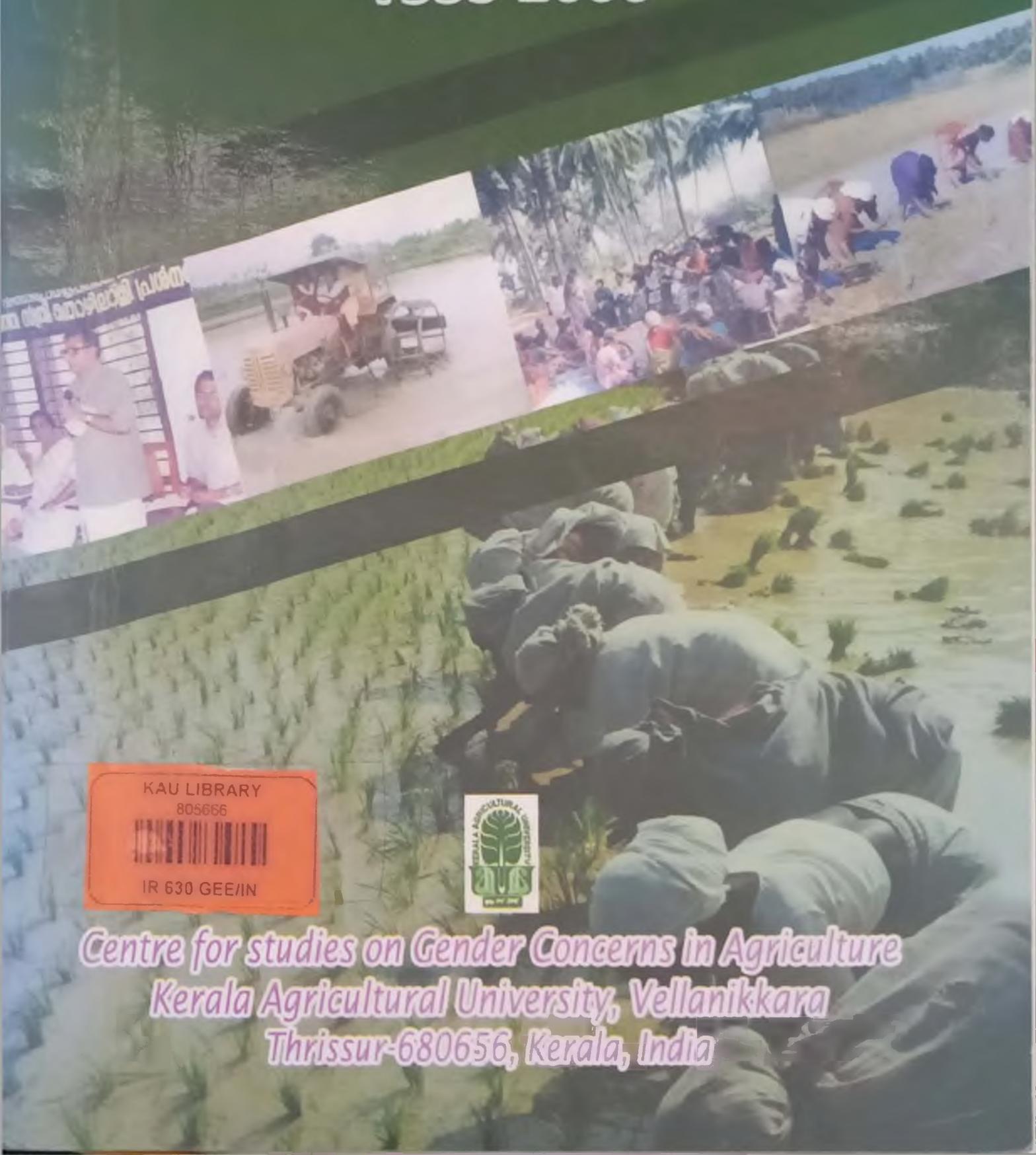


Initiatives and Achievements of Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture 1999-2006



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Initiatives and Achievements of Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture (1999-2006)



KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR STUDIES ON GENDER CONCERNS IN AGRICULTURE
Vellanikkara, Thrissur – 680 656, Kerala, India

**Initiatives and Achievements of
Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture
(1999-2006)**

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K.R.Viswambharan, I.A.S.

Vice Chancellor

FOREWORD

I am happy to place this foreword for the brief account of the first seven years (1999-2006) of the Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture (CSGCA), a well established new initiative centre of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU). This document "Initiatives and Achievements of Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture (1999-2006)" is of historical value, which reflects that this Centre in a short period of its inception has turned out to be a proud feather in the crown of KAU and has proven its credit worthiness of its mission of human centered development. It is to be mentioned that this progressive centre was initiated and nurtured by my farsighted predecessors Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair and Dr. K.V. Peter. It is to be highlighted that the Centre has received continuous patronage and guidance from the renowned agricultural scientist Professor M.S. Swaminathan. The valuable advisory support received from eminent personalities like Ms. Mina Swaminathan, Dr. Michael Tharakan, Dr. R.V.G. Menon, Dr. K.Saradamony, Smt T. Devi, Sri. T.R. Chandra Dutt and Smt. Eliamma Vijayan have served as the building blocks in the structure and function of this Centre. This Centre has obtained a world wide network of co-operation and collaboration starting right from the grass root level villages of Kerala. The main duty of this concise document of the evolution, events, and the processes CSGCA in its initial years is to serve as the sign post for the future course of action.

The goal oriented activities of the CSGCA detailed in this document will orient everyone to the relevance and need of integrating gender perspectives in all the efforts of agricultural research, extension and education and how the various stakeholders of agricultural development (scientists, administrators, policy makers, extension personnel, teachers, farmers, farmer's organization, farm women, support service agencies, NGOs etc.) should serve as gender sensitive partners. It is also a fact that the multifaceted activities of CSGCA at various levels have in fact enabled KAU to earn the credit of being one of the front runners of gender mainstreaming in the world towards sustainable development of agriculture.

The Project Team of the CSGCA in the Project Co-ordinatorship of Dr.P.S. Geethakutty has contributed excellent team work and they deserve special congratulations. KAU is indebted to each and every person and organization of external and internal public of KAU for the support rendered in all stages. It is also hoped that this centre will be reaching new heights in the coming days.

With best wishes

K. R. VISWAMBHARAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Project Team of the Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture (CSGCA) involved in building up the new initiative Centre of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), I take this opportunity as the most gratifying moment to dedicate the seven year account of the goals and milestones of CSGCA to the respectful memories of Late Dr. K.N.Shyamasundaran Nair, Former Vice Chancellor, KAU. The Project Team has been continuously striving to follow and practice the progressive vision passed on by Dr. K.N.Shyamasundaran Nair through working out the mission set up for the Centre, during his tenure as Vice Chancellor. We are ever indebted to the invaluable patronage and visionary guidance CSGCA has received from Professor: M.S.Swaminathan and Ms. Mina Swaminathan in nurturing CSGCA. The whole hearted leadership received from Dr. K.V. Peter in his capacities of Vice Chancellor and Director of Research was the strength behind us to sustain and take ahead the spirit and initiatives of CSGCA as undisturbed and steadily progressing in these years. The support received from various members of the Advisory Committee Dr. Micheal Tharakan, Dr.R.V.G.Menon, Dr.K.Saradamony, Smt.T. Devi, Sri T.R.Chandra Dutt, and Smt.Eliamma Vijayan are greatly acknowledged. The CSGCA team is thankful to the various Directors of Research-Dr.N.Mohanakumaran, Dr.R.Vikraman Nair; Dr.K.Kumaran, Dr.C.K.Peethambaran, Dr.S.Janardhanan Pillai, and Dr.D.Alexander for their timely guidance and leadership in all matters of CSGCA during various phases. Special thanks are due to Dr.S.Sulochana, Dr.U.Mohammed Kunju, Dr.N.Krishnan Nair, Dr.A.I.Jose and Dr.P.V.Prabhakaran for all guiding support received from them in instituting the Centre. The CSGCA owes to the various national, international, governmental and non governmental agencies with whom the Centre was in continuous networking, collaboration and sponsorship for enabling us to mould this progressive institution.

It is to be acknowledged that each member of KAU- administrators, scientists, office staff, workers, and students were directly and indirectly involved in shaping and taking ahead the efforts of this Centre to the internal and external public of KAU. The intimate service of all Project Associates of CSGCA who were serving the Centre in the various activities of building up of this Centre is appreciated. With a fulfilled heart of gratitude and thanks the seven year account of CSGCA is placed before one and all. Hope each one of you will share this vision and take ahead the mission for a gender just world of sustainable development.

