

# Women's Political Empowerment

## Welcome

To **'PAGAI** – inclusive governance in the agriculture sector



### What is the Project about?

#### Background

'PAGAI' was born out of the realization that men and women on family farms are not sufficiently involved in the governance of the sector. In its actions to help improve food security and incomes for family farmers, PAGAI has placed particular emphasis on women. Indeed, women play a very important role in the agricultural sector. In the program's four communes, for example, they manage around 25% of farms. However, their participation in the governance of the sector is not as significant.

#### Context

The gender-based analysis (GBA) carried out at the start of the project revealed a clear imbalance, to the detriment of women, in decision-making in organizations and households. In households, this imbalance manifested itself not only in decision-making, but also in the control of production resources and the division of labor. Women have been entrusted with almost 80% of domestic tasks. Men are not involved, if at all. Men were not sensitized to gender equality. Although they are involved, alongside the men, in the entire agricultural production process, and sometimes, even if they are the main owners of the land, they have no decision-making power. In household discussions, it's usually the men who have the last word. The organizational diagnosis carried out at the level of the various farmers' organizations operating in the target areas revealed that only 10 to 20% of women were members of the committees of these organizations, whereas women represent around 54% of members. Less than 20% of the organizations had provisions in their statutes and internal regulations to encourage women's participation. They are excluded from decision-making forums. What's more, they had no control over resources.

### Summary

#### Theory of change

The first three levels of the UNDP gender equity framework (2020) will constitute our 3 axes of change. These axes align perfectly with the definition of women's empowerment as described by Fortin-Pellerin (2010). **Inner power** (psychological strength, self-esteem and well-being) is fueled by awareness and sensitization (axis 1). **Power to** (access to resources and the ability to use them) is the axis that characterizes the changes observed in women's economic situation. **Power with** (solidarity, influence and egalitarian relationships) corresponds to the axis of deconstruction of deeply rooted social norms and structures. These three axes (levels) are necessary for women's full empowerment.

#### Overall goal

Promote the participation of women and men farmers in the governance of the agricultural sector at local level and contribute to improving the economic performance and profitability of their farms..

#### Expected results

- Access to and use of agricultural services
- Adoption of agricultural innovations
- Concertation and political dialogue
- Changes in gender relations

#### Key activities

- Raising awareness
- Access to resources and opportunities
- Deconstructing deeply-rooted social structures and cultural norms.

## Stakeholders

### Project partners

HELVETAS - AVSF- GRAMIR consortium in the communes of Les Anglais and Chardonnières in the South department and the communes of Beaumont and Roseaux in the Grand'Anse department

### Project primary stakeholders (priority target group(s))

10,000 farms in the 4 intervention communes. Agricultural service providers (farmers' organizations and other stakeholders), in the communes of intervention

### Project secondary and boundary stakeholders (system actors, duty bearers, service providers etc.)

Farmers' organizations, BAC/DDA and town councils in the four communes.

Direction de l'Innovation (MARNDR), SOFA, MCFDF.



Key sessions and tools

SessionsTools and exercises (see appendices 1, 2 and 3).	
Session 1	I'mstarting out on the road: Participants' expectations and soul-mate visioning
Session 2	Tool1/ vision journey: planning the first steps (drawing wellness dreams)
Session 3	Tool2 / Gender balance tree: examining opportunities and challenges in the household
Session 4	Tool3 Social empowerment map: examining opportunities and challenges within the family and community
Session 5	Consolidatingthe whole: Illustrated manual and individual multi-lane route
Session 6	I'mtaking GALS home: Songs, interactive animated theater and plans to the interim exam



### Gender Relations change:

- To combat sexist stereotypes, PAGAI organized an awareness-raising campaign on gender equity practices for over nine hundred (900) households in the four communes of the two departments. The team wanted to help stimulate positive changes in power relations and inequalities between men and women.
- The family awareness-raising actions were based on an interactive gender learning system using some of the tools of the GALS (Gender Action Learning System) method developed since 2002 by OXFAM NOVID.

## What did the project do and learn?

### Design and Implementation

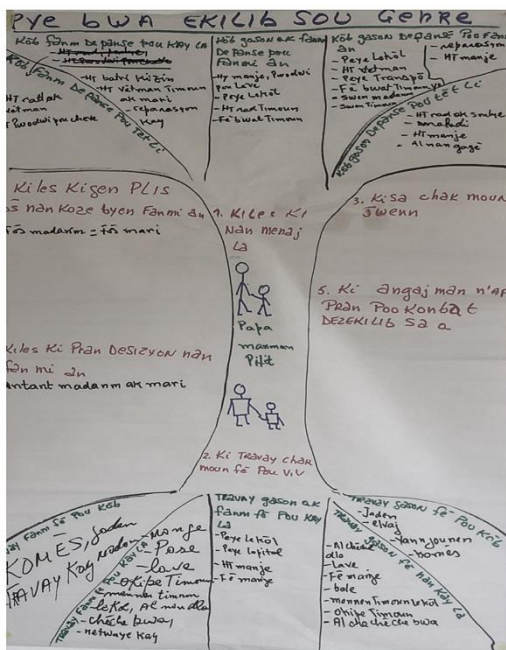
#### Key design and implementation features, included:

- "Changes in gender relations". The aim of this component was to ensure that the needs and strategic interests of rural women are taken into account, and that measures are adopted locally to positively influence gender relations in households, farmers' organizations and decision-making bodies. Alongside the specific actions taken under this component, other initiatives have been undertaken in the other three components to ensure that women have access to agricultural services, adopt agricultural innovations and participate in decision-making concerning the agricultural sector through policy dialogue consultation forums (ECDP).
- Gender equity was cross-cutting in the first three components of the program, and specific in the fourth.
- Individualized reflective coaching was provided to households to help them reflect on their living conditions, draw their dream of well-being, and develop an action plan to achieve it. The team wanted to help stimulate positive changes in power relations and inequalities between men and women.

The choice of spouses as targets for gender equity awareness campaigns was key to the success of this experiment. Targeting families in a gender equity campaign is tantamount to attacking the problem at root. Men need to be sensitized to respect for women's rights more than women themselves, because of their socialization process in Haitian families. Initially, men were generally very hostile to any kind of initiative aimed at raising women's awareness of the need to defend their rights. They see these activities as attempts to turn women against them. But when they got involved, the men discovered and understood the reason for the training, saw the link with their own well-being and were consequently more willing to change their behavior.

## Key Achievements and Good Practices

- Individualized support for 900 households
- 400 literate women. To achieve social and political empowerment for women, a literacy campaign has been launched in collaboration with the Secretary of State for Literacy (SEA).
- 300 women trained in women's leadership in feminist and mixed-sex organizations, and 60 women trained in leadership as well.
- Solidarity mutuals (MUSO) strengthened and 200 women trained.
- Income-generating activities created, involving 17 women's organizations and 1,200 women.
- 30 OPAs supported in the application of gender equity promotion measures (GALS-gender equity interactive learning system)
- According to the report on the study carried out at the end of the project on the behavior of men and women in households, more than 70% of households show a greater involvement of men in household tasks. In 55% of households, over 30% of men are involved in cleaning the house, supplying water and caring for children. Over 30% were also involved in cooking and laundry.
- Self-esteem has improved. They are no longer afraid of public speaking. In addition, many more women have taken up important positions on organizational committees. Today, women's ability to lead, defend their interests and participate in the governance of the agricultural sector has been strengthened.



Two an (kò pye bwa a) se defi, sitirasyon nou dwe trete a.

**The trunk is the challenge/situation to be**

Yo reprezante kòz ak dimansyon pwoblèm nan.

**The roots, representing the causes or dimensions of the**

Branch yo reprezante solisyon posib pou chak defi, chak obstak nou te idantifye yo.

**Branches, representing possible solutions for each**

Fwi yo reprezante aksyon chak moun ka fè pou rive nan solisyon ak chanjman yo vle atenn nan.

**The fruits, representing individual actions that each person can take to provide solutions**



## Key Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

- The judicious choice of field implementation partners already working in the target communes (SOFA, MCFDF).
- At the start of the project, a gender-based analysis (GBA) and a survey of the needs of men and women on farms, as well as their behavior in the household.
- The holistic vision of the program integrating gender mainstreaming and gender specific actions
- Using GALS (Gender Action Learning System) tools as a participatory approach: The GALS method promotes the inclusion of poor women and men as equal and respected partners in improving their lives. GALS is innovative and differs from regular gender training processes in that it emphasizes individual life planning to achieve community life planning.
- Selection and training of change agents according to rigorous criteria (age range 25-39; educational level: 9th grade; living in the area, etc.).
- The family (household) approach as the point of entry. The fact of not excluding the spouse from gender equity training from the outset can be seen as an original feature. Usually, it's the woman who receives the training and the assets, and very often this has negative consequences for the household.
- Regular reflective home visits by agents who support 5 households at the outset, then 6 after the first year.
- Representing each spouse's dream separately, in the form of a drawing, is also an original intervention (see dream drawings in appendix).
- Final survey and study of men's and women's behaviour in households.

For more on the project, and SDC Gender in LAC experiences

- <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/PGE/Gender/Pages/Toolbox/Knowledge%20sharing/Gender-experiences-from-Latin-America.aspx>

