



Enhancing opportunities for rural women's employment: Lessons from the Joint Programme on Rural Women's Economic Empowerment

Co-organized by: Sweden and FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women

Monday, 13 March 2017, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm

United Nations HQ - Ex-press Bar, New York

Rural women's world of work is linked to agriculture and natural resources. Showcasing best practices from the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment (RWEE), panelists will demonstrate the main achievements of RWEE in job creation, income generation, climate-smart agriculture, and its contribution to sustainable development.

Background

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs have the potential to contribute significantly to gender equality and women's economic empowerment. In order to deliver on the new global agenda, economic empowerment of rural women, through the engagement of women in productive and income-generating on- and off-farm activities has to be central to policy making and programmatic interventions in rural areas.

Since 2012, FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women have been implementing RWEE in seven countries: Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. RWEE leverages the respective agencies' comparative advantages to promote a conducive environment through which productive activities of rural women, their rights to and at work, are accomplished.

RWEE focuses on: (i) rural women's improved food and nutrition security; (ii) increased rural women's incomes to sustain their livelihoods; (iii) women's enhanced leadership and participation in rural institutions and in shaping laws, policies and programmes; and (iv) enabling policy environment for the economic empowerment of rural women.

In the three years of its implementation, the Joint Programme RWEE has yielded results in engaging rural women to address key structural barriers to gender equality and women's economic empowerment. RWEE has, among other achievements, enabled a conducive environment through which productive activities of rural women, their rights to and at work, are accomplished. RWEE has helped empower rural women to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and promotion of sustainable rural development, both in policy and in action.

Format

Panelists will share experiences related to the challenges facing rural women, and where successful solutions have been found. Discussions will identify good practices, key actions and next steps to accelerate progress towards rural women's economic empowerment with the support of partners and funding.

