

Statement by CGIAR on the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment

Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues,

CGIAR is a global research partnership working for a food-secure future dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. CGIAR welcomes the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment, a tool that can guide us all in stepping up our efforts to achieve not only SDG5 but of all SDGs. Gender equality is not just a matter of social justice; it is also a key driver of agricultural productivity and food and water security. Women play a key role in agriculture and food systems, and their contribution is indispensable to addressing global challenges such as hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are deeply embedded in CGIAR's research and innovation on food, land, and water system. CGIAR and its Centers have a history of working to promote gender equality and empower women in agriculture and food systems. We are committed to aligning our efforts with the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and actively support their implementation. We recognize the need for a holistic and multi-dimensional approach that addresses the structural, economic, and cultural factors that perpetuate gender inequalities in the agriculture sector.

To support the implementation of these guidelines, CGIAR will:

1. Continue to research and understand gender as an integral part of agri-food systems innovation, ensuring that gender becomes a driving force in food transformation, and that it gives women the opportunity to contribute, benefit and lead.
2. Continue to build capacity both of our staff and our partners to effectively implement gender-sensitive approaches and promote knowledge sharing and best practices in gender-responsive agriculture and food systems.
3. Collaborate with governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to foster an enabling environment for gender equality in agriculture, and work with partners to advocate for policy changes and investments that support women's empowerment and gender equality in food, land and water systems.

In conclusion, CGIAR stands firmly behind the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and is committed to playing an active role in supporting countries in their implementation, through research and developing solutions. It is therefore up to us to deliver the right evidence, innovations and recommendations at the right time. We will listen when partners, practitioners and policymakers voice their needs and concerns, and answer when they call. It is up to us to forge the long-term partnerships that will allow us to achieve influence and impact, allowing us to make progress towards those Global Goals on gender equality and women's empowerment that are so essential for agriculture to prosper. We believe that by empowering women and promoting gender equality in agriculture and food systems, we can contribute to a more just, sustainable, and food-secure world for all. Together with CFS and our partners, we can make meaningful progress towards achieving these vital goals.