



AGRF SUMMIT 2020

8-11 SEPTEMBER
KIGALI, RWANDA

Partner Event Report: Toward a gender-responsive agricultural policy landscape



PRE-SESSION | SEPTEMBER 7, 2020 | 15:00 – 16:30 CAT (RWANDA TIME)
TOWARDS A GENDER-RESPONSIVE AGRICULTURAL POLICY LANDSCAPE

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#Genderagpolicy

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF GENDER-RESPONSIVE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES TO FEED AFRICA'S CITIES

Speaker	Speaker	Speaker	Moderator	Speaker	Speaker	Moderator
						
<small>Hon. Angela Thoko Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development</small>	<small>Hon. Lina Jebii Kilimo, CAS Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperative</small>	<small>Ms Patricia van de Velde Gender Lead, Food and Agriculture Practice, World Bank</small>	<small>Dr. Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg Director, AWARD</small>	<small>Ms. Tiffany Atwell, Leader, Global Government and Industry Affairs, Corteva Agriscience</small>	<small>Dr. Susan Kaaria, Lead, Gender Team, Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, FAO</small>	<small>Dr. Meredith Soule, Division Chief, Inclusive Development, USAID</small>
<small>South Africa</small>	<small>Kenya</small>	<small>USA</small>	<small>Kenya</small>	<small>USA</small>	<small>Italy</small>	<small>USA</small>

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Partner Event Number, Date and Time

September 7, 2020 | 1500 to 1630hrs CAT

Partner Event Title and Organizers

Toward a gender-responsive agricultural policy landscape: Unlocking the potential of gender-responsive agricultural policies to feed Africa's cities'

Organized by African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Key speakers/presenters

Session moderators:

- **Dr. Meredith Soule**, Division Chief, Inclusive Development, Bureau of Resilience and Food Security, USAID
- **Dr Wanjiru Kamau-Rutenberg**, Director, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development

Speakers:

- **Hon. Thokozile Didiza**, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Government of South Africa
- **Hon. Lina Jebii Kilimo**, Cabinet Administrative Secretary for Livestock & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, Government of Kenya
- **Dr. Susan Kaaria**, Lead, Gender Team, Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, United Nations FAO
- **Ms. Tiffany Atwell**, Vice President, Global Government and Industry Affairs, Corteva Agriscience
- **Ms. Patricia van de Velde**, Gender Lead, Food and Agriculture Practice, World Bank



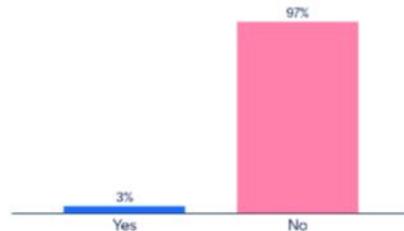
Main themes/issues discussed

- What are some of the gaps and opportunities when it comes to enacting more gender responsive agricultural policies on the African continent?
- What are the prevailing perceptions of African governments' embrace of gender-responsive agricultural policies?
- How can governments and other institutions including multilateral and bilateral agencies and private sector support the creation of more gender-responsive agricultural policies for the African continent?
- What are some of the successes, challenges and lessons learnt from government, private sector, civil society and multilateral institutions in promoting a gender-responsive agricultural policy landscape?
- What are some of the practical tools and resources that have been developed to support more gender responsive policies?
- What are the stakeholders' views in terms of the biggest obstacles to improving the numbers and experiences of women leading agricultural policy on the continent?
- What are the biggest challenges that women entering or trying to rise in the policy space are facing?

Summary of key points shared:

- Governments still have a long way to go in pursuing gender-responsive agricultural policies.

Do you think African governments are adequately pursuing gender-responsive agricultural policies? © Mintegrator



- The most persistent gaps in enacting more gender-responsive agricultural policies pertain to a lack of clear understanding of what gender-responsive policies are and what they should entail.

What do you think are the opportunities for enacting more gender-responsive agricultural policies in Africa? © Mintegrator



- Lack of clear parameters then leads to low commitment, funding and implementation of gender responsive agricultural policies.



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- The Evidence is already clear that ensuring that women have the same access to productive resources as men could increase their yields by a significant amount. Indeed, well-designed agricultural policies can help close the gender gap in agriculture.
- Still, there is need for more measurement of the progress in implementation and impact of those gender responsive policies that have already enacted.
- Lack of reliable national-level statistics on women's role in agriculture is a challenge to implementing gender-responsive policies.
- Strategic public-private partnerships can and do play an important role in facilitating the development and enacting of more gender-responsive agricultural policies in Africa. Partnerships, such as the Corteva Agriscience one highlighted in the session, are effective in promoting inclusive, sustainable farming practices and consequently improving livelihoods.
- Equal representation of men and women in policy decision-making positions has the potential to produce more gender-intentional strategies and policies.
- Some of the biggest obstacles to improving the numbers and experiences of women leading agricultural policy on the continent include social norms and cultural practices, especially ones that place a double burden on women's time, as well as lack of adequate capacity building and preparation for leadership.
- The low numbers of women in agricultural policy making is exacerbated by lack of political will and limited capacity at institutional levels.
- Since 1994 South Africa has made significant progress in developing policies to facilitate women's access to production resources and markets especially in the context of heavily commercialized agriculture.
- Still, there is need to create tools to monitor and evaluate the extent of application of the policies, programs and laws within the South African context but across the continent as a whole.
- COVID-19 has brought a sharp focus on agricultural policies, revealing the need to interrogate how policies are enabling equal participation of women in agricultural production, given the pandemic's impact on movement of food across and within countries.
- The World Bank is keen on focusing beyond the development of policies and looking at implementation of gender responsive policies. As part of its mandate, the Bank is

working to ensure women are part of the process of designing inclusive food systems across the continent and beyond.

- Evidence-based research is critical for building buy-in on the need for gender-responsive agricultural policies. The World Bank has intentionally ensured that all its projects assess gender gaps and track how the different actors are enabled and disabled. These assessments and tracking help the Bank to identify pragmatic ways of closing gender gaps in and through its projects.
- As part of its focus on building an evidence base, the World Bank is supporting initiatives such as 50 by 2030 initiative¹; The World Bank's 'Women, Business and the Law'² which assesses institutional regulatory underlying constraints, among others.
- Kenya's National Gender and Equality Commission is a constitutional body mandated to ensure that women and other marginalized groups are adequately represented in leadership positions, particularly in government.
- It is clear that, within the Kenyan context, beyond policy, cultural norms impact and shape women's access to productive agricultural resources including land. Gender responsive agricultural policies must hence pay attention to, and address cultural beliefs and practices.
- Women's collectives play an important role in helping make women aware of the opportunities available for them to more fully participate in agricultural value chains.
- The United Nations' FAO ensures global policy debates on food security and nutrition pay attention to gender, for instance, through their committee on world food security (CFS)- a multi-stakeholder group on agriculture. CFS develops guidelines that countries adopt on how to develop policies and laws.
- National policy response plans for COVID have consistently not addressed gender issues. FAO together with OXFAM and other partners have established parliamentary dialogues on gender responsive approaches to food security and nutrition during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- FAO has been developing tools and methods to strengthen the capacities of countries to design and implement gender-responsive policies. The gender in agriculture policy analysis tool³ helps governments to analyze their policies from a

¹ <https://www.donorplatform.org/news-agenda-2030/donors-announce-50-by-2030-initiative-for-data-to-end-hunger.html>

² <https://wbi.worldbank.org/>

³ <http://www.fao.org/reduce-rural-poverty/resources/resources-detail/en/c/1103408/>



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gender perspective, identify the gaps and develop concrete solutions on way forward. Access to land, markets, advisory services etc.

- FAO have been developing country gender assessments⁴ and gives recommendations on the key entry points for addressing gender equality. More than 70 country gender assessments available
- Lack of capacity and commitment for policy makers is a significant challenge, compounded by huge turnover of policy makers
- Corteva Agriscience have launched a new PPP project⁵ in partnership with Land O'Lakes Venture37, Bidco Land O'Lakes, Forage Genetics International (FGI) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to support women farmers gain information on how they access markets, develop their leadership skills; the program designed to increase supply of dairy products and improve nutrition while also amplifying women's role in feeding the continent

Call to Action Key Points

To shape a pathway towards gender-responsive agricultural policies:

Improving women's participation in leadership is key to building sustainable agri-food systems in Africa and governments have a key role to play, especially through political representation and increasing spaces for women in leadership.

Enabling participation of women by providing them with the right tools when they get to leadership positions is crucial. We must strengthen the capacity of women and enhance their leadership skills.

We need to invest in training the young generation of women not just in academics but also in the crucial skills of leadership, negotiation and engagement.

We need to reevaluate how we communicate policies that benefit women to ensure widespread access to the information.

Gender-responsive policies should not be limited to production but should cut across the entire agricultural value chains including in agri-finance, agro-processing, access to inputs, research.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/gender/resources/country-assessments/en/>

⁵ <https://www.corteva.com/resources/media-center/corteva-and-land-o-lakes-venture37-create-alliance-in-kenya.html>



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Disaggregated data on the agricultural sector is crucial as it will illuminate stakeholders' participation and contribution to the sector and an insight on the entry points to facilitating gender responsiveness in the sector.

Monitoring implementation of policies is vital and identifying how the government policies may be exacerbating the gender gap.