International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF)

Event Workshop

WOMEN EMPOWERING AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE – shaping the future

When: November 13, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Landesvertretung Brandenburg
In den Ministergärten 3, 10117 Berlin

In 2026, the United Nations designated the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF) to enhance the visibility of women and underscore their contributions to agriculture and rural development.

Building on this initiative, our workshop **Women Empowering Agricultural Science (weas)** aims to highlight the achievements of women in agricultural science and research, emphasizing their essential role as a key driver of innovation and progress in the sector. This event convenes leading female scientists from agricultural, environmental, engineering, and life sciences to discuss cutting-edge research, technological innovation, and systemic transformation pathways. It further seeks to bridge disciplines and translate basic research into practical applications across agriculture, trade, food security, sustainability, and the systemic resilience of agricultural and food systems.

This workshop serves as the launch of a series of similar events. We propose subsequent gatherings with a global scope, focusing on outstanding female scientists from all continents, with particular emphasis on those from the Global South.

Further information on IYWF: www.fao.org/woman-farmer-2026

Registration to Workshop

www.weas-2026.de/registration

Supporting Organizers

Strategic Dialog and Moderation

Prof. Dr. Martina Schraudner
Technische Universität Berlin, Leitung des Fachgebietes Gender und Diversity in der Technik und Produktentwicklung und Wissenschaftliche Leitung des Fraunhofer CeRRI, Berlin
Technische Universität Berlin, Chair Gender and Diversity in Engineering and Product Development; Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering Center for Responsible Research and Innovation, Berlin

Special remarks

Prof. Dr. Dr. hc. Peter Hegemann, Nobel Prize in Medicine 2026
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institute of Biology, Experimental Biophysics, Germany

Welcoming remarks, in order of appearance

Alois Rainer
Mitglied des Bundestages, Bundesminister für Landwirtschaft, Ernährung und Heimat, Deutschland
Member of the German Bundestag, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity, Germany

Hanka Mittelstädt
Mitglied des Bundesrates, Ministerin für Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft, Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Brandenburg, Deutschland
Member of the German Bundesrat, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Consumer Protection, State of Brandenburg, Germany

Dr. Franziska Kersten
Mitglied des Bundestages, Sprecherin der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Landwirtschaft, Ernährung und Heimat der SPD-Bundestagsfraktion, Deutschland
Member of the German Bundestag, Spokesperson on Agricultural Issues (SPD Parliamentary Group), Germany

Prof. Dr. Frank Ordon
Präsident des Julius Kühn-Instituts (JKI), Quedlinburg, Deutschland
President of the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Quedlinburg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal
Präsidentin der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HUB), Germany
President of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HUB), Germany

Susanne Schulze-Bockeloh
Vizepräsidentin des Deutschen Bauernverbandes (DBV), Berlin, Deutschland
Vice-President, German Farmers' Association (DBV), Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. hc. Andreas Hensel
Präsident des Bundesinstituts für Risikobewertung (BfR), Berlin, Deutschland
President of the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Berlin, Germany

Frank Gemmer
Hauptgeschäftsführer des Industrieverbands Agrar e. V. (IVA), Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland
Chief Executive Officer of the Industrieverband Agrar, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Invited speakers, in order of appearance

Dr. Mariola Acosta
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Strategic Coordinator IYWF of the FAO, Rome, Italy

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Tappeiner
University of Innsbruck, Department of Ecology, Austria and Institute for Alpine Environment, Bozen, Italy

Prof. Dr. Susanne Jochner-Oette
Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Professorship of Physical Geography,Landscape Ecology and Sustainable Ecosystem Development, Germany

Prof. Dr. Petra Kluger
Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (IGB), Stuttgart, and University Stuttgart, Institute of Interfacial Process Engineering and Plasma Technology (IGVP), Germany

PD Dr. Stefanie Gilles
University Augsburg, Environmental Medicine, Research Group Environmental Immunology Environmental Medicine, Germany

Prof. Dr. Rosa Lozano-Durán
University of Tübingen, Center for Plant Molecular Biology (ZMBP) and Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research (MPIPZ), Dep. of Plant virology, Köln, Germany

Prof. Dr. Kristiina Mäkinen
University of Helsinki, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Viikki Plant Science Centre (ViPS), Finland

PD Dr. Katharina Hipp
Max Planck Institute for Biology Tübingen, Electron Microscopy Facility, Germany

Dr. Emanuela Noris
National Research Council (CNR), Institute of sustainable plant protection, Turin, Italy

Dr. Gesa Hoffmann
Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (MPI-MP), Potsdam-Golm, Germany

