



**Abstract of the online speech on March 10, 2023, at the BPW ITALY SARDINIA webinar
Università di Sassari 'Eliminate Hunger' / 'Sconfiggere la Fame'**

My topic: Food systems transformation

FAO since 1951 has been an Influencer and technical center of the global Agenda, for increasing agricultural production, for producing healthy and non-wasteful food, for respecting nature against a backdrop of a population close to 9 billion individuals.

The Poverty that causes Hunger is a complex concept, but it is also a process where low incomes, poor health conditions, low literacy, malnutrition, and inadequate housing coincide.

The Sustainable Development Goals covered by Agenda 2030 make it possible to face unprecedented challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, with migration, conflict, and economic instability very evident after the pandemic.

Although it is produced in large quantities, the food is not diverse or nutritious enough. In the last 30-50 years, diets have become homogeneous, because the crops are rich in energy but poor in macro-nutrients. In many cases and, particularly in poor countries, people are not getting enough nutrients essential for human health. But people also drift in and out of poverty in advanced countries.

With an essential role for Women and Young people, it is necessary to activate the contributions of science, technology, and innovation, as well as assistance from traditional food production methods to accelerate the transformation of food systems so that they become more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

Keeping food safe is a complex process; currently through complementary mandates, FAO and WHO cover a range of issues in support of global food safety to protect consumer health.

The engagement of Member States cannot be sought without enhancing and recognizing, for example, the role of cities in the transformation of food systems, being able to address the socio-economic implications linked to the food consumed by their population.

All problems are interconnected, but so too the struggle with ever more multidisciplinary solutions must be interconnected.

Currently, through the Voluntary Guidelines FAO and other UN agencies, especially those present in Rome, all Member States (194) are primarily addressed to ensure that the Programs are implemented concretely, with measurable impacts and environmentally friendly activities.

Each event contemplates a role to play for the States, Private Sector, Civil Society, Academia, up to the individual consumer to seek better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life... I thus quote almost all SDGs which, by not leaving anyone behind, require Alliances and Collaborations.

We must be willing to radically reinvent our food systems. And the positive signs of implementation come from rural societies due to some demographic changes.

In fact, the experience of young women in indigenous areas where they enrich traditional production with the use of new technologies already leads us to talk about 'green' companies that can combine the maintenance of correct energy consumption with other sustainable practices.

Such practices encourage recycling and composting, the use of energy-efficient lighting, appliances, and transportation methods facilitated by renewable energy sources. And in green practice this includes a strong commitment using locally sourced organic food and ingredients, composting of food waste as well as participation in modern investments in rural development.

Clearly, all this can also locally offer job opportunities and a modern employment future for young people, in agriculture, in the industrial sector and in services. Microfinance programs can also be a powerful tool for poverty alleviation and in turn poverty reduction is an important prerequisite for communities at large.

In 2022, the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries, positive examples have come from the efforts to restore and conserve aquatic environments and fisheries resources...

As for BPW International, we have set up a Standing Agriculture Committee which invites members of all nationalities to let us know about innovative 'female-owned' solutions in rural and peri-urban Agriculture.

We want and hope to present, as an expression of solidarity and friendship, a collection of these contributions framed into a documentary or photographic exhibition at the end of the mandate in 2024!

We are looking forward to your support, Come on BPW! new actions through special cooperation.

Cristina Gorajski V.

BPW Main Representative to FAO (Rome) and Chair BPW International SC Agriculture - March 16, 2023