

Comments CFS Draft Women World Bank: Patricia van de Velde

We are very impressed with this first draft and it really brings in a lot of key issues that are critical to the role and capacity for women in the agriculture and food system.

We have a few comments that we would like to see addressed if possible, in the next iteration of the project:

Paragraph 22 seems at odds with the scientific approach to what “transformative” entails and seems to avoid specifying social norms and practices. I think it especially means engaging with men and boys on gender norms, but the paragraph makes it sound like an option only.

Paragraph 30 point (iii) “ensure equal access to justice and legal assistance”. Given some of the global constraints that women face in accessing justice, or maintaining legal rights, and some of the legal barriers that still exist, this could be reinforced. There are barriers still to overcome to get to legal and judicial rights, and certain legal issues still need resolving to work for women. The text stops short of pointing to potential legal reforms and regulatory changes that need to happen for women to be able to participate and benefit equally (issues with family code, or restrictions on employment, absence of laws prohibiting discrimination, etc)

In 30.vi, would remove empowerment as an outcome of empowerment.

IN the same section on cross-cutting recommendations, we see no mention of employment or jobs or the enabling, regulatory environment that allows women to get, retain and improve job opportunities. The food system is more than just consumers and farmers and increasingly, the roles in more lucrative value-chains will be critical to accessing better incomes in the food and agriculture sector.

In 3.2.1 the first part “Gender inequitable access ...” needs rephrasing to make sense.

In 3.3.1 Challenges, it would be great to see mention of how GBV is exacerbated in FCV, and how conflicts over resources (especially those critical to the food system, land, water, etc) can play a role in GBV. Paragraph 45 is just a tad too simplistic on how the pandemic of GBV plays out differently in the rural sector. The distances are only a small factor in the heightened potential for GBV. Para 44 is a bit unbalanced in that it offers advice (which should be moved to later in the text)

3.3.2 which has this options and approaches omits also the legal and regulatory environment. This is specifically for governments but can be concerns for other parties. Ensuring the legal environment for survivors is conducive to...

3.4 is well done and it is great to include. I think it also sets the right tone of ambition to tackle these issues.

In paragraph 52 (iv) is sort of the first spot where jobs and remuneration is mentioned and in the context of work place policies.

In 3.5 on equal and meaningful participation, it would be pertinent to mention also local and communal bodies responsible for decision-making on communal resources and these kinds of venues. This includes local land commissions for examples or Water user associations, not just at higher level and the household. Throughout the whole food system, voice and agency is key to change. The text seems to only reflect on household and political.

The next sections I can address as a whole; they contain a really significant chunk of the roles and challenges of the food system. It seems that there is a change in format where the “advice” and the “issues and challenges” are broken up.

There are some edits throughout the document that need some attention.