Dr. Jana Ordon
University of Zürich, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Nicole Steinmetz
University of California San Diego, Center for Nano-ImmunoEngineering (nanoIE) and Center for Engineering in Cancer (CEC), USA

Prof. Dr. Christina Wege
University of Stuttgart, Institute of Biomaterials and Biomolecular Systems, Research Unit Molecular and Synthetic Plant Virology, Germany

Prof. Dr. Chris-Caroline Schön
Technical University of Munich, TUM School of Life Sciences, Plant Breeding, Freising, Germany

Prof. Dr. Linda Avesani
University of Verona, Department of Biotechnology, Italy

Dr. Manuela Ciocca
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Faculty of Engineering and Competence Center for Plant Health, Italy

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Weltzien
Technische Universität Berlin and Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB), Potsdam, Department Agromechatronics, Potsdam, Germany

Prof. Dr. Anne-Kathrin Mahlein
University of Göttingen and University of Bonn and Institute for Sugar Beet Research (IfZ), Göttingen, Germany

Prof. Dr. Tanja Mimmo
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences, Agricultural Chemistry, Italy

Dr. Andrea Krähmer
Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for Ecological Chemistry, Plant Analysis and Stored Product Protection, Berlin, Germany

Prof. Dr. Hannah Schneider
Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Genetics and Physiology of Root Development, Gatersleben, Germany

Prof. Dr. Caroline Stokes
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Albrecht Daniel Thaer Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Food and Health, Germany

Dr. Suzan Fiack
German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Department of Risk Communication, Berlin, Germany

Dr. Ute Vogler
Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for Plant Protection in Horticulture and Urban Green, Braunschweig, Germany

Dr. Sabine Andert
Julius Kühn Institute (JKI), Institute for Plant Protection in Field Crops and Grassland, Braunschweig, Germany

Prof. Dr. Kathrin Blumenstein
University of Freiburg, Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources, Tree and Forest Pathology, Germany

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Berg
Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB), Mikrobiom Biotechnologie Potsdam, and University of Potsdam, Institute for Biochemistry and Biology, and Graz University of Technology, Institute of Environmental Biotechnology, Austria

Scientific program

8:00	**Registration opens**
	Welcome Coffee & Tea
9:00	**Welcome by Workshop Initiator and Organizing Team**
	Prof. Dr. Carmen Büttner (HU-Berlin), **Dr. Ute Vogler** (JKI Braunschweig), **Dr. Martina Bandte** (HU-Berlin), **Prof. Dr. Christina Wege** (University Stuttgart), **Dr. Susanne von Bargen** (HU-Berlin), **Alice Chodura** (technical support, HU-Berlin)
	Prof. Dr. Martina Schraudner, Strategic Dialogue and Moderation TU-Berlin, Chair of Gender and Diversity in Engineering and Product Development, and Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering IAO, Center for Responsible Research and Innovation CeRRI, Berlin
	Special Remarks **Prof. Dr. Dr. hc. Peter Hegemann** **Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2026** Awarded jointly with Karl Deisseroth and Georg Nagel for their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics
	Welcoming Remarks
	Bundesminister Alois Rainer **Landesministerin Hanka Mittelstädt** **Bundestagsabgeordnete Dr. Franziska Kersten** **Präsident Prof. Dr. Frank Ordon** **Präsidentin Prof. Dr. Julia von Blumenthal** **Vize-Präsidentin Susanne Schulze-Bockeloh** **Präsident Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. hc. Andreas Hensel** **Geschäftsführer Frank Gemmer**
10:10	**Opening International Year of the Woman Farmer** **Background to the IYWF and a Bridge to Women Empowering Agricultural Science**
	Dr. Mariola Acosta, Strategic Coordinator of International Year of the Woman Farmer *FAO, Rome, Italy*
10:20	**Environment – One Health – System and Perspectives, and Transformation Research**
	Prof. Dr. Ulrike Tappeiner Farming Futures: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Changing Alps
	Prof. Dr. Susanne Jochner-Oette Phenology and Aerobiology in Agricultural Systems under Climate Change
	Prof. Dr. Petra Kluger Cellular Agriculture in Tomorrow's Food System

	PD Dr. Stefanie Gilles Bioaerosols, Multi-Exposures, and Emergent Threats: A "One Health" Problem
11:05	**Exchange Lounge: Connect and Recharge**
11:35	**Molecular Plant and Microbiome Research**
	Prof. Dr. Rosa Lozano-Durán Investigating Geminiviruses for Future Crop Resilience
	Prof. Dr. Kristiina Mäkinen Modification of Susceptibility Genes in Crops as a Source of Virus Resistance
	PD Dr. Katharