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**Women, Religion, and Globalization Summer Grant: Final Project Report**

The generous support of the Women, Religion, and Globalization Project at Yale allowed me travel to Beijing and work at the International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Beijing Office. As IFPRI does extensive research on rural development and village-level social/political change, my original intent was to use this opportunity to study how rural development and the forces of globalization are affecting women and traditional religious ideas in the Chinese countryside. Upon arrival in Beijing, however, I discovered that my supervisor had other intentions for my time at IFPRI . . .

The World Bank had hired IFPRI to work on a larger Bank project on climate change adaptation in agriculture in China. IFPRI was responsible for writing a report on international experience with climate change adaptation in agriculture, as well as relevant lessons for China's climate change adaptation strategy. The Bank especially desired a prioritization for future investments, based on existing knowledge gaps in the literature and an assessment of China's climate change adaptation policy framework. I was responsible for researching and writing this report. Through a literature review and interviews with Chinese policy makers and climate change experts, I came to better understand the complexities of how local decision makers deal with the global problem of climate change.

The research showed that while global (and national) awareness of the importance of climate change is increasing, awareness at local levels is still underdeveloped. Local decision makers face multiple obstacles to implementing agreements made at the international level, e.g. at climate change negotiations, and in utilizing the momentum of climate change progress at higher levels. More progress has been made on mitigation than on adaptation. While climate change is truly a global issue, it is especially relevant at regional scales because of shared climatic conditions. However, regional agreements and commitments to cooperative responses to climate change are rare. Their absence is particularly troublesome in the area of climate change adaptation. Another problem is figuring out how to link global, regional, national, and local levels in climate change adaptation frameworks.

In researching for the report, it quickly became clear that the gender aspects of climate change adaptation are very poorly understood. Specifically, not enough is known about gender-specific greenhouse gas emissions profiles, differences in mitigative and adaptive capacity, how to assess impacts of the changing status of women on these parameters, and how to develop gender-sensitive policy instruments and adaptations.

These questions become especially important in generating development projects that are well-adapted to climate change. While adaptation and economic development share certain determinants and goals, they are not synonymous. Certain development activities actually undermine adaptive capacity. Indiscriminately lumping adaptation with development can potentially limit funds available for adaptation projects to “reactive”

funding, such as short-term emergency relief, and can obscure important aspects of women's relationship to their changing natural environment

The project showed me how important it is for both global and local climate change policy to focus on the gender specificities of adaptation—development that does not explicitly take this issue into account cannot be considered sustainable.