

Food for thought: This newsletter illustrates some of the gender implications in the area of food safety and trade capacity building (TCB) and highlights efforts of the TCB Branch in integrating gender in its technical cooperation projects.

Gender and food safety from a TCB perspective

written by U. Müge Dolun, Industrial Development Officer, PTC/TCB

Improving food safety and quality in developing countries can only be achieved by properly taking into account women's and men's roles in producing, processing and consuming food. UNIDO TCB projects are increasingly being designed and implemented with the appreciation that gender mainstreaming, using appropriate tools and strategies, creates a virtuous cycle that improves both the project technical outcomes while also promoting gender equality and women's empowerment objectives.

As producers, while men typically grow mainly field crops, women are usually responsible for growing the food consumed in the home and raising small livestock. But gender inequalities in access to and control of livelihood assets limit women's food production. Also, persisting gender inequalities are generally linked with hunger and malnutrition around the world.

As processors, women carry out most informal food processing, which normally takes place at home and ensures a diverse diet, minimizes losses and provides marketable products but also introduces a number of risks and burdens such as contamination from poor hygiene or use of dirty water as well as health risks associated with heavy loads and indoor cooking stoves. Where women are engaged in formal food processing, evidence suggests that they may have significantly better food safety practices

than men, though there is no significant difference in their knowledge of and attitude towards food safety. (Grace et al. 2012)

As consumers, women make a significant portion of daily household consumption decisions and play a decisive role in food and nutrition security.

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They are more likely to spend their incomes on food and children's needs - research has shown that a child's chances of survival increase by 20% when the mother controls the household budget and by upgrading the quality of food and food products. Therefore, wherever TCB technical assistance projects involve food safety related training, TCB can directly contribute to consumer protection, increased family welfare, pro-poor growth and inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

An example of gender mainstreaming approach for TCB is a new project under design for implementing the Global Markets Programme of the Global Food Safety Initiative in Southern Africa region in cooperation with Consumer Goods Council South Afri-

ca, where several approaches will be tested. Under this project, UNIDO will implement specific actions to provide opportunities for women to gain professional qualifications as auditors, assessors and

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mentors in food safety – positions that are traditionally male-dominated. In addition under the supplier development output, relevant sex-disaggregated data will be collected from the selected suppliers and positive gender impacts, such as increased agency and welfare, of the shop-floor training and Food Safety Management System implementation will be monitored.

Find Grace et al. at relevant readings.



CGIAR, Kenya

Kick off 8th July — Competency-based Recruitment Skills Training. Learn, refresh and practice state of the art competency-based recruitment skills. **Trainings are available through summer** for hiring managers within UNIDO. Book your place by sending an email to a.kaindl@unido.org

Taking Action: TCB Gender Mainstreaming Training Workshop

Following the recent BIT Gender Mainstreaming Training Workshop, the Gender Mainstreaming Steering Committee (GMSC) has continued to develop its capacity building efforts through collaborating with the Trade Capacity Building Branch in organizing a week-long Gender Mainstreaming Training Workshop for all TCB staff. The May workshop consisted of presentations and working group sessions where participants had an opportunity to discuss, digest, and explore the relevant gender issues that surround TCB areas of intervention. During the break-out sessions, many lively discussions arose on the role of UNIDO in promoting gender equality, entry points for gender mainstreaming for maximum impact, and the existing challenges project managers face when integrating gender into their work. A key outcome of the workshop will be the development of a Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in Trade Capacity Building Projects. Next in line for a similar gender mainstreaming workshop, which will take place 8-9 July, is the Environmental Management Branch (EMB).

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TCB Gender Mainstreaming Training, May 2014

Events: Is climate change gender neutral?

In June, UNIDO and UNEP jointly held a training workshop in Vienna for the National Designated Entities (NDEs) of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN). The training included NDEs of Eastern European and Middle Eastern countries. Given the gender dimensions of climate change, the

workshop dedicated a special session on "Mainstreaming gender into CTCN activities".

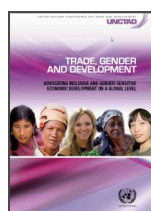
For more information: **UNIDO's Guide on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy and Climate Change Projects will be available in July.**

Close the GAP!

Recommended readings



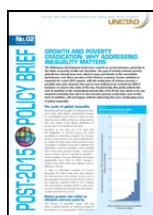
Worldbank (2013): *Opening Doors, Gender Equality and Development in the Middle East and North Africa*. and José Guilherme Reis



UNCTAD: *Trade Gender and Development*. Advocating inclusive and gender sensitive economic development on a global level

Watch now:

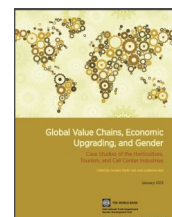
Mainstreaming gender in trade policy



UNCTAD (2014): *Trade, Gender & The Post 2015 Development Agenda*



Grace, Delia et al. (2012): *The influence of gender and group membership on food safety: the case of meat seller in Bodija market, Ibadan, Nigeria*. In: *Tropical Animal Health and Production*, Volume 44, Issue 1, 53-59.



Worldbank (2013): *Global Value Chains, Economic Upgrading, and Gender*. Edited by Cornelia Staritz and José Guilherme Reis

HAPPY Summer!

Best wishes from the Gender Team: Nilgun Tas, Hedda Öhlberger-Femundsenden, Karen Cadondon, Andrea Kaindl & Anne - Sophie Veyrier

