



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

The Future of Agri-Food Systems: Innovative approaches to safety, environment, gender, and youth

Date and time: 31 May 2019, 12.45 - 13.45 hrs

Location: UN ESCAP Conference Room 4

Background:

The improvement of the social and economic status of women within their households and communities has a direct impact on food security and nutrition. Evidence shows that women, if given the opportunity to control additional household income, tend to spend more of it on food, health, clothing and education for children. Gender equality is therefore essential to achieving food security – both now, and for future generations. FAO's initiatives on improved overall well-being for children, households and communities contribute to long-term social and economic growth. There is a need to promote a transformation in the way that we produce and ultimately consume food. Therefore, the FAO proposes to establish innovative and sustainable agri-food systems that offer nutritious food while preserving the environment. Combining conventional and scientific knowledge, agro-ecology applies specific ecological and social concepts to agricultural systems, focusing on the rich interaction between plants, animals, humans and the environment.

Objectives:

The overall objective of the side event is to highlight the importance of women and youth participation in agriculture to provide safe and nutritious food for the community as a route for empowerment. The event will showcase several innovative and sustainable approaches to agriculture that focus on the rich interactions between plants, animals, the environment, and humans. The specific objectives are:

1. To share good practices for effective youth/gender involvement contributing to the SDG of zero hunger and rural development
2. To strengthen multidisciplinary networks among countries and international organizations
3. To obtain reality-based insights from activity at the ground level which will assist in guidance for more focused and effective project development
4. To identify countries that require technical assistance on topics related to safety, environment, and youth/gender participation in agriculture

Tentative agenda:

| Time | Activity | |
|-------|---|----------------------|
| 12.45 | Welcome | FAO |
| | Introduction | Masami Takeuchi |
| 13.00 | Panel discussion Panel members <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narumon Paiboonsittikum, Regional secretary of the Towards Organic Asia Network• Pavinee Chaipark, Director of the Natural Seed Company• Carla Meija, World Food Programme• David Sutherland, World Health Organization• Clara Park, Gender Officer, FAORAP | Moderator: Aziz Arya |
| 13.40 | Conclusions and closing | FAO |
| 13.45 | Networking | FAO |