



**WWSF Women's World Summit Foundation**  
Fondation Sommet Mondial des Femmes  
Fundación Cumbre Mundial de la Mujer  
Frauen Weltgipfel Stiftung

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

**Geneva, 17 September 2008** - **Contact:** Elly Pradervand, Executive Director

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- **WWSF Prize for women's creativity in rural life - 13 Laureates receive the Prize in 2008**
  - **International Day of Rural Women – 15 October - Open Letter to rural women of the world 2008**
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- WWSF takes great pleasure in announcing to the media and to the international community the **13 winners** of its annual **Prize for women's creativity in rural life 2008**. The award (\$ 3000 for one selected organization in Africa, and \$ 500 for all other Laureates) honors creative and courageous women and women's groups around the world for their contribution in improving the quality of life in rural communities, for protecting the environment, transmitting knowledge and standing up for human rights and peace. Established in 1994, WWSF has so far awarded 344 prizes in more than 100 countries. The work of

the 13 Laureates 2008 is published on Internet and in our Global Newsletter Edition 16a. We hope that their stories inspire you and encourage others to make their mark in promoting the human rights of women, ending poverty, preserving the planet, and safeguarding our cultural heritage. [www.woman.ch/women/1-laureates.php](http://www.woman.ch/women/1-laureates.php)

A Traveling Exhibition profiling the Laureates is presented at various conferences and gatherings. A permanent exhibition is open to the public at WWSF HQ, 11 av. de la Paix, 1202 Geneva.



- To celebrate **International Day of Rural Women – 15 October 2008** - a WWSF annual global awareness campaign to increase knowledge and empowerment, initiated in 1996 and promoted ever since, has become a United Nations Resolution Day (A/Res/42/146), a result of 13 years of lobbying and campaigning by WWSF. We are very proud of this result. The 2008 theme of the **WWSF Open Letter to rural women of the world** is **“Claim your Right to Development as a Women's Right!”** The Open Letter and global poster are available on Internet <http://www.woman.ch/women/2-poster.php>

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WWSF wishes to express gratitude to its sponsors who make its Prize program and the International Day of Rural Women campaign possible. For further information on how to nominate prize candidates for 2009, visit our web site [www.woman.ch/women/1-guidelines.php?lg=1](http://www.woman.ch/women/1-guidelines.php?lg=1) or contact us directly at [wwsf@wwsf.ch](mailto:wwsf@wwsf.ch)

**The empowerment of rural women is an absolutely indispensable step in view of reaching household food security and the UN Millennium Development Goals.**