

ROME NUTRITION WEEK SIDE EVENT

Women's rights and empowerment in agrifood systems

A driver for nutrition and maternal health

30 May 2025 | 14:00-15:15 CEST

FAO HQ, Ethiopia Room & Online

Hosted by FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, WFP and France.



Purpose

Nutrition and gender are closely intertwined. Women have specific nutritional needs across their life course – especially during adolescence, pregnancy, breastfeeding and menopause. Yet they are disproportionately affected by malnutrition in all its forms, often due to gender-based inequalities and physically demanding work in agrifood systems. Upholding the right to food and healthy diets for women and girls in agrifood systems, and empowering them through targeted policies, programmes and investments is essential to improving nutritional outcomes and their maternal and reproductive health, as well as for advancing gender equality.

In this context, FAO, IFAD, UNFPA, WFP, together with France, will co-host an event during the Rome Nutrition Week to build on the momentum of the Nutrition For Growth 2025 Summit and promote cross-sectoral policies and actions that link women's empowerment, nutrition and maternal and reproductive health in agrifood systems.

Objectives

This event aims to highlight the links between women's empowerment, nutrition, and maternal and reproductive health in agrifood systems by showcasing effective policies, practices, and partnerships - including UN joint programmes. The event also serves as a platform to discuss the critical role of governments, parliamentarians, UN entities, and humanitarian actors in advancing women's nutrition to accelerate progress on international commitments on gender, nutrition, and the right to food.

14:00-14:20 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

François Gautier, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to FAO

Beth Crawford, Assistant Director-General, FAO

Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Moderated by **Lauren Phillips**, Deputy Director, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

14:20-14:25 **Presentation: UNFPA–FAO Joint Programme**

Judith Msusa, Director of Youth, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Malawi

14:25-14:50 **Fire Side Dialogue**

Hon. Françoise Uwumukiza, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, East Africa Legislative Assembly

Rea Chiongson, Senior Gender Advisor, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

Adriano Campolina, Senior Policy Officer, FAO

Moderated by **Nancy Aburto**, Deputy Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO

14:50-15:05 **Participants' dialogue (Q&A)**

Moderated by **Lauren Phillips**, Deputy Director, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

15:05-15:10 **Remarks**

Pieterneel Boogaard, Managing Director, Office of Technical Delivery, IFAD

15:10-15:15 **Closing Remarks**

Brenda Behan, Director of Gender, Protection and Inclusion Service, WFP



Interpretation available in French and Spanish