

REPORT
of
The D-8 Meeting on Rural Women Empowerment
17-18 November 2014
Tehran, Iran

The Agriculture Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran hosted the first “D-8 Meeting on Rural Women Empowerment” on 17-18 November 2014 in Tehran, Iran. The Meeting was attended by delegations from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Host), Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. The list of delegation is attached in **Annex I**.

1. Opening Session

In the opening session, the Honorable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development of Nigeria, H.E. Hajiya Zainab Maina, the D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, the Secretary-General of Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association, H.E. Mr. Chamnanong Siriwongyotha, the Deputy Resident Representative of United Nations Development Program of Iran, H.E. Mr. Murali, the D-8 Commissioner of Iran, H.E. Mr. Bizmark, the Vice President of Women and Family Affairs, H.E. Dr. Molaverdi, the Chairman and CEO of Agriculture Bank, H.E. Dr. Talebi delivered their statements.

All the statements are attached in one file as **Annex II**.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and appointment of the Rapporteur

After discussions, the meeting adopted the agenda and Nigeria was appointed as the Rapporteur. The agenda is annexed as **Annex III**.

3. General Debate

The meeting discussed the progress made by D-8 Member States in Rural Development, exchanged experiences and delivered their best practices and successful patterns concerning Rural Women Employment and job creation.

The host country, Iran presented a brief report on the status of rural women in Iran. The Chair invited all the heads of delegates to report on the status of rural women in their respective countries. Each Member State presented a report on the status of development for the Rural Women.

4. Introduction of current effective schemes to support Rural Women Economic Activities

The delegates elaborated on the current effective schemes to support Rural Women Economic activities in the agriculture sector.

Participants exchanged views on different issues which are highlighted as below:

- Preparing an action plan
- Establishing a Fund
- Micro Studies
- Common projects
- Establishing a network among the D-8 Countries

5. Feasibility on Multilateral Cooperation including setting up a Joint D-8 Micro Credit Scheme and/or Establishing a Mechanism for Rural Women Vocational Training

The delegates discussed in general the possibilities of setting up a joint D-8 Micro Credit Scheme and/or the establishing of a mechanism for Rural Women Vocational Training.

The host country presented a proposal of Qadr – Al – Hassanah Green Fund for Rural Women Empowerment (QGFRWE). The Chair briefly discussed about the goals and objectives as well as the structure of the fund. He clearly emphasized that the fund is established with the aim of helping the institutions for studying the needs of the rural women and does not in any case give loans or finances to the rural women. The proposal was discussed among the participants.

Due to the constraints of time, the meeting noted that the amended draft proposal will be sent to the Member States and in one month all suggestions and ideas of the Member States shall be received by Agriculture Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran, to be collected and finalized in a later stage and be forwarded to the next meeting.

6. Date and Venue of the next Meeting

The Agriculture Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran has conveyed its readiness to hold the second meeting. However, it was decided that the D-8 Secretariat as well as Agriculture Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran to consult with the Member States who already expressed their interest to hold the 2nd D-8 Meeting on Rural Women Empowerment. The meeting decided to have the second meeting in the fourth quarter of year 2015. The exact Date and venue will be communicated in due course.

7. Any Other Business

The Secretary-General of APRACA suggested that due to the membership of several D-8 countries in APRACA, this institution starts cooperation with D-8 Member States on the empowerment of Rural Women.

The meeting received no objection. The meeting noted that APRACA will send a written agreement in near future for further cooperation.

8. Consideration and Adoption of the Report

The Report of the D-8 Meeting on Rural Women Development was considered and adopted by the Meeting.

9. Closing

The Chairman expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all delegates for the constructive ideas and fruitful discussion during the meeting. The Honorable Minister of Nigeria also concluded the meeting with her statement. Later, the D-8 Secretary-General on behalf of himself, as well as on behalf of the participating delegates, conveyed his deep gratitude to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the meeting with excellent venue and arrangements.