P. S.GEETHAKUTTY
for the Project Team

Vellanikkara
31.3.2007

Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture
Kerala Agricultural University

VISION AND GENESIS

Though both women and men play significant roles in farming, often the contribution of women do not get properly recognized and accounted. Farm women are mostly invisible, unreached and unattended in planned developmental efforts. Most of the farm women lack access to and control of, resources, market, technologies, and information and necessary support services in farming. Often the newly introduced farm policies, strategies, technologies, institutions and systems remain male - oriented and create adverse impact on farm women, at times even displacing and totally denying their existing job opportunities and livelihoods. Drudgery, health hazards, lack of land ownership and discriminating wages are some of the crucial gender issues in the farming scenario. The enormous socio-cultural, technological and economic constraints to which the farm women are subjected to, warrant basic reforms and restructuring of gender roles, power relations and value systems if empowerment of women is to be a reality. Naturally, institutions like agricultural universities functioning for the sustainable development of agriculture of any locality through research, extension and education activities have the responsibility of building necessary mindset and institutional environment capable of addressing these issues of gender justice and equity in agriculture and sustainable development at large in the society.

The progressive vision of establishing a pioneering initiative committed to the cause of gender justice in agriculture in the above line was mooted in Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) in 1998 by the then Vice Chancellor Dr.K.N Shyamasundaran Nair. Under his farsighted vision and guidance, the new initiative's ambit, functions and frame work were moulded as a collective effort through a series of consultations, vision sharing and opinion mobilization from among the internal and external public of KAU, through the Task Force set up for the purpose in the leadership of Dr.S.Sulochana, Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and Dr. P.S.Geethakutty, Associate Professor, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara. The KAU has been fortunate in this venture to receive views, insights and patronage from many eminent personalities like Professor M.S.Swaminathan, Ms. Mina Swaminathan, Dr.K.Saradamon, Dr.Michael Tharakan and Dr. R.V.G.Menon.

Based on the proposal developed by the above Task Force, the principal policy making bodies of the KAU, appreciating the contextual significance of addressing gender concerns in achieving equitable development, which alone is sustainable, as a proactive response, took the bold initiative in institutionalizing the promotion of gender perspective in agriculture and gender sensitivity in the University environment by establishing the **Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture (CSGCA)** as a new initiative plan project of KAU during 1999-2000. Subsequently the Centre was set up in its skeletal structure to initiate the ground work and preliminary functions during 1999-2000 as new initiative plan scheme attached to the Department of Agricultural Extension, College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara,

KAU. The unique activities thus got initiated from the CSGCA among farmers, labourers, development workers, scientists, students and decision makers of agricultural development towards attaining gender justice in sustainable development had become the pioneering efforts of its kind in the whole nation. In appreciation of the visibility and the impact of the various effect of CSGCA within a short spell, the University took a decision to establish the Centre as a full fledged independent unit during 2000-2001. During 2002-2003, the CSGCA could emerge as a separate establishment under the Directorate of Research of KAU, with an independent office in the Vellanikkara campus of the university.



Inauguration of the Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture

MISSION

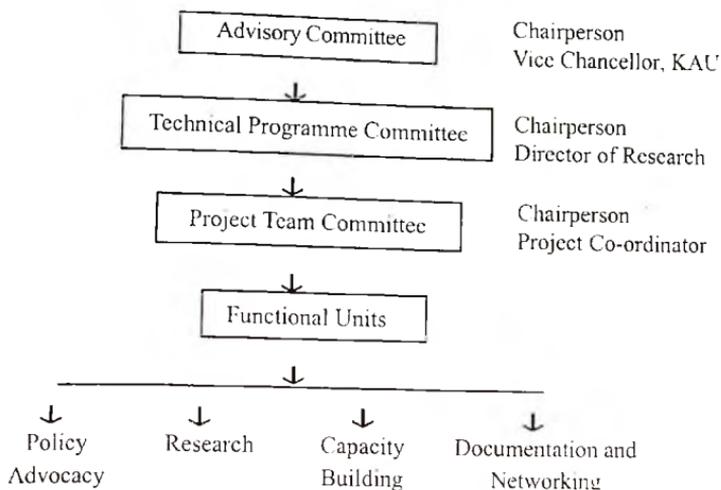
The overarching aim of the CSGCA is to bring about gender sensitivity and gender perspective in research, extension and educational efforts in agriculture and allied fields in the larger context of natural resource management, and thereby increasing and facilitating women's role and participation in agricultural development along with men for attaining gender justice in the context of the planned efforts of socio-economic development in Kerala.

The specific objectives set for the CSGCA are focused on:

- conduct of in depth field studies on gender issues involved in farming
- policy advocacy for reforms on gender concerns in agriculture and allied sectors
- the integration of gender perspective in research, education and extension in agriculture and allied sectors
- gender impact analysis, identification and development of ergonomically suited technologies and women friendly practices
- capacity building among the scientists, extension personnel, policy makers, administrators and development agencies on gender perspective and gender analysis in agriculture
- generation of database on the status of women in agriculture
- transfer of technology and popularization of women friendly technologies
- networking and developing technical consortium of farm women entrepreneurs

Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture, KAU

ORGANOGRAM



Advisory Committee of CSGCA functions in the chairpersonship of the Vice Chancellor, in which there are invited acclaimed personalities in the society, together with selected officers of the University like Director of Research, Director of Extension, Deans, Project Co-ordinator of CSGCA and student representatives of KAU as members. This committee in its annual meetings, reviews and advises the Project Team of the Centre on the policies, themes and course of action for the year.

Technical Programme Committee of CSGCA chaired by the Director of Research is the body wherein the various Deans, Associate Deans, Directors, Associate Directors of Research, Research Co-ordinators and representatives of the various Research, Extension and Development agencies related to agriculture in the state along with the Project Team Members of CSGCA deliberate and decide on the programmes to be undertaken from the CSGCA.

The CSGCA functions through a **Project Team Committee** with the Project Co-ordinator and eighteen Project Team Members – (faculty members representing all the four faculties of KAU- Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering and the various NARP Zones of Kerala). It is to be highlighted that the activities of the CSGCA focus on agriculture and allied sectors primarily in the State of Kerala. The Project Team Committee has to meet once in every three months and monitor the activities and programmes and the Project Co-ordinator functions as head of the office of CSGCA.

The **Functions of the CSGCA** are carried out through four functional units- **Research, Capacity Building, Policy Advocacy and Documentation and Networking**. These functions cut across the four faculties of KAU-Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering- spread all over the State in the different campuses of KAU and are expected to bring about necessary gender orientation in the mandatory functions of the University – **teaching, research and extension**.

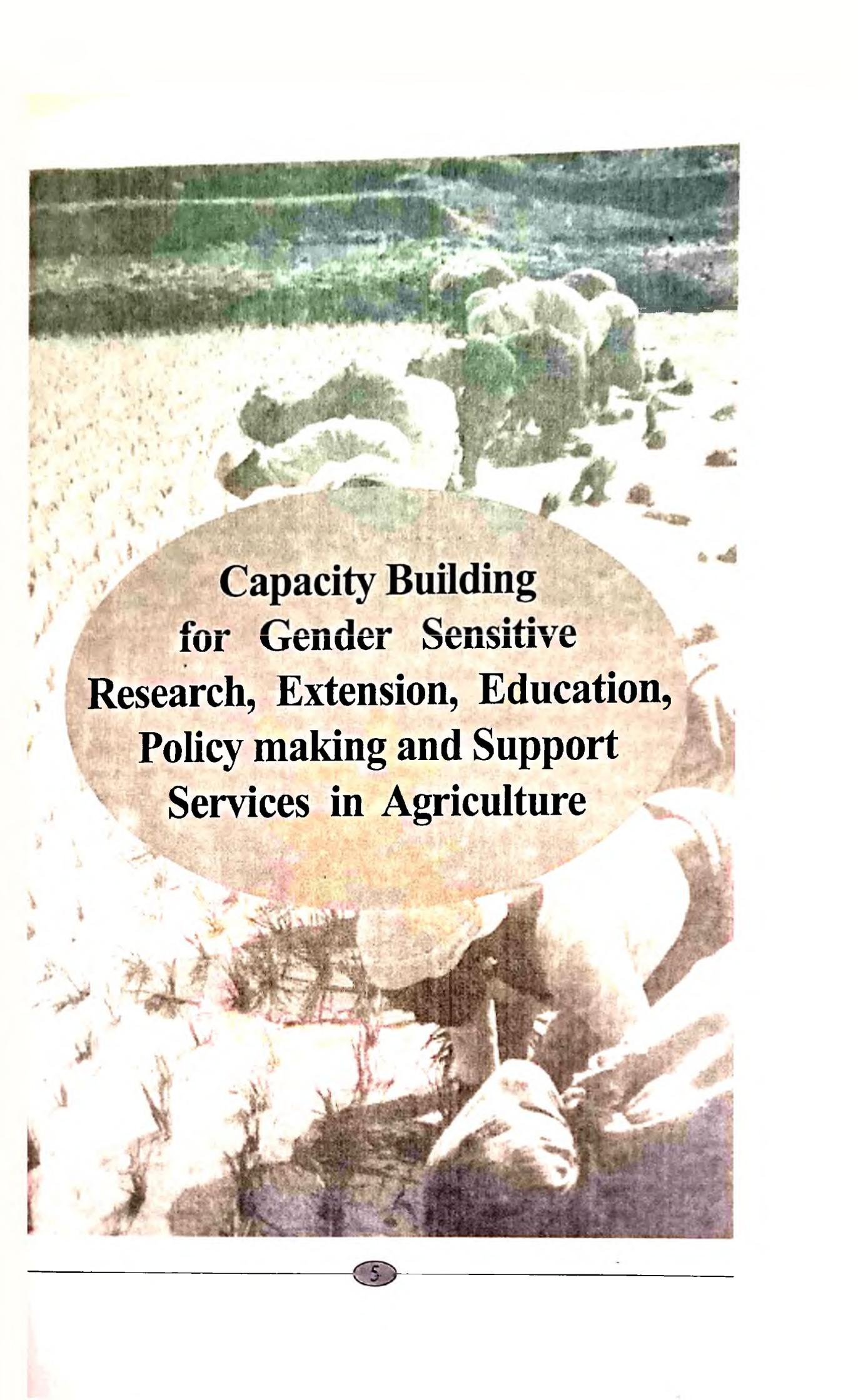
The interventions on **capacity building** are directed to sensitise and empower all stakeholders of agricultural development – scientists, extension personnel, development agencies, administrators, decision makers, policy makers, support service agencies, farmers, farm women and farm students to adopt needed mindset of gender perspectives in all development efforts of agricultural development through dialogues, orientation programmes, consultation, trainings, workshops, seminars etc. and to empower farm women with model extension programmes of technological and managerial skill development and support services.

