

# International Connections

By Mary Janes

## Canada Area Project News

Although Tanzania is slightly smaller than British Columbia, it has a population the size of Canada. It is the largest country in East Africa. Noted tourist spots are Mount Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti Game Preserve. Ninety percent of Tanzanians farm or fish at subsistence levels. The government fosters entrepreneurship to boost the country's economy. The Canada Area project with Kimako, to train women in nutrition and catering skills, will help boost the economy while improving the quality of life. (See Spring 2005 Home & Country issue for details.) Have you considered a program or video about Tanzania?

## Working With Women Worldwide – Highlights of 75 Years of ACWW

This easy to read illustrated history book will help make members more aware of their global connections. It can be obtained for 7.50 British pounds from the ACWW office and discussed at branch meetings, circulated to all members or contributed to the local library.

## ACWW Awareness kit

The International Officer has compiled a kit of ideas and brochures to help educate members about our international connections. It is available from Mary Janes for the cost of postage and copying (\$1.50)

## Caribbean, Central and South America Project Update

Each FWIO Region is supporting different groups. Eastern Region is sending craft supplies to Colombia and Jamaica, while the Northern and Western Regions are supporting 5 groups in St. Vincent & The Grenadines. Southern Region has contacts in Brazil, Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana.

Southern Region: Please note that Trinidad & Tobago are interested in knitting materials.

Grenada has been slow to reply with information about their needs. Hurricane Ivan last fall knocked out their power supply and only recently did they come back on line. Then in June Valjean Charles, President of the Grenada Homemaker's Association, died suddenly. All branches are asked to send craft supplies to this organization, over and above their support of their regional contacts. Craft supplies for Grenada may be sent to:

Maude Hutchinson  
Sea Fair Villa  
Mt. Rose  
St. Patrick  
Grenada, West Indies

Investigating the culture and food in the countries being supported by your region would make a unique meeting theme.

## World Rural Women's Day (WRWD)

World Rural Women's Day is celebrated annually on October 15. This year's theme is: What Rights for Women as Rural Citizens?

## FACTS ON RURAL WOMEN

- \* Rural women, mainly farmers, are at least 1.6 billion and represent more than a quarter of the total world population.
- \* Women produce on average more than half of all the food that is grown: up to 80 per cent in Africa, 60 per cent in Asia, between 30 and 40 per cent in Latin America and Western countries.
- \* Women own only 2 per cent of the land, and receive only one per cent of all agricultural credit.
- \* Only 5 per cent of all agricultural extension resources are directed to women.
- \* Women represent two thirds of all illiterate people.
- \* The number of rural women living in poverty has doubled since 1970.

More information is available at [www.rural-womens-day.org](http://www.rural-womens-day.org)

Taken from the WRWD web site.