



WHAT EXPERTS SAY:

Interview to Christine Singer

Christine Singer is a German politician representing the Free Voters party. She was elected as a [Member of the European Parliament](#) (MEP) in the 2024 European Parliament elections. In addition to her political career, she is an active member of the Bavarian Farmers' Association, where she serves as a representative of the women's section.



GRASS CEILING Horizon Europe (2022-2025) project aims to support the development of a context where women can drive socio-ecological transitions, fostering innovations to address socio-ecological challenges and enhance the resilience of rural areas.

The online [European Policy Forum for women-led innovation in agriculture and rural areas](#) plays a key role in pushing for change and increase women-led socio-ecological innovations in farming, the rural economy and in rural communities. It is coordinated by [Copa-Cogeca](#) and [AEIDL](#) (European Association for Innovation in Local Development).

What are the main challenges for women in agriculture and rural areas?

Women in agriculture often face a **double burden**: not only are they largely responsible for managing or taking responsibility for the farm, but they also traditionally bear the primary responsibility for family care. Additionally, there are **structural disadvantages**, such as more difficult access to land, capital and networks. In addition, rural areas often **lack child-friendly infrastructure, flexible working hours, and childcare services**, which makes it even more difficult for female agricultural entrepreneurs to reconcile family and career. These challenges limit the full potential of women as entrepreneurs and innovators.

What are the key achievements and opportunities arising from Europe's gender equality policies?

Important steps have already been taken to promote

gender equality. Examples include **specific funding programmes for women in rural areas** and support for networks that empower women. I also see a great contribution through the work of rural women's organisations at the state and federal level.

These measures have helped to increase the visibility of women in agriculture and strengthened their role as shapers in the industry. Opportunities lie above all in the **further development of these programmes in order to promote women** even more effectively in areas of (further) education, access to capital and innovation.

What developments are expected in the strategy for gender equality post-2025 and in the roadmap for women's rights?

The EU will further intensify its efforts to promote gender equality. The focus is on **eliminating structural disadvantages through new programmes and legislative measures**, particularly



in rural areas. The future strategy could further advance the topics of social security, innovative education programmes and the strengthening of women's role in decision-making positions. The aim is to **ensure equal access to resources and rights** in all member states.

How should the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) better address the needs of women in the CAP Strategic Plans? What recommendations are there for design and implementation?

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should take greater account of the specific challenges faced by women in the Strategic Plans. These include:

- **Targeted measures:** Additional funding for businesses run by women and for projects in areas of diversification, such as direct marketing or sustainable agriculture.
- **Education and digitalisation:** Expansion of training and coaching opportunities to support women in digitalisation and business management.
- **Infrastructure in rural areas:** Promotion of childcare services, flexible working hours and opportunities that facilitate access to markets and education.

The EU should ensure that these aspects are consistently implemented and regularly evaluated in the National Strategic Plans.

SIGN UP TO THE FORUM



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