

Women An Important Force In Global Agriculture

PHILADELPHIA — Training women farmers in the Third World and eliminating stringent trade barriers are two of the best ways for the United States to achieve its goal of an expanded global food market, according to representatives of three U.S. agricultural and development agencies who addressed the 13th annual American Agri-Women convention in Philadelphia.

"Women are consistently excluded from research on the Third World's agricultural needs, yet they make up 70% of the farm workers in all of Africa," said Judith Timyan of the International

Center for Research on Women (ICRW). "When we try to grow for the world's needs, we must learn to address the specific concerns of the women, which are often very different from men's."

The U.S. State Department initiated the ICRW to gather information on the agricultural needs and habits of women in the developing world. New research shows that it is often the female family members who are most involved in the planting and harvesting of the crops. American farmers who want to develop new markets in these nations find that women are often the "invisible force" in



determining agricultural needs."

The World Bank's Task Force on Women drew similar conclusions from their research on African women, according to Task Force Chairman Jerric Dell. "It is

insist on calling back.

6. To add emphasis, leave a brief space — each thought. a. after b. before

For a free brochure on speaking effectively, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Halls Mentho-Lyptus V.I.P., 500 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

ANSWERS: 1a; 2a; 3b; 4a; 5b; 6a.

Test Your Vocal I.Q.

Telephoning has become an art and whether you are asking for a date, a donation or a delivery, your telephone voice serves as your calling card.

"On the phone, voices are the number one means of assessing someone," emphasizes William Rush, professional voice consultant to the Halls Mentho-Lyptus® Voice Improvement Program (V.I.P.). To determine your "vocal I.Q.," take this brief quiz.

1. To open a phone conversation, keep your greeting at a pitch — your best note.

a. just above b. below

2. If you must make calls from an open office setting, a. lower your voice and pitch b. try to speak in a normal conversational tone.

3. By speaking in short declarative sentences, you will sound a. unsure of yourself b. more confident.

4. Before making an important call a. rehearse your opening sentence b. leave the conversation to chance to create more spontaneity.

5. If you have a faulty telephone connection a. raise your pitch two levels b. immediately

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the American farmer, and particularly the farm woman, that we are looking to for assistance in developing world markets," Dell said.

Government barriers to foreign trade must also be eliminated in order for U.S. farmers to prosper abroad, says Ann Veneman of the U.S.D.A.'s Foreign Agriculture Service. Veneman called ratifica-

tion of the pending GATT treaty an "important step toward opening world markets."

We must do everything possible to promote free trade between all nations, because this is our only means of ensuring that protectionist barriers won't be imposed against U.S. goods," Veneman said.

Eye Safety For Children

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — "What would you like Santa to bring you?" is a popular question this time of year. With Santa's big day just weeks away, parents and Santa's helpers should pause and asked another question, "How safe is the gift?"

Last year toys caused more than 6,000 serious eye injuries in children under the age of 15. "Almost all of those injuries could have been prevented," says Dr. Dennis Murphy, Penn State associate professor of agricultural engineering.

Murphy, an authority on farm and home safety, says that preventing eye injuries is like preventing most accidents. "Safety should be of primary concern when selecting toys and allowing your child to play with toys," Murphy urges. "Parents should check their lists twice for toys that could pose hazards."

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness says that the best way to avoid dangerous toys is to think through the purchase first.

"It's important to consider a child's temperament and development before choosing toys," says Patrice Ann Pickering, project coordinator in Pennsylvania for the society. "At the same time, parents need to be diligent about checking toys that relatives and friends buy for their children."

To help shoppers make safe selections, the society offers the following holiday checklist:

- Projectiles cause most eye injuries. Toys such as dart guns, BB guns, slingshots and bows and

arrows should be avoided.

- Always check toys for sharp, exposed edges, points, nails screws and guns.

- Avoid toys that shatter or break easily.

- Check for loose parts that become unattached, exposing sharp metal or plastic.

- Examine dolls, stuffed animals and other soft toys for rigid interior frames that can poke through the outside covering.

- Don't allow your child to have inexpensive novelty sunglasses that can break and lacerate the eyes.

- Inspect old toys for damage or defects

"Recognizing eye injuries can also prevent long-term damage to eyesight," says Pickering. "A simple black eye may conceal other damage and lead to traumatic glaucoma or cataracts years later."

If a child displays any of the following symptoms, seek medical attention:

- Obvious pain and visual difficulties.

- A cut or torn eyelid.
- One eye that does not move as well as the other.

- Abnormal pupil size or shape.
- Blood in the clear portion of the eye.

For more information on protecting children's eyes, send a self-stamped, self-addressed, business envelope to: National Society for the Prevention of Blindness — Pennsylvania Project, 909 North Second St., Harrisburg, Pa., 17102.

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