The **research** activities in this context are focused on engendering of agricultural research for gender responsive research and on conducting research on gender concerns. This in turn focuses on social audit of gender justice prevailing in agricultural environment; to identify gender issues and gender roles in agriculture, conduct field and desk studies on related issues in various farming systems, conduct gender impact assessment of technologies, institutions and development programmes and on evolving and popularising women friendly technologies.

The **policy advocacy** unit is to keep surveillance and identify issues of gender concerns in development context to intervene and advice various agencies involved in agricultural and rural development right from the policy formulation.

The **documentation and networking** activities are expected to concentrate on setting up a repository of literature and digital documentation of field lessons and compilation of experiences of interventions in issues of gender concerns and to establish and take up collaborative and hand holding initiatives with similar agencies at various levels.

Though the full fledged CSGCA is expected to function with separate unit heads for Research, Capacity Building, Policy Advocacy and Documentation and Networking, at present the Centre is functioning with one Scientist and a skeletal unit support of two Project Associates and one Data Entry Operator. Hence the four functions of the Centre presently are being served in an integrated functional mode aimed towards mainstreaming gender perspective in all scenes of agricultural development. The initiative being the pioneer of its kind, the functions are expected to serve models not only to the state of Kerala, but to reach and serve the nation at large. Considering the novelty of the initiatives, it is to be appreciated that CSGCA's evolution, attempts, achievements, and learnings are of historical value and merit. Hence a brief account and milestones of the activities and accomplishments of the first six years of CSGCA (1999-2006) are furnished in the subsequent pages. ■

A photograph of a rural agricultural landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, white, sack-like structures, possibly containing harvested crops, arranged in a line. The background shows a vast field of golden-brown crops, likely wheat or corn, stretching towards a line of green trees under a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent, light-brown oval is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the title text in a bold, black, serif font.

**Capacity Building
for Gender Sensitive
Research, Extension, Education,
Policy making and Support
Services in Agriculture**

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

It is a matter of prestige that KAU through the CSGCA could serve as the pioneering institution to start capacity building programmes on gender sensitivity among scientists of agriculture not only in KAU, but at the national level also. The capacity building programmes of CSGCA on gender perspectives in agriculture are mainly focused on engendering agricultural research, agricultural extension, agricultural education and also engendering farmer support services and to catalyse gender sensitive policy decisions in the agricultural and rural development context. CSGCA in these years has been continuously trying to reach and sensitise the stakeholders of development, like planners, policy makers, administrators, local government decision makers, scientists, extension personnel, banking agencies, women and men farmers, women farm labourers, women entrepreneurs, women groups, KAU students, KAU staff, and NGOs right from the grass root level to the top level decision making. In every year, on an average more than 1500 direct audience (policy makers, scientists, extension workers, NGO workers, support service agencies, development administrators, students, farmers, women entrepreneurs etc.) are being reached and motivated by this centre to adopt gender sensitive approach in development.

The efforts in this context among the scientists and development agencies are to build favourable mindset of gender perspectives in development so as to enable them to apply the concepts of gender analysis and gender sensitivity in the concerned areas of their functions in agricultural education, research, extension and policy making. The administrators, planners and policy makers are being made aware of the need of ensuring gender sensitivity in their development approaches. Through model technology demonstration units, technology training and entrepreneurship development programmes imparted directly to selected farm women entrepreneurs and training among extension personnel, engendering of extension is also aimed at.

1. Capacity building efforts among scientists by CSGCA was initiated with a workshop on "Gender Analysis in Agriculture" held during November 6 -9, 2000 at KAU with the technical support from M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. A team of 30 scientists drawn from the various faculties of KAU was oriented to the concepts of gender, gender perspectives in agriculture and methods of gender analysis in agriculture during the workshop. In continuation of the above workshop, the same team of scientists and selected graduate students drawn from the various farm courses of KAU were brought together in another workshop on "Engendering of field trainings of UG Courses of KAU" during 8th -10th March, 2001.

This workshop could pinpoint the higher priority to be allotted to practical and field work in all the undergraduate courses of KAU. It was highlighted by the participants that the students are in need of identifying their future customers (both men and women) in their field reality and to identify the real faces of users of technologies in the field right from the first year of their graduation. An earlier workshop organized by CSGCA for selected graduate students of all colleges of KAU during March 1999 on "Towards gender sensitization among KAU students" had also served as a turning point in this direction.

The ICAR Short course on Gender Perspectives in Agricultural Research, Extension and Education conducted by CSGCA during 21 – 30 October, 2002 was another milestone. Twenty five selected agricultural scientists from various parts of the nation could be exposed to the concepts, need and methodologies of integrating gender concerns in agriculture. In continuation of this, CSGCA organised one month National Orientation Training for Facilitators of eight North-Eastern States, during 5–30 November, 2001 This training was sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

2. As part of the capacity building for the project staff, the Project Co-ordinator had an opportunity to participate in the training in International Agriculture Centre (IAC), Wageningen, Netherlands. Simultaneously CSGCA had built capacity in gender perspectives among the project team members by imparting international trainings on gender and agriculture from agencies like Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Rome and Bangkok. In collaboration with FAO, Rome the CSGCA during 20-29 of September 2004 organised an International Course on Socio Economic and Gender Analysis at KAU for a team of 25 agricultural scientists of SAUs, (including KAU), NRCWA and NGOs. A follow up workshop of this course also was later organized in association with FAO, Rome during 17th-18th October 2006 to assess the extent of utilization of the training by the participants. During 2006 October (8 to 15 October 2006) also with the financial assistance of Ministry of Agriculture and technical support of FAO, Rome the CSGCA could offer an international course on “Gender Disaggregated Data Development”, wherein 20 development functionaries from Agriculture, Veterinary, Fisheries and Statistics Department from South India were participants.
3. Towards engendering of agricultural education and capacity building of the graduates of agriculture, the CSGCA with the support of the FAO, Bangkok, had organized ten workshops on gender perspective for the Deans, Scientists and Students of the various campuses of KAU during 2002-2003. These workshops and discussions with faculties and students of each college had helped to identify the areas of gender concerns to be included in the course curriculum of under graduate education in KAU and evolved a model approach of engendering agricultural curriculum.

During the last four years, the CSGCA had been conducting General Workshops and Gender Sensitisation workshops in the various campuses of KAU for the internal public of KAU community - the scientists, non teaching staff, students and labourers. these workshops were intended to orient the KAU community - to the goals and functions of the CSGCA and to persuade them to own and participate in the connected programmes of CSGCA. Gender sensitization programmes for students also were conducted in the various college campuses also in these years to make the students aware about the socio-economic and gender issues in the context of agricultural development. The capacity building programmes organised for the scientists of KAU were indented to change 'mindset' of gender sensitivity so that their efforts of research, extension and teaching will be utilized as opportunities of addressing gender concerns in agriculture. Accordingly, the scientists are being oriented and motivated to take up technology development and technology transfer with focus on gender concerns. It is gratifying to note that a large number of the scientists have imbibed the spirit and good number of research, extension and training projects with focus on women friendly technology development and technology popularization are in progress from various campuses of KAU.

Capacity building for Gender Sensitive Research, Extension, Education.



