

Working Group 2

Empowering Women and Girls

Languages

English with interpretation to German, French and Spanish

Chairs:

Dr. Saskia Marijnissen, Senior Policy Advisor, Agricultural Policy Dialogue between BMLEH and the African Union (AU)

Objective

The working groups are invited to collect and discuss challenges and best practices in order to draw up recommendations for CFS uptake¹, stakeholders and politics

Thematic introduction

How can the rights of women and girls be strengthened, thus overcoming one of the main structural causes of food insecurity? How can these groups be guaranteed equitable access to natural resources, such as soil, water and biodiversity? What experiences and instruments are key in this respect, and how can they be more fully implemented? The Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls Empowerment, developed by the CFS and adopted in 2023, have brought the issue back into the spotlight of international food and nutrition policies. General Recommendation no. 34 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) focuses on the rights of rural women. What positive examples from national practice can now inform the enhanced implementation? What obstacles can be overcome and how? How can new co-operation be arranged in order to press ahead with gender equality in national and global contexts? The conference will thus also provide recommendations for action and develop networking activities for the UN International Year of the Woman Farmer in 2026.

Timeline:

Monday, 23 June 2025

Working Group Session 1

2.00 p.m. Introduction by Chair, *Dr. Saskia Marijnissen*

2.10 p.m. Presentation of Project 1:

NaviNut – Enhancing Women's Agency in Navigating Changing Food Environments to Improve Child Nutrition in African Drylands

Project of BMLEH International Research Collaborations on Global Food Security

Presented by *Patricia Kiprono*, Research Associate at the German Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL)

2.20 p.m. Questions of Clarification

2.25 p.m. Presentation of Project 2: **Positive Deviance** –

Discovering Enabling Uncommon Practices in Households and Communities for Improved Food Security

Project implemented by GIZ, funded by BMZ

Presented by *Seema Kurup*, Advisor: Participatory Development Communication at Eka – The Communicators' Collective

¹ Especially Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition (<https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/57cbc078-ef02-4050-bcd2-055733707dab>)

2.35 p.m. Questions of Clarification

2.40 p.m. Input Youth by *Sakina Usengimana*, Afri Foods Ltd, Rwanda and Representative of AFRICAN Youth in Agriculture Forum, Rwanda

2.45 p.m. Input Stakeholder by *Aasha Ramesh*, Asian Rural Women Coalition and CSIPM Coordination Committee (CC) member for Women and Gender Diversity Sector, India

2.50 p.m. Discussion

3.30 p.m. Coffee Break

Working Group Session 2

4.00 p.m. Discussion ctd.

5.15 p.m. Reflection Youth by *Sakina Usengimana*

5.20 p.m. Reflection Stakeholder by *Aasha Ramesh*

5.25 p.m. Wrap-up

5.30 p.m. End

Format:

The discussion will take place under the Chatham House Rule (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>). A free-flowing style of discussion is encouraged. Interventions can be based on the guiding questions below, or questions and comments raised in other participants' interventions. Participants can make their inputs freely, bringing in their experiences and recommendations. Please note that the working groups meant to be in exchange mode and not in negotiation mode. Comments of participants are documented on white cards and will be put on pin boards that will be exhibited in the dining hall. The chair will present a short summary of the Working Group in the first panel discussion on the next day.

Guiding questions

- Which challenges hamper the realisation of the right to food especially for women and girls?
- Which solutions and best practices have proven successful to improve the situation for women and girls?
- Which recommendations can be identified for 1) stakeholders and 2) politics and 3) for the CFS uptake?

Tuesday, 24 June 2025

World Café from 2.00-5.00 p.m.

On the second day of the conference, we would like to give all participants the opportunity to discuss the subjects of the other working groups. There will be discussions taking place in small groups of 4 to 10 people at round tables. For each working group we have allocated a discussion round of about 30 minutes.

Guiding questions for these discussions are

- What messages may be missing?
- Are there different points of view?
- Are there links to the results of the other working groups?
- How can we cooperate better to realise the right to food?
- Which recommendations can be identified for 1) stakeholders and 2) politics and 3) for the CFS uptake?

Participants are invited to document their reaction on cards during the sessions. Each Working Group has its own card colour. The cards will be put on the pin boards in the dining hall after each round. The chairs of the working groups will present a short summary of the World Café on their subjects in the first panel discussion on the next day. Together with the results from the working groups, these will be part of the conference proceedings to be compiled by conference organisers.

Focus areas of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition

The GEWGE Guidelines are organized around key focus areas that address the critical barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment in food security and nutrition:

- 1. Women's and girls' food security and nutrition**
Improving access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food for women and girls, ensuring their specific nutritional needs are met throughout their life course.
- 2. Leadership and participation**
Promoting the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in decision-making processes at all levels of food systems.
- 3. Economic and social empowerment**
Enhancing women's access to economic resources, decent work, and entrepreneurship opportunities, and addressing social norms that limit their participation in food systems.
- 4. Access to and control over resources**
Ensuring women and girls have equal access to and control over land, water, fisheries, forests, and other productive resources.
- 5. Education and capacity building**
Improving access to education, training, and information for women and girls, empowering them with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in food systems.
- 6. Social protection and assistance**
Strengthening social protection systems to support women and girls, particularly in times of crisis, ensuring their resilience and well-being.
- 7. Recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work**
Addressing the burden of unpaid care and domestic work that disproportionately falls on women and girls, ensuring that their contributions are recognized and supported through policies that promote shared responsibilities.
- 8. Eliminating violence and discrimination**
Addressing all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, creating safe and supportive environments in food systems.
- 9. Gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment across food security and nutrition in conflicts, humanitarian crises, and emergencies**
Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in contexts of conflict, crisis, and emergency situations, ensuring that their specific needs are met and their rights are protected during and after crises.