



Concept note for side event for the 63rd session of CSW

**" Rural women's empowerment for food security and nutrition for all:  
evidence from joint UN work"**

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

Thursday 14 March 2019, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm

Venue: UN HQ – GA building, CR 11

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## Relevance

Despite the existing extensive literature, rigorous evidence on whether and how specific agricultural development interventions empower women is still limited. There is a need to systematically examine strategies that agricultural development projects use to empower women and standardize ways of measuring their results, so to contribute to the ongoing discourse on UN collaboration and innovative ways of working together in the framework of the UN reform.

## Summary

Since 2014, FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women have been working together through the Joint Programme "Accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women"(JP RWEE), in order to strengthen rural women's meaningful participation in agricultural production, improve their food security and nutrition, increase their incomes, and support their leadership and decision-making in households, communities and beyond. The JP RWEE integrated, layered approach aims at addressing key structural barriers to gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda through a set of interventions targeted at individuals, communities, and national governments.

As demonstrated in its annual reports and other existing documentation, the JP RWEE has been able to achieve significant results in all its thematic areas and has used innovative ways to create a joint UN approach to women's economic empowerment in which each individual programme component contributes to broader results. The side event will present emerging lessons on the impacts of the JP RWEE, including methodological aspects, with a focus on food security and nutrition. Country-level results and impact studies conducted by the JP RWEE will serve as a basis for a broader debate on how to design, implement and monitor joint multidimensional programmes.

## Objectives

The side event's main objective will be to present new evidence on the joint work of FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women to eliminate hunger and malnutrition through the provision of a layered, integrated approach to women's economic empowerment, which includes interventions to advance women's access to productive assets, technologies, education, information and services, decent employment, market opportunities, and leadership skills.

## Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this event include:

1. Present evidence of the impact achieved by the JP RWEE, and engage member states and



donors to express their views and commitments around this partnership;

2. Knowledge sharing and cross learning among countries participating in the JP RWEE and with other women's empowerment interventions working to achieve gender equality, food security and adequate nutrition.

### **Target audience**

This side event is targeted at Member States, development actors and other practitioners interested in joint programmes and holistic approaches to women's economic empowerment and how these contribute to improving food security and nutrition indicators across different results frameworks.

### **Format**

This side event will be divided into two parts. The first part will include a key note presentation of an available country-level evaluation (either Kyrgyzstan or Ethiopia if finalized), which demonstrates the impact of the holistic interventions for women's economic empowerment (WEE) on food security and nutrition and other key agricultural indicators.

The second part of the side event will be a moderated discussion with relevant stakeholders on some of the innovative approaches used by the JP RWEE and other actors to implement the JP in an integrated manner. Subsequently, the floor will be open for Questions and Answers from the audience.