

# TRANSLATING THE CFS VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION INTO ACTION – IMPACTFUL COLLABORATIONS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT

Wednesday 23 October, 13:30-14:45  
Ethiopia Room  
Language: EN

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**Organizers:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU) and Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP); International Fund for Agricultural development (IFAD); International Agri-Food Network (IAFN)

**Description and objectives:** Endorsed at the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in October 2023, the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the context of Food Security and Nutrition (VG-GEWGE) mark a significant milestone. These guidelines are the first globally negotiated multistakeholder policy agreement where member states commit to address gender inequalities that hinder food security and nutrition and impede the empowerment of women and girls in agrifood systems. They comprise a diverse spectrum of thematic areas, including dedicated recommendations on women's economic and social empowerment in agrifood systems which cover women's access to the labour market and decent work, their roles as producers and entrepreneurs and their access to financial services and social capital.

FAO, IFAD and IAFN will present how different stakeholders, notably the private sector and a government agency, can deliver on GEWGE objectives within agrifood systems and play a critical role in adopting and implementing the CFS VG-GEWGE.

This side event will showcase lessons learned and good practices in enhancing women's social capital, access to markets, finance, and entrepreneurship.

The IFAD Gender Transformative Mechanism in the context of climate adaptation (GTM) partners with the State Women's Development Corporation of Government of Maharashtra (MAVIM)'s to support a successful model of women's empowerment through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India. The event will explore its results in fostering revenue generation and sustainable agricultural practices.

The FAO-IAFN Women's Accelerator Mentorship Programme for Women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Africa illustrates the critical role of the private sector to support the implementation of the VG-GEWGE, particularly in supporting women agripreneurs to tackle common challenges and expand their businesses.

The objectives of the side event are to review current initiatives and outcomes, share insights from two different regions and entities, increase awareness of partnerships with governments and the private sector, highlighting their crucial role in empowering all women and girls in agrifood systems, and discuss their complementary contribution to the uptake and implementation of the VG-GEWGE. By convening diverse types of stakeholders, the event aims to foster dialogue on innovative solutions to address gender gaps and underscore the importance of collaborative efforts to address gender inequalities and empowering women and girls engaged in agrifood systems at multiple levels.

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