



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE
WOMAN FARMER

2026

9TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER IN AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES
BANGKOK, OCTOBER 1-3

GENDER JUSTICE IN 2026: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER

Setting the agenda: gender priorities in
fisheries & aquaculture for 2026



Agenda

1. Welcome and framing
2. Thematic consultation & breakout group discussions
3. Final plenary discussion
4. Closing & Next Steps





1.

Welcome and framing





Welcome: Introduction

The first event of a series of events/discussions that will be part of a global conversation around the **International Year of the Woman Farmer**.

A moment to **recognize and elevate the vital contributions of women farmers**, including those working in aquaculture and fisheries, whose roles are often undervalued or invisible.





Welcome: Objectives

OBJECTIVES:

1. **Celebrate the designation of 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer** and recognize women's contributions to aquatic food systems.
2. **Map and prioritize barriers** — both persistent and emerging — that hinder women's participation and leadership in fisheries and aquaculture.
3. **Explore solutions** — from grassroots efforts to policy and market-based strategies — that can drive transformative change.





Welcome: Session Methodology

- **An interactive consultation**, and it's the entry point for a broader initiative: a series of webinars and events throughout 2026 that will spotlight women's leadership, knowledge, and agency in aquatic food systems
- **Working together today to set the agenda** — to begin identifying the gender priorities that will shape our collective work in the coming year

Medium-term outcome:

Your insights will directly inform the webinar series and help shape a final statement or programmatic document to be shared at the end of 2026.





Framing the moment

Dr. Erika Valerio – Gender and agri-food systems specialist (FAO)

- Introducing the International Year of the Woman Farmer and its relevance to aquatic food systems.
- Reflecting on why IYWF matters for gender justice in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Highlighting existing gaps and the potential for collective action.





2.

Thematic Consultation and Breakout Group Discussions





Our facilitators

- **Angela Lentisco – FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP)**
- **Lovin Kobusingye – AWFishNet**
- **Hellen Guebama – African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)**
- **Stephanie Achieng – AU-IBAR**
- **Lilian J. Ibengwe – Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania**





Thematic discussion

Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences about gender-related issues and potential opportunities to dismantle inequalities through the use of clusters of notes to be stuck on boards (10 minutes).

After the contributions have been shared by all the participants, the moderator and facilitators will run a quick thematic analysis of contents and organize the clusters to have homogeneous groups organized for discussion during the roundtable insights (10 minutes).

Overall duration: 20 minutes





Breakout group discussion

Participants will be split into small groups (ideally 5–8 people per group). Each group will:

- **Discuss which themes resonate most based on lived experience or regional context**
- **Identify any missing themes or cross-cutting issues**
- **Rank the themes that have been identified from the sticky notes, as well as any other relevant themes identified during group discussion, and discuss priorities for 2026**
- **Each group should assign a rapporteur to summarize their input**

Facilitators will be assigned to each group to guide discussion and gather notes. This will take around 25 minutes.





Breakout group discussion – Part II

After the group discussion is finalized, each group will benefit from a contribution shared by the assigned facilitator to the group.

Before closing breakout groups, each assigned facilitator will share a key snapshot (3-5 minutes) that will be grounding the group with a real-world example or ongoing research/policy issue.

Once the snapshot is shared with the group, the group will collectively analyse it and rank it against the themes that have been already ranked during the breakout discussions. This will take around 5 minutes.

Overall, this second part will take around 10 minutes.





3.

Final plenary discussion





Identifying key themes towards 2026

Our final discussion will set the way forward for action points and priorities towards 2026, with rapporteurs from groups that will share agreement reached and priorities ranked in each group. This exercise will help to stimulate a final collective reflection and to:

- **Share insights, priorities, or new angles** based on the ranking of themes performed during the breakout discussion
- **Capture agreement or divergence** on key themes
- **Suggest framing language or gaps to explore further**





4.

Closing and next steps





The way forward to IYWF in 2026

Closing remarks: Dr. Erika Valerio (FAO)

- Summary of common themes and new ideas/key messages raised
- Outline how this input will inform the design of the webinar series and final statement
- Call to stay engaged throughout the year and encourage sign-ups for further consultation





THANK YOU!

Looking forward to your
contributions to IYWF in 2026