



EU CAP Network Workshop 'Women-led innovations in agriculture and rural areas'

Krakow, Poland
17-18 April 2024



Funded by
the European Union



Women-led innovations: Path to success

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Overview

- › Challenges and consequences
- › Support mechanisms
- › Path to success





Challenges facing rural and agricultural women



Gender-based discrimination

Deep-rooted inequalities and biases persist in rural and farming communities.



Limited access to resources

Credit, land, finance.



Unpaid care work

Women bare disproportionate burden of unpaid care work, household work etc.



Lack of access to extension services

Limited access to advisors, traditionally dealing with men on farms.



Inadequate infrastructure

Poor rural services and facilities impact limit women's access to markets and opportunities.



Policy and institutional barriers

Weak implementation of gender-responsible policies.



Education and skills gaps

Tailored skills training and mentoring.



Limited decision-making

Limited say in decision-making processes.

Negative outcomes of challenges

Limited economic opportunities

Perpetuate poverty and economic vulnerability.



Food security

Women play a key role in food production – limiting access resources can undermine food security.

Gender inequality

Rural gender disparities reinforce unequal power relations, perpetuating discrimination, marginalization, and social exclusion.



Depopulation and out-migration

Limited rural opportunities will result in out-migration.

Community disengagement

Diminishes social capital and weakened resilience.



Underrepresentation of perspectives

A lack of a balanced perspective.



Missed innovation opportunities

Deprive communities of diverse talents and creative solutions to key issues.



Issues in rural and agriculture

> Rural entrepreneurship barriers:

- › Finance
- › Access to land
- › Family support
- › Household responsibilities
- › Basic services
- › Childcare – part-time
- › Recognition – invisible roles

> Key issues in agriculture for women:

- › Roles not recognised,
- › Masculine industry
- › Pension issues
- › Access to land issues
- › Succession and inheritance issues
- › Off-farm work often used to support farm income
- › Driving on-farm diversification

“Men own 90% of all farmland in Ireland, which shows a significant imbalance in property ownership between men and women. You wouldn’t see this imbalance in any other occupation, but it exists in farming” (Watson, 2014)





Pathway
2 SUCCESS

The main title of the presentation. It features the word "Pathway" in a green, cursive font. Below it, the number "2" and the word "SUCCESS" are in a bold, orange-to-yellow gradient font. To the left of the text is an illustration of a wooden sign with the word "SUCCESS" written on it, surrounded by green grass and white daisies.



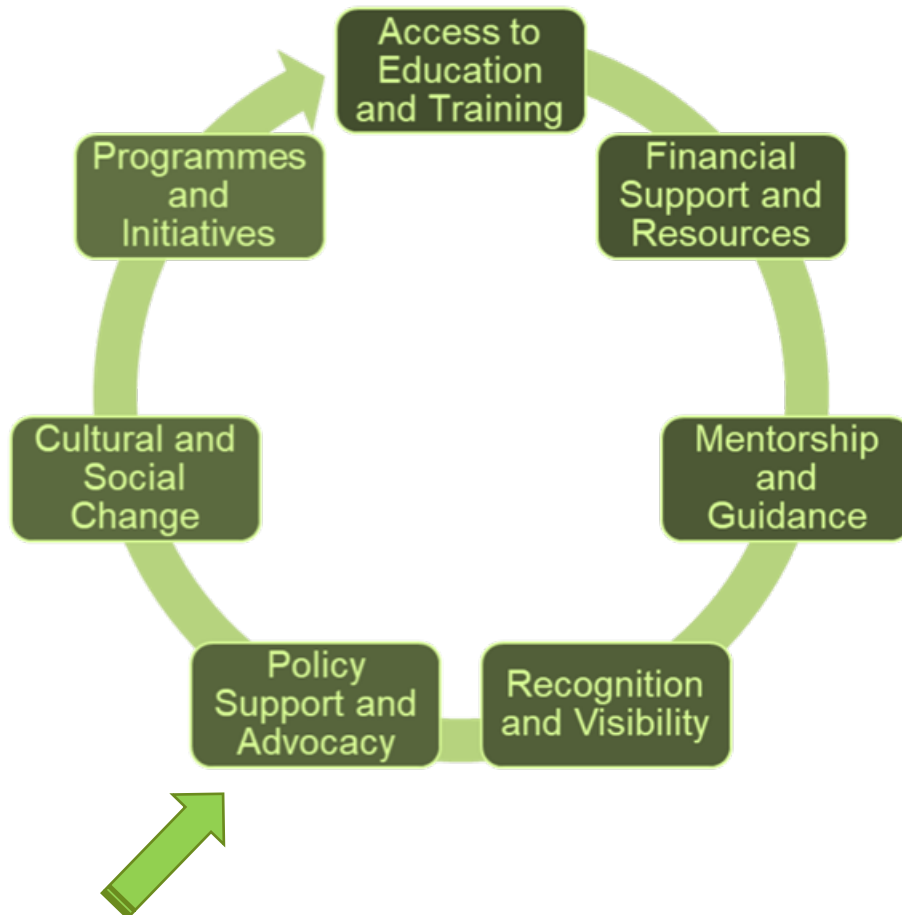
Rural services and facilities

- › **Universal public services investment:** Investment in essential services ensures women's participation in rural communities, addressing healthcare, childcare, and violence against women.
- › **Patch-work:** Reliance on women's unpaid caregiving in rural areas is unsustainable.
- › **Essential rural services:** Access to key services prevents women from leaving rural areas, boosts job opportunities, and fights poverty.
- › **Diversity:** Recognising diverse experiences fosters inclusivity and prevents social oppression.





Overcoming challenges: policy and support



Policy

> EU Improvements:

- > Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025
- > CAP: Specific Objective No. 8– refers explicitly to women
- > Gender Equality Commissioner
- > Long term vision of rural areas
- > Rural Pact
- > Nationally what do we have?





Overcoming challenges: recognition and visibility



EU Horizon Project:

FLIARA



SWIFT



Grass Ceiling



EU CAP Network



National CAP Networks

Local Action Groups

Many more....





Representation in decision-making

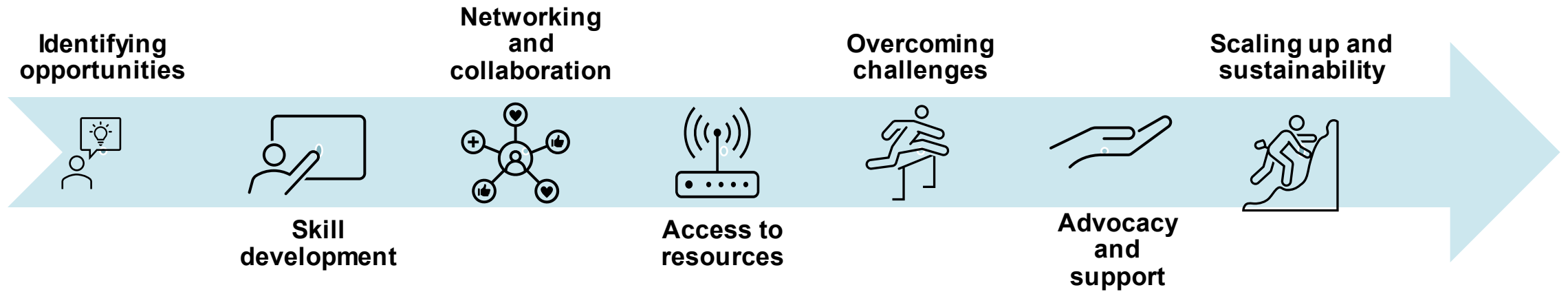
- > **Under-representation of women in politics:** EU Parliament from 16.6% in 1979 to 38.9% in 2021 elections – above world average.
- > **Huge diversity:** Amongst Member States - two ends of the spectrum....
- > **Similar levels of diversity:** National, regional and local governance structures
- > **Gender balance in rural areas:** Even less representation – local government - agricultural decision-making – rural development.
- > **Why it matters:**

Policy Making.....

- Justice argument:** 50% population – 50% voice
 - Experience argument:** Women's experiences matter – they are different
 - Interest argument:** Needs are different – so needs need to be articulated
 - Critical Mass argument:** Women can represent the interests of women
 - Symbolic argument:** equality enhances and strengthens democracy
- (Shreeves and Prpic, 2019 – Briefing prepared for EU Parliament).



Pathway to innovation success





OVERCOME
CHALLENGES



*Thank
you!*



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All information on the workshop is available on the event webpage:
<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/events/eu-cap-network-workshop-women-led-innovations-agriculture-and-rural-areas>

