

Stand Up for Women

UNFSS Affiliated Session: Women's Nutrition, Economic Empowerment and Leadership in Food Systems Cluster

[Affiliated session Pre-summit Solution Cluster 1.2.3]

Date: Tuesday 27 July 2021

Time: 19:30 – 20:20 CET (50 minutes)

Concept Note

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Context

The UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) offers a tremendous opportunity to usher in a new era of food systems transformations that is both gender inclusive and gender empowering. **This [UNFSS solution cluster](#) focuses on three critical components of gender equitable food systems: nutrition, economic empowerment, and leadership.** A new and actionable agenda that leverages synergies and complementarity of approaches in these areas is essential in accelerating progress towards more resilient, nutritious, and equitable food systems.

- **Nutrition:** More than one in three women suffer from anemia – negatively impacting their health, productivity, earnings, pregnancy outcomes, and the development and growth of their babies and children. The *Alliance for Anemia Actions*, a UNFSS solution, will bring attention to food systems transformations that better nourish and empower women through country-focused and multi-sector actions, policies, and evidence-generation.
- **Economic empowerment:** Gender equitable food systems can safeguard and empower vulnerable women so they can benefit from the economic activity of food systems. New and innovative *female-focused economic hubs* can support women-led enterprises and income generation. And engaging women in the value chain of nutritious and indigenous foods can increase their access to diverse and nutrient-rich diets.
- **Leadership:** Elevating women to positions of power and influence is necessary for transforming food systems to be more gender-equitable and for advancing gender-inclusive policies. A wider diversity of leaders engaging in complex decision-making processes also benefits all. *A new accountability framework in the Global Food Systems 50/50 initiative* tracks food system organizations/actors commitment to supporting women leaders and policies.

Affiliated Session Overview

The meeting aims to tap into the experience and lessons of countries to help define the priorities of the cluster. It will also shape how the cluster can support the newly established broader gender Coalition for Action, “Making food systems work for women and girls”.

This is the second in a series of sessions to bring onboard country partners to help shape the Cluster’s future agenda, way of working and operationalization. In the first country consultation meeting (29th June), several countries already expressed their interest in the Cluster, stating it was relevant to the priorities and activities that are being articulated in national dialogues. This session aims to take the consultation with country representatives one step further with statements of support from countries and donors and joined identification of next steps.

Objectives

- Discuss how countries see the elements of this cluster being operationalized and interconnected at country level (1) building women leadership in nutrition, 2) empowering women *food* entrepreneurship and 3) an integrated anemia reduction approach
- Foster buy-in for this combined approach & recruit country stakeholders to participate in the cluster

Proposed Run of Show

Time	Session	Speaker
12 mins	<p>Welcome Remarks Objectives, Agenda- 2 min Framing Coalition of Action: “Making Food Systems Work for Women and Girls” – 5 min Cluster: Women’s Nutrition & Leadership – 5 mins</p>	<p><i>Saskia Osendarp</i> (Micronutrient Forum)</p> <p><i>Jemimah Njuki, IFPRI</i> <i>Hazel Malapit,</i> <i>IFPRI (tbc)</i></p>
15 min	<p>Moderate panel discussion with 3 country panelists. Each speaker (5 mins each) to address the 1-2 questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Focus on Women Enterprise Hub Country focus on food system aspect of Integrated Anemia approach Country focus on women leadership from institutional perspective <p>Proposed questions addressing 1 or max 2 questions per panelist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the presented cluster fit with priorities in their respective countries? What challenges do they foresee in implementation / coordination of the cluster solutions? How can the cluster support/strengthen national policies and priorities on gender equitable food systems that drive more impactful actions and sustained improvements? 	<p>Moderator: <i>Corinna Hawkes</i></p> <p>Panelists: <i>Maureen Muketha,</i> <i>Kenya</i></p> <p><i>Dr. R. Hemalatha,</i> <i>Director, National</i> <i>Institute of Nutrition,</i> <i>India</i></p> <p><i>USAID (tbc)</i></p>
10 min	<p>Statements of support by Governments</p>	<p><i>(Ethiopia, Zambia tbc)</i></p> <p><i>Lara Steinhouse, Global</i> <i>Affairs Canada</i></p>
3 min	<p>Reflections /Audience discussion Dialogue with country panelists and session attendees (using Chat Box) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do parts of this solution cluster fit with initiatives in your country and how? What entry point do you see for operationalization or coordination of this cluster solutions in your country- whom to involve? Would you like to be actively involved in further developing of the cluster proposal / operationalization of the cluster proposal at national level 	
5 min	<p>Closing remarks and next steps</p>	<p><i>Saskia Osendarp,</i> <i>Micronutrient Forum</i></p>