

- Call the attention of your national and regional politicians for the problems your national rural women are facing, writing a letter or inviting them to come to your event;
- Hold a press conference/panel discussion inviting rural women's NGO's to present their projects and ideas;
- Create a national or regional/local award for exceptional rural women or women's group;
- Organize an exposition or a workshop on a specific important issue for rural women (ex: climate change, health care, education, etc.)
- Write a press release before and after your event and spread it to the media (including us!);
- Collaborate with other organizations/women's groups in a joint event;

You can find good **resources** about rural women in several topics here:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/directory/women_and_rural_development_10311.htm

<http://www.mijarc.net/cms/index.php?id=89&L=1%22%20onfocus%3D%22blurLink%28this%29%3B>

MIJARC International Women Commission wishes you all the best actions and results for the International Day of Rural Women.

Please do not forget to send reports and articles about your actions to the General Secretariat

Contact:

Africa	Hona Tibashoboka	h.tibashoboka@mijarc.net
Asia	Sarita Minz	s.minz@mijarc.net
Europe	Ana Silva	a.silva@mijarc.net
Latin America and Caribbean	Luz Mery Benavides Orrillo	l.benavides@mijarc.net
World Team	Carolin Grieshop	c.grieshop@mijarc.net

Mouvement international de la jeunesse agricole et rurale catholique (MIJARC)

General Secretariat

53, Rue J. Coosemans- B-1030 Brussels

Phone:+32-2-7349211- Fax: +32-2-7349225-

Email: world@mijarc.net- www.mijarc.net

MIJARC's International Women Commission (IWC) calls for your participation on



October 15th

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN

Since 1995, the October 15th it's considered the World Rural Women's Day. In 2008 the UN General Assembly declared this day as "International Day of Rural Women".

Mouvement international de la jeunesse agricole et rurale catholique (MIJARC)

WHAT FOR?

- To raise the profile of rural women;
- To sensitize both government and public to their crucial, yet largely unrecognized roles;
- To promote action in their support, launching visible actions;

WHY?

Social inequalities, particularly visible in developing countries and, more specifically, in rural areas, have strong impact and repercussion on women's life, limiting their rights as the access to land, housing, education, health care and participation in policy-making and decision-making.

Celebrating the International Day of Rural Women the eve of the World Food Day (October 16th) draws attention to the role played by rural women on food production and food security, but also in the sustainable development of rural areas.

Rural women, mainly farmers, represent more than a quarter of the total world population, produce on average more than a half of all the food (up to **80** per cent in Africa, **60** per cent in Asia, between **30** and **40** per cent in Latin America and Western countries),

But they only own around 2 per cent of the land, receive only 1 per cent of all agricultural credit and have only 5 per cent of agricultural extension resources directed to them.

This inequality of rights, mainly the lack of access and control of land by women, might be amplified by agro-fuels large scale production, in terms of socio-economic marginalization of women and female-headed households, threatening their food security.

In addition, women and men will be differently affected by climate change and extreme climate events due to their different social roles. Also in this increasingly important issue women are not sufficiently represented in decision-making processes. Therefore, women perspectives and experiences must be taken into account in policies-making.

Women's crucial contribution to agricultural, economic, social and environmental development has being neglected and unnoticed.

It's not by chance that gender equality and women's empowerment constitute a Millennium Development Goal (MDG-3), and also considered a condition to fight hunger, poverty and diseases and achieve all the other goals.

MIJARC International Women Commission is actually committed to empower Women at all levels in relation with their rights and their participation to take leadership. Thus, we are calling for your action and participation in the occasion of International Day of Rural Women.

HOW?

- In different ways, according to each continental, national and local priorities;
- Planning and performing concrete and visible actions planned by your group or taking part on other organizations activities;

Suggestions:

- Disseminate in all your local, regional and national publications (journals, newsletters, websites,...) the International Day of Rural Women;
- Contact local and national press and radio stations asking to mention this day, emphasizing why it is important the recognition of rural women role and work;