

Women's land rights for a food-secure and sustainable future

Format: Lunchtime event at IFAD Governing Council, in talk show format

Organizers: European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, International Land Coalition, South Africa and IFAD.

Date and time: 15 February, 13.30 p.m. to 14.15 p.m.

Venue: Oval Room, IFAD

Description:

As 2024 begins, the countdown to Agenda 2030 is on and the situation is not encouraging. Our food systems are broken and ill-equipped to feed 783 million chronically hungry people. At the same time, those systems are responsible for producing 40 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. We are on track to fail on the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C, leaving more than 3.5 billion people vulnerable to the extreme effects of climate heating. The most vulnerable of those are likely to shoulder the greatest burden. Inequality is at the heart of the climate and food system crisis, not least gender inequality.

Land is where it all begins. Smallholder farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples and local communities need secure land rights to manage their land sustainably and feed their families, their communities and the rest of the world. Beyond simply growing crops, they cultivate a sustainable, resilient food system based on local knowledge and community-led ecosystem restoration. They are the stewards of rich and biodiverse agricultural landscapes, mitigating climate change and safeguarding the planet.

To address and adapt to the climate crisis, we must put our food systems into the hands of those who live on and from the land – and especially into the hands of women. Secure land rights for women have been shown to have a clear impact on the enjoyment of rights to food, health, housing, work, education and care work, as well as lead to broader societal benefits. However, although they contribute to the food security and nutrition of their families and communities and comprise 43 per cent of the agricultural workforce, women smallholder farmers own just 20 per cent of the land. If they had the same access as men to resources, including land, agricultural yields could rise by almost a third, resulting in potentially [150 million fewer hungry people](#) in the world.

Join us to learn more about how supporting women to secure their land rights can be a key pathway in addressing the climate crisis, and a key ingredient to transform our global food systems. We will hear at a global level about challenges and opportunities to do better. We will also take a dive into various countries to hear from women farmers and government officials about their successes.

Moderator: Michael Taylor, Director, International Land Coalition (ILC)

Speakers:

- IFAD President
- H.E Nosopho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, IFAD Governor, South Africa
- H.E. Christian Frutiger, Ambassador, Assistant Director General, Head of Thematic Cooperation Division, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and IFAD Governor
- Ms Elizabeth Nsimadala, President of Eastern Africa Farmers Federation
- Ms Elga Angulo, Vice-President of COPROFAM