

**COPA Women Committee discussion  
in Latvia  
„Role and position of women on  
the farms in Latvia”**

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# Latvian Farmers' Federation

- founded in 1990 with the support of the Swedish Farmers Federation
- the largest organization in Latvia representing the interests of the rural population and rural entrepreneurs
- includes 37 legal and 180 physical members
- representing more than 6 000 rural residents
- it stands for Latvian countryside as the space for the preservation and development of national identity, a place that is emotionally very important in the preservation and construction of the nation's historic self-confidence
- LZF gathers all those citizens, for whom it is important to preserve Latvian countryside for recreation and both for work and living.
- We are happy to live in the country side ☺



# Latvia as EU Memberstate since 2004





# Latvia







# Farm managers by gender in Latvia

Year	Farms	Female	Male
2005	133 004	62 249	70 755
2010	83 386	39 016	44 370

# Holding managers by age and gender in 2010

Age	Female	Male
< 24	189	279
25 - 34	1522	2555
35 - 44	5540	8704
45 - 54	9387	13 079
55 - 64	8294	9029
➤65	14 084	10 724





## Holding managers by gender and agricultural education

Education	Female	Male
Higher	1981	2936
Vocational	5664	11 204
Basic qualification	4544	5790
Practical experience	26 827	24 440

## Regular labour force in agriculture by gender

Female	Male
89 246	91 748
> 35 thousands of employees are seasonal workers for both genders	



# Discussion „Role and position of women on the farms in Latvia”

## June 1, 2015





# Iveta Ļekūne



- Family owns 14 ha land
- Iveta owns sauerkraut processing business
- Cabbage fields 4 ha
- Flower plants in greenhouses on spring
- 7 full time employees
- Member of regional rural women klub “Apvarsnis”

# Silvija Dreijere



- Family owns dairy farm
- Mother of 5 children
- Expert on milk issues
- Member of Copa-Cogeca Milk group
- Consultant in Latvian Rural advisory and learning centre

# Dzintra Lejniece



- Leader of Latvian pigs grower association
- Future plan for new family farm



# Raimonda Ribikauska



- Leader of micro-credit programm in Latvia since 1998
- Member of Latvian Rural women association
- Member of regional women organisation “Apvārsnis”
- Business consultant in Latvian advisory and training centre

# Agita Hauka



- Leader of Latvian Farmers federation
- 17 years in local, regional and national NGO sector
- Ambassador of European year for Development 2015
- With experience in farming

# Agnese Hauka



- Expert on rural development
- Represent Latvian farmers in Copa-Cogeca working groups as well as in EC SDG Rural development, Direct payments and greening and CAP
- 15 years in local, regional and national NGO sector
- With childhood experience in farming 😊



# Inga Purviņa

- Ensures technical support for Latvian farmers' organisations on communication with Copa-Cogeca



# Women in rural area

Latvian rural women are economical, political and socially active.

Because they :

- want better life for themselves and their families
- want better living conditions for their children
- care about others
- are creative and adventurous
- want to save traditions and national experience

Mainly through participation in local social activities and rural NGO's

- women increase their knowledge, skills and experience
- that promotes their self-esteem,
- encourages and motivates them to start their own business.



# Women in farms

- Women role in farms
- Gender equality
- Ownership
- Salary
- Family
- Traditions and culture





# Rural women in Latvian media

- Award “Reborn from the ashes” organized by Latvian MEP Sandra Kalniete (since 2012)



- TV show “Looking for traditional Latvian mistress” (on spring, 2015)



# Microcredits for rural women

- **Microcredit movement in Latvia started at the 1998.**
- On **1998 – 2007** the foundation for the microcredits came from the Nordic Council of Ministers and INTEREG III B Project „Female Entrepreneurial Meetings” (FEM).
- The good practice was developed in cooperation with a bank on 2008. On **2008 - 2012** the founding sources for the micro credits for rural women were from the Mortgage and land bank of Latvia and the Support Fund of the entrepreneurship of Rural Women in Latvia.
- On **nowadays** resources are available within the Support Fund of the entrepreneurship of Rural Women in Latvia.

# Results till now

- **More than 70 microcredit groups** in all regions of Latvia have formed since 1998.
- **129 women** got support for business development.
- **new working places are created** within 3 – 5 years in small businesses.

The most common fields of entrepreneurship are

- rural tourism,
- hairdresser and sewer services,
- growing of vegetables and herbal teas, etc.

# Key factors that contribute to or limit women participation and success in agriculture:

- 1) Spouse support is the most important factor. Latvian women are creative and susceptible, but supportive spouse helps to implement the ideas at the farm and life.
- 2) Business idea and financing. Micro-credit program for women business start-ups in rural areas has contributed many individual enterprises that within 3-5 years is transformed into micro-enterprises, providing more jobs for local residents.
- 3) Support and shoulder feeling provided by business consultants or support group (women NGO's).
- 4) The complicated bureaucratic requirements of business implementation restricts each individual's willingness and ability to carry out economic activity.
- 5) Lack of knowledgeable and reliable staff.



The CHALLENGE for women on farms is the ability to stay and to be a woman, maintaining femininity.



**Thank you for your attention!**

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Expert on rural development issues

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NGO “Latvian Farmers’ federation”

[www.lzf.lv/about-us](http://www.lzf.lv/about-us)