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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

FORTY-THIRD SESSION

Budapest, Hungary, 27-28 September 2023

Side event on advancing gender equality in the region's agrifood systems

Concept Note

Where: Danubius Hotel Helia (1133, Budapest, Hungary, Kárpát utca 62–64.) – Conference room

When: 27 September 2023, 8.00-9.00

Language: English/Russian

Background

Food systems transformation and affordable healthy diets are not possible without the full and meaningful participation of women, who are key contributors to agricultural production cycles. As community organizers and as caretakers responsible for food preparation and nutrition for their families, women are the true backbone of rural communities. However, despite their substantial role and contributions to food systems, rural women in the Europe and Central Asia region face significant challenges in accessing resources, including knowledge and innovation.¹

This side event will shed light on the importance of a common agenda and the building of partnerships among key stakeholders, including ministries of agriculture, rural advisory services, civil society organizations, private-sector actors, donors and experts in agriculture. Discussions also will focus on gender equality in closing gaps related to resource accessibility, knowledge and innovation. Strong partnerships are a prerequisite to addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of increasing shocks and crises. The emphasis of this side event will be on learning from good and promising practices.

The side event will showcase the work in the region from FAO and its partners on collaborative efforts to advance towards the achievement of inclusive and equitable agrifood systems.

¹ FAO. 2022. *Gender, agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia Brief overview of regional trends and challenges. Budapest.* <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2763en>

Objective

The objective of this side event is to share promising practices that facilitate access to resources, knowledge and innovative opportunities for women working on farms.

Target audience

European Commission on Agriculture members, government representatives, rural advisory and extension services, civil society organizations, private-sector actors, donors, and experts in gender equality.

Agenda

| Time | Item | Responsible |
|-------------|---|--|
| 08.00–08.05 | Welcome and opening remarks | Mr Nabil Gangi, Deputy Regional Representative and officer-in-charge, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia |
| 08.05–08.12 | Collaboration and partnerships between local and central levels in promoting rural women's empowerment | Ms Aslı Çavuş, Department of Education and Publication of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye |
| 08.13–08.20 | Collaboration between the civil and private sectors to support rural women in Hungary: the case of the joint project with Corteva | Ms Margit Batthyány-Schmidt, President, Founder of the Union of Hungarian Women, Hungary |
| 08.21–08.28 | The GAEA (Granting Access to Employment and Entrepreneurship in Agriculture) project for women through knowledge sharing and partnerships | Ms Mónika Alíz Mészáros, Union of Hungarian Women |
| 08.29–08.36 | Collaboration and partnerships to facilitate access of women working in farms to knowledge and innovation | Ms Paola Laini, Nyéléni ECA/European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), Farmers constituency Ms Judith Hitchman, Nyéléni ECA/International Network of Community Supported Agriculture (URGENCI), Consumers constituency |
| 08.40–08.55 | Question-and-answer session and discussion | Moderator: Dono Abdurazakova, Senior Gender and Social Protection Adviser, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia |
| 08.55–09.00 | Wrap up | Mr Nabil Gangi, Deputy Regional Representative and officer-in-charge, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia |