

MONITORING ACHIEVEMENT OF SOCIAL GOALS IN THE 1990's

Monitoring in Relation to the Programme of Action of the
World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

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FAO's work on the development of socio-economic indicators for monitoring in relation to the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) can be expected to make substantial contribution to the overall monitoring of the achievement of social goals in the 1990's. However, as reported at the Twenty-fourth Session of the Sub-Committee in 1989, several activities for promoting the development and use of socio-economic indicators in the countries, including the preparation of technical support studies and manuals have had to be cancelled or postponed due to budgetary restrictions and other resource constraints that have continued into the current biennium.

The guidelines on Socio-Economic Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development were distributed to the countries in 1989 mainly as part of activities to mark the 10th Anniversary of WCARRD. They will be used by the countries in preparing their reports to the FAO Conference in 1991 on the WCARRD follow-up. They will also serve as instruments for developing long-term programmes of socio-economic indicators in the countries for monitoring progress towards the social objectives of rural development in the 1990's and the achievements of programmes and policies in attaining these goals. FAO will continue to assist in the selection and provision of socio-economic indicators and the preparation of the framework for preparing reports to the FAO Conference on the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

Towards this end, an FAO/World Bank/UN Statistical Office Technical Consultation for coordinating the above agencies' programmes was held in Rome in January 1990. The meeting made several suggestions and recommendations, including the exchange of programme documents and visits and the carrying out of joint missions to the countries, the provision of WCARRD indicators from the NHSCP, the SDA and the UN Household Survey Indicators Programme (HSIP) for Monitoring the Achievement of Social Goals for the 1990's, the preparation of joint studies such as the proposed FAO/UNSO Technical Study on Household Surveys for Rural Development and some follow-up activities on agencies' collaboration in these fields. The report of this inter-agency consultation on agencies' social indicators and

household survey programmes was subsequently discussed and endorsed by the Panel on Monitoring and Evaluation of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development at its Ninth Session held in Geneva in April 1990, and subsequently by the Eighteenth meeting of the ACC Task Force itself, which met in Rome in May 1990.

Plans are well underway for establishing a data base on statistics of women and men in agriculture, to be coordinated with similar data bases of other UN agencies, following the recommendations of a consultant report issued in 1989. It is intended to convene an inter-agency consultation on Statistics and Data Base on Gender in Agriculture and Rural Development in Rome in December 1990, in order to provide for maximum inter-agency coordination and collaboration in national and international activities involved.