

Concept Note IFAD Side Event

CSW66: Understanding the gendered risks: Women as the central piece to the climate adaptation puzzle

15 march 2022 9 am Eastern US Time / 2 PM Central European Time

Background

The priority theme of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), taking place from 14 to 25 March 2022, is “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”. The CSW will discuss emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women and agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women’s enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The 66th edition of CSW will assess the interlinkages of the gender dimensions of the applicable climate, environment and disaster risk reduction normative frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and their synergies with the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Biodiversity is part of the solution to climate change. For men and women in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, biodiversity is vital for their survival and the survival of their families. Exposing and understanding the gender-differentiated biodiversity practices and knowledge of women and men enhances biodiversity conservation. Many case studies from around the world have demonstrated that in empowering women and vulnerable groups to participate as equals in information sharing and generation, education and training, technology transfer, organizational development, financial assistance and policy development, biodiversity conservation efforts become more effective and efficient. As with biodiversity, climate change does not affect women and men in the same way and it has, and will have, a gender-differentiated impact. Therefore, all aspects related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, policy development, and decision making should include a gender perspective.

Gender mainstreaming is crucial in climate, environment and disaster risk reduction frameworks through the development of coherent, convergent and coordinated gender-responsive national policies, programmes and actions that will lead to joint and mutually reinforcing national and local implementation. Gender mainstreaming requires integration of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and budgets in tandem with ensuring women’s meaningful participation and leadership at all levels. This is critical to address the needs and priorities of women and girls, overcoming the multiple and intersecting forms of inequalities and discrimination they face in relation to the drivers and impacts of environmental degradation and climate change and ensuring that women and girls equally engage in and benefit from policies and programmes and their implementation.

Rural women and men increasingly face the challenge of having to adapt their production systems in the context of climate change and natural resource depletion. Growing evidence exist to demonstrate that climate change affects men and women in different ways, often increasing women’s vulnerabilities and gender inequalities. The major gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in

rural areas include the following: i) greater food and nutrition insecurity, affecting particularly women; ii) increased workload of women and girls to collect water and firewood; iii) limited land ownership for women, who have fewer endowments and entitlements to help them absorb shocks; iv) lower access to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices; and v) the gender differentiated impact of disasters and migration.

At IFAD, we define adaptive capacity as the ability of a community or individual exposed to climate change to adjust, absorb, avoid, and/or diffuse the negative consequences of climate change in their production and livelihood context. Their ability to do so is linked to their context, including their level of general development as well as assets, information (including climate information tailored to agriculture), resources and opportunities, alternatives and the diversity of sources of income available to them, as well as the degree to which these are subject to the impacts of climate change, ie (multidimensional vulnerability and the extent to which dimensions are subject to the impact of climate change). IFAD integrates gender concerns into its projects and programmes to increase the equitable and sustainable climate resilience of rural communities to enhance environmental conservation and limit the climate change and the impact of shocks. Strengthening the climate resilience of rural women and girls – their capacity to cope with and recover from shocks – is a vital part of IFAD’s work. This side event aspires to emphasize the notion that rural women and people of diverse genders do not simply suffer from the climate impact as a vulnerable group, but that structural gender inequality puts them at higher risk. This is due to their limited access to resources and opportunities, not having the right to make decisions about their and their family's livelihood, biased social norms, facing barriers towards economic empowerment. of this, the intersectional dimension as for example indigenous women or women with a disability are disproportionately affected. As we know, intersectionality does not add up the climate impact, it multiplies. Hence, it is time to negotiate and network for inclusion in climate action, which meant women with disabilities and indigenous disabled people needed to be clearly mentioned and included in documents, policies and UN structures. CSW66 is a prime opportunity to highlight the work in gender equitable and climate resilient food systems and agriculture, and urge donor governments and organizations to do more to support women's, a subtheme of CSW66. This side event highlights the gender transformative approach that demonstrates effective results in building resilience through contextualized adaptive measures to climate unpredictability, and transforming individuals, households and community actors, who are primarily women, as agents of change.

