

Rural Women, Agriculture and Sustainable Development in the Americas in the Context of COVID-19



OAS | CIM



CIM/OAS Position: Situation of rural women in the context of COVID-19

Washington DC, July 7, 2020. The Inter-American Commission of Women ([CIM](#)) of the Organization of American States ([OAS](#)) presents a [document](#) on the rights of rural women, agriculture and sustainable development the Americas in times of COVID-19.

The position paper published by the CIM/OAS raises three key aspects to understand the problems that rural women experience from a gender perspective: it describes the current situation with data and statistics; highlights the important contribution of rural women to the development and well-being of nations; and lastly, highlights innovative opportunities to improve the quality of life of the more than 58 million rural and indigenous women in the Americas in the context of the pandemic.

“In times of crisis, it is imperative to promote public policies that ensure rural women full access to their rights. The feminization of poverty, discrimination and gender inequality under the law are some of the main obstacles to overcome,” said Janet Camilo, Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic and President of the CIM/OAS.

“We need to recognize that the work that rural women do, often unpaid, is essential for the world's economies, food security and the preservation of the environment. They contribute to sustainable development, to the defense of human rights and to the survival of their communities. It is essential that their work be recognized as part of the value chain,” highlighted Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS.

There are still structural inequalities and socioeconomic policies that limit the full recognition and valuation of rural women’s reproductive, productive and community work. The current moment of crisis may represent an opportunity in the future to change paradigms and build fairer societies based on a new approach to consumption and new pacts from a gender perspective.

Download the document in [English](#) - [Spanish](#)

The [CIM/OAS](#) is the main political forum in the region for the recognition of the human rights of women and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a prominent and strategic role in the promotion of women's rights in the hemisphere.