POLICY STRUCTURE

The policy has been structured as follows:

❖ Preamble
❖ Guiding Principles
❖ Main Pillars
❖ Recommendations
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.
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.
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.
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.