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Gender responsive adaptation and low carbon development including the role of rural and indigenous women

Presented by Ruiti Aretaake

COP 17 – Side Event

Gender CC

In partnership with

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Gender CC - Women for Climate Justice funded by IKI- a 3 year project on gender in Adaptation and low Carbon development is implemented by the Energy Programme of Economic Development Division of SPC
- Funding support from Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety based in Germany



Objectives

Contribute to the integration of gender dimensions in climate change adaptation and low carbon development in small island developing states both in projects designing, implementation and policies



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Experiences of Climate change impacts in Kiribati

Brief background of Kiribati

- Kiribati is made of coral islands.
- It has two main seasons which are rainy and sunny seasons.
- The land is flat i.e. no hills or mountains and the soil is poor.
- The main crops are coconut, breadfruit, pandanus, giant dalo and pawpaw.

Rural Community Activities:

Home-Gardening:

- MORDI has provided trainings to rural women on remote communities to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- With the poor soil and the changes in climate have led this training to allow women to adopt and adapt to this changes.
- In this way food security and crop production are maintained.



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Rural Community Activities:

Livestock care:

- To improve nutrients to the soil for home-gardening purposes, the women were taught on how to care for poultry in a way that could prepare the soil for planting.



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Rural Community Activities:

Handicrafts training:

- Because of long periods of droughts, cutting copra which is the main source of income for rural people has been affected in the sense that coconut trees do not produce enough fruit for copra.
- Handicrafts making for the women compliments cutting copra in a way that women use own resources to make handicraft for sale as another source of income.



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Rural Community Activities:

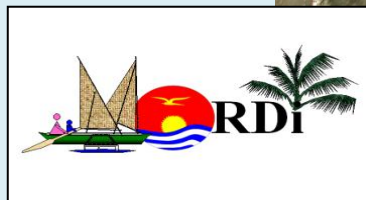
Water Issues:

Long period of droughts have made underground water unsafe for consumption.

Fresh water is far to get by rural women as they have to go about 200meter to fetch fresh water. With the rural activities, a system called Reverse Oasis water system is inplace where a machine with the use of solar energy converted blackish well water to pure water which could be used for consumption purposes.



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Rural Community Activities:

Beach watching:

- Erosion of land as an impact of climate change has led the project to run a community awareness program on beach watching. In this way gravel and sand business could be limited to assist sand erosion.



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Conclusion

In empowering these rural women in different areas, women are able to earn an income, which benefit their families. Women are more open to advise and are more willing to change their strategies and response to new information and climate changes impact. In order to change unjust structures and relations, the project needs to work with women and youth, as well as with policy and other decision makers at all levels.



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