

Rural Women, Food, Eradication of Poverty – Three International Days this week

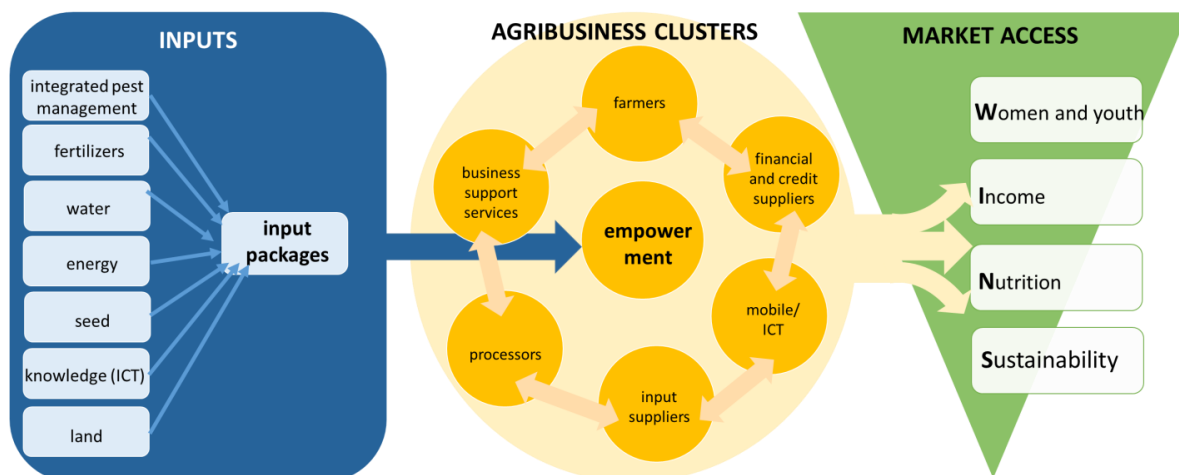


This week, the world will commemorate three International Days: on 15th of October the International Day of Rural Women, on the 16th the International Day of Food, and finally on the 17th the International Day of Eradication of Poverty.

While one may question the significance of these International Days, particularly given that there is an International Day almost any day of the year, the sequence and closeness of these specific three events is still maybe a good opportunity for the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA) to comment on them, particularly given that all three topics are strongly interlinked and very much at the core of our mission of improving food and nutrition security by putting research into use

One example is a recently developed concept note for a project in the Lake Victoria Region: **“Making markets work for women and youth: agri-business clusters as motors for high-value AIRCA input packages”**. In this project AIRCA wants to address the most pressing needs to improve agribusiness in the Lake Victoria Basin. The work will focus on combining the existing skill sets and experiences of its members, focusing on proven existing input technologies relevant to the Basin that can be scaled up and out to achieve real impact in agricultural production and nutrition for the farmers and their families.

Our **vision of success** is to reach 250,000 women and youth who will increase their income by 25%, and 1,000,000 consumers who will have improved access to more nutritious food. The project will focus on ‘WINS’, by creating and enhancing market access for **women** and youth, targeting agricultural sectors yielding high income and better **nutrition** on a **sustainable** basis, and by leveraging our combined strengths and longterm experience in input packages through agribusiness clusters. The specific input packages will include: integrated pest management, fertilizers, water, energy, seed, knowledge management/ICT and land management. The agribusiness clusters will combine the input packages with other financial and business support services to enable sustainable business development.



We hope that by October next year, when we will be reminded again by the international days of rural women, food, and poverty, our Lake Victoria Project will have taken off, and instead of commemorating these issues, we will be able to celebrate some first achievements, with women and youth being able to grow more food and move out of poverty.

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