



CFS50 Side Event

Solutions for empowering women’s engagement in aquatic food systems: a journey through the supply chain

Date: 11th October 2022

Time: 08:30-09:45 (GMT+2)

Location: Green room, FAO Headquarters, Rome / Zoom

Physical attendance: [Register here](#)

Virtual attendance: [Register here](#)

This side-event will showcase solutions to empower women and engage young women in sustainable aquatic food systems. It will include success stories related to important steps for achieving food security (access to sufficient, safe, nutritious foods meeting dietary needs and food preferences). The event will include speakers from the entire aquatic food chain – ‘from healthy waters to healthy people’. The event will be an ‘all women event’ with only female speakers, including young voices. The event will promote the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022, and thus focus on small-scale and artisanal food providers. The event seeks to inform the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment. The [Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition](#) is arranging this side event as part of the programme of [CFS 50](#).

Opening session	
Theme	Speakers
Welcome by the Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition	Anita Utheim Iversen , Head of the Global Action Network, and Specialist Director, Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
Introduction by Moderator	Shakuntala Thilsted , Global Lead, Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish
High level opening remarks	HE, Mavis Koomson , Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ghana Bjørge Sandkjær , State Secretary to the Minister of International Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Panel One: Showcasing solutions to empower women and engage young women in sustainable aquatic food systems

Moderated by Shakuntala Thilsted, Global Lead, Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish

Empowering and engaging women in the production segment of the aquatic food system

Micheline Dion, Women’s Program Manager, CAOPA (African Confederation of Professional Organizations of Artisanal Fisheries)

Working through women’s groups and entrepreneurship activities to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in the processing segment of the aquatic food system.

Rhoda Mkumbwa, General Secretary, Malawi Chapter of the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFISHNET)

Women’s role in promoting and raising awareness of consuming safe and healthy aquatic foods.

Nabamika Sonowal, Technical Expert Fisheries, Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

Q&A

Panel two: Scaling up solutions to empower women and engage young women in sustainable aquatic food systems

Moderated by Shakuntala Thilsted, Global Lead, Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish

What elements needs to be in place to scale up the solutions presented in Panel 1 on how to empower and engage women in aquatic food systems?

How can we fully recognize women (including young women) as important actors in aquatic food systems and their contribution to food security?

Molly Ahern, Food Security and Nutrition Specialist, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Kefilwe Roba Moalosi, Senior Nutrition & Food Systems Officer, African Union Development Agency - NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD)

Maria Honig, Lead, WWF Accelerating Coastal Community-Led Conservation Initiative

Q&A

Closing remarks on behalf of the [Global Action Network](#)

Shakuntala Thilsted, Global Lead, Nutrition and Public Health, WorldFish