



Empowering Women - Empowering Humanity - Picture it! The Beijing Platform for Action turns 20

International Women's Day
Empower rural women to achieve food and nutrition security
Italian Conference Room, IFAD
Friday, 6 March 2015, 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

In 2015, the international community is commemorating the 20th anniversary of the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). International Women's Day in 2015 is a special occasion to celebrate achievements made since Beijing and to discuss the remaining challenges.

This year's theme of the United Nations Observance of International Women's Day is "Empowering women, empowering humanity: Picture it!" The Rome-based United Nations agencies – the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) – will join the global celebration dedicated to Beijing+20 and put the focus on efforts to "Empower rural women to achieve food and nutrition security".

Over the last 20 years, increasing attention has been given to the important role and contribution of rural women in achieving food and nutrition security. Many studies have shown that rural women's economic and social empowerment leads to greater agricultural production, improved food and nutrition security, economic growth and social welfare.

Rural women make significant contributions to rural economies as farmers, entrepreneurs and labourers. They are responsible for producing and processing food, feeding and caring for family members – particularly children and the elderly, generating income and contributing to the overall well-being of their households, as well as local and global economies. However, in many countries, rural women continue to face discrimination in access to agricultural assets, education, healthcare, employment and other services, which prevents them from fully enjoying their fundamental rights and taking advantage of opportunities for growth.

To celebrate this year's International Women's Day, a number of leading sector experts will share testimonials of innovative interventions carried out by the Rome-based agencies that have empowered women, made a difference to rural livelihoods and contributed to food and nutrition security. IFAD will host the celebration on behalf of all three organizations and share the organizational responsibilities with FAO and WFP. The event will be followed by a Gender Share Fair to showcase innovative experiences that have empowered rural women.

PROGRAMME

Italian Conference Room, IFAD

- 10.00-10.10 **Welcome remarks**
Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of IFAD
- Statement**
Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator of Natural Resources, FAO
- 10.10-11.25 **Empower rural women to achieve food and nutrition security** – Testimonials on innovative interventions in joint programmes and initiatives
- Britta Schumacher (Programme Policy Officer, WFP): “*Why we need to involve women and men to move forward on nutrition*” – Experiences from the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) Partnership (FAO, WHO, UNICEF and WFP)
- Andrea Sanchez Enciso (Gender and Participatory Communication Specialist, FAO): “*We meet, we discuss, we act*” – FAO-Dimitra Clubs and the Joint Programme on Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment in Niger (FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women)
- Antonio Rota (Lead Technical Specialist – Livestock, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, IFAD): “*How small livestock makes a difference in rural women’s life*” - Stories from IFAD and FAO field operations
- Mino Ramaroson (Africa Regional Coordinator, International Land Coalition): “*Women’s land rights are key to empowerment*” – Experiences from Madagascar and the Kilimanjaro Initiative
- Dialogue with audience
- 11.25 -11.30 **Closing remarks**
Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, WFP
- 11.30-12.30 **Reception and Gender Share Fair**

Webcasting: <http://webcasting.ifad.org/iwd2015>
Twitter: #IWD2015

Contact:
IFAD Gender Secretariat
gender@ifad.org