



WORLD FARMERS'  
ORGANISATION

# FOSTERING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AS THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

*WFO Policy adopted by WFO General Assembly  
June 9, 2022*

THE BIGGEST INDEPENDENT  
GLOBAL FARMERS' VOICE



# POLICY STRUCTURE

The policy has been structured as follows:

- ❖ Preamble
- ❖ Guiding Principles
- ❖ Main Pillars
- ❖ Recommendations



## PREAMBLE

It is recognised that **if women farmers had the same access to opportunities** as men, the number of **hungry people** in the world could be **reduced by up to 150 million**.

According to FAO, **women represent more than 37% of the world's rural agricultural workforce**. However, statistics do not always reflect this as it often remains **hidden and unpaid**.

There is a **strong need to overcome the persistent inequalities** between men and women that impede women's potential and increase their vulnerability to crisis and shocks.

**Discriminatory social norms and rigid roles against women and girls** are behind many of the constraints and barriers they face. Also, **violence and sexual harassment** constitute a strong barrier at both family and work level.

**Farmers' Organisations and cooperatives can play a crucial role in boosting women's empowerment and equality** between men and women regarding salaries and job opportunities.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Need to **increase women engagement in decision-making processes**. Interconnected actions are required at all levels to **ensure women have the opportunities to be engaged and advocate for their specific needs and interests**.

**Recognition of the multiple roles played by women farmers** (i.e. in family farming organisations, communities, family, complementary services, household, child-care).

**Need for women-centric response to global challenges.** Women are unfortunately more vulnerable than others to the impacts of global challenges. Increasing women's empowerment would mean increasing agriculture and communities' capacity to respond to crises and shocks.



## MAIN PILLARS

Achieving **equality and equity in the access to resources** for women and girls to **boost their entrepreneurial skills and opportunities in the value chain.**

Providing **capacity building and training for women** to increase their **self-esteem and build their leadership skills** and **involvement in the decision-making processes**, as a precondition for the **sustainable development of (rural) communities.**

Creation of **political inclusiveness, stability, equal rights, opportunities and a safe environment** as preconditions for women's and men's equal engagement in decision making.

**Investing in rural women's and girls' empowerment** is a catalyst to **increase the development of the farming sector** and its **resilience to risks, including climate-related risks.**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Governments and stakeholders should **provide an enabling environment to foster women empowerment, increasing women's leadership and entrepreneurial skills**, thus contributing to the overall sustainable development of food systems.

Governments **should design and implement policies and targeted programs that contribute to strengthening women's roles and impact** by encouraging respectful norms and non-discriminatory behaviours, by facilitating i.e. equal access to services, market, education, capacity building, social protection and insurance schemes, child-care facilities, thus **protecting women's rights and opportunities**.

The **multiple roles played by women at the family and community level should be recognised**, as well as **the unpaid work they do at the household level and on family farms**. Organisations, including Farmers' Organisations and cooperatives, can play a key role in this, applying the conditions to guarantee equality in salaries and job opportunities.



WORLD FARMERS'  
ORGANISATION

[www.wfo-oma.org](http://www.wfo-oma.org)  
[info@wfo-oma.org](mailto:info@wfo-oma.org)

THE BIGGEST INDEPENDENT  
**GLOBAL FARMERS' VOICE**