



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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IFAD
Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

MARCH

International Women's Day

Invest in women: Accelerate progress

International Women's Day 2024

Invest in women: Accelerate progress

Date and time: March 8th, 2024, 11.00 AM - 12.30 PM CET

Italian Conference Room IFAD HQ / Zoom

Agenda

Host: H�el�ene Papper, Director, Global Communications and Advocacy Division, IFAD		
Time	Session	Speaker
11:00	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• G�erardine Mukeshimana, Vice-President, IFAD• Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO• Valerie N. Guarnieri, Assistant Executive Director, WFP
11:30	Keynote Address	Dr. Gloria Burgess, Global Speaker, Change Catalyst, and Executive Coach
11:40	Panel: Empowerment for all, Redefining Progress Together	Moderator: Ndaya Beltchika, Lead Technical Specialist - Gender and Social Inclusion, IFAD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hela Hassine, Government of Tunisia (Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women)• Rosemary Gonzalez (Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition)• Julian Lampietti, Global Engagement Unit, World Bank• Megha Desai, Self-Employed Women's Association
12:10	Q&A	Moderator
12:25	Closing	Chiara Adamo, Head of Unit, Gender, Human Rights and Democratic Governance, DG DEVCO, European Commission



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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Gloria Burgess

Dr. Gloria J. Burgess, CEO of Jazz International and Executive Director of The Lift Every Voice Foundation, is dedicated to empowering women through leadership and the arts. With a client roster spanning global corporations, NGOs, and government bodies, including Microsoft, Google, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, she serves as a catalyst, speaker, and executive coach. Co-founder of Music for Transformation™ with her husband, Maestro John Burgess, she elevates artists and inspire leaders to live and lead with artistry, compassion, grace, humility, and wisdom. Burgess is also an acclaimed author, with notable works such as "Flawless Leadership" and "Dare to Wear Your Soul on the Outside."



Chiara Adamo

Chiara Adamo, Deputy to the Director for Human Development, Migration, Governance, and Peace at the European Commission's DG International Cooperation and Development, brings over 20 years of experience at the European Commission, working on human rights, democracy, migration, and equality policies. Leading the "Human Rights, Gender and Democratic Governance" unit, she oversees initiatives like the EU Gender Action Plan in External Relations 2021-2025 and the Spotlight Initiative against violence targeting women and girls. Adamo's background includes studies in International and Diplomatic Relations, European Law, and policy specialization.



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Hela Hassine Rezgui

Hela Hassine Rezgui, with a bachelor's in Horticulture and Livestock and a master's in biology didactics, has over 27 years of experience in her field. Her expertise spans local development, entrepreneurship, and gender equality. She led projects in territorial development and governance, conducted research at the National Research Institute of Rural Engineering, Water, and Forests (INRGREF) of Tunisia, and coordinated national initiatives at FAO. As a Teaching Engineer at the Higher School of Horticulture in Chott Meriem, she imparted knowledge in agricultural business creation, while also championing the empowerment of rural women through her role as head of the rural women's support office within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fisheries.



Rosemary Gonzalez



Rosemary González, a Senior Technical Consultant, specializes in Gender and Social Inclusion, contributing to development initiatives across Latin America and the Caribbean. She serves as the IFAD coordinator in Ecuador and Latin America for the Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition, implemented by FAO, IFAD, and WFP in collaboration with and through financial support from the European Union. With a PhD in Development Studies, she holds expertise in local planning and gender policy, augmented by a Level 4 Public Procurement Certification. With 20 years of experience in UN agencies, NGOs, and international institutions, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her work.



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Julian Lampiatti

Julian, Manager for Global Engagement in the Agriculture and Food Global Practice at the World Bank and Adjunct Professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, specializes in strategic planning, donor outreach, and knowledge programs. With previous experience managing agriculture and food initiatives across the Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, he has authored publications on poverty, economics, food security, and energy. Julian holds a PhD in Public Policy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Natural Resources Economics from Duke University.



Megha Desai

Megha Desai, with a Commerce and Law degree from Gujarat University and Senior Management Development Programme from IIMA, directs SEWA's National Farmer's Forum Network, supporting 2.6 million family farmers. She leads SEWA's Agriculture campaign for small and marginal women farmers, advocating for their empowerment and resilience to climate and market shocks. Desai also heads Bees Network, aiding women in South Asia. With 13 years at SEWA, she has rehabilitated war and disaster-affected women in countries like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Nepal. Her expertise lies in economic rehabilitation, peacebuilding, and grassroots empowerment, benefitting over 4500 women.

