service du développement durable: le cas des femmes du groupement Wend Namendzanga, de Ipenga, Interface.
- Mozambique: Rural womens' information networks: A Mozambican case study, Voluntariado Internacional para o Desenvolvimento Africano (VIDA).
- Nigeria: Enhancing women farmers' market-oriented decision-making through innovative applications of ICTs in rural Southeastern Nigeria, University of Nigeria.
- Sierra Leone: Integrating information and communication technologies in the work of rural women for empowerment and rural development, Community Advocacy and Development Project (CADEP).
- South Africa: Promoting gender-related agricultural extension through the use of ICTs in South Africa, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Uganda: The village which came on the network by accident: Action research on gender and access to ICT in a remote mountain village, African Science and Technology Exchange (ASTEX).
- Uganda: Theatre for development in advocacy for ICT use in gender, agriculture and rural development, Techneeds Uganda.
- Zimbabwe: E-commerce and international trade, Rodwel Foundation Women's Co-operative.



## Round II: 2005

### Grantees

- Benin: Projet de sensibilisation, de formation et de mise en place d'un système d'information agricole basé sur les TIC au profit de dix groupements féminins de la commune de Dassa-Zoumé au Bénin, Guy Raoul Gbaguidi.
- Democratic Republic of Congo: Campagne d'accompagnement et de sensibilisation des femmes rurales d'Uvira sur la promotion des TIC, des fins de plaidoyer pour le genre, Brigitte Kasongo Mawazo.
- Ghana: Promoting the cultivation of healthy vegetables by farmers: A gender approach to using ICTs, Collins K. Osei.
- Kenya: Engendering equality: A health and agricultural community-based information and communication system project, James Onyango, KAIPPG.
- Lesotho: Widening the wellhead: Creating and using a dedicated cellular phone network to add information, value and dignity to the work of women in Lesotho's agricultural sector, Mabela Khabele, University of Lesotho.
- South Africa: Developing rural expertise in spatial dynamics: Participatory GIS in the rooibos tea lands of the Suid Bokkeveld, Gabriela Demergasso and Bettina Koelle, Indigo Development and Change.
- South Africa: Mobile learning for change, Anil Naidoo.
- Tonga: Production of a training video aimed at covering eight main segments to be used as a training methodology at gender and CEDAW advocacy, Ofa Guttenbeil.
- Trinidad and Tobago: Proposal to test the use of mobile cell phones among a select group of female and male farmers in Trinidad and Tobago, David Dolly, University of the West Indies.



## Honourable mentions

- Cameroon: Gender and the cellular paradox: Innovation and transforming societies in rural Africa, Joyce Endeley, University of Buea.
- Nigeria: Information and communication technology skill acquisition among female schoolteachers in Umuahia, Williams Ezinwa Nwagwu, University of Ibadan.
- Senegal: Réseau des jeunes filles rurales pour l'emploi ménager à Dakar, Della Ablavi Koutcho Diagne.
- Uganda: Rural Agricultural Community Connectivity Project, Helen Lwemamu, Think Quest.

## Round III: 2008

### Grantees

- Benin: Use of ICTs for popularising agricultural information and building production and management capacity with two groups of women producers and product transformers, AquaDeD ONG.
- Burkina Faso: Initiating 30 women in charge of 15 women's groups to computing, FEPPASI.
- Burundi/Democratic Republic of Congo: Setting up a rural women's network in order to increase information exchange, to sensitise people to appropriate agro-pastoral technologies and for advocacy, Wildor Makonero.
- Cameroon: Promoting the use of ICTs for market information exchange among women producers in Cameroon, SB Mathur Foundation.
- Democratic Republic of Congo: Sisters Informing and Supporting Sisters Initiative (SISSI): Increasing the agricultural productivity and profitability through ICT and partnerships in Small-Scale Rural Women Farmers of Uvira, IFDAP.
- Dominican Republic: Empowering women in managing rural cooperatives with relevant ICTs and e-business tools, Dominican Republic.
- Ethiopia: Women innovators document their own innovation and experimentation in Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, Mekelle University.
- Ghana: eWomen in Development Leadership, Kalang ICT Centre.

- Ghana: Gender Issues and Women's Livelihoods Improvement Project, Kasena Nankana East Community Information Centre.
- Nigeria: Building the ICT capacity of women teachers in a rural community in Nigeria to communicate agricultural information, I-DevNet.
- Nigeria: "Majelissa yan Mata Manoma!": A meeting place for Hausa women farmers on FM radio, African Radio Drama Association.
- Tanzania: ICT and women's empowerment in crop marketing in Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania, Mikochehi Agricultural Research Institute (MARI).
- Togo: Strengthening rural women's access to ICTs in Kpélé-Akata, where ICTs are understood as tools for economic and community education development, Union des groupements de femmes.
- Uganda: Increasing small-scale women farmers' revenues in Kabarole and Kyenjojo Districts of Western Uganda by using sustainable ICT4D-enabled production and marketing tools, Toro Development Network (ToroDev).
- Zambia: ICT Women Co-operative Group, Resource Co-operative Society.

### Shortlisted

- Kenya: Opportunities and resources portal for Kenyan female university students, CoreRooms, JKUAT.
- Mali: Improvement of agricultural women's access to ICT opportunities in the region of Sikasso, Sènè Kunafoni Bulon.
- St. Vincent: Empowering Caribbean women farmers through ICTs, Caribbean Farmers Network.
- Zambia: Promoting the culture of ICT-enabled access to agriculture information among Kapiri rural women farmers, and capacity building for SMS-based access to market information service, ZRDC.
- Zimbabwe: Promoting ICT use for the healthy small-scale waste water irrigation of vegetable crops amongst the rural women of Zimbabwe, IWSD.



## Jury members 2003-2010

### Round I: 2003

Fackson Banda, Zambia  
Laurent Elder, Canada  
Julie Ferguson, Netherlands  
Helen Hambly Odame, Canada  
Aida Opoku-Mensah, Ethiopia  
Ramata Thioune, Senegal  
Gesa Wesseler, Netherlands

### Round II: 2005

Marjan Besuijen, South Africa  
Helen Hambly Odame, Canada  
Ramata Thioune, Canada/Senegal  
Judith Veldhuizen, Netherlands  
Gesa Wesseler, Netherlands

### Round III: 2008

Yogita Chandra-Bhikabhai, Fiji/New Zealand  
Kathleen Diga, Canada/South Africa  
David Dolly, Trinidad and Tobago  
Joyce Endelay, Cameroon  
Helen Hambly Odame, Ghana  
Scholastique Kenko, Mali  
Aminata Maiga, Mali  
Dorothy Okello, Uganda  
Kevin Painting, Netherlands  
Stella Williams, Nigeria





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- Stella Williams, Mundus maris, Nigeria
- Oumy Ndiaye, CTA, Senegal/Netherlands
- Ramata Molo, IDRC, Senegal
- Kathleen Diga, IDRC, Canada/South Africa
- Monique Doppert, Hivos, Netherlands

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Lastly we would like to thank all the GenARDIS grantees and applicants over the past decade who have made a lasting contribution to improving the lives of hundreds of rural women in their communities.



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Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU  
[www.cta.int](http://www.cta.int)



Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries  
[www.hivos.org](http://www.hivos.org)



International Institute for Communication and Development  
[www.iicd.org](http://www.iicd.org)



International Development Research Centre  
[www.idrc.ca](http://www.idrc.ca)

[genardis.apcwomen.org](http://genardis.apcwomen.org)