Inaugural function and participants of the workshop on "Gender Analysis in Agriculture"



Interactive session of workshop on engendering UG curriculum



Participants of the International Course on Socio Economic and Gender Analysis



Scenes from the follow up workshop on International Course on Socio Economic and Gender Analysis

Capacity building for Gender Sensitive Research, Extension, Education, Policy making and Support Services in Agriculture



Model Training course jointly organised by FAO and CSGCA



Training for Facilitators of Women in Agriculture Programme of North Eastern States



Interactive Session with the students of KAU

Capacity building for Gender Sensitive Research, Extension, Education, Policy making and Support Services in Agriculture



Capacity building programmes for development agencies



Gender sensitisation and empowerment programmes for KAU staff and workers



Technological empowerment for farm women

Capacity building for Gender Sensitive Research, Extension, Education, Policy making and Support Services and Agriculture

Demonstration units on women friendly technologies in agriculture



Women run tissue culture laboratory, Nattikka, Thrissur



Women run flower business unit, Perinjanam, Thrissur



Women run vermicompost business unit, Mannuthy, Thrissur



Workshops for farm women on skill and entrepreneurship development



Agroclinics for promotion of farm women entrepreneurs

The CSGCA was also able to reach a large number of **development personnel of various agencies related to research, extension and development in the state** like Department of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Fisheries, Rubber Board, NABARD, SFAC, Panchayath Raj institutions, Social Welfare Board, Police Academy and various NGO's through gender sensitivity workshops, and orientation training programmes during these years. The Centre has been also able to reach and popularise the need, concept and approaches of gender perspectives in various programmes of local self governments, and programme of the Department of Social Welfare in various parts of the state through the services and advice rendered to them by the project team members of CSGCA. The CSGCA during these years also was serving as the premier training resource centre for the conduct of the training of field functionaries of the Central sector scheme on Women in Agriculture Programme at National and State level. A large number of the field functionaries of the Department of Agriculture during the trainings could be oriented to the need of adopting gender perspectives in the programmes of agricultural development.

Orientation programmes for **unemployed women graduates and women graduate students of traditional colleges** for motivating them to take up farm based livelihoods were also initiated from CSGCA. The women scientists who had breaks in their career were also promoted by CSGCA as part of the Department of S&T.

Direct actions for the empowerment of farm women through popularization of Women friendly techniques

It is to be reinstated that CSGCA does not directly aim to function as an agency for implementing women empowerment programmes in the field. Its function is to serve as a catalytic agent and surveil the ongoing programmes of women empowerment, set models and approaches of women empowerment programmes, motivate and provide advice and support to other agencies involved in the implementation of women development programmes. Towards this direction, CSGCA has been taking up selected field programmes of women empowerment in farm sector and is also aiming to develop a technical consortium and a networking of women involved in agriculture and agribusiness. A unit of farm women entrepreneurship and livelihood development is to be promoted from CSGCA in the near future.

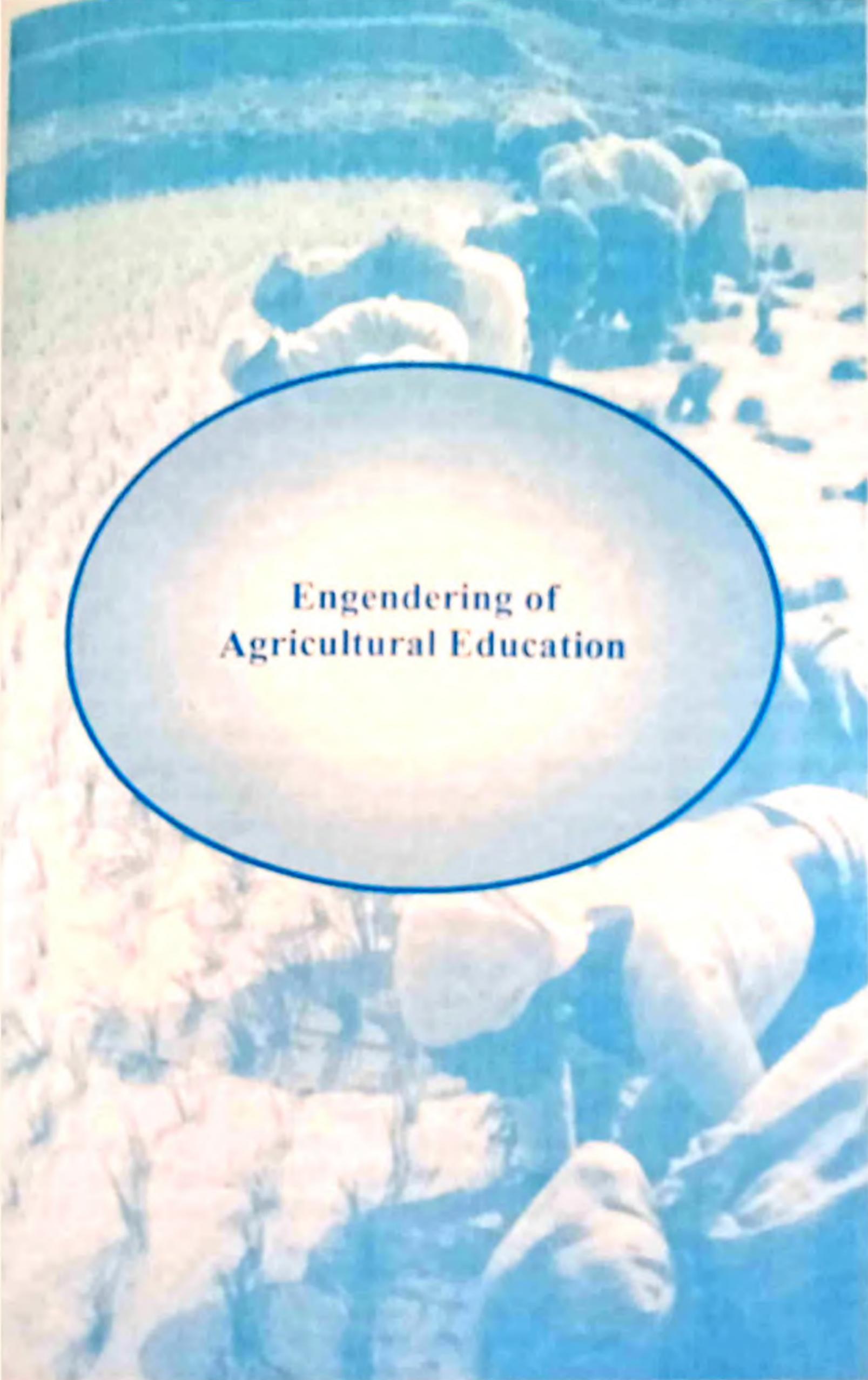
Towards these goals, model field demonstrations of women friendly technologies, skill workshops on women friendly technologies and agro clinics for farm women etc are taken up by the CSGCA on a limited scale. The CSGCA has been putting model capacity building efforts to promote women friendly technologies among various women categories. The focus of the efforts were to identify the suitability of existing technologies and approaches for extending technical support to women farmers especially for women headed families on farm management, imparting skill trainings for farm labourers on using labour efficient machines and imparting technological and entrepreneurial skills of farm business among women entrepreneurs.

Model trainings of selected women friendly technology and managerial skills are imparted to farm women by CSGCA for evolving suitable models and approaches. Through the implementation of a Department of Biotechnology (DBT),

Govt. of India funded scheme on Science Technology for women empowerment networking, the CSGCA has been able to initiate intensive farm skill workshops for farm women. During 2003-2006, a number of technology cum managerial skill development programmes of one month duration were conducted from the CSGCA for farm women in the emerging agribusiness ventures like flower cultivation, tissue culture and vermicomposting. **Three field demonstration units of farm women run initiatives of Flower Grower's Society, Tissue Culture Lab, and Vermicomposting Unit** were also set up and showcased as role models of women's initiatives. **Continuous agroclinic service in field, follow up trainings, value addition trainings, technology combination package for year round livelihood security, on line and field counselling for the promotion of women entrepreneurs, enabling workshops for escorting the women to assess support services from development agencies etc.** were also imparted as model technology promotion among women.

A trend setting skill development programme CSGCA had initiated jointly with Social Welfare Board, Kerala during 2000, **for the rehabilitation of the women in the Rescue Home** of Malappuram, Kerala, is worth mentioning. A group of women of the Rescue Home was trained in production of cashew grafts at the KAU Tavanur campus and the women on getting trained used to produce and sell cashew grafts to the near by Krishi Bhavan during 2001-2003. The ultimate goal of the programme was to impart livelihood skills and security among the marginalized women in the Rescue Home, so as to rehabilitate them into the mainstream activities of the society. A similar kind of effort of **reaching marginalized children in the Juvenile Home of Thrissur** with the support of the NSS Team of the College of Forestry of KAU was initiated from the CSGCA during 2006.

7. **Zilla Panchayaths, Development Departments, Kudumbashree, NGOs, Farmer organizations and agencies involved in women development programmes in the various parts of the state** are also being imparted orientation and guidance on gender perspectives and technical support from CSGCA as part of bringing gender sensitivity in agricultural extension and rural development.
8. **The Centre has taken special efforts for bringing together the stakeholders of women friendly technologies for promoting a network of women entrepreneurs**. The workshop held on 4th February, 2005 and 17th February, 2007 were two notable events of this kind. **A conceptual approach paper for women friendly technology promotion** has been developed by CSGCA during 2005. In the workshop held during **February 17th 2007**, the agencies involved in the development and popularization of women friendly technologies and implementation of women empowerment programmes like Department of Agriculture, Kudumbasree, NGOs, KVIC, NABARD, Farmer organizations, women societies, women SHGs and Scientists of KAU deliberated, and **flagged the concerns and issues to be taken up by the responsible authorities like State Development Departments, KAU, Banking Sector, Marketing Sector and training agencies.** A network of the various stakeholders in the scene of women farm entrepreneurship was evolved from this event for setting up extended support of technical and institutional services among farm women.



