



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



**Schola
Campesina**
Sharing knowledge
for food sovereignty



Webinar

Agroecology for Women's Economic Empowerment and Strengthening their Autonomy

Experiences from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Türkiye

3rd November 2022

09:30-11:00 CET

10:30-12:00 Ankara

12:30-14:00 Tbilisi/Baku/Yerevan

[Registration here](#)

Languages: English/Russian

Attention! The date of the Webinar has changed from 25th of October to 3rd of November 2022!



Concept Note

The webinar “Agroecology for Women's Economic Empowerment and Strengthening their Autonomy” organized by Georgian NGO – [Biological Farming Association Elkana](#) is part of the series of four sub-regional webinars hosted by the [FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia](#) and [Schola Campesina](#). The webinars aim to identify promising practices for sustainable and inclusive policy and programming support for rural women and for achieving Agenda 2030 in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus Türkiye and Western Balkans.

This fourth concluding webinar focuses on the experiences of the three **South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Türkiye**. The discussion will address the following main themes:

- ✓ Awareness on the need for sex-disaggregated data for formulating and monitoring policies;
- ✓ The role of women-led grassroots initiatives on local seed production and distribution;
- ✓ The advantages of agroecological production from the perspective of women producers;
- ✓ Promising practices in promoting women-led agroecological initiatives for improved market access;
- ✓ Policy support needs for women-led agroecological initiatives.

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Agroecology is a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of agriculture and food systems. As a result, agroecological transitions can support the simultaneous achievement of multiple sustainability objectives – economic, environmental, social, nutritional, health and cultural – holistically and in integrated manner at different levels and scales while being adapted for different environmental and cultural contexts. Agroecology seeks to address gender inequalities in rural areas by creating opportunities for women. It helps them to develop higher levels of autonomy by developing their knowledge and economic activities in local food chains while encouraging them to be active in community life.

A food crisis following the economic recession due to Covid-19 pandemic and especially escalation of wars and conflicts in Europe and Central Asia, calls for urgent and localized response from policymakers and civil society. In these difficult times, the importance of sustainable and diverse local food production and distribution is a question of primary food security. Therefore, the discussion on sustainable agroecological development and exchange of the promising practices promoting inclusion and empowerment is essential.

Women play a vital role in developing sustainable food systems and in enhancing locally driven rural development. By often carrying responsibility for household food security, dietary diversity and health, women’s participation is essential for agroecological transition and improving food security. Nowadays women’s involvement in agroecology is at the rise in the region and women are frequently the leaders of agroecology projects related to seed conservation, improvement of nutrition, local food culture, etc.

All these needs to be acknowledged and supported by policy, which is based on sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis. Inclusive public policies, which support agroecological development, can help to tackle the emerging food crisis and contribute to the transition to sustainable and inclusive food and agriculture systems for achievement of Agenda 2030.



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PROGRAM

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Moderator: Mikheil Pakatsoshvili, Association Elkana

09:30-09:35	<p>Welcome & introduction (objectives of the webinar, very short introduction to the concept of agroecology):</p> <p>Mariam Jorjadze, Director, Association Elkana Andrea Ferrante, Coordinator, Schola Campesina</p>
09:35-09:45	<p>Presentation: Why do we need evidence on gender-based inequalities for sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems?</p> <p>Anna Jenderedjian, Gender and Social Protection Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p>
09:45-09:55	<p>Presentation: SDG indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2: tracking information on situation with women's rights on land ownership and control</p> <p>Giorgi Kvinikadze, Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p>
09:55-10:40	<p>Presentation/Panel Discussion: Women-led grassroots initiatives on local seed production, agroecology and innovative ways of market access from the four countries of the region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Türkiye)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenia: Lusine Nalbandyan, Organic Armenia (tbc) • Azerbaijan: Ilyas Safarli, "Uluchay" Social-Economic Innovation Center • Georgia: Marika Kapanadze, Biological Farming Association Elkana (tbc) • Türkiye: Selin Gürsan, Nilüfer Development Cooperative & EKODER (Ecological Life Organisation)
10:40-11:00	<p>Q&A, discussion and concluding remarks: Policy support needs for women-led agroecological initiatives</p>

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