



Promoting youth and women engagement and employment in food systems across the rural-urban continuum

Monday 4 February 2019, 9:30 am – 17:00 pm, Green Room (FAO HQs)

Over the next 15 years, it is estimated that about 1.6 billion people will reach working age in low and middle-income countries. *How can food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide more and better jobs for women and youth? What are the key driving factors and enabling conditions for food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages to create employment and decent work? What is the role of small cities and rural towns in promoting women and youth employment in the food systems? And what is their role in linking producers to diverse and more equitable markets?*

Inclusion of youth and women in the food system labor market will be paramount to achieving food security and nutrition for all. Following the first intersessional event on *The Food Security and Nutritional Impacts of Urbanization and Rural Transformation on Lower Income Groups*, through an interactive format, this event will focus on policy approaches that support employment opportunities, improved livelihoods and adequate working conditions for youth and women, across food systems and across the rural-urban continuum.

Besides furthering CFS stakeholders' understanding of the interplay between food security, nutrition and rural-urban linkages, the intersessional events organized under the workstream *Urbanization and Rural transformation and implications for Food Security and Nutrition* are also expected to facilitate a functional and effective link with the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work planning process. Through this exercise, CFS is expected to develop concrete proposals on how it sees its work on urbanization and rural transformation going forward in a way that builds on and adds value to other ongoing initiatives at the global level, as well as other CFS workstreams.

Interpretation services will be provided in all UN official languages. The webcast can be followed on: <http://www.fao.org/webcast>

The event will build on the findings of the following CFS documents:

[CFS 44 2017: Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of Changing Rural-Urban Dynamics: Experiences and Effective Policy Approaches](#) (CFS 2017/44/6)

[CFS 43 2016: Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition: Key Areas for Policy Attention and Possible Roles for CFS](#) (CFS 2016/43/11)



AGENDA

9:30 – 9:45 **Opening remarks by the H.E. Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Rome Based Agencies and Facilitator of the CFS workstream on Urbanization and Rural Transformation and Implications on Food Security and Nutrition**

9:45 – 11:45 **How can food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide more and better jobs for youth?**

Imelda Agondanou – ROPPA (Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa)

Tori Okner – ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)

Nikki Chaudahary – Chaudahary Agriculture Services

Moderated by: ***Xander Beks*** – i4Nature

This session will first focus on the aspects of rural and urban work and life that attract, or have potential to attract, young people in food systems jobs. CFS members and participants will be encouraged to comment on the key challenges and share their own experiences of fulfilling life and work along the rural-urban continuum. The focus will then expand to those actions needed by local and national governments to support youth engagement and employment in food systems in both rural and in urban areas.



11.45 – 12:30 **How can food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide more and better jobs for women?**

Ruramiso Mashumba – Mnandi Africa

Nzira Deus – World March of Women

Diana Johnson – City of Toronto

Moderated by: **Bianca Pomeranzi** – CEDAW expert

This session will start with presenting the challenges to women’s employment across food systems in both urban and rural contexts. Speakers will respond to moderated questions on the constraints that inhibit women from pursuing employment in the food systems. CFS members and participants will also have the opportunity to address the same questions from their different perspectives.

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15.15 **How can food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide more and better jobs for women? (continued)**

Using the same format as in the morning session, speakers will share concrete examples of successful initiatives on how food systems and enhanced rural-urban linkages provide not only more but also higher quality jobs for women. CFS members and participants will engage in a facilitated Questions and Answers with a view to highlight the enabling conditions and success factors at the core of the experiences shared.

15.15 – 16.55 **Policy implications and possible roles for CFS going forward**

Open floor discussion co-moderated by H.E. Hans Hoogeveen and Technical Task Team members

This session will build on the key messages emerging from the two thematic sessions on youth and women to reflect on the role that CFS can play in light of its mandate and comparative advantage.

16:55 – 17:00 **Wrap up and conclusions by H.E. Hans Hoogeveen**