



Theme 2002: Claim your right to safe water

WWSF thanks all organizations and grassroots groups that sent reports of activities organized on World Rural Women's Day – 15 October 2002. It is important for WWSF to assess the value and impact of the campaign and the societal transformation it helps bring about.

Selected examples

AFRICA

Bénin

. ONG Femme Rurale, marked the Day in the district of Gouka and Atokolibe (Bante) with manifestations and public conferences. Pressure on the Bénin government was made to declare the World Day a National Day.

. Conseil National des Femmes Indépendantes du Bénin CONAFIB annually marks the Day with local activities.

. Centre Beninois pour le développement des initiatives à la base CBDIBA and le Conseil national des femmes rurales du Bénin CONAFEBRE, marked the Day with a session of reflection on how to increase women's participation in local water management committees.

. ONG VAID in partnership with the NGO Monde - Vie - Liberté, organized meetings, demonstrations, radio programs and other activities to sensitise grassroots communities.

. ONAFECAM-Benin marked the Day by declaring 15 October to be the Day for the National rural women's Network and also the Day for the General Assembly of ONAFECAM-BENIN.

Burundi

. Association pour le développement des initiatives de la femme A.D.I.F. organized events at Gatumba in partnership with Mutimbuzi, Province of Bujumbura and in collaboration with various women's associations and groups.



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Cameroon

. Réseau des femmes actives Cameroun REFAC, marks the Day since 1997 in collaboration with the Ministry (Ministère de la Condition Féminine). Numerous activities and events are annually organized to help advance the status of rural women in Cameroon.

. Committee of Action for the Child and Woman's Rights CADEF, organised a national seminar on the pertinent theme "Water, Poverty, Food security, Privatisation and Water and Agriculture".

. The Women's Network of Associations LA COLOMBE, commemorated the Day with an exhibition of the cultural heritage of the Dja and Lobo people. 26 different NGOs organized stands to present livestock, gastronomy and agriculture, arts and crafts, agricultural products and a variety of animal species.

Ghana

. Organisation of African Children's Parent OACP, Department for the promotion of youth and rural women, marked the Day in Deduako-Kotei. with meetings and discussion and proposed the creation of a Committee on Creativity in rural life to address the need for training in various aspects.

Guinée

. l'Association Guinéenne pour la Promotion de l'Agriculture Biologique AGPAB, celebrated for the second year in seven rural communities thanks to the support received from the NGO Pride/Guinee.

Kenya

. Kenya Female Advisory Organization KEFEADO marked the day with grassroots women in Usigu and Maranda Division in the Bondo district with exhibitions of crops and horticultural products from farms, including trade and income generation products, both hand made and recycled.

Mauritania

. Association pour défendre les droits de la femme et de l'enfant ADDFE, organized events in partnership with the Minister for Rural Development and Environment who sponsored an official celebration of the Day in Mauritania.



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Morocco

. The Peace Corps Morocco marked the Day via awareness raising programs.

Nigeria

. Lift Above Poverty Organization LAPO in collaboration with the Etsako North Local Government Area, Edo State, marked the Day in Jattu as an open-air-celebration with speeches, song and dance. The First Lady of the Etsako North Local Government participated and empowered LAPO members and guests.

. Ajegunle Community Project ACP marked the Day by highlighting the plight of rural women in the Amuwo Odofin district which lacks electricity, a hospital and first aid.

. Community Health and Development Advisory Trust COHDAT marked the Day by organizing a television discussion aired throughout the State and beyond which generated positive reactions; an awareness raising campaign among women's groups in collaboration with other NGOs; and translated and disseminated the Open Letter to Rural Women of the World to the media, government establishments, NGOs and the general public.

R.D. du Congo

. I.S.P./Mbujimayi- Kasai Oriental, marked the Day by communicating the reality of the water situation in the region, the backward water situation and the urgent need for better water management.

Sierra Leone

. Kofi Annan Women's Bureau, Kowa Branch, Bombali Sherbora Cheifdom KAWOB, marked the Day with 17 cooperative societies of the Kofi Annan Cooperative Union in the presence of Unicef, DFID, WFP, local government representatives, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the National Commission for Social Action and the media.



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Tanzania

. Association pour l'éducation et la défense des droits de la femme et de l'enfant AEDEDDE (avec l'objectif de combattre l'ignorance en matière de droits de la femme et de l'enfant dans la région de Kigoma, District de Kasulu et Kigoma rural et siège dans le camp des réfugiés congolais de Nyaru) marked the Day with 2570 women from seven different zones of the camp in the presence of UNCHR authorities and the Minister of the Interior.

Togo

. Action pour la Promotion et le Développement de la femme APDF marked the Day in Kpalafoulassi, and sent a detailed report to WWSF. Mr. Bandjé, Regional Director of Hydrolics of the central region, stressed the point that providing safe drinking water is a political responsibility and must be guaranteed by the government and by international and national organizations as well as by all women who must preserve, protect and respect water, the source of all life and nature.

Zambia

. Women Farmers Group Development Cooperation WOFDE, (facilitating poverty reduction through self help) celebrated the Day.

ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia

. Sinhala Tamil Rural Women's Network NEVACC, distributed locally produced poster to mark the Day.

. Rural Women of Benalla and region marked the Day in many different ways, including live video - conferencing, linking rural women of Benalla and the network of friends in Indiana USA, in the UK, Germany and Cameroon, with MPs joining local representatives.

. Queensland Country Women's Association QCWA marked the Day by highlighting that it was time to recognize the achievements of rural women and their contributions to rural communities around the world.



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Fiji

. Fiji Council of Social Services FCOSS, marked the Day with 300 women gathering from rural villages. It has a network of 100 women's groups and a wide range of activities.

India

. The Kudumbam Organization marked the Day by focusing on ecological, agricultural and environmental protection via street theatre troupes bringing the message of women's liberation from male dominated societal structures.

. Krityanand Unesco Club-India organized a Rural Development Program on the World Day.

. Peace Trust –Karur celebrated the Day in 10 villages with about 860 women participating and becoming aware of water management in Tamilnadu. The information was shared widely by the media.

. Ma-O-Shishu, West Bengal, marked the Day with awareness raising activities. About 300 rural mothers participated in road rallies, discussions, folk dance, etc.

. Voice Trust celebrated and awarded the Prize for women's creativity in rural life to Anthoniammal on behalf of WWSF on the World Day. The local TV and media splashed the news.

. Buddha Outcast Social Society, Tamilnadu, celebrated with the support of other women groups and associations.

. Society for Rural Health, Education and Development SRHED marked the Day by inviting rural women from surrounding villages to give them an opportunity to gather and share their experiences. It was a time for motivation with speeches by Mrs Sarojamma, District Officer for women and child welfare of Andhra Pradesh, Chittoor who shared about the special welfare schemes provided by the Government, and by Ms Mary, Advocate at the District Court who addressed the legal rights and procedures women should follow in case of any atrocities caused against them.

Pakistan

. Identity Merge and Action – AIM, celebrates the Day every year and in 2002 focused on women in rural areas of Okara, a small city of Pakistan. Objective: to promote unity among rural women to train themselves for sustainability of social programs, and to find solutions to their problems.



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. Women Employees Welfare Association WEWA, marked the Day with a commitment to upgrade the condition of rural women by improving the status of rural women workers. A Joint Action Committee was proposed to promote rural women's rights.

Papua New Guinea

. Highlands Agriculture College celebrated again in 2002.

Philippines

. Pangasinan Council of Women, Inc. PCWI, marked the Day by launching an iodised salt project (encouraged by the government) , organizing a seminar on natural family planning, distributing seeds and agricultural products to members and creating a PCWI multi-purpose co-operative aimed at alleviating poverty in San Fabian.

THE AMERICAS

Trinidad and Tobago

. The Network of Rural Women Trinidad and Tobago celebrated the Day in two rural communities (Eastern District of Sangre Grande and in Palo Seco in the deep South). Theme:« the role of water in agriculture and economic development in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture.

EUROPE

Austria

. The Rural Women's Department and Chamber of Agriculture in Lower Austria together with the Women's Department of the Federal Government of the Province, celebrated the Day on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. Invited African women were among keynote speakers on the theme « Women from the Sahel initiatives and innovate".



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France

. Forum de l'Agriculture Raisonnée Respectueuse de l'Environnement, distributed a press release to remind of the Day and the importance of women farmers for sustainable development in rural areas. According to the European statistical office, 37% of the agricultural work in the European Union is done by women.

Spain

. Junta de Andalucia - Consejería de Agricultura y pesca, marked the Day and organized an exposition to show experiences of 50 women in rural development.

Switzerland

. Women's World Summit Foundation WWSF, convener of the global campaign), celebrated the Day with an award panel/ceremony at the Swiss National Exposition (Expo.02 - ExpoAgricole), and awarded 6 Laureates among 32 winners in 2002 with its annual 'Prize for women's creativity in rural life.' A full report is available on the Internet www.woman.ch

U.K.

. Linking Environment and farming LEAF, Women's food and Farming Union WFU, and National Federation of Women's Institutes NFWI, marked the Day with a one-day conference, identifying and addressing some of the pressing issues facing rural women and their families and businesses.

Media

- . Agrarisches Informationszentrum, Austria
- . Landwirtschaftliche Blätter, Austria
- . Tico Time, Argentina
- . Hindu Times, India
- . Moroccan Radio
- . Wendekreis, Switzerland
- . Le Courier, Switzerland
- . Swiss International Radio
- . and others

Sponsor of the World Day 2002

WWSF expresses thanks to the International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD, World Food Program WFP for their solidarity support in 2002 to help promote the annual World Rural Women's Day campaign. Thanks to their support we could print 15'000 posters, Open Letters to Rural Women of the world and stickers sent to relevant grassroots organizations and development institutions.