

SE09: Strengthening women's agency in agriculture and food systems through the effective uptake of CFS policy products

Organized by: Germany (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development); Switzerland; PSM; CSIPM.

Summary of the side event

After short greeting remarks by Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Nick, Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) of Germany, Christian Hofer, State Secretary of Switzerland, emphasized in his opening speech the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches and evidence-based decision making in developing policy recommendations and the importance of increased uptake of these recommendations. Furthermore, he announced the Swiss commitment and contribution for the uptake of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment (VG GEWGE).

In the first panel discussion H.E. Ambassador Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, CFS Chair, and Mr. Benjamin Davis, Director ESP, FAO, set the scene for the further discussion by rendering basic key facts. CFS Chair introduced the audience to the challenging yet very important process of the VG GEWGE. Mr. Davis elaborated on the role of FAO in promoting gender equality. He referred in particular to the work of the FAO Gender Unit.

The second panel discussion focused on producing lessons learned in implementing CFS policy products through the lenses of the panellists from diverse backgrounds. H.E. Ana Terra Reis, Secretary of Supply, Cooperativism, and Food Sovereignty from the Ministry of Rural Development and Family Farming in Brazil, highlighted through inclusive national policy examples how Brazil empowered women to accelerate food systems transformation. Ms. Leonida Odongo, representative of CSIPM Coordination Committee and of the NGO Haki Nawiri in Kenya, shared her experiences from the ground in protecting and promoting women's rights, inter alia, land rights, in Kenyan food systems. Ms. Tintswalo Makhubele, entrepreneur from South Africa representing PSM, argued for the importance of integrated

approaches based on, inter alia, indigenous foods, food sovereignty and agri-hubs.

The panel was followed by a lively QA.

Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Nick, Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) of Germany issued the closing remarks, referring to the situation of women farmers in Germany as well as giving a brief overview on Germany's engagement for the CFS uptake process.