**Engendering of
Agricultural Education**

ENGENDERING OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

In order to build human capital base for sustained growth and alleviation of poverty and inequity, it is essential that all stakeholders in agricultural development, should refocus their perspective and redesign their approaches as well. In such a changing milieu, the State Agricultural University system based agriculture educators and learners should be enabled, to relearn and consider the realities of the rural situation and national needs for human capital and to refocus the priorities of development education. Hence renovation of agriculture education in India through revised curriculum development should focus on human capital development that provides equal importance to science and to human resources for production, by promoting gender inclusive approach that facilitate equal access to rural men and women for productive resources including technology information and agriculture support services. In this respect the Indian agricultural education system should be engendered to ensure human capital endowment for achieving sustainable economic and social development gains with gender equity. This far reaching effort, to be accepted by the national system, demands a replicable model. Developing gender integrated course curriculum, as well as related supporting resource materials is a pre requisite. **In the educational renovation context, agriculture sector should be viewed as an all encompassing umbrella of interrelated livelihood activities in the larger context of natural resources management, including cropping, animal rearing, fisheries, forestry, agroforestry and agro processing. Therefore, innovative revision of curriculum and reorientation of educational perspectives in agricultural education in India, should result in gender responsive interdisciplinary framework.** This approach should include its scope all the farm courses offered at the first degree level in the present system of agricultural education- Agriculture, Animal Sciences, Dairy Sciences, Fisheries, Forestry, Agrl. Engineering, and Home Science.

Against this target CSGCA has been continuously putting various efforts for engendering of agricultural education together with FAO.

The efforts taken towards engendering of agricultural education by CSGCA has enabled KAU to earn pioneering position in the field. During 2002, in collaboration with FAO, Bangkok, CSGCA had taken up the project of **“Building Gender Integrated Agricultural Curriculum, Capacity and Resource Materials”** through which participatory analysis of the curriculum of all undergraduate courses of KAU was done involving the students and teachers of each campus. Subsequently, on a pilot basis, gender audit of the BSc (Ag) syllabus was done to identify the additional areas of gender concerns to be introduced in the BSc.(Ag) curriculum. Together with the integration of relevant portions of gender concerns in identified courses, one credit course on Gender Perspectives in Agriculture was also suggested for introduction in the under graduate syllabus. It was also suggested to include co-curricular activities of community out reach activities on topics of social and gender

justice issues and, to introduce non credit courses of cultural orientation in all undergraduate courses of KAU. Accordingly, a model approach of engendering of agricultural education for the use of any State Agricultural University (SAU) in India also was suggested. To begin with, KAU has introduced a 0+1 credit course on "Gender Perspective in Agriculture" as an optional course in BSc (Ag) and the same course is expected to be introduced as a general course for all UG Programmes of KAU in the near future. Simultaneously CSGCA has been able to help in designing the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWEx) course module of KAU to be more gender sensitive during its introduction in 1999 itself.

Simultaneously during 2003, CSGCA together with MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai also could develop a course module and resource book on "Gender Issues in Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods". This resource book and course module was released in the All India University Vice Chancellor's Conference held at Darjeeling during 2004. The course can enable the participants to build a perspective by providing an overview of the social construction of gender and gender in equality; it will create skills of identifying gender roles, rights and responsibilities and their bearing on gender relations, and bring about attitudinal change, creating gender sensitivity and helping students to internalize equity concerns as fundamental human rights.

In these years, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been kept informed of these efforts of engendering agricultural education taken up from the KAU and ICAR authorities like Dr. J. Katyal, DDG (Education) had given leadership in some of the events of this kind in CSGCA. At present, these courses and models are in front of the Dean's Committee, ICAR for its approval and for introducing the same at the national level in all SAUs.

The CSGCA was also able to share these experiences of engendering agricultural curriculum in various national and international fora like FAO consultation at Bangkok, Beijing + Two sessions of the National Commission on Farmers, Curriculum Development Consultation of Indra Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA) Dehradun and All India Universities' Vice Chancellors' Conference at Mysore. The India- US - Agricultural Knowledge joint workshop on Curriculum Development for Agricultural Development held during 22 to 23 January 2007 in Delhi also has taken note of the experience and expertise CSGCA. KAU possesses in this area.

Engendering of Agricultural Education



Scenes from the high level discussions for including Gender Perspectives in Agricultural Curriculum



**Research on
Gender Concerns and
Engendering
Research**

RESEARCH INITIATIVES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF CSGCA

The focus of the research efforts of CSGCA is two pronged - engendering of agricultural research and conducting research on gender concerns in agriculture.

a) Engendering efforts of research in agriculture

The engendering of research is focused on resetting of research agenda in agriculture so that processes and products of science and technology in agriculture sector will target, suit and reach the farm women also. This, in turn, is being enabled by CSGCA through efforts for building awareness and capacity among agricultural scientists on gender analysis and gender sensitive research and technology development. The CSGCA since 1998 has been involved in conducting various workshops and training courses for moulding favourable mindset among scientists and to persuade them to focus and involve on topics related to the roles, needs, and constraints of farm women. The scientists are continuously enabled and motivated to review and research the issues of gender concerns in agricultural sector like drudgery, safety, health, efficiency, and energy requirement of farm operations performed by women and to evolve women friendly technologies and practices. Similarly, the efforts of science and technology should focus on evolving solutions for the problems of rural poor women who face epidemics, gynaecological problems, nutritional deficiencies, water related diseases and disorders, hereditary diseases, HIV/ AIDS and occupational health hazards, especially in fisheries, coir and cashew industries are also highlighted. Scientists are also being sensitized about the need of evolving technologies, practices, varieties, inputs etc. for farming system with due concern on livelihood security, food security, ecological sustainability, natural resource conservation, biodiversity etc. in which farm women have the major stake. The needs of empowering farm women with ergonomically suitable and appropriate technologies and enterprises for their livelihoods are also being oriented to the scientists in the agricultural sector through workshops, trainings, and courses on gender perspectives in agriculture being imparted from CSGCA. **CSGCA was a major partner along with the NRCWA, Bhuvneshwar, to bring out a training manual for conducting gender sensitization in the national agricultural research system during 2003-2004 period.**

The specific **Project Co-ordination Group on Gender Studies set up under the Faculty Research Committee (FRC), Agriculture, KAU** is also co-ordinated from the CSGCA. This co-ordination group is functioning as a think tank for identifying and prioritizing gender concerns to be studied from KAU. It is also involved in scrutinizing and advising all the research projects of KAU from the point of view of gender perspectives in agriculture. The need of introducing gender impact assessment as essential screening criteria for any research project in agriculture was proposed before the 60th FRC of KAU and including a

Research on Gender Concerns and Engendering Research



Participatory analysis of farm women's needs and constraints



Dialogue for making farm technologies appropriate and accessible to farm women

separate chapter for highlighting the women and gender oriented research efforts of KAU in the Annual Research Report were approved in principle in the above meeting, which is still to be put into practice. (p. 23 in the minutes of the 60th meeting of the FRC, KAU held on 26-27, May 2003)

