

## **Field Visits 2: Women in Agriculture**

### **1. Background**

The Gender Equality Network (Gendernet) organizes a global face 2 face (f2f) that will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> of April – 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019 in Switzerland (Hünigen, Bern).

The f2f aims at **sharing learnings and exchanging among peers** within **the three strategic topics of the Gendernet**, notably the various approaches and activities on 1) Women's Economic empowerment; 2) Women's Rights and Protection, and 3) Women's Political Empowerment.

To enhance learning and exchange, **three parallel field visits** are being organized along the three above mentioned themes.

### **2. Visit description**

**Title:** Innovative Approaches of Women in Agriculture – Getting Tastes and Insights of Gendered Vocational Trainings and Professionalism in Switzerland.

#### **Overall Aim:**

The overall aim is to introduce gendered professionalism in agriculture and the related vocational trainings in Switzerland. Women play a major role in Swiss agriculture with household and farming activities. Female roles in agriculture vary greatly: Some women manage and bear the responsibility for the farm, while others share this responsibility with a partner. Some women simply give a hand occasionally on the farm, while others stay totally away from the actual farm work. Many 'farming women' do also have jobs outside the agricultural sector and are involved in voluntary work. Women in agriculture are more and more responsible for direct marketing of their own farm products, thus significantly contributing to the farm's total household income. Today's women in Swiss agriculture often face challenges regarding the missing access to retirement income or legal farm shares. Moreover, the professional training in Swiss agriculture is gendered. There are two main types of vocational trainings in Switzerland: The first type "Farmer, Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training" (outside of the farm) is targeting the production of crops and livestock breeding. For this vocational training, the proportion of female students is about 10-15 percent. The second type, "Farm and Family Manager with Federal Diploma of Professional Education and Training" (inside of the farm) focuses on organization and management of the farm's household as well as the production, processing and use of food plus the partnership-based participation in the agricultural business. For this vocational training, the proportion of female students is at 100 percent. The type of vocational certificate determines whether a farmer has the entitlement for governance direct payment.

### **Part 1 / Critical discussion on gendered vocational training in Swiss agriculture**

#### **Objectives:**

- We will deepen our knowledge on and understanding of the roots of gendered vocational training in Swiss agriculture.
- The participants will have the possibility to discuss the different types of vocational training and the role of women and men in agriculture with representatives of the educational institution, the Women's Farmers Association of Switzerland, and a female sole farm manager.
- The participants will have the opportunity to visit the training center.

### **Host Institution / “Inforama” – Vocational Training Center**

The visit will take place in the village of Hondrich in an idyllic Swiss landscape setting close to Spiez. “Inforama” is one of several agricultural vocational training centers in Switzerland. The visited center is mainly focusing on the described second type of training (inside of the farm) focusing on the farm’s household organization and management as well as the food production and processing plus the agricultural business. Kaspar Grünig, head of the vocational training in agriculture at “Inforama”, will present details on the different vocational trainings in agriculture. Afterwards, there will be an open space to exchange with members of the Women’s Farmers Association of Switzerland (<https://www.landfrauen.ch/>) and a female sole farm manager. The discussion will focus on the specific female and male roles in agriculture. In addition, it will raise the issue on how the transformation of agriculture influences the division of labor.

**Location:** “Inforama”, Hondrich

**Timing:** from 13h30 to 15h30

**Contact:** Kaspar Grünig, head of vocational training in agriculture

**Website:** <https://www.inforama.vol.be.ch/>

## **Part 2 / Innovative Approaches of Women in Agriculture**

### **Objectives:**

- The participants will have the possibility to visit a farm with a direct marketing approach and to get in touch with innovative concepts in agriculture.
- We will deepen our knowledge and understanding of the roles of women and men in Swiss agriculture.

### **Host Institution / Family Farm “Chuweid”, Zimmerwald**

The Niederhauser family cultivates 38 hectares of land and owns 30 cows and around 160 calves in the beautiful region of Zimmerwald. The cows’ milk is used to feed the calves. The calves are regularly sold to one of the major Swiss supermarket chains called “Migros” under the label “Terra Suisse” which stands for environmental-friendly and sustainable cultivation. Furthermore, the family cultivates strawberries, raspberries and cherries. In order to harvest earlier in the year, the strawberries are protected by plastic ‘tunnels’. The family sells its products directly on the farm (self-picking of strawberries and raspberries) and runs a small shop in the suburbs of Berne. Additionally, the Niederhauser’s sell products (mainly vegetables) through their online shop ([Saisonbox.ch/](http://Saisonbox.ch/)). Moreover, the wife runs a catering business and organizes movie events. The family Niederhauser also trains young farming professionals.

**Location:** Family Niederhauser, Chuweid, Zimmerwald

**Timing:** from 16h00 to 17h30

**Contact:** Karin Niederhauser, farmer

**Website:** <http://www.chuweid.ch/default.htm>

### **Participants:**

SDC Gender Focal Points from the headquarters and cooperation offices

Up to a maximum of 20 participants per visit

### **Logistics:**

Rented passenger bus

Pick up from f2f venue at 12h45

### **Language(s):**

The main language will be German, however translations in English and French will be accommodated.