The event is in English with interpretation in French, Spanish and International Sign (IS) language.

Consolidating Gains and Accelerating Progress

The opportunity to share good practices and lessons learned from the field in addressing existing discriminatory social and legal barriers, will allow for positive synergies in achieving inclusive and equitable climate resilience outcomes. resources and assets. This particular approach is required to stand a chance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Since issues as gender and climate are cutting across every SDG, a piece meal approach will not be sufficient.

Objectives of the event

- Highlight the critical role of rural women and girls, including pastoral and indigenous women and those with disabilities, at the nexus of climate resilience, resilient food systems

- Showcase good practices on how to address structural and power imbalances for women and other marginalized groups to adapt to climate change and build climate resilience
- Advance efforts to harmonize gender transformative programming with key climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.
- Highlight how to measure effective results in building climate resilience and enabling gender transformative pathways at individual, households and community levels.

Key messages

- 1. Gender inequality is both a driver and consequence of exposure to climate risks and disasters, which results in disproportionate impacts on women and girls.** Gender inequality puts rural women and girls at higher risk because it limits their access to resources and opportunities and reduces their autonomy to make decisions about their own lives. However, given the significant role rural women play in agriculture and food security, they also have the potential to take forward adaptation measures as key agents of change
- 2. Address structural barriers and power imbalances for women and other marginalized groups to adapt to climate change and build climate resilience.** Due to discriminatory stereotypes and social norms rural women’s knowledge of CCA and mitigation of disaster risks are devalued and not taken into consideration. Therefore, there is need to focus on gender transformative CCA and DDR programming, which actively seeks to build equitable social norms and structures in addition to individual gender-equitable behaviour, giving sufficient attention to the specific needs of men, women and youth, and their limited access to resources, including capital, land, time or even the right to make decisions.
- 3. Ensuring equal voice, equal access to decision-making.** The adaptive capacity benefits of giving women equal voice in their homes, communities and at the national level include more resilient livelihoods options and better incomes, reduced workloads, improved health and education and improved management of their natural resources and assets
- 4. Economic empowerment of women in agri-food value chains** is a proven strategy to build more resilient and inclusive food systems and increase women’s coping and adaptation capacities

Draft Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker (TENTATIVE)
5 MIN	Welcome remarks	Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President - Strategy and Knowledge Department (SKD) at IFAD
15 MIN	Keynote speech / TED talk	Sabrina Elba, UN Goodwill Ambassador for IFAD
40 MIN	Panel: Women’s role in climate change adaptation Moderator: Ndaya	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Katherine Wilkinson, Founder of the All We Can Save Project or Danielle Nierenberg 2. Pratima Gurung, President of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) 3. Dr. Jemimah Njuki, Director for Africa International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
10 MIN	Q&A	
5 MIN	Closing remarks	Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist

Total duration: 75 minutes

Speakers

Danielle Nierenberg

Bibliography

Danielle Nierenberg is a world-renowned researcher, speaker, and advocate, on all issues relating to our food system and agriculture. Danielle is President of Food Tank (foodtank.com) and an expert on sustainable agriculture and food issues. She has written extensively on gender and population, the spread of factory farming in the developing world, and innovations in sustainable agriculture. Danielle is the recipient of the 2020 Julia Child Award.

Danielle founded Food Tank, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with Bernard Pollack in 2013 to build a global community for safe, healthy, nourished eaters. The organization has more than 250 major institutional partners including The Rockefeller Foundation, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Christensen Fund, IFPRI, IFAD, Oxfam America, Slow Food USA, U.N. FAO, the Crop Trust, the Sustainable Food Trust, and academic institutions in all 50 states.

Food Tank highlights hope, success, and innovative ideas in our food system through original daily publications, research articles, a chart-topping podcast, interviews, and events and Summits in major cities around the world.

