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For the fifth consecutive year an awareness and information campaign was organized and more than 16,000 campaign posters and letters were disseminated around the world by the Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF to mark World Rural Women's Day 2001 as an annual global event to continue to raise the profile of rural women, bring them to the forefront, point out to governments and the public their crucial role in development and local household food security, and promote action in their support. **The theme for the Day and the Open Letter to rural Women of the world was “Protect your traditional knowledge” and several countries have translated the letter into local languages.**

Feedback is important so that we can assess the value and impact of the campaign and the societal transformation it helps bring about. Below is a short report from grassroots groups, non-governmental organisations, institutions and the media that shared with WWSF information of events, celebrations and activities, photographs and videos produced on the World Day.

AFRICA

Algeria

- **The Algerian Feminist Mouvement** celebrates the Day since many years and distributes the Open Letter to rural women of the world in Arabic.

Angola

- **Rede Mulher** and 18 provinces organized activities convened by the Ministry of Family and Women's Promotion, national coordinators of the Day. Workshops on micro credit and a rural Fair were on the agenda. The Open Letter was published in the national and private media.

Bénin

- **Union des Transformateurs des Produits Agricoles** ont marqué la Journée afin d'encourager les femmes rurales à renforcer leur rôle de lutte contre la faim, la pauvreté et la sécurité alimentaire. En chantant et en dansant, l'Union a présenté par le théâtre leurs activités de transformation de manioc en alimentation (de l'usine jusqu'aux marchés), aux personnalités présentes à la célébration. 1780 femmes rurales ont participé aux célébrations.



Burundi

- **L'Association pour le Développement des Initiatives de la femme** a célébré la Journée dans la Province de Muramuya où de nombreuses associations féminines ont discuté le thème « Accroître la production pour le bien-être est un combat acharné pour la femme burundaise » et a signalé la nécessité d'accès à l'éducation et aux micro-crédits pour les femmes. Mme le Ministre de l'Action Social et de la Promotion Féminine était présente.

R. D. Congo

- **Action Chrétienne pour la Promotion sociale ACPS asbl.** a marqué la Journée. 63 personnes réunies à Kalandu, parmi lesquelles les autorités locales, ont célébré la Journée avec des discours retransmis par la radio en langue locale et en français à plus de 6000 personnes composant la population locale. Avec des chants, pièces de théâtre et danses traditionnelles, le message de revendication des droits de la femme à été transmis.
- **La Ligue pour la protection et le développement de la Femme LICOPRODEF**, un organisme féminin, a marqué la Journée avec des activités.
- **L'Eglise du Christ au Congo** a célébré la Journée à Tshikapa dans la province du Kasai-Occidental en réunissant plusieurs associations, groupements et organisations non gouvernementales féminines ainsi que des autorités tant gouvernementales que confessionnelles. Banderoles, affiches et communiqués à la radio locale ont contribué au succès de cette journée.
- **Jeunes Chrétiens Réformés pour le Développement** marked the Day in 17 churches with more than 20'000 women.

Guinée

- **L'Association Guinéenne pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique AGPAB** a marqué la Journée par l'affichage, la traduction et la diffusion de la Lettre Ouverte aux femmes rurales et par une discussion sur le savoir traditionnel en présence de plusieurs intervenants et d'un groupement féminin de 212 femmes rurales volontaires à la faveur de la Journée pour le développement de Souguéta. « ...Cette célébration marque en Guinée le début de la célébration de cette journée, elle gagnera en intensité au fil des années, au fur et à mesure que nos moyens d'action s'accroîtront pour mieux encadrer et appuyer les femmes rurales... ».



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Kenya

- **The Grassroots Women Association** organized together with **the National Council of Women of Kenya NCWK, Femnet, the Council for Economic Empowerment of Women in Africa CEEWA, the Collaborative Center for Gender and Development CCGD, and the Kangemi Women Empowerment Center** a celebration of the Day with 245 participants representing 12 districts and 10 NGOs. The Open Letter to rural women was read. Festivities included songs and dances, an exhibition of women products and handicrafts, and a demonstration on the use of appropriate technology such as solar cookers, water pumps, etc.
- **Kenya Female Advisory Organization KEFEADO** marked the Day.

Liberia

- **Rural Women Development Agency** celebrated the Day for the second year.

Mali

- **Association Féminine de Bla**, a marqué la Journée.

Nigeria

- **Community Health and Development Advisory Trust COHDAT**. Eziamma_Ohaba, a very rural community, was chosen for the celebration. The Open Letter was translated into **Igbo** language and read to the participants in their own language by the COHDAT Director. Some aspects like the advantage of some traditional food preparation methods was exposed, and nine people were nominated for an honor award from the community. **Josephine Edidi** was selected for her activities using traditional methods to help pregnant women.
- **Women Law and Development Center Nigeria**, honored on the Day Mrs. Victoria Bosede Dunmade for having received the Prize for women's creativity in rural life from WWSF.
- **African Center for Peace Education** informed local authorities and Ministers of Agriculture about rural women's problems and about what they are doing to mark the Day. They have started to organize the women into coalitions and networks, exchange experiences and claim their economic, social and cultural rights as suggested in the Open Letter to rural women of the world.



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- **National council of Women Societies** participated with celebrations and keynote speaker from CBO-NGO forum.
- **Ubochi Nke Umunwanyi Imeime Obodo UWA** marked the Day and translated the 'Open Letter to rural women' into the **Igbo** language.

Rwanda

- **SEVOTA**, la Lettre ouverte aux femmes rurales de la FSMF concernant la protection du savoir traditionnel a été traduite en langue Kinyarwanda et distribuée dans le pays par le Ministère du Genre et de la Promotion de la Femme et aussi par des organisations de promotion de la femme. La Journée a été célébrée conjointement avec l'inauguration du 15^{ème} anniversaire du Réseau des Femmes oeuvrant pour le Développement Rural et tout le mois d'octobre a été caractérisé par plusieurs activités telles que des conférences-débats sur la femme et la prise de décision, l'éducation de la fille, la culture des plantes médicinales et du café dans des associations féminines et l'inauguration des caisses de crédit initiées par les femmes. A souligner aussi, la création du Prix « **NZAMBAZAMARIYA Veneranda** » en l'honneur de la Coordinatrice Nationale du Réseau des Femmes, décédée en janvier 2000, dans l'objectif de visualiser une image positive de la femme.

Senegal

- **Réseau national femmes rurales** diffused the information throughout its network.

Sierra Leone

- **Kofi Annan Development Foundation KADEF-SL celebrated the Day for the first time.** Activities took place at the Primary School of Rogborroh Village (in the lower Koya district - Northern Province) in collaboration with the **Christian Child Charity, the Community Development Organization CCDEO** and the **International Committee of the Red Cross.** Activities were supported with the presence of the First Lady for the Northern Province, Mrs. Rugiatu Kamara, and the representative from the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, Mrs. Mbalu Kamara. **It was established that from now on October 15 will be celebrated annually in different parts of the country.**
- **Moawoma Rural Women's Development Association** informed WWSF that since their celebration in 2000 and now, 120 women's groups have been created and formed the Kenema District Women's Cooperative to seek post war recovery and socio-economic status. Yatta Samah, a laureate of the Prize, was elected President.

South Africa

- **Women in Agriculture and Development WAAD** successfully celebrated the Day.



Tanzania

- **L'Association pour l'Education et la Défense des Droits de la Femme et de l'Enfant AEDEDFE** a célébré la journée avec l'ouverture solennelle de son « Centre MAENDELEO », un centre d'alphabétisation des femmes et par une soirée de réflexion sur la problématique « La Dote et les droits de la Femme Rurale »

Tchad

- **L'Association Jeunesse Anti-Clivage** a traduit la Lettre Ouverte aux femmes rurales du monde en Arabe local tchadien pour une diffusion à travers le territoire national.
- **Le Fond des N.U. pour la population FNUAP** a envoyé une lettre au Ministre de l'Action Sociale et de la Famille pour lui faire part de la Journée et de son thème « Protégez votre savoir traditionnel ».
- **ASSAILD Moundou** a remis le Prix pour la créativité des femmes de la FSMF le 15 octobre à la lauréate, Madame Dembette Robertine lors d'une cérémonie avec la participation des autorités administratives ainsi que d'ONG.

Togo

- **La Présidente de la Marche Mondiale des Femmes – section Togo** - a invité les femmes à s'engager davantage pour redresser leur image dans la société.
- **L'Organisation des Volontaires Acteurs de Développement – Action Plus OVAD-AP** a célébré la Journée avec les **femmes d'Afagnan**. Une gigantesque marche contre la misère et l'inégalité a été organisée. Un mémorandum a été présenté pour revendiquer la reconnaissance de leurs droits, une participation plus active dans la prise de décisions, une meilleure éducation pour les filles et l'éradication de la violence contre des femmes.
- **L'Association pour la Promotion durable de la femme défavorisée** a marqué la Journée et à honoré la lauréate du Prix pour la créativité des femmes en milieu rural, Honorine Poidi.
- **La Voix du Paysan** organized the Day with radio programs, processions in three states, conference discussions, and a manifestation at the Municipal Stadium of Kpalimé.
- **L'ONG GRAPHE**, représentant 8000 femmes, a marqué la Journée.

Tunisie



- Le **Ministère de l'Agriculture** a demandé des affiches pour diffusion et la célébration.

ASIA & PACIFIC

Bangladesh

- **COAST - the World Rural Women's Day National Committee** - celebrated the Day nationwide with the theme 'Seed Security and the Role of Rural Women'. Bangladesh has marked the Day since 1997 and organised last year an official national program to mark the World Day.

India

- **Janamangal Mahila Samiti** has been celebrating the Day for the past four years. In the presence of Honorable District Collector, Puri Mr. Digamber Mahanty, 1521 representatives of rural women from various villages of the District of Puri participated in a Convention at Rehana Nuagaon High School Campus with the theme "Indigenous knowledge and its protection, and empowering rural women". Women were encouraged to modify and rectify old traditional habits that negatively affect them. The WWSF Open Letter to rural women was translated into the **Oriya language**.
- For the third consecutive year, the **People's Institute for Rural Action in Manosri West Bengal** commemorated the Day. A dialogue was opened to discuss torture and the way to stop violence against women. A memorandum was sent to the President of India and a committee of 15 rural women was set up to work on a community level. Poems, case studies, readings and an exhibition marked the occasion.
- **Farmer Development Agency** marked the Day with 102 participants from 13 villages at Chikballapur City with speeches encouraging women to claim equal wages and fight against discrimination at work. Sweets were distributed to children while clothes were distributed to rural women.
- **Society for Rural Health, Education and Development SRHED Andhra Pradesh** organised activities with more than 100 participants who were exhorted not to fall into ignorance, superstitions, illiteracy and exploitation. Examples were given on the capacity of famous women through history, and how some of them, coming from rural areas, worked hard to overcome all kinds of difficulties and prejudices. The Day was also marked by a press conference and announcements in the largest circulated daily newspaper.



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- **Vikas Mahila Multipurpose Co-operative Society LTD.** organized a get-together with the participation of more than 200 women from different villages. They were encouraged to be proud of their role, respect themselves and stand up for their rights.
- **The Magnum Foundation** (an NGO) celebrated the Day at **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**, with the presence of Government Authorities. Experts on organic farming guided women in the use of waste and garbage to prepare organic manures. It was established that the ingredients for the empowerment of women include economic independence, political participation and respect.
- **Li Environmentica in Gorakhpur** celebrated in accordance with local traditional values. A lobby was organized to obtain from the government the proclamation of the Day as a National Day.
- **Center for Human Development CUTS** thanked WWSF for the Prize for women's creativity to Laureate Ratni Bai Khatik. A ceremony was organized in her honor on the World Day.
- **Ma-O-Shishu, a Voluntary and Philanthropic organization** in West Bengal working for social development of mothers and children, celebrated with a symposium to make rural women aware of their needs, rights and the importance of protecting traditional values.
- **Centre for Ecology and Research** organized events in collaboration of the State Department of Agriculture, which was covered by all electronic and print media. They also organized an award ceremony and transmitted on the Day the Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life to Rajeswari Kartjikayan, one of the WWSF laureates in 2001.
- **Extensive Rural Poor Development Organisation ERPDO** marked the Day by publishing articles in the Vaartha, the Telugu Daily (print run 25,000) and convened a press conference addressing the theme of the Day. A leaflet was published and distributed in the entire District with the participation of 21 members of Nellore District NGO Forum NEDNOF.
- **Center for Ecology and Research** co-convened with **CUTS** an award ceremony for the Laureate Rajeswari Karthikeyan who received the Prize for women's creativity in rural life from WWSF. The Chief Minister handed over to the Laureate the \$500 cash award and 2000 farmwomen celebrated in her honor.
- **Kerala Association for Social and Women's Welfare** organized events on the Day.



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Indonesia

- **Federation of Indonesian Peasant Union FSPI** produced posters for awareness building of peasant women, organized a national seminar about peasant women's position and agrarian reform, and organized a workshop to develop women peasant organizations.

Mongolia

- **Foundation for the Empowerment of Rural Women FERW** marked the Day for the first time in Mongolia. The President of the Foundation sent a message to all rural women via the National Radio of Mongolia. A 30 minute program translated in five languages (Japanese, Chinese, Russian, English and Mongolian) was transmitted and five women received an award with an Honor Title for their contributions to women's social life.

Papua New Guinea

- **The National Agricultural Research Institute** distributed the Open Letter to rural women.
- The Day was celebrated with radio panel discussions and an Information Forum for rural women.

Pakistan

- More than 50 delegates participated in a ceremony organized by the **Women Employees Welfare Association WEWA, World Asian Worker Organization WAWO, and PUNJAB Rural Workers Welfare Organization PRWEO** to discuss the situation of rural women and how recognition of rural women's rights is essential for economic development.
- **The AIM's Rural Committee at Faisalabad**, celebrated the Day with the presence of 90 women. On the Program was how to make rural women aware of their situation, their rights and their potential for social and economic self-reliance.

LATIN AMERICA & CARRIBEAN

Antigua-Barbuda

- **The Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Health and Social Improvement** encouraged the celebration in order to give rural women support and visibility.

Argentina



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- **Publicación de la Carta Abierta a la Mujer Rural en el periódico mensual Otras Voces, de Rosario.**

Chile

- **La Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Rurales e Indígenas** programa la celebración a nivel nacional en la Tercera Región al norte del país. La acción principal de este año fué la **defensa y preservación de semillas utilizadas para la preparación de almaciagos**, actividad que hoy se encuentra muy amenazada.

Colombia

- En conmemoración del Día, la **Universidad Nacional y el Fondo de documentación Mujer y Género**, organizó un panel de discusión sobre la Crisis del Sector Agrario y la Situación de la Mujer Rural. Igualmente se presentó un largo metraje y una muestra artesanal de Cundinamarca.

Cuba

- **ACTAF**. En varias provincias del país se realizaron encuentros con mujeres destacadas en el medio rural. Con la presencia de la Presidenta de la **Federación de Mujeres Cubanas**, del representante de la FAO, de personalidades del Ministerio de Agricultura, y de representantes de los medios de comunicación, se hizo entrega de la medalla al Premio a la Creatividad de la Mujer Rural a la Sra. **Georgina Perez Martínez**.

Ecuador

- **La Red de Mujeres de Loja** received materiels for the first time, marked the Day and requested additional matériels for their library.

El Salvador

- **Centro Salvadorema de Tecnologia Apropiada CESTA** marked the Day with activities.

Haïti

- **Association Paysans Anacaona de Leogane ASPAL together with other organizations** organized a conference with 289 participants on the theme of « Problèmes of agricultural development in Haïti in the context of globalisation and the contributions of,rural women to food security ».

Peru

- **El Taller**. Hoja divulgativa en los medios de comunicación impresa por la **Red Mujer Rural de Arequipa** incentivando a la mujer rural a una mayor participación a todo nivel para realizar acciones conjuntas que reconozcan y valoricen su trabajo. En Pancarpata,



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y ante la presencia de un gran número de personas, 40 mujeres participaron en el taller « Creatividad de la mujer » que sirvió de marco a la entrega del Premio a la Creatividad a **Zoila Valdés Chaupi**. En el mismo acto se decidió la creación de una asociación de mujeres altoandinas del Sur de Perú para promover la valorización de la mujer en esta región.

- **Centro de Investigacion y Estudios Economicos Educativos, sociales y Culturales CIESCU.**
- En Arequipa se celebró el día con un forum panel radial a través de 23 medios de comunicación. Hubo también una **conferencia** sobre las « Ideas de Proyectos productivos que pueden ejecutar las mujeres rurales » en la que participaron 200 mujeres rurales.
- **El Ministerio de Promocion de la Mujer y el Dessarrollo Humano del Peru PROMUDEH** . Con la presencia de autoridades ministeriales de Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala y Bolivia, la asociación PROMUDEH desarrolló en Lima el Primer Foro Latinoamericano sobre Mujeres Rurales, donde se destacó el alto índice de analfabetismo de la mujer rural en un medio donde se favorece la educación de los niños y no el de las niñas.
- **Red Mujer Rural San Martin** marked the Day for the past four years with **6 institutions CEDISA, CEPCO, PRODEMU, CAAAP, PASMI, MITINCI**. They also awarded prizes to creative and enterprising women and organized a women's panel which focused on native forests and the fight against poverty.

Trinidad & Tobago

- **The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture, the Network of NGOs for the advancement of Women, and the Network of Rural Women Producers**, hosted a Brunch meeting and an award ceremony. Senator Dr Jennifer Jones-Kernahan, Minister of Food Production and Marine Resources, complimented and encouraged rural women for their contribution to the world and the way they improve the quality of live for their families and the country.
- Network of Rural Women Producers celebrated at a Business Brunch and speakers included Minister of Agriculture, Food Production and Marine Resources, Dr. Jennifer Jones Kernerhan, and Dr. Compton Seafort from the University of the West Indies.

United States

- **CounsellorYaye Samb** from the **Organization of the Islamic Conference – Permanent Observer Mission to the UN of the OIC**, wrote a poem on the occasion of the Day honoring rural women.



EUROPE, COUNTRIES in TRANSITION/NORTH AMERICA

Albania

- **CAFOD Albania** celebrated the Day, which was an unforgettable event for women of the two poorest communities in the country, one in the North and one in the South. It was maybe the first time that these women gathered and met each other as their everyday lives are spent in the field and within the four walls of their homes.

Austria

- **The Organisation of Women Farmers /Vorarlberg** organized a festival for all women farmers. President, Elisabeth Hiller, remembered the hard lives of more than 1,5 billion rural women worldwide and why this Day is extremely important in order to change the condition for rural women.
- **The Organisation of Women Farmers /Innsbruck** (the largest district of Austria with 58 communities) organized an excursion to South Tirolean/Italian women farmers and other meetings around 15 October, and uses all meetings to give information about the World Day.
- **The Organization of women Farmers /Upper Austria** participated by making an appeal to all women farmers of her Province with regard to the World Day. " not only the food trade is profiting from the traditional knowledge but rural women's knowledge re the environment as well as how to use and farm the variety of local plants, is extremely important ...". It remains a challenge for women farmers to strengthen the awareness of seasonal fruits, vegetable and locally produced foods.

France

- **Le Forum de l'Agriculture Raisonnée Respectueuse de l'Environnement FARRE.** Le Prix pour la créativité des femmes de la FSMF a été remis à **Véronique Thève** pour ses initiatives novatrices qui contribuent au développement d'une agriculture durable. L'activité s'est déroulée à la Mairie en présence de Christianne Carles, chargée de mission au Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement. **Le FARRE** a publié dans différents journaux des articles relatifs à la Journée et au Prix pour la créativité des femmes en milieu rural décerné à Madame Thève.

Great Britain

- **One Village** included the Day and logo on its website (www.onevillage.org)
- **Rural Stress Information Network** also marked the day.



Republic of Moldova

- **National Women's Studies and Information Centre** marked the Day with the theme "Protect your traditional knowledge" which was discussed at different levels and various activities were organized. Women's NGOs, the mass media and civil society and governmental institutions involved themselves in the commemoration of honouring rural woman. Among different events, a round table was organized by the **Women's Organization of the National Federation of Syndicates** and a request was presented to the Prime Minister to declare **October 15 a National Day**.

Turkey

- **Anakultur – Women's NGO**. The Open Letter to Rural Women of the world was translated into **Turkish** for local publication, and posters and Open Letters were sent to various women's centres in South-Eastern Anatolia.

Sweden

- **LRF Women, Nutek and Swedbank** was encouraged for the third consecutive year to celebrate the Day in Sweden. 40 different locations participated.

Switzerland

- The **Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF** organized a celebration of the Day at the United Nations in Geneva and awarded its annual Prize for women's creativity in rural life with over 100 participants (report enclosed).



MEDIA IMPAC

The media carried stories and articles to mark the World Day, highlighted statistics, and reported on award winners who received the "PRIZE for women's creativity in rural life".

TV: RAI- Bozen / German speaking Italian TV, Italy
Südtirol Heute, Austria
Dordarsabn TV, Tamil Nadu, India
Sun TV, India
Raj TV, India
Vijay TV, India

Radio: World Radio Geneva
Radio Swiss Romande
Landfunk bozen, Italy
All India Radio, India
National Radio, Mongolia

Newspapers: Copies of Articles received from

Le Courier, Switzerland
Le Temps, Switzerland
Journal Paysanne Agri, Switzerland
Freiburger Nachrichten, Switzerland

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (OeEZD), Austria
Agrarisches Informations zentrum (AIZ) Austria
Landwirtschaftliche Blaetter für 5 Provinces, Austria
"Unser Ländle Vorarlberg", Austria

Le Courier de l'Oest, France
L'Acteur Rural, France
L'Avenir Agrigole et Rural, France
L'ANJOU Agricole, Franc
NORD Journal des Communes, France

Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany
Allgäuer Zeitung, Germany
Münchner Merkur, Germany
AZ-Münchner Abendzeitung, Germany
BILD-Zeitung, Germany
DLZ – Deutsche Landwirtschaftszeitung, Germany



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BLW- Bayr. Landwirtschaftliche Blätter, Germany
Oberbayrische Regional-Zeitung, Germany
Kirchenblatt – St. Ulrich, Germany

Südtiroler Landwirt, Italy
“Dolomiten”, Italy
Südtiroler Tageszeitung, Italy
“FF” – Die Südtiroler Wochenzeitung, Italy
Die Südtiroler Frau, Italy
Aldeiner Gemeindeblatt, Italy
Kirchenblatt – Gemeinde Aldein, Italy

Anahaber Newsletter, Turkey

Home News, Sierra Leone
Echos des Enfants et Femmes Rurales, Togo
La Nouvelle Marche – Actualité – R.D. du Congo
L'Indépendant, La Guinée
Femnet News, Kenya
National Media, Kenya

Vaaritha, Telugu Daily, India
Rajasthan Patrika, India
The Hindu, India
The Express, India
Tamil Dailies Dinamani, India
Dinamalar, India
Dinathanthi, India
Malaimurasu and Malaimalar, India

The Frontier Post, Pakistan

Arequipa Al dia, Peru
Otras Voces, Ecuador
Joja divulgativa No.1 de la red Mujer rural Arequipa, Peru

This list is not exhaustive.