

# An inventory of the current situation

After analysing and discussing the 'prouds' and 'sorries', the participants formed two groups, one to draw up a list of areas requiring action and the other to suggest solutions. The suggestions in the reports from the two groups were retained for use as an action plan for future information and communication strategies.

## Dearth of information and communication on:

- Human rights (international conventions) and their universality
- Existing laws (land tenure, family law etc.)
- Farming techniques, financial management, organising and structuring organisations, appropriate communication techniques

## Problems posed by laws/customs/religion:

- Existence of discriminatory laws
- Absence or non-application of laws
- Dichotomy between laws and customs
- Ignorance of laws/procedures
- Women/community stakeholders often not involved in drawing up laws
- Predominance of discriminatory customs, especially in rural areas

## Too little research:

- Shortage of reliable and gender disaggregated data (quantitative/qualitative)
- Not enough investment in research
- Inadequate documentation
- Insufficient sharing of findings and experiences
- Lack of cooperation between researchers, communities and decision-makers
- Findings of research not applied



## Impact on the living conditions of rural populations, particularly women:

- Insufficient agricultural production
- Food insecurity, with repercussions for health and infant and maternal mortality
- Under-investment in rural development
- Lack of progress as regards women's status
- Dependence of women / women's work overload
- Children's under-education
- Increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and sexual and domestic violence
- Defeminisation of agricultural production
- Relocation/exodus

**Analysis of the situation emphasises the urgent need to take action in certain areas, such as capacity-building, education, repackaging and dissemination, support, action-oriented research, advocacy and lobbying and boosting women's socio-economic and political power.**

It is also essential to carry out cross-sectoral activities at different levels (local, national, regional and international) for networking, in cooperation with those involved in the field, federating all stakeholders and mobilising resources.