

SWISSAID's take on the UN Food Systems Summit

Heads of state and government met yesterday and today at UN headquarters in New York to address a huge challenge for humanity: Global food systems are broken, which has massive, systemic consequences for the future of humanity, especially due to the connections of agriculture and food with the climate and biodiversity crises.

SWISSAID regrets that the central actors in the food system, women smallholders and key local, rural actors for food security, have been overlooked in this process. Approaches such as agroecology, which builds on the way of life of 500 million smallholder farmers who provide much of the world's food, are still too hesitantly embraced and implemented by the international community. In a recent study, SWISSAID shows the potential that women farmers see in agroecology. Agroecology strengthens their autonomy as females and as farmers in the food system so that they can still produce food for us tomorrow. The study also contains a list of recommendations for decision makers.

A central demand of the study is therefore to strengthen the rights and influence of women and especially women farmers in the food system. This can be done, for example, by supporting women in farmer-led agroecological research, by securing local markets, by making unsustainable value chains more expensive, and by protecting the interests of farmers and peasants from harmful policies affecting farmer's seed systems.

Please download the documents here: [“Listen up!” - Swissaid](#)