



# CONNECTING WOMEN: A DRIVER FOR AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION

## PRACTICE ABSTRACT 18

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The FLIARA project's CoP brings together women rural innovators from across Europe. Feedback from participants of in-person events underscore the value of exchange and networking activities offered. For optimal inclusion, FLIARA also offers a CoP LinkedIn space and regular online events and webinars to cater to women's schedules.

**Call for action:** A Thünen Institute study shows in Germany the lack of networks is a hindrance to women-led start-ups in rural areas. It also finds women would like more exchange with other women when founding agri-businesses. A Gender Solution study finds women in agri-food feel most empowered, secure and heard in entrepreneurial support formats tailored to them.

**Inspiring examples:** In Germany the following initiatives currently facilitate women networking in relation to agriculture:

- The German Farmers' Association (DBV) via the 'Kompass-program' offers opportunities to build networks through events and parliamentary meetings
- The German Agricultural Association (DLG) runs the Female Agri Fellows network, connecting women leaders in agri-business.
- The Rural Women's Association (DLV) federal and regional chapters organise events to highlight women in agriculture.
- The Organic Women Network (BioFrauenNetzwerk) fosters collaboration and visibility of women across the organic farm sector.



Angelien Hertgers. Tuinderij De Stroom. The Netherlands.

## Useful links:

- <https://www.bauernverband.de/themendossiers/pflanzenschutz/themendossier/kompass-mehr-frauen-im-verband>
- <https://www.dlg.org/landwirtschaft/netzwerke/female-agri-fellows>;
- <https://www.landfrauen.info/verband>; <https://www.oekolandbau.de/umwelt-und-gesellschaft/bio-branche-im-fokus/biofrauennetzwerk-staerkt-und-vernetzt-frauen/>



**Funded by  
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