



**Oral Statement**  
**49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3**  
**ID with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

We at Make Mothers Matter would like to highlight the structural discriminations that women farmers, in particular mothers, continue to suffer all over the world.

Women make up almost half of the world's agricultural workforce<sup>1</sup>. They are also often the seed stewards of their community. Yet, in most cases, they do not own land and their work remains unpaid.

For rural mothers, this unpaid agricultural labour comes on top of the unpaid domestic and care work of which they do the vast majority. They have no time for income generating activities, no access to adequate social protection and suffer high levels of poverty, which in turn hinders their bargaining power and ability to participate in decision-making.

These multiple discriminations and human rights violations not only carry a huge cost for these women and society<sup>2</sup>, but they also hamper agricultural production which needs to double by 2050 to meet the growing global food demand.

It is time for governments and society as a whole to recognise the huge and multiple contributions of rural women, in particular mothers, to food security and human development. They must be better supported and empowered, including as leaders.

Thank you!

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<sup>1</sup> Source: FAO <https://www.fao.org/3/am307e/am307e00.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> For example, such cost is estimated at 67\$ million /year in Uganda - Source: IFAD: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/news/why-feminism-s-next-wave-has-everything-to-do-with-farming>