



Date
11 February 2026

Time
16.50–17.50

Info
Plenary Hall, open to all delegates

Moderator
Katherine Meighan
Chief Legal and Governance
Officer & General Counsel
IFAD

GOVERNORS' DIALOGUE

Celebration of the International Year of the Woman Farmer

Contribution of Women Farmers to Rural Economies

In recognition of the **International Year of the Woman Farmer**, this Governors' Dialogue will recognize the pivotal role of women farmers in building resilient rural economies. Women farmers contribute significantly to global agricultural production and food systems, yet their contributions often remain undervalued and under-supported. The International Year calls for renewed commitment to recognize their leadership and unlock the full potential of women farmers – including young women – as drivers of change and entrepreneurship.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Land Coalition and partners are demonstrating how dedicated support and resources can catalyse long-term impact at scale. Across regions, targeted investments in women farmers are already delivering results: boosting household incomes, improving food and nutrition security, fostering climate resilience and revitalizing local markets. Women farmers are applying new knowledge and practices, building strong producers' organizations, and pioneering inclusive business models that not only empower entire communities but also open pathways for young women and rural youth to engage in agribusiness and entrepreneurship.

This session will bring these development journeys to life, immersing Governors in concrete examples of women farmers as innovators, leaders and changemakers from IFAD-funded programmes and joint initiatives.

Event Highlights

1. H.E. Mary Robinson to deliver keynote remarks on the power of women farmers for rural prosperity, following event opening by Gérardine Mukeshimana, Vice-President of IFAD.
2. Women farmers and entrepreneurs to share testimonials on successes, challenges and pathways to impact.
3. Interventions from the floor.
4. Member State remarks on translating dialogue into action.

Speakers

H.E. Mary Robinson, Co-founder of Project Dandelion; former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Gérardine Mukeshimana, Vice-President of IFAD

Katherine Meighan, Chief Legal and Governance Officer & General Counsel, IFAD

Clara Kamlomo, Founder, Amazing B Projects, Malawi

Andrea Lucía Sarnari, President, Federación Agraria Argentina