

Women in Agriculture

Abstract

Emmy Simmons, Assistant Administrator
Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and
Trade
United States Agency for International
Development

Women are key to addressing the food security and nutrition goals that are central to US and international commitments to cut hunger in half by 2015. In parts of sub-Saharan Africa, women grow 70% of food for family and local consumption. We must ensure that the concerns and needs of rural women are systematically brought into every stage of agricultural development programs. Attention to gender and to the impacts of development interventions on rural women will improve the effectiveness of our programs and facilitate the achievement of our development objectives.

This presentation will address four critical elements to cutting hunger, and highlight the important roles that women play in attaining these: 1) increasing agricultural productivity; 2) decreasing the risks of famine; 3) improving nutrition; 4) improving livelihoods through global trade. The success of our programs depends on our continued commitment to the full integration of rural women in ways that sustain their livelihoods and improve the quality of life for their families. This is our commitment, and this is what we will continue to strive for.