

CFS Side event 05: Empowering women farmers to effectively reduce poverty and hunger

24 October 2023

8:30-9:45

Speakers:

1. Ambassador for Argentina and Head of CFS delegation, Mr Carlos Cherniak
2. Ambassador for Swiss Government and Head of CFS delegation, Mr Christian Frutiger, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
3. Marie Chantal, Nestle Assistant Vice President of Food and Industry Affairs
4. Ms. Oluyemisi Iranloye, PSM member and CEO of Psaltry International Limited
5. Ms Janice Giddens, Vice President, Sustainable Nutrition for the U.S. Dairy Export Council, will provide insights on women's empowerment from the dairy sector and as an active member on the Gender negotiations.

Ambassador Cherniak opened the event by delivering poignant remarks on the accomplishment of the endorsed guidelines, considering the challenging negotiation of the past years. He then went on to present national policies aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and autonomy in agriculture.

Ambassador Christian Frutiger, Head of Delegation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/Foreign Affairs delivered closing remarks, highlighting how the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation empowers women to accelerate food systems transformation – challenges and opportunities; and provided areas of value where countries can be encouraged to focus on to achieve greater impact on gender empowerment; as well as highlighting the interconnection between gender issues and reducing inequalities which will be the subject of the upcoming workstream.

Ms Marie Chantal provided the framing of the event and introduced the panelists, as well as moderation of the discussion. She was followed by panelist presentations by Ms Oluyemisi Iranloye who spoke about the challenges and successes establishing her company to market cassava produce and how her learnings are valuable for women's empowerment. Ms Robinah Najjingo provided concrete examples of how to empower women farmers and thereby reduce poverty and hunger, and the lessons learned from the women empowerment project among coffee farmers in Rwanda. The value of the voluntary guidelines in supporting actions such as the project highlighted was made clear. Lastly, Ms Janice Giddens provided insights on women's empowerment from the dairy sector and the importance of ensuring women are provided with the tools and access to markets to promote their economic activities.

These presentations were then followed by lively discussion from the audience.