

**TCD Practitioner Report: Effects of Collective Microenterprises on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment in the Brazilian Amazon**

Denyse Mello

PhD Interdisciplinary Ecology – SNRE & TCD

My PhD focused on the economic empowerment effects of rural women's participation in collective microenterprises in the Amazon region. The results of dissertation showed that majority of these rural women perceived changes in their condition, considering that they obtained good improvement in terms of solving problems, freedom to choose, their recognition within the family, ownership of goods, and power relations to decide in the household. Also, collective microenterprise open window to women commercialize and/or manufacture forest products previously not important to the family livelihood, promoting changes in land use toward more sustainable production, reducing deforestation and promoting diversification of production, including several new biodiversity products. My research was in partnership with the important women's organizations Northeast Women's Movement (MMNEPA), and Acreana Women and Men's Network (RAMH) in Pará and Acre states, respectively, which are working to improve public policies for rural women and their participation in social, economic, political and environmental contexts.

I was thankful to a TCD Practitioner Grant, I had opportunity to return research results to local rural women organizations. In addition, I was grateful to my collaborators from UF, RAMH, WWF-Brasil, Acre Climate change institute (IMC). To return the results of my dissertation for them, questions emerged: How can dissertation results be presented in the most useful way for women's groups and policy-makers? How can the results presentation be planned collaboratively with local partners' context? contacted these local partners to building together one workshop based on their needs and creating common goals with different interests and understandings. We made the workshop "Gender, Forests, and Climate Change in Acre, Brazil", which contributed to the debate about the incorporation of a gender focus in SISA public policies in Acre, where I presented my results to leaders from rural women's organizations and movements, and technical staff from governmental and non-governmental organizations from eleven municipalities in Acre.

