

# Women Farmers 2026

## Cultivating the Future

*International Year  
of the Woman Farmer 2026*

# 14 OCT 2026

9h30 – 13h30

**Tuscany Region EU Liaison Office  
Rond Point Schuman, 14 - 1040 Brussels - 8th Floor**

### ABSTRACT

*The cross-cutting nature of gender policies and their direct link to sustainability are recognised in the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. 2026 is the year in which the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) celebrates Women in Agriculture.*

*The issue of gender equality in agriculture is linked to territorial development. The disadvantages affecting rural areas have a strong impact on women's opportunities.*

*When addressing the role of women in agriculture, it is necessary to adopt measures aligned with the needs of women farmers, including access to services and support for work-life balance.*

*This approach introduces specific measures aimed at supporting female entrepreneurship, promoting women's employment in rural areas, addressing gender inequalities within the framework of the CAP.*

*Particular attention is dedicated to young women and men who choose a professional career in agriculture. Making agricultural activity attractive to younger generations is essential to reduce depopulation of rural areas and progressive ageing of the agri sector.*

*Tuscany Region, within the Complement for Rural Development under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023–27 (CSR-PSP 2023/27), is implementing measures to support the establishment of young women and men as farmers in agricultural holdings.*

*Tuscany Region intends to consolidate its action through a specific declaration setting out concrete and measurable commitments on gender equality.*

## EVENT PROGRAMME

### 9h00 - 9h30 - Opening Registration and Welcome Coffee

### 9h30 - 11h00 - Session 1 – “The International Context: International Year of the Woman Farmer and European Innovation Dialogue”

#### Key topics:

- International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026
- 2030 Agenda – Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5)
- EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030
- The role of women in agri-food systems and rural areas
- Specific measures to promote the status and role of women in agriculture under the CAP 2028–2034
- Declaration on Gender Equality

#### Speakers:

- **Mr Eugenio Giani** - President of the Tuscany Region
- **Ms Cristina Manetti** - Tuscany Region – Regional Councillor for Gender Equality
- **Mr Dario Nardella** - Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
- **Counsellor Marco Salaris** - Permanent Representative of Italy to the European Union
- **Ms Catherine Hallinan** - Representative of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- **Ms Elena Shubert** - Equality Coordinator and Team Leader, European Commission - DG for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Mr Antonio Mazzeo** - Vice-President of the Italian Delegation to the European Committee of the Regions
- **Ms Elena Pérez Payo** – Secretary General, Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, Castilla-La Mancha (Spain)
- **Mr Raschad Al Khafaji** - Director of the FAO Liaison Office with the European Union and Belgium.

## 11h00 - 11h30 - Session 2 – “Women and the Technological Revolution”

### Key topic:

Innovation and digitalisation: impacts and opportunities for women

### Speakers:

- Session opening video: “Cultivating Beauty: Plants and Flowers that Benefit Agriculture, Ecosystems and Local Development”, Ecoflorland Project
- **Ms Evangelia Moumoura** - Teamleader of the Digitalisation - European Commission – DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, Directorate A-Strategy and Policy Analysis
- Best Practices Showcase: “Innovations for Rural Development: A Modern, Competitive and Sustainable Tuscany”

## 11h30 - 11h45 - Coffee break

## 11h45 - 13h00 - Session 3 – “Agricultural Policies, Generational Renewal and Gender Equality”

### Key topics:

- Generational renewal in agriculture
- Gender Equality
- Local Action Group

### Speakers:

- **Mr Leonardo Marras** - Tuscany Region – Regional Councillor for Agricultural Policies
- **EAFRD/RDP Beneficiary** – Young newly established woman farmer, Best Practice “Diamante’s Happy Goats”
- **Ms Elisabetta Ulivieri** – Officer at the Tuscany Region’s EAFRD Managing Authority for the 2023–2027 CAP Strategic Plan
- **Ms Mirta Sutter** - Representative of Gal MontagnAppennino, a Tuscan Local Action Group (LAG) – Community-based project with a social purpose, Best Practice

## 13h00 - 13h30 - Stakeholder Debate: Open discussion and contributions

**Moderator: Samuele Pii** - Policy Officer, Tuscany Region EU Liaison Office