

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
WFO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
7-10 JUNE 2022

**Women and Youth Entrepreneur-centric Approaches to Innovative
Finance as a Tool to Empower the Overall Farming Community**

Thematic session, 7 June, 11.45 – 12.30

Women across the world play a crucial role within the farming sector and are the backbone of rural economies in both developed and developing Countries, playing multiple and complex roles, both at family and community level. However, they often face more disadvantages and barriers than men in accessing resources, being economically and mentally independent from men and social constraints, and this has a major impact on their capacity of acting as game changers in the value chain. The same applies to young farmers, who often face several constraints in terms of access to land, resources, opportunities, farm's succession and inheritance process, and struggle to see a future within the farming sector. Women and youth deserve to get fair and inclusive access to resources and opportunities, so to unlock their potential and play their entrepreneurial role within the food systems at all levels. It is key that governments, together with other public and private institutions, including financial institutions, invest in innovative financial tools for rural women and youth, which should be affordable and meet their specific needs. Also, trainings on how to use such tools would be needed so to empower women and young farmers and make sure they can pursue their goals. Farmers' organisations and agricultural cooperatives have a key role to play in reaching women and young farmers on the ground and be the liaison for the provision of such services. The side event aims at gathering experts from different sectors to exchange on this topic, to possibly identify best practices as well as issues to be solved.

Agenda:

- 11.45 – 11.50** **Scene Setting and Speakers Introduction by the Moderator**
- **Kati Partanen**, Facilitator, WFO Women Committee
 - **Benjamin Obeng**, Vice President, COFAG
 - **Hirofumi Kobayashi**, Executive Director, IDACA
 - **Peter Oksen**, Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change & Food Security, WIPO (virtually)
 - **Tamisha Lee**, President, Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
 - **Betty Chinyamunyamu**, CEO, NASFAM
- 11.50 – 12.10** **Interactive Discussion**
- 12.10 – 12.25** **Q&A Session**
- 12.25 – 12.30** **Wrap up and Closing by the Moderator**
- Moderator:** **Dimitri Houtart**, BBC Rural Affairs Champion
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