



The Transforming Agriculture digest



International Women's Day

08 March, 2025



Accelerate action



“When You Empower Women, You Empower Families, Communities, and the World.” #IWD2025

The Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI) and Agricultural Transformation Offices (ATOs) in Sierra Leone and Tanzania came together to spotlight the indispensable role of women in agriculture and the urgency of closing the gender gaps that hinder their full participation.

This year's theme, **“When You Empower Women, You Empower Families, Communities, and the World,”** guided our efforts to highlight both the contributions of women farmers and the barriers they continue to face—from limited access to finance and land rights to the lack of knowledge, technology and leadership opportunities.

Through a dynamic, multi-platform campaign, we raised awareness on what it truly means to empower women in agriculture and why it matters. Our content explored how women can be empowered through access to resources and opportunities, as well as the ripple effects that follow—stronger food systems, increased productivity, and more resilient rural economies.

A ministerial message from Dr. Tenneh Dick, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security in Sierra Leone, reinforced the government's commitment to gender-inclusive agriculture through the Feed Salone Initiative. She emphasized:

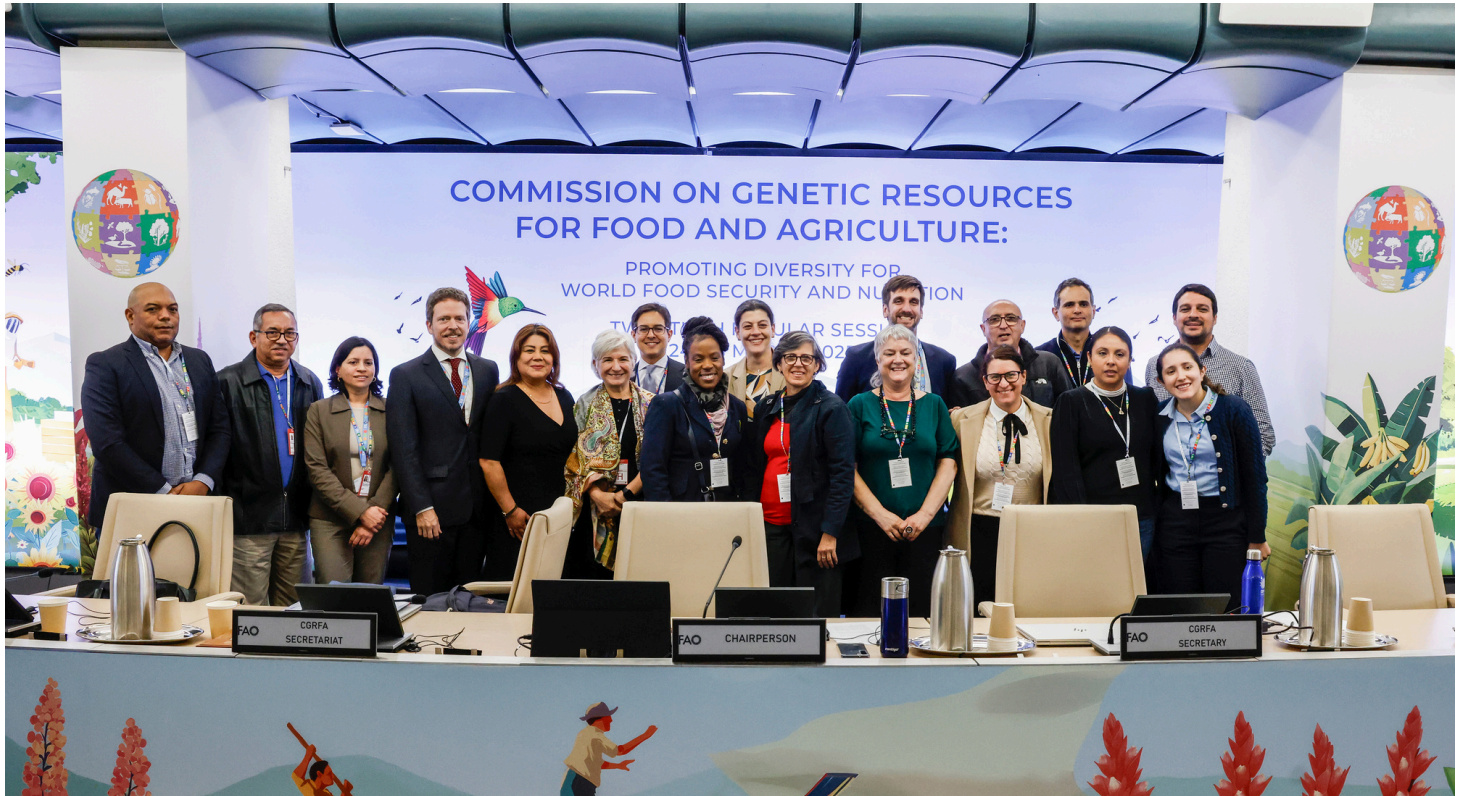
“When women have access to finance, land rights, technology, and leadership opportunities, their lives are not only transformed, but they also drive sustainable development, food security, and innovation.”

But beyond the content, this campaign was about amplifying voices—giving women farmers, policymakers, and experts a platform to share their perspectives and experiences. It was about reinforcing AATI and ATOs' role as champions of gender-inclusive agricultural transformation and urging decision-makers to take bold steps in supporting women as key drivers of agricultural development.

As we marked IWD 2025, We reaffirmed our commitment to breaking barriers and accelerating action so that every woman farmer has the resources and opportunities she needs to thrive. Because when women are empowered, agriculture flourishes—and so do families, communities, and entire nations.



Strengthening Livestock Biodiversity for a Resilient Agricultural Future



March 24th -28th, 2025 | Rome, Italy

The 20th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-20) brought together global experts to advance the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources critical for food security and resilient agricultural systems.

Tanzania's Participation in CGRFA-20

With AATI's support, Tanzania's Agricultural Transformation Office (ATO), represented by Jeremiah Temu, Lead Livestock and Fisheries, actively contributed to discussions on livestock diversity—a key component of Flagship 5 in Tanzania's Agricultural Master Plan. This flagship initiative seeks to:

- Enhance red meat and dairy farmers' access to markets
- Increase production volumes and improve quality
- Advancing a Community-Based Breeding Program
- Building on ongoing discussions with FAO in Feb 2025, the ATO is finalizing a draft for implementation modalities for a community-based breeding program aimed at improving livestock diversity and market access.

Additionally, FAO expressed its willingness to support the implementation of global plans of action, focusing on:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Leveraging biotechnology for genetic improvement
- Ensuring equitable access to genetic resources

Looking Ahead

These discussions mark an important step in strengthening sustainable livestock management in Tanzania and beyond. We look forward to continued partnerships that drive agricultural transformation across Africa.



Learning Retreat: Strengthening Agricultural Transformation in Sierra Leone and Tanzania



10th - 14th February 2025

The African Agricultural Transformation Initiative (AATI) hosted a learning retreat, bringing together key stakeholders from the Agricultural Transformation Offices (ATOs) of Sierra Leone and Tanzania. The retreat provided a platform to align government expectations with national priorities, enhance capacity building, and facilitate cross-country learning to accelerate agricultural transformation.

Key Learnings

Participants engaged in deep discussions on deliverology and strategic implementation, drawing valuable insights from the experiences of Ethiopia, Togo, and Sudan.



A visioning exercise helped map out shared priorities, ensuring a common direction for agricultural transformation. Additionally, the retreat covered critical topics such as climate-smart agriculture, communication and partnerships, and resource mobilization—all essential for driving sustainable impact.

As the Executive Director emphasized, the key takeaway from these discussions is to equip the ATOs with the relevant skills needed to deliver on their mandate effectively.

Next Steps

Following the retreat, AATI and its partners will:

- Establish delivery mechanisms to effectively track progress and outcomes.
- Implement tailored capacity-building exercises based on individual needs assessments.
- Finalize and validate work plans to align actions with national priorities and stakeholder commitments.
- By focusing on these actionable steps, AATI continues to support ATOs in driving impactful and sustainable agricultural transformation.



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Highlights from the Learning Retreat

*** VIDEO ***

Highlights: #IWD2025

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AATI's Commitment to Agriculture Transformation

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