

# SE40: Advancing Nutrition and Gender Outcomes in Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems

Organized by: CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands; The University of the West Indies; SUN Movement; CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform.

## Summary of the side event

In many countries, gender disparity in food systems is prevalent, and influences the nutrition outcomes of household members differently. At the same time, when faced with disruptions, women and children are unequally burdened with household responsibilities, and often face significantly higher levels of food and nutrition insecurity than men. As urban and peri-urban landscapes continue to evolve, so to, will food systems.

The side event started with a keynote presentation by Nicoline de Haan, Director of the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform. Using examples from Kenya, Egypt and Vietnam, she informed the audience on the multiple gender-specific approaches that were employed to bridge inequity and inequalities in these rapidly urbanized areas. She emphasized the importance of giving agency to women to transform, as well as to support the transformation of food systems. Her key takeaway was the importance of ensuring that women are not only part of the solutions, but are empowered by the food systems, and the associated transformations.

The keynote presentation was followed by a moderated discussions by Ben Wismen, CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform Manager, and featured four experts in the fields of gender, nutrition and food systems, namely:

1. Hilal Elver, Former Special Rapporteur to the Right to Food
2. Timmo Gaasbeek, Senior Policy Officer for Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
3. Abena Thomas-Mambwe, Gender Advisor, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

4. Richard Abila, Senior Technical Specialist in Fisheries and Aquaculture, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Dr. Elver's intervention included a presentation highlighting the findings in the HLPE-FSN report on urban and peri-urban food systems. In her presentation, she stressed that pressures from urban-rural continuum will affect food systems, especially more than 75% of people living in urban and peri-urban areas are food insecure. The other presenters showcased approaches used in various countries, including in Angola, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Philippines, and Sri Lanka, to advance nutrition and gender outcomes in rapidly urbanized landscapes.

Dr. Gaasbeek reported on programs to improve affordability and accessibility to sustainable healthy diets in the investment portfolio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while Ms. Thomas-Mambwe showcased linkages of gender and nutrition across various levels of interventions, including making policy changes at the national level. Dr. Abila provided a perspective of including aquatic foods into the food systems to address hunger and malnutrition, especially with communities living close to water bodies.

The audience participated in a stimulating conversation on several issues, including context-specific interventions; interlinkages and trade-offs with other systems such as education and health; emphasizing the importance of food systems and design in urban planning; and the rise of other vulnerable groups of various ethnic origins, gender and sexual orientation in highly urbanized areas.

The session concluded with a summary from Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, Director of CGIAR Nutrition Impact Platform, highlighted the breadth and depth of the issue, and the importance of including the conversation in the upcoming CFS guidelines on urban and peri-urban food systems.