



TRAINING FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: AGRICULTURAL AND ENTERPRISE SKILLS FOR WOMEN SMALLHOLDERS

INTRODUCTION

In the face of changing and increasingly erratic agricultural conditions, smallholder farmers need to be adaptable and innovative to ensure food security, increase productivity and diversify their incomes.

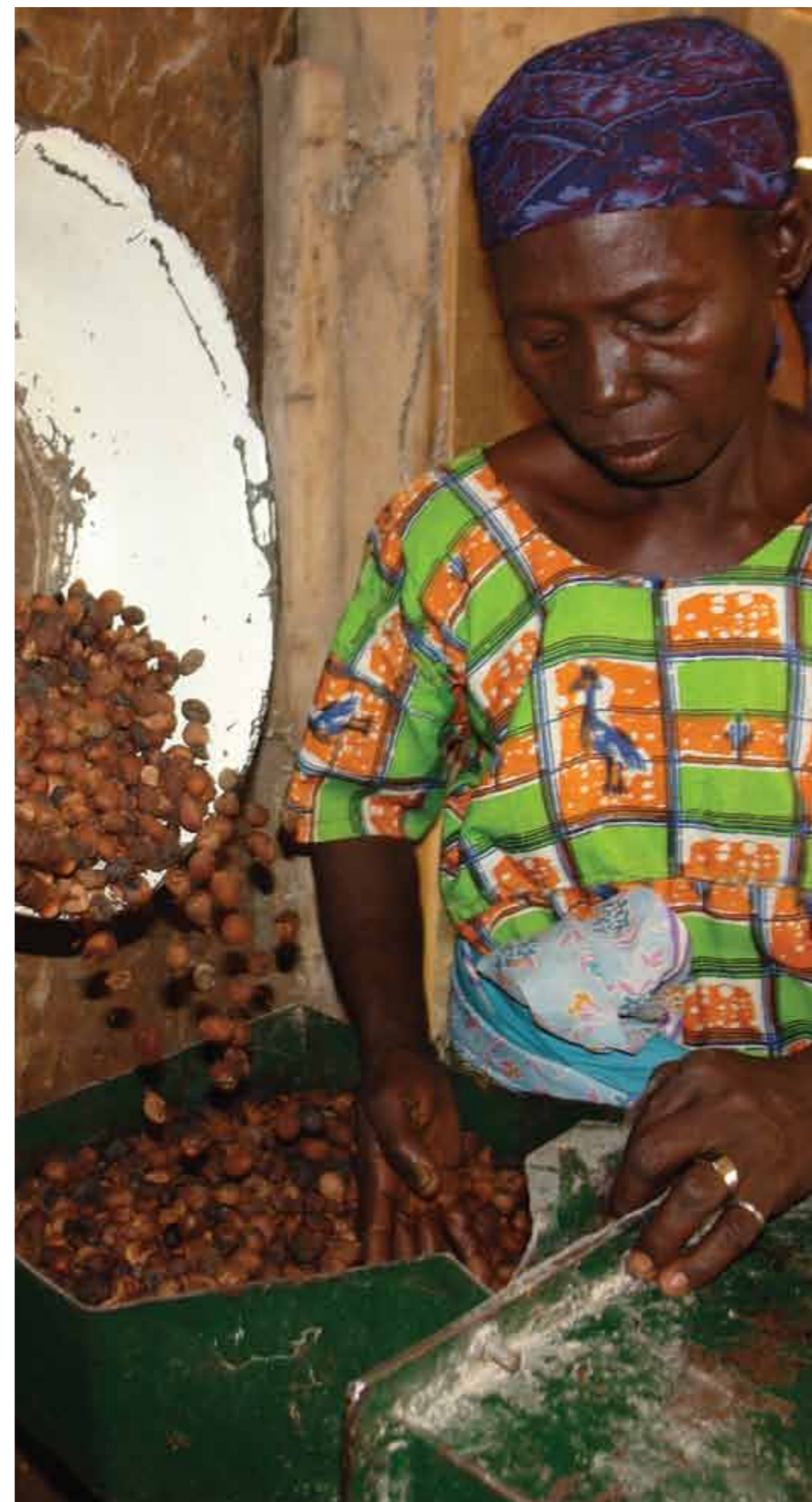
Agricultural and enterprise training for women can help rural women to adopt forward-looking, responsive attitudes and actions. The City & Guilds Centre for Skills Development (CSD) conducted a project to examine effective approaches to implementing such training.

PROJECT METHOD

CSD undertook this research in three stages:

- **Identified the primary barriers** to women accessing training through a broad literature review
- **Examined the strategies** past projects have used to address these challenges
- **Interviewed** managers, trainers and smallholders about implementation challenges across four projects in two countries, Ghana and India

SOME KEY FINDINGS



INITIATING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Successful programmes build on women's existing skills and provide capacity building training that help women grow in confidence and respond to changes in the environment.

THE ROLE OF GROUPS

Groups are essential in helping poorer women see the benefits of training, supporting future activities through peer learning and reducing the risks of individual women in enterprise start ups.

TECHNOLOGY TAKE-UP

Smallholders must be empowered to demand the relevant technology and have the requisite savings to utilise technology; formal structures which provide opportunities to participate in technological development result in greater take up.

GROWING DESPITE RISKS

Women will only apply new techniques if they can manage the risks of doing so e.g. by accessing credit. Projects need to help women apply the training and develop skills in areas that support this, such as bookkeeping and literacy.

NEXT STEPS

We want to work with partners to design and deliver skills development projects which will build upon these research findings. We also wish to share the findings more widely with NGOs, governments and aid agencies and see the recommendations put into action.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.SKILLSDEVELOPMENT.ORG/T4RD OR CONTACT INFO@SKILLSDEVELOPMENT.ORG

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