



Lesotho women planting corn

Credit: Zimbabwe Women's Bureau

roots groups should be brought forward; and coordinating workshops conducted to draw up strategies for action.

In conclusion, I would like to propose the following reforms: Where women are already traditionally accepted as participants in agricultural production, extension and credit services should be extended to them. The female graduates of agricultural and family science colleges should produce appropriate educational material for the local female extensionists at the grass roots level.

- The land registration system should not be introduced into areas that traditionally recognize other ways of defining ownership.
- In order to ensure that all technical, financial, and agricultural services reach women, these services should be offered through women's organizations. Thus the growth of women's organizations is a necessity.
- Women's consciousness should be raised about their right to, and the importance of land ownership.

- Government policy makers should be obliged to recognize the adverse effect of land registration laws and tenancy rules on development.
- The ranks of policy makers should include many women.
- Women's organizations should act as pressure groups to lobby for changes in the distribution regulations pertaining to agricultural land.
- To encourage women's economic participation, we should have plans for small agricultural farms for food production owned by women. Women must be given all the needed encouragement to obtain access to training, capital and facilities.
- The expansion of the large scale agricultural schemes that entail large capital and thus debt, advanced technologies, cash crops and wage labour, should be stopped. We must fight for better models of cultivation that suit our cultures, abilities and situations.

Models that will ultimately raise women's participation, empower them and raise their status. Models that will feed us. The suggested model is a return to our traditional system with the introduction of appropriate village technologies in the traditional sector.

¹Mahasin Khidir, "Women's Participation in Agricultural Activities in the Sudan," Unpublished Ph. D. Thesis, University of Khartoum, 1981.

²Khidir.

³Abdil Jalil, "Rural Women in Small-Scale Irrigated Agriculture," 1984.

⁴Ibrahim Foad, *Ecological Imbalance in the Republic of the Sudan* (1984).

⁵Figures taken from Khalid Afan, "On the Role of the Regions in National Development of Sudan," Development Studies and Research Centre (DSRC) Series Papers (1984).

⁶*The Economic Survey Year Book: 1982-83* (Ministry of Finance).

⁷Gassim Al Said, "Off-tenancy Activities of Tenants in the Rahad Scheme," Unpublished M. Sc. Thesis, 1983.

⁸Badri and Bashir, "Women, Education and Development," in *Proceedings on Population and Development in Sudan* (1982).

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NOUVELLES D'AFRIQUE

Les rouses rafales au pied des cauales
Déferlent sur des ouragans de lumière
fauve

Des feux de caravanes incendient
l'horizon

La mère jasse de primitives symphonies
Elle crache la fièvre, les ailes aux pieds, la
sueur à la peau

Une goutte de lait tremblant au sein
Larme d'opale sur la latérite embrasée
Et la mère murmure de sombres
mélopées

Avant l'efflorescence de mort dans le silence
du Sahel

Le ventre de la terre devient tombeau
Pendant que le jour tombe sur le dos des
troupeaux

Lèvres sèches, regard en fusion
C'était l'Afrique assoiffée . . .

Nadia Ghalem

Montréal, Québec