

High-Level Political Forum 2025 SIDE EVENT

RE-IMAGINING THE FUTURE OF WOMEN IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

Promoting women's land rights,
decent employment and
innovative partnerships to
advance the SDGs

© FAO / Gavin Gosbert and Jerry Mushala



14 July 2025 | 13:15-14:30 EDT
Conference Room 12
United Nations headquarters, New York

*Co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
in collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Republic of Tanzania*

Background

With 2030 on the horizon, achieving gender equality (SDG 5) faces significant challenges, with no country currently on track. Data gaps, particularly on SDG 5.a (women's land rights), impede the development of evidence-based policies to address unequal land tenure security, combat discriminatory laws and social norms and advance gender-responsive policies in agrifood systems.

Women's land rights are crucial for women's well-being, economic empowerment, and participation, and for broader development outcomes, like poverty reduction and food security. They are key to accelerating progress on SDG 5 and interconnected development goals. Enhanced tenure security and women's empowerment correlate with better health, nutrition and access to services (SDG 3) and enable greater economic engagement in agrifood systems (SDG 8). Multi-stakeholder platforms and innovative partnerships (SDG 17), like FAO's Commit to Grow Equality (CGE) initiative and the Global Land Observatory, are pivotal to fostering responsible land governance, accelerate data analysis and use and drive action.

This side event will explore evidence-based approaches and innovative partnerships to advance women's land rights and decent employment for transformative change in agrifood systems.

Objectives

- Highlight the importance of women's land rights and decent employment in empowering women and advancing SDG 5 and other SDGs, including SDG 8 and 17, emphasizing SDG 5.a indicators;
- Showcase evidence-based and innovative solutions that address structural inequalities, advance women's land rights and improve access to decent jobs;
- Showcase initiatives that accelerate financing and partnerships for women's empowerment and gender equality in agrifood systems;
- Provide a platform for dialogue and partnership among stakeholders to exchange experiences and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Agenda

3 min	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seemin Qayum, Policy Advisor Sustainable Development and Officer-in-Charge of Economic Empowerment, UN-Women (moderator)
10 min	Introductory remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Thomas Peter Zahneisen, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Dr. Rahma Mahfoudh, Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission – Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania
10 min	Setting the scene Presenting the status of women's land rights (SDG 5.a) and decent employment (SDG 8) in agrifood systems and latest findings from forthcoming reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clara Park, Senior Gender Officer, SDG5a2 Focal Point, FAO
30 min	Panel discussion Advancing women's land rights and decent employment in agrifood systems: from evidence to coordinated action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Doss, Professor, Economics Tufts University Karol Boudreaux, Senior Director, Global Programs, Landesa Bochola Sara Arero, Youth & Indigenous Peoples representative, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
17 min	Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator
5 min	Way forward and closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality, FAO Seemin Qayum, UN-Women (moderator)

Registration

Please visit the [event page](#) to register for in-person attendance or watch the event [webcast](#)

Contact

Fiona Funke, Communication & Knowledge Management Specialist, Fiona.Funke@fao.org