

Rural Women Empowerment for Sustainable Development

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Abstract. The previous literature argues on a positive role that can play women empowerment in rural areas both in developed and in developing countries. In addition, the previous studies show that women farmers involved in farming decision-making can improve tendencies towards more agri-environmental and sustainable farming practices, such as organic and horticulture farming, and alternative agriculture practices relative to male farmers. Therefore, rural women empowerment research questions can be relevant not only for science, but can provide also important implications for policy and practice. The study employed semi-structured interviews with experts in the field of rural women's empowerment and social entrepreneurship. The focus is on green social entrepreneurship with the aim to assess the knowledge and skills gaps that are needed for rural women empowerment, particularly for business development based on rural women entrepreneurship in general and rural women social entrepreneurship. In this process for sustainable rural development – economic, social, environmental, cultural and tradition – can play important role education and trainings to improve the knowledge and skills needed on business and innovation subjects, community-based enterprises, and funding opportunities and supports in setting up and successful development of rural businesses. The successful case studies of good practices and their transferability are based on cross-country comparisons.

Keywords: rural women, entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, sustainable rural development

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