

ADVANCING AGRICULTURAL EQUITY FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA

Women in Africa remain underrepresented in shaping agricultural policy. Too often, efforts to make food systems more inclusive fail to address the critical role that government policies play in women's ability to fully participate in the agriculture sector. Relative to men, women tend to own less land, have limited ability to hire labor and face impediments to accessing credit, agriculture extension services and other resources.

THE POWER OF WOMEN POLICYMAKERS

The U.S. Agency for International Development is launching the Gender Responsive Agricultural Systems Policy Fellowship (GRASP) for female policy makers in Africa. Women across Africa are affecting important policy changes—GRASP builds off that momentum to create a fellowship to bring about policy change by women for women that promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in food systems. The three-and-a-half-year virtual fellowship will support up to 100 female policy makers in Africa with networks, funding, mentorship, targeted leadership and professional development necessary to shape policy that removes obstacles to women's full participation in creating food-secure communities. GRASP will link fellows with senior policy expert mentors, both women and men, and will also benefit 100 mentees who will learn with and from the fellows over the term of the fellowship.

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Smallholder farmer Mariam Jenga from the Feed the Future Tanzania Mboga na Matunda shows off her onions that were harvested from her plot at Ruaha Mbuyuni.

Photo credit: Likati Thomas, Feed the Future Tanzania Mboga na Matunda