

High-level consultation workshop on *Gender Equality in Agrifood Systems*

3 November 2025 – Online

1. Background

Gender equality in agrifood systems is a cornerstone of sustainable development, food security, and inclusive economic growth. Yet, women and girls continue to encounter persistent barriers in agriculture and food systems—limited access to land, finance, extension services, markets, and decision-making spaces. These disparities not only undermine women's rights, but also weaken the productivity and resilience of agrifood systems, with repercussions for communities and national economies.

Parliamentarians hold a decisive role in closing these gaps. Through gender-responsive legislation, equitable budget allocation, effective oversight, and inclusive representation, parliaments can drive transformative change. The United Nations General Assembly, through resolution A/RES/77/159, underscores this pivotal role, recognizing that parliaments are central to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality, and to ensuring agrifood systems that deliver food security and nutrition for all.

FAO has long partnered with parliamentarians at national, regional, and global levels to strengthen their capacity to lead this agenda—by raising awareness, fostering knowledge exchange, supporting legislative processes, and providing technical guidance for mainstreaming gender equality in agrifood systems. A milestone in this collaboration was the Second Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition (2023), which endorsed the Global Parliamentary Pact Against Hunger and Malnutrition, reaffirming the commitment of parliamentarians to building sustainable, inclusive, and equitable agrifood systems with a strong gender lens.

Building on this momentum, FAO has developed a **Handbook for Parliamentarians on Gender Equality in Agrifood Systems**. Conceived as a practical tool, the handbook brings together evidence-based good practices, policy instruments, and actionable recommendations to support parliamentarians in integrating gender perspectives across their legislative, budgetary, oversight, and representation functions.

This high-level consultation will provide parliamentarians with the opportunity to review and validate the handbook, ensuring that its recommendations are both relevant and actionable. It will also invite parliamentarians to champion the dissemination and use of the handbook at national, regional, and global levels, strengthening collective efforts to accelerate gender equality and transform agrifood systems for the benefit of all.

2. Objectives of the webinar

The consultation webinar aims to:

- Present the draft handbook and its content;
- Gather parliamentarians' feedback to ensure relevance, clarity, and regional applicability;
- Validate key recommendations and the roadmap for completion;
- Discuss opportunities for dissemination and uptake of the handbook at national and regional levels.

Participants are kindly requested to review the draft handbook sections prior to the webinar to allow for focused and productive discussions.

Participants will be expected to:

- Review draft handbook sections prior to the webinar;
- Engage in discussions during thematic and breakout sessions;
- Provide input on content and recommendations;

- Endorse practical guidance for parliamentarians.

3. Agenda

This webinar is designed to introduce the key points of the FAO Handbook for Parliamentarians "Gender Equality in Agrifood Systems", facilitate participant feedback, and discuss implementation strategies. The session includes opening remarks, a presentation of the handbook's main sections, interactive discussions, breakout group activities (TBC), and closing remarks with next steps. The following table outlines the detailed agenda, time allocations, segment titles, and responsibilities for each part of the webinar.

14:00 CEST

	Time	Segment	Details / Responsibilities	Presenter / Facilitator
14:00-14:10	10 min	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Introduction of the webinar's objectives, agenda, and expected outcomes	Director of FAO/ESP or PSU or Parliamentarian
14:10-14:15	5 min	Opening Speech	FAO's role in promoting gender equality in agrifood systems and parliamentary engagement	Coordinator, Parliamentary Networks Team, FAO
14:15-14:25	10 min	General Presentation of the Handbook	Why the handbook was developed; data on gender disparities in agrifood systems; the role of parliamentarians; overview of the 12 chapters clustered into thematic areas; roadmap for completion	Gender Team Leader, FAO/ESP
14:25-14:55	30 min	Thematic Session 1	• Presentation of first cluster of chapters (10 min) • Breakout group discussion (10 min) • Report back (10 min)	Gender Team / Facilitators / Group Representatives
14:55-15:25	30 min	Thematic Session 2	• Presentation of second cluster of chapters (10 min) • Breakout group discussion (10 min) • Report back (10 min)	Gender Team / Facilitators / Group Representatives
15:25-15:55	30 min	Thematic Session 3	• Presentation of third cluster of chapters (10 min) • Breakout group discussion (10 min) • Report back (10 min)	Gender Team / Facilitators / Group Representatives
15:55-16:00	5 min	Closing Session	Wrap up, next steps and closing	Director of ESP or PSU or Parliamentarian