Prior to starting Food Tank, Danielle spent two years traveling to more than 35 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America, meeting with hundreds of farmers and farmers' groups, scientists and researchers, policymakers and government leaders, students and academics, and journalists, documenting what is working to help alleviate hunger and poverty, while protecting the environment.

Key messages

1. As women make up over 43 percent of agricultural workers, it can be stated that these are the world's food producers and yet, these working women are routinely denied access to education, refused by banking and financial institutions and ignored often by extension agents and research organizations
2. These women are not victims, they are business women, they are stewards of the land. Many have other professions in addition to farming so that they can put food on the table. They are the caretakers of rich cultural traditions, actively preserving indigenous crops and biodiversity
3. It does not matter how much local organic food we buy or how much money foundations pour into agricultural development unless we listen to what women farmers want and need and then work with them to find ways to provide it.

Contribution to the event

Danielle is a globally recognized public speaker who has proven experience and knowledge in the field of climate change, food security and women's empowerment. Having here as a speaker, would also touch upon her widespread network and thus could increase visibility for our event.

Pratima Gurung

Bibliography

Pratima is the General Secretary for Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network and Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA), the Chair of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) and a board member of IFAD's Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF). Pratima, herself is an indigenous woman with a disability. From her participation in DTP programs, she sought to gain information on human rights standards, new skills and approaches for engaging with the UN, and new methods to highlight the rights of Indigenous people with disabilities.

Since the DTP programs, Pratima has been very active in accessing the international mechanisms related to Indigenous peoples' rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. Pratima and others in NIDWAN have worked to bring the voices of Indigenous peoples with disabilities into the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples issues.

Pratima has also drawn attention to the intersection of concerns of Indigenous persons with disabilities with other areas of concern for Indigenous people such as climate change, health and education. Pratima and her organisation have done much to build collaboration with other Indigenous people's organisations.

Key messages

1. The climate change community needs to start including persons with disabilities and indigenous persons with disabilities in climate action.
2. Indigenous women with disabilities are not just victims but are key to climate solutions
3. We must act to address historical discrimination through structural change by integrating an intersectional approach that takes gender, culture, and disability into account, and shifts the power so that climate justice discourse is more inclusive for all.

Contribution to the event

Pratima is a strong voice from the field who has a lot experience in the field of disability inclusion and indigenous people. Hence, she can touch upon the intersectionality of being an woman with a disability in a climate change world or can bring in the view of indigenous communities. She can touch upon good practices that work on the ground and what is needed from the international community to make real results on the ground.

Jemimah Njuki

Bibliography

Dr. Jemimah Njuki has more than 20 years of experience in the agriculture sector in Africa and Asia, working on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Her extensive resume includes positions with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), CARE USA, and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). She has served as Coordinator of the Growth and

Economic Opportunities Program (2020) and Senior Program Specialist in the Agriculture and Food Security Program at IDRC (2013–2019); Program Leader for the Women in Agriculture Program at CARE USA (2012–2013); and Program Leader for the Poverty, Gender and Impact Program (2009–2012) and Senior Scientist at ILRI (2003–2009). She has worked widely in Africa, including in Malawi (2004–2007), Zimbabwe (2007–2009), and Tanzania (2012–2013), and has conducted field research in many other countries.

Key messages

1. The empowerment of women is associated with improved food security, better management of climate change impacts and better nutrition for women and their households and communities.
2. Not only are women poorly represented in food systems organizations from farmers' groups to global food companies, but they are also underrepresented in the policy setting and political arena. This lack of voice and representation is a human rights issue, and often leads to subpar policies, investments and programs that do not address women's specific priorities and constraints or advance the goal of gender equality
3. While most analysis of climate change recognise the impact on and role of women, many reports and programs fail to recommend practical ways to support women and to address the gender barriers that they face in responding to climate change.

Contribution to the event

Jemimah has extensive experience and knowledge in gender and climate resilience. She can bring in the aspect of food security and provide practical solutions to support women in responding to climate change. She also has excessive experience in the research field and thus she can touch upon how policy-oriented research can contribute to real change on the ground and how we can address still existing research gaps.