"Consequently, men, who grow commercial crops, have a monopoly over technology, economic resources, and family incomes."

Spring said technology available to women farmers is traditional and not very productive. Women do hand-hoeing to produce the family's food, and often provide a surplus for sale in local market's, she said.

To break the chains of forced dependence on backward technologies, rural Africa women would have to earn substantially more money, Spring said.

Tichenor agreed. "To raise women's agricultural productivity, it would be necessary for women to have the right to land ownership."

"Women should have access to credit facilities, fertilizers, pesticides, improved storage, and field-to-house transportation."

Dr. Elizabeth Bolton, a UF home economics specialist coordinating Madame Yaou's visit, said "African leaders must recognize the strengths and needs of the traditional farming systems on which they have so long relied.

"We hope that Madame Yaou's visit would bring home to local and international agricultural experts that the cheapest and most reliable method of increasing domestic food supply is the improvement and expansion of traditional women's sector."

Jacobsen has introduced the industry's first diesel-powered riding triplex greensmower that combines added economy, power, and performance of a diesel with the traditional Greens King® cutting quality.

The Greens King® IV cuts fuel costs virtually in half when compared to a gasoline engine, while providing extra power for climbing and cutting. The liquid-cooled 3-cylinder, 16.5 horsepower diesel engine also provides longer engine life.

The Greens King® Diesel also has full-floating and pivotting cutting units that hug the ground and steer through turns without marking or scuffing the turf. The Jacobsen 9-blade reels have power backlapping as standard equipment for keeping the blades sharp with less effort. An optional variable speed control valve lets the operator select the precise ground speed and frequency of cut for consistent greens while still allowing full speed for transport.

The company's new Turf Groomer® greens conditioner attachment is also available with the Greens King® IV Diesel to promote faster, truer, healthier greens without lowering the cutting height.

An optional electronic Performance Monitor digitally displays the engine speed, ground speed, reel speed and frequency of cut at the touch of a button for a consistent cut from one green to the next.

Dynamic braking slows the Greens King® IV down when the operator lets up on the pedal.

The lightweight design and even weight distribution of the Greens King® IV Diesel, combined with smooth, wide pneumatic tires, virtually eliminates compaction and tire marks for a superior finish.

The Greens King® IV Diesel is comfortable and convenient to operate. A choice of three optional padded seats is available for maximum comfort while mowing. A padded, rectangular steering wheel reduces operator fatigue and makes following the cutting line easier. The conveniently-located controls give the operator easy command over the entire machine.

A wide range of attachments and accessories is available to match individual applications, such as solid and grooved rollers, brushes, spikers and vertical mowers.

Free demonstrations of the new Greens King® IV Diesel with Turf Groomer™ attachment are available through Jacobsen Distributors. ■