

EMPOWERING WOMEN AT THE GRASSROOTS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Opening Remarks- CRISTINA DURANTI

After introducing the panelists, Cristina talked about the current food crisis and how food insecurity causes violence against women.

1. **ANA LUCIA, BRAZIL-** Ana Lucia started farming at 16. She works with many farmer families to encourage organic agriculture (no pesticides or insecticides). Due to this, they are facing many problems regarding irrigation. She is President of the community association and dreams of a world without poverty. She couldn't do this without other women.
2. **EMIL SINOY, PHILIPPINES-** Emil is in the Organic Farmers' Association. To provide for her community, she grew 50 types of rice and had a 'patkih' (tasting test) for her community. She developed organic pesticide with rice bugs. In 2020, there was a flood, but her crops weren't affected as they were organic.
3. **JASMINE, INDIA-** Jasmine is a 13 year old climate change activist. She gave a presentation on e-waste. A survey taken in her school showed that most students didn't know e-waste has a specific impact on the climate. 50 million+ tonnes of e-waste was generated this year and authorised disposal was minimal. The solution is to reduce, repair, recycle and reuse.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICITY OF E-WASTE

LEAD

Leads have effects on various systems in the body such as the central nervous system, endocrine system, and reproductive system. Chronic lead exposure can cause damage to all parts of the body and the reproductive system, such as fertility.

MERCURY

Cause damage to the gastrointestinal system (stomach and intestines), the central and peripheral nervous systems, and the immune system. Mercury also affects the brain and the kidneys. It is particularly dangerous because it accumulates in the body over time and can be passed on to children through breast milk or placenta.

CADMIUM

Is potentially very toxic compared to other metals. Cadmium compounds are soluble in the body fluids, especially in the blood. There is evidence that the use of cadmium and its compounds in electronics is increasing.

POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAH)

Difficult to break down and resistant to biodegradation. They are found in many products used in everyday life, such as tobacco smoke, car exhaust, and coal tar. PAHs are known carcinogens and can cause cancer.

Which of the following do you think is true about the world's collective digital activity?

310 responses

- It does not have a carbon footprint
- It has a digital footprint comparable to a paper industry

GLOBALLY, 2ND WARMEST YEAR ON RECORD

2020

LAND AREA WAS RECORD WARM

JAN 2020

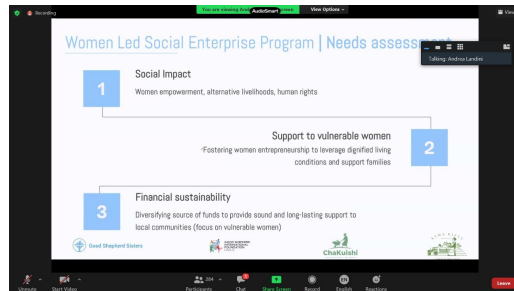
Difference from average temperature (°C)

NOAA Climate.gov, RCI

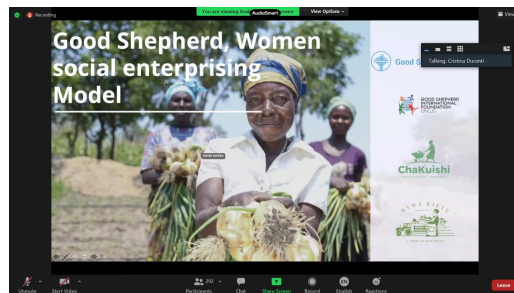
Image Source: <https://www.noaa.gov/>



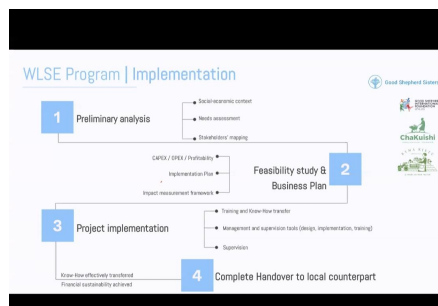
4) Need assessment



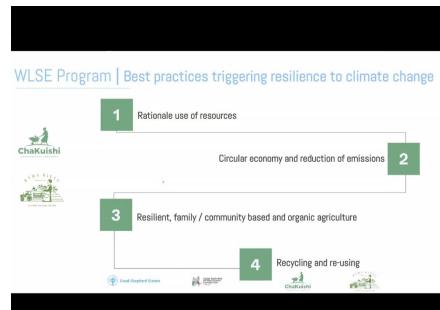
5) WLSE programme/ focusing on women



6) Implementation



7) WLSE program/best practices.



Sister Jane Wainoi



Why did they start this programme ?

Primary occupation is mining and it is very hazardous, so they informed the women about the dangers of mining and provided them with an alternative occupation.

Farmer- Ms. Nday baby Mugulu

Got mistreated in the mining occupation. Now they have agricultural training (maizes). They have also been provided education. They are teaching them their human rights. She does not have to pay rent, she has constructed houses and learnt to compost.

Question and Answer round

1)Can sustainable farming be done in cities ?

Answered by Andrea

Yes, there are projects on this. If provided with proper tool kits, town people can do sustainable farming as well. Their team is working on this in order to provide town people with tool kits to start their own production.

2) How can young people be involved in sustainable development?

Answered by Jasmine

Young people can start small, they can start with their families and relatives.

By the following ways:

- Creating awareness
- Convincing people to join your project
- Together with everyone, we can make a change

3) How is the impact of the project on the society around you ?

(Ana Lucia)

I can say, first of all our project has been accepted by everyone, I know it wasn't easy, it took so long, spreading awareness to women was very welcome. It was a fight with society. Impact actually was done by women when they went to narrate the stories. We can gradually see the change happening.