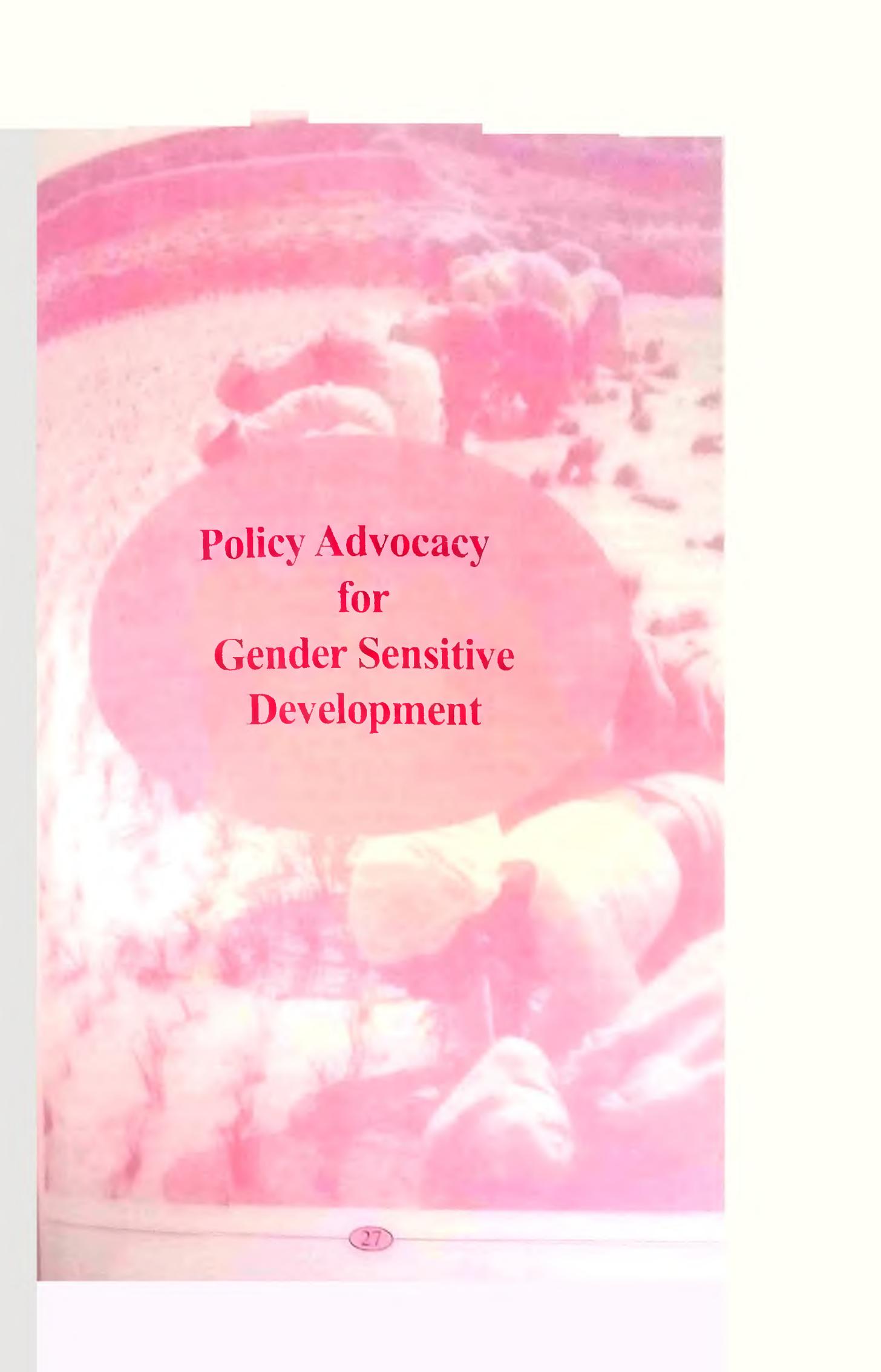
- b) Brief research highlights of the various field and desk studies conducted on gender concerns in agriculture from the CSGCA during 1999-2006 are presented.
- The study of CSGCA on the **socio economic profile of women labour in Kerala** conducted during 2000 could identify farm operations where in women labourers are getting employment opportunities. The study also revealed that there exists wide disparity in the wage rate of men and women farm workers in the unorganized sector, the farm women being provided with **only half of the wage of men labourers**. Despite this, the women labourers were found to be the major providers of food security of their families as women bring back their full wages to their home compared to their male counterparts.
 - The study from this Centre on the **Roles and Accountability of women in Farming Systems of Madakkathara Panchayath** in Thrissur district during 2001, could suggest a method of categorizing gender roles of farming systems (women specific, women dominant, men specific, men dominant and gender neutral), identify gender roles of various farming systems and highlight that about 40-42% of farm family income is contributed by farm family women through their unpaid labour contribution.
 - The study on the **agribusiness entrepreneurs in Kerala** conducted during 2002 could reveal the major types of women run agribusiness, identify the constraints of agribusiness and develop a scale for the measurement of entrepreneurial success. The study had also pointed out that only very low percentage of women agribusiness operators are highly successful. Case studies of selected successful farm women agribusiness operators also were documented as part of the study.
 - The ICAR-NATP study on **“Gender Analysis of Farming Systems for Sustainable Technologies, Development Programmes and Livelihood”** carried out during 2002-2005 could identify the gender roles of the major farming systems in Central Kerala. **Identification of gender impact indicators to assess the potential and consequent impacts of development interventions like technologies, institutions, policies and programmes was a major contribution of this study.** Employment, income, leisure, drudgery, health, social inclusion, food security etc. are some of the indicators of gender impact and a Composite Gender Impact Index was developed and tested in the case of mechanized paddy transplanting. The adverse impact the women farm labourers face on the eve of rice mechanization also was pointed out in the study. It was observed that the farm operations which used to be women specific in manual operations have become men specific and male dominated under the mechanized situation. **A training module on gender mainstreaming for sustainable agricultural development was also developed as part of the study.**

- **FAO, Bangkok sponsored project on 'Building Gender Integrated Agricultural Curriculum, Capacity and Resource Materials'** implemented during 2002-2003 from CSGCA had focused on auditing the BSc (Ag) syllabus of KAU, identifying gender concerns from the scientists and students through experience sharing workshops and discussions in various college campuses and capacity building programmes for administrators, scientists and students **Based on the study it was suggested that in 62 courses, out of the 102 courses of BSc (Ag), gender concerns are to be integrated and a separate course on gender perspective and human perspective in agriculture is to be introduced in all undergraduate programmes of KAU. It was also suggested a model approach of gender integration in SAU's at national level through integrating gender concerns in curricular and co-curricular activities may be taken up.**
- **KAU- Project on "Land Ownership and Participation of Farm women in Agriculture" conducted during 2002-2004** could point out that only one-fifth of the farm women have ownership of land. Land ownership alone is not enough to empower farm women, and that there is no significant influence of the land ownership on the extent of participation of women in farming. It is also noticed that only very low percentage of land owning farm women have membership and participation in support services institutions like co-operatives.
- The networking project of CSGCA and ICAR- NRCWA on **"Approaches for Engendering Research and Extension"** implemented during 2004 – 2005 had focused on the identification of gender issues – access and control of the farming resources, technology, land, water etc., and participation of women and men in farming and building gender sensitivity among agricultural development personnel engaged in research and extension. The gender role identification of major farming systems like rice, coconut, fisheries, plantations, dairying etc. were carried out through the study. **A training manual on gender sensitization and two documentary films titled – 'Unheard Voice' and 'One Question' on gender sensitization were also developed during the study.**
- **KAU project on "Adoption and Sustainability of Mechanised Paddy Transplanter for Farm women labourers in the paddy cultivation of Thrissur and Palakkad"** during 2003-2004 revealed the extent of acceptance of the farm women run mechanized paddy transplanting among farming community and the related constraints of women labour. Paddy farmers pointed out the relative advantage of mechanized paddy transplanting on reduced cost of cultivation, saving of time and labour, easy intercultural operations and reduced seed rate. The women labour users of the machines had raised the problems of making the machines friendly through replacing the kick starter, removing the heavy shaking, providing a protective hood etc. as part of technology improvement. The skill training imparted from the Agricultural Research Station, Mannuthy, Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering Technology, Tavanur and Palakkad District Agricultural Farm on farm machinery use for women were rated as useful by the various women labour groups. Through a participatory workshop of farmers, labourers and scientists involved in mechanized paddy transplanting organised by CSGCA, on 16th November.

2005, the issues to be addressed and suggestions were flagged before the stakeholders for appropriate action of technology development and popularization.

- The DBT funded project on **Women empowerment networking through agro biotechnologies implemented from CSGCA** during 2004-2007 has been useful in evolving new models of technology popularization on aspects like combining technology transfer with entrepreneurship skill development, on suggesting and practising convenient timing of training classes for farm women and in mobilizing multi stakeholder involvement in promotion of farm technologies among farm women. Two studies on women's participation in agriculture based enterprises conducted covering the entire in two wards in Madakkathara Panchayath. Thrissur revealed the low extent of participation of family women in farm and farm based enterprises despite the intensive efforts of self help group mobilization and women empowerment presently noticed in all Panchayaths of the State. The need for more concerted efforts of stakeholders involved with planned and well connected activities targeted at farm women at grass root level is highlighted by these studies.
- The various **Evaluation studies on the Central Sector Scheme on 'Women in Agriculture Programme'** of the State Department of Agriculture taken up by the CSGCA, (2004, 2005 & 2006) had indicated that the farm women could be enabled to access farm technologies, agricultural development agencies, leadership and to derive farm income at an increased level. Lack of market and marketing facilities, lack of land for cultivation, lack of quality inputs and lack of business management skills are the major constraints faced by the farm women as per the study.
- **The socio economic impact study** on the 11 year Women in agriculture programme (WIA) of Palakkad District in Kerala conducted by CSGCA during 2006 also had indicated the positive impacts of WIA programme of the Ministry of Agriculture on the socio economic and personal development of farm women. **The low level of gender sensitivity among the agricultural extension personnel in the field to cater with gender sensitivity to the needs of farm women and the need of gender mainstreaming in agriculture** were also highlighted
 - The study taken up on the functioning of the Rubber Producers Service Society by the Centre had indicated the low level of women participation in the working and management of co-operatives in Rubber Sector.
 - An ongoing study of CSGCA is trying to identify the coping mechanism and alternative employment avenues of farm women labour who have lost livelihoods due to depletion of rice cultivation in the state.
 - A DBT funded study is recently initiated with focus on documenting and restoring the endangered farm skill related livelihoods among farm women with the help of skill master farmers who own traditional wisdom.

It is to be highlighted that these observations and conclusions of the various research projects of CSGCA are not kept as remaining in the shelves, but are concurrently being utilized in the engendering efforts of the CSGCA in research, education, extension, capacity building and policy making for suitable agricultural development ■



**Policy Advocacy
for
Gender Sensitive
Development**

POLICY ADVOCACY EFFORTS OF CSGCA

The very first consultation undertaken by the CSGCA towards policy advocacy organised on 20th and 21st May, 2000 as a joint effort of KAU, State Women's Commission and Centre of Sustainable Technology for Rural Development (COSTFORD), Thrissur had focused on identifying the constraints and problems of farm women workers in the unorganized sector. The issues of wage discrimination, displacement from traditional employment opportunities, threat of male oriented farm technologies, occupational health hazards, lack of social security, facilities for care of children and sanitation in work environment, lack of farm labour pension and insurances, discriminating widow pension scheme, lack of skill empowerment among farm women were flagged as issues. These issues were brought to the notice of various agencies like Women's Commission, Agricultural Engineers of KAU, Panchayath Raj Institutions, Planning Board, Social Welfare Department, Labour Department, Development Departments and mass media. The proceedings of the consultation were published and widely circulated among the various stakeholders.

- Another important policy advocacy effort taken up by the CSGCA was to influence the integration of gender perspectives in agricultural education and engendering agricultural education in KAU and other SAUs in the nation. The various course modules, syllabus resource materials and education engendering models developed by the Centre in collaboration with agencies like MSSRF and FAO on integrating gender perspectives in agriculture were submitted to the various committees of ICAR and KAU during 2003-2006. To begin with, KAU has introduced the UG course on Gender Perspectives as an optional course for BSc (Ag) programme and the introduction of the course as the general course of all UG Programme of KAU is awaiting decision by the Academic Council of the University. The approval of ICAR for introducing the approach of gender integration in agricultural education in the nation is awaited. The Centre also has been invited to share the experience in this context in an international interface programme of FAO-Bangkok during July 2002. The Conference of US-India Knowledge Initiatives on Agricultural Curriculum Development held at New Delhi during December 2006 also has highlighted the efforts of CSGCA and has taken decision to include gender concerns as focus area of curriculum development in agriculture.
- The CSGCA has been invited to share experiences on engendering agricultural education, research and extension in the various sittings of the National Commission of Farmers, Government of India during 2005-2006 and the report of the above Commission has made special mention about the efforts of CSGCA, KAU in the context of women's development in agriculture. (page no. 100 of the first report, December, 2004)
- It is a matter of prestige for KAU that the centre has been able to serve in the XI Five Year Plan Formulation Groups on Agricultural Extension and Gender and

Policy Advocacy Efforts of CSGCA



Important personalities presenting views in policy formulation discussions



Convergence of different development agencies and stakeholders

Agriculture. The Project Co-ordinator has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the Subgroup on Gender Concerns in Agricultural Extension. In this connection, CSGCA had organized consultative sharing process from various authorities and agencies and had organized a vision planning session of selected academics, development workers, farmers and women groups in KAU during 29th August, 2006. The opportunity has been a rewarding one for the accumulated experiences of CSGCA in the field where by, KAU could suggest many new policies and project approaches of women empowerment at national level to be undertaken in the coming five year period.

The WTO Commission of the State Government of Kerala during 2001-2002 had also identified CSGCA, KAU as an emerging institution, capable of working on gender concerns in agriculture and for promotion of expertise and competitiveness of rural enterprises and livelihoods among farm women.

- The Centre also got an opportunity to serve in National Gender Mainstreaming Committee of NATP of ICAR set up during 2001-2003 and could suggest the means and modes of gender mainstreaming which the ICAR has to introduce in research and technology development.
- Other opportunities in which CSGCA representative was invited to serve in the various advisory, steering, evaluation, and review committees of agencies include Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, National e-Governance committee of Ministry of Agriculture, Centre for Development Studies, Integrated Rural Technology Centre (IRTC) of Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath (KSSP) and COSTFORD. CSGCA had played a key role in bringing in gender sensitivity in the decisions of policy making of agricultural and rural development in the nation.
- It is worth to mention that CSGCA has been effective in persuading the Rubber Board to take a decision to introduce joint membership for male and female heads of family in the Rubber Producer's Society (RPS).
- The opportunities for dialogues the CSGCA had obtained during the various rounds of drafting of the unorganized worker's bill could also enable KAU to project issues of farm women labour and the needed social security in labour welfare at national level.
- The issue of the discriminatory criteria of widow pension followed by the various social welfare schemes has been always a concern of CSGCA, which was continuously raised by the Centre to the Women's Commission and Ministry of Social Welfare, which has ultimately resulted in a positive action very recently.
- The advisory and organizing support rendered to the Women Complaint Redressal Cell of KAU (the first of its kind in Kerala established during 1998) for solving gender issues of employees and students in various matters from the CSGCA is worth to be highlighted as a measure of building and conserving gender sensitive environment in KAU. Concerted efforts for building increased gender sensitivity in the environment of KAU towards promoting girl student's leadership and introducing women friendly infrastructure facilities (increased number of women's toilets, quarters for single women, working women's hostel etc) are emerging needs to be addressed and taken up.

- An important area of gender issue the CSGCA could flag and solve effectively was the discriminatory recruitment criteria of the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) adopted in the recruitment of Forest Range Officers, as a result of which the women Forestry graduates were denied employment opportunities. On identifying this issue, some of the eligible women graduates ably supported by the CSGCA complained about this discrimination before KPSC. The CSGCA could advise the KAU authorities also to approach the Pro-Chancellor and Agricultural Minister to intervene in the issue positively. Based on these interventions, KPSC had ultimately modified the recruitment criteria to be gender sensitive and two of the women graduates of the College of Forestry, KAU were posted as Forest Range Officers during 2003.
- The issues of the joint land ownership status of men and women in a family and the issue of joint membership of men and women heads of families in farmer co-operatives, milk marketing co-operatives, fish marketing co-operatives, water user association, forest management council, watershed management council, joint kissan credit/ insurance etc. are concerns flagged and being advocated from this Centre through various committees and fora.
- The stakeholder's workshop held by the Centre on the promotion of agro based enterprises of farm women on 17th February 2007 had also focused on the issues of access to land among farm women especially for reforms of land lease rules, so as to enhance access to cultivable land among women.
- The continued advocacy of CSGCA on bringing marketing arrangements for the **micro enterprises of women** is also worth mentioning. The various agencies involved in women empowerment like Planning Commission, Planning Board, Kudumbasree, Department of Agriculture, NABARD etc. are continuously being approached and requested from the CSGCA for establishing appropriate marketing facilities to provide decent space for marketing and market opportunities for the sustainability of the enterprises of women SHGs. As a result, some of these agencies have adopted programmes for introducing local marketing facilities and techno parks for women groups as part of the XI Five Year Plan programmes at the national level. ■

DOCUMENTATION EFFORTS

The process and event documentation of the engendering efforts undertaken by CSGCA was a major activity from the very beginning of the centre. CSGCA has been utilizing various media like print, photograph, still, video and digital recording, documentary films, etc for documenting various processes and events related to engendering of agricultural development.

- CSGCA continues its efforts for developing a library facility in its office with collection of literature, journals and books on gender and women related issues. Various reports of the project workshops, studies and events of CSGCA, information brochures released from time to time from CSGCA and large number of photographs of various field situations and events are already the strength of this facility.
- The collection of books and journals of socio economic scene gifted by the Former Vice Chancellor Late Dr. K.N.Shyamasundaran Nair has enriched the CSGCA library facility in a major way.
- Three documentary films were developed by this centre on gender mainstreaming in agriculture *Kelkaatha shabdham* (Unheard Voice), Women empowerment (One question) and Agro Based technological Options for Farm women. These films released from CSGCA are serving as effective tools for gender sensitization and related capacity building programmes.
- Various Training Manuals of Gender Sensitisation prepared by CSGCA and NRCWA are contributions of this centre towards capacity building on gender perspectives in development.
- Collection of field cases, learnings drawn from critical incidences, programmes, and initiatives of CSGCA and various agencies forms part of the documentation
- Resource Book on undergraduate Course Module of Gender Issues in Rural Livelihoods (joint production of CSGCA and MSSRF) is an acclaimed item of documentation due to its pioneering nature in the field of engendering agricultural education.



Release of "Unheard Voices"

NETWORKING AGENCIES

Ever since the CSGCA started its functioning, it has been joining hands with various governmental and non governmental agencies of same concerns, right from the grass root level to the international level. The CSGCA is indebted to all these agencies for the guidance, support and co-operation received by the centre. Some of the major agencies with which the CSGCA had been working together, and has been mutually benefited include:

1. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation . Chennai
2. Food and Agricultural Organisation, Rome, Bangkok and India
3. International Agricultural Centre, Wageningen, Netherlands
4. International Rice Research Institute, Philippines
5. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
6. National Research Centre for Women in Agriculture (NRCWA), ICAR
7. National Gender Resource Centre of Agriculture (NGRCA), Ministry of Agriculture
8. Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India
9. Planning Commission, Govt. of India
10. Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India
11. Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India
12. National Institute of Public Co-operation for Women and Child, Govt. of India
13. National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad.
14. State Department of Agriculture, Kerala
15. State Department of Fisheries, Kerala
16. State Department of Animal Husbandry, Kerala
17. Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Thrissur
18. Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum
19. Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Nadathara, Thrissur
20. Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur
21. COSTFORD, Thrissur
22. Rubber Board, Kottayam
23. NABARD, Kerala Region
24. State Women's Commission, Kerala
25. SFAC, Govt. of Kerala
26. Kudumbashree- (State Poverty Alleviation Mission), Govt. of Kerala
27. Hid Forum, Bangalore
28. Sakhi Women Resource Centre, Trivandrum
29. Navadhara Foundation, Kalpetta, Wayanad
30. Sreyas, Wayanad
31. IRTC, Kerala Shashtra Sahithya Parishad, Trivandrum
32. Paddy Farmer's Society, Paruthikavu, Palakkad
33. Perinjanam Vanitha Flower Society, Thrissur
34. Nattika Vanitha Tissue Culture Lab, Thrissur
35. Jyothirmayi Vanitha Sangham, Mulankunnathukkavu, Thrissur
36. Darshana Pastoral Centre, Peechi, Thrissur

It is to be highlighted that the CSGCA is in continuous effort of increasing its reach, collaboration and co-operation through networking with agencies similar to the list provided for attaining its ultimate goal of gender justice in development.

Institution of the Endowment Lecture in memory of Late Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, Former Vice Chancellor

In memory of the Former Vice Chancellor of KAU late Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair, his family has supported to institute an endowment fund in KAU, during 2005. CSGCA, KAU is entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the annual endowment lecture of the above endowment during July every year. Accordingly, the first K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair Endowment Lecture has been organized on 27th July, 2006. The First Lecture on "New Economic Reforms and Agriculture" was delivered by Dr. S. Bisaliyah, Former Vice Chancellor of UAS and Chairman, Agricultural Price Commission, Government of Karnataka



Events of the First Lecture of the Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair Memorial Endowment

THE ROAD AHEAD

In the emerging context of new economic reforms in agriculture and its impact on farm women's livelihoods, the CSGCA has to be identified and strengthened as a Centre of Excellence of KAU to conduct advanced studies on gender and development, to take up capacity building efforts on gender mainstreaming among the research and development staff to promote women friendly farm technologies for livelihood options of farm women and farm entrepreneurship development, and to initiate post graduate and distance education programmes of gender and development. This centre has acquired capacity to take up indepth regional level analysis of the gender issues in agriculture like occupational health hazards, inaccessibility of farm technologies, farm resources of land, water, credit and market, wage discrimination, gender impact of agricultural technologies, promotion of women friendly agricultural technologies, farmer support services etc. The Centre has the capacity to serve as a resource centre for advocating gender sensitive policy changes on gender issues in agriculture, to conduct ergonomic studies and suggest appropriate changes in fabricating farm machines, and to be the nodal agency for capacity building on gender perspectives and gender sensitivity among policy makers, administrators, scientists, academics, extension personnel, development agencies and farming community at national level. The Centre can also serve as a resource centre to develop and organize resource materials and tools of distance education and ICT based learning opportunities for women in agriculture, and to serve as a resource centre for women farm entrepreneurs and women headed farm families. The Centre in the coming days can grow as a National Centre of Excellence of Gender Studies, Research and Policy Advocacy for Women Development. The ongoing efforts of capacity building on gender perspective and gender sensitivity among the various stakeholders in agriculture development is expected to create both long and short-term impacts in agricultural development; and also direct and indirect impacts on production, productivity, food security and national competitiveness. The project team of the centre can be promoted as a consultative group, competent to take up assignments of engendering in agricultural development. **As one half of the society is constituted by women, these efforts aimed to increase effectiveness of participation and contribution of women along with men in agriculture, their threshold efficiency and access to benefits of agriculture and rural development will enable to empower the society holistically towards greater sustainability of development and sustenance in the coming days.**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **Sri. K.R. Viswambharan, IAS (Vice Chancellor and chairperson from March 2007- continuing)**
2. Late Dr. K.N. Shyamasundaran Nair (1999 to 2001 as (Vice Chancellor and Chairperson) and (from 2001 to 2004 July as member)
3. **Dr. K. V. Peter (1999-2001 as Director of Research), (2001-2006 as Vice Chancellor and Chairperson) and (May 2006 onwards as member)**
4. Sri. E.K.Majhi I.A.S.(Vice Chancellor i/c and Chairperson from May 2006-March07)
5. Dr. N.Vikraman Nair (2001-2002 as Director of Research)
6. Dr. K.Kumaran (2002-2003 as Director of Research)
7. Dr. C.K.Peethambaran (2003-2005 as Director of Research) and (2006 as member)
8. Dr. S. Janardhanan Pillai (Director of Research, 2006)
9. **Dr. D.Alexander (Director of Research from 2006-continuing)**
10. Dr. A.I.Jose (Director of Extension from 2000-2004)
11. **Dr. M.K.Sheela (Director of Extension from 2004-continuing)**
12. **Dr. S.Sulochana (Dean, COVAS 1999-2001 and continuing as member)**
13. Dr.G. Sreekandan Nair (Dean, COA 2003)
14. Dr. C.Sundaresan Nair (Dean, COA 2004-2005)
15. **Dr. E. Nanu, Dean, College of Vety. and Animal Sciences, (2005 - continuing)**
16. Dr. Jippu Jacob, Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering, (2005- 2007)
17. **Dr. S. Sivaswamy, Dean, College of Agri. Engineering (2007 - continuing)**
18. **Dean, College of Fisheries, (2005- continuing)**
19. **President, KAU Students Union**
20. **Vice President , KAU Student Union**
21. **Dr. K.Saradamony (1999-continuing)**
22. **Dr. R.V.G. Menon (1999-continuing)**
23. **Dr. Michael Tharakan (1999-continuing)**
24. **Smt. Eliama Vijayan (1999-continuing)**
25. **Smt. T.Devi (1999-continuing)**
26. **Sri. T.R.Chandra Dutt, COSTFORD (1999-continuing)**
27. Smt. Meenakshy Thampan (1999-2003)
28. Dr. Lalithambika, IAS (1999-2003)
29. Smt. Savithri Lakshmanan (1999-2003)
30. Smt. Leela Menon (1999-2003)
31. **Director, KILA, Thrissur (continuing)**
32. **Director, Kudumbasree (continuing)**
33. **Dr.P.S.Geethakutty (1999-continuing) as Project Co-ordinator and Convenor**

(Names with bold letters indicate the presently continuing members in the committee)

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

1. Dr.P.S.Geethakutty, Associate Professor & Project Co-ordinator (From 1999-Continuing)
2. Dr. S. Shilaja, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension), College of Agriculture, Vellayani
3. Dr.K.S.Purushan, Associate Professor & Head, Fisheries Research Station, Puthuveypu
4. Dr. P. Rajendran, Programme Co-ordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pattambi, Palakkad
5. Dr. M.P.Giridharan, Associate Professor (Horticulture), RARS, Pilicode, Kasargode
6. Dr.A.Radhamma Pillai, Programme Co-ordinator , Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Waynad Dt.
7. Dr.Shyamakumari. S., Associate Professor, (Home Science),College of Agriculture, Vellayani
8. Dr.M.R.Subhadra, Associate Professor & Head, (Veterinary Extension), COVAS, Mannuthy
9. Dr.P.A.Nazem, Associate Professor & Head (Biotechnology), COH, Vellanikkara, Thrissur.
10. Dr.V.Ganesan, Associate Professor & Head, (Agrl.Engineering), College of Agriculture, Vellayani
11. Dr.K.J.Joseph, Programme Co-ordinator, KVK, Kottayam.
12. Dr.George Thomas, Associate Professor (Agronomy),College of Horticulture, Vellanikkara,
13. Smt.N.K Vimalakumari, Associate Professor & Head (Home Science), COA, Vellayani
14. Dr.K.Vidyasagan, Assistant Professor (Forest Management), COF, Vellanikkara
15. Dr.G. Sobhana, Associate Professor (Agrl. Extension), Sub Centre of RARS, Pilicode, Manjeswaram, Kasaragode
16. Dr.A.Sukumaran, Associate Professor, (Co-operation and Banking),CCBM, Vellanikkara
17. Dr.Sivaswamy, Associate Professor (Agrl. Engineering), KCAET, Tavanur, Malappuram
18. Smt.Daisy Kappen, Assistant Professor (Fisheries Extension), College of Fisheries, Panangad, Cochin. ■



Initiatives and Achievements of Centre for Studies on Gender Concerns in Agriculture

*Centre for studies on Gender concerns in Agriculture
Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur*