

WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SEEDS FOR A GREENER FUTURE



UN photo by John Isaac

Just think:

- Tropical forests are being felled at a rate of 11 million hectares a year
 - Topsoil is being washed away by wind and rain at the rate of 26 billion tons a year
 - Every year about 6 million hectares of land are irretrievably lost to desertification and a further 21 million hectares are so degraded that crop production becomes uneconomic
 - Women's contribution to family food production in the developing world amounts to 60 percent
- One out of three households in the world today has a woman as its sole breadwinner

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INSTRAW



United Nations International Research and Training Institute
for the Advancement of Women

Gender, Environment and Sustainable Development

Research

During 1990 -1991, INSTRAW carried out a research study jointly with the University of Utrecht and the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands consisting of a review of the theoretical/conceptual frameworks which have been used in thinking about women and environment issues. The study also presents methodologies for policy purposes.

INSTRAW is currently preparing the first issue of a Special Publication Series on Women, Environment and Sustainable Development which will be based on case studies in ten different regions of the developing world. These case studies address the major environmental issues in the various regions and how they affect women; the agents performing actions in the regions; and how women and environmental issues relate to development.

In the 1992-1993 biennium, INSTRAW will continue research of issues related to women, environment and sustainable development.

Training and Information

In 1992 INSTRAW will produce a Policy Development Resource Portfolio on Gender, Environment and Sustainable Development for policy and decision makers. The training portfolio will have a regional focus and will contain basic public information materials, as well as substantive documents such as background papers, case studies, bibliographies, guidelines and checklists. The Portfolio will also contain a section to be used in training seminars which will include a pedagogical scheme, training support and audio-visual materials.

The training materials, which will contain regionally specific information, will be employed in a series of regional workshops in the developing world.

INSTRAW has produced a 20 minute sound/slide on Women, Environment and Sustainable Development aimed at presenting the major issues on the topic. The sound/slide is aimed at sensitizing development planners, policy and decision makers and the general public on how women relate to the environment as users and managers and how they are affected by diverse environmental conditions. This sound/slide will be made into a video for wider dissemination and will be one of the components of the Policy Development Resource Portfolio on Gender, Environment and Sustainable Development.

A video will also be produced by INSTRAW on the three candidates from the Caribbean region that the Institute is sponsoring to the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment. It will be based on biographical data on the candidates from Barbados, Dominican Republic and Jamaica and an account of their activist experiences and actions.

INSTRAW is participating in all major regional and international events related to the environment in order to ensure that a gender dimension is mainstreamed. In this effort, INSTRAW will collaborate with other UN agencies, principally, UNEP and UNIFEM.

"Stitching together we mend the future of the planet"

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