



## REPORT ON INCEPTION WORKSHOP

On Thursday, April 14, 2016, CIRES with the support of IIAS (Ghana) and IDRC organized a workshop to launch the study "GROWTH IN WEST AFRICA, THE ROLE OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY IN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN IVORY COAST AND GHANA".

The workshop which was held at CIRES seminar room brought together 75 participants, including the Canadian Ambassador in Ivory Coast, the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Family, and child protection, the Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.

This workshop was launched to inform stakeholders of the realization of this study, to present the literature review on the study in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and to gather advice and criticism from participants for orientation of research. The workshop opening ceremony was punctuated by three speeches: a welcome note from the Deputy Director for Research of CIRES, Dr Francis N'Guessan José (speech given on behalf of the Director of CIRES), the Ambassador of Canada in Ivory Coast, and the opening speech by the Minister for the Promotion of Women, Family and Children, delivered by the Director of Cabinet.

All stressed the vital role of women in society and hoped that this study may lead to public policies and bring out recommendations to help address the problem of under-utilization of women's potential in different sectors of the economy.

### 1. PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCHERS OF GHANA AND IVORY COAST

During the workshop, several papers were presented to the participants.

**Dr. William BAAH-BOATENG**, University of Ghana, made the first presentation on the study protocol specifying the similarities and differences of the Ivory Coast and Ghana. He also made a second presentation on the situation of women in mining in Ghana and highlighted the different legal and institutional policies that promote gender and women's empowerment in Ghana.

**Professor KOUAKOU Auguste** also gave a presentation on "women's empowerment, mining, economic and social development: issues and challenges". He highlighted the contribution of

mining to economic growth and its ability to raise the status of women on the labor market especially in the extractive industry in Ivory Coast.

**Doctor KONAN Silvère** highlighted women's empowerment measurement indicators. To this end, he presented a conceptual approach to the measurement of empowerment and then highlighted the indicators which makes it possible to capture this phenomenon and analyze it.

Finally, **Dr. Bi TOZAN**, spoke on legal, institutional policies for the promotion of gender and women's empowerment in Ivory Coast. He presented the political and legal environment and the various measures implemented to encourage the promotion of gender and women's empowerment in Ivory Coast

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

Among the various recommendations, the following were highlighted:

In terms of project governance

- Involvement of Ivorian Employers was strongly recommended for the achievement of the project's objectives.
- Integration/Involvement of women in research teams of Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
- Priority to recruit women to conduct various surveys coming within the framework of this project.

**In terms of research questions**

- Clearly define the concept of empowerment and expand the range of indicators in the data collection
- Analyze the regulatory framework in the mining sector in both countries to see if it fosters real integration of women.
- Analyze the income of women engaged in the extractive sector, quality and vulnerability of employment available to them and the conditions of life and work of those.
- To analyze the issue of under-representation of women in mining in terms of drudgery and health of women

The workshop was closed at 16:30 with closing remarks by Mrs. KOUTOUAN, Director of the Women's Empowerment, Ministry of Promotion of Women, Family and Children.