

## **Comments provided by FAO on the Preliminary study on rural women and the right to food**

On para. 1 - The Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee in its resolution 16/27 of 25 March 2011 to undertake a comprehensive study on the right to food of rural women, including patterns of discrimination, strategies and policies for their legal protection and best practices, with a special focus on female-headed households and temporary or seasonal workers :

- **The study should be careful in taking the female-headed household approach as depending on the season, some households may become de facto female-headed (i.e. temporary migration of the male head). For this reason, the study should make the distinction between de jure and de facto headship.**

On para. 7 - Therefore, the entry point of the Study will be an identification of the international legal instruments and their provisions which apply to rural women. The stipulations will be discussed in the light of general comments and recommendations of the respective treaty bodies and jurisprudence:

- **The study may want to go further and cover the legal mechanisms applied at the national level, including laws and provisions, but also enforcement and rural women's knowledge of their rights and participation.**

On para. 9 - There is an increasing recognition today of the importance in addressing discrimination based on gender, race, socio-economic position, disability, age:

- **and also civil status: single, divorced/separated, widowed, etc.**

On para. 11 (b) - Insufficient or discriminatory access to credit, to production materials, to markets and to work:

- **also to finance (also savings matter).**

On para 13 - The number of female-headed households is increasing sharply in rural areas of developing countries, given the lack of employment opportunities for men:

- **Only for men? Or changes in household livelihood's sustainability?**

On para 15 - When women in the rural areas are actually employed and not considered merely as 'helpers' remaining thus unremunerated<sup>1</sup>, they are more likely than men to be employed seasonally:

- **and part-time.**

>On para. 23 - Moreover, strategies and policies should address the need for alternative employment for rural women, which certainly implies an improvement in access to education, health care, sanitation, political participation:

- **And an improvement in public care services.**

On para. 24 - The Study will propose a number of best practices of states, international organizations, non-state organizations, private companies, and other actors which have proven to support rural women in the realization of their right to food

- **Definition of "right to food" and "best practices"? What criteria will determine a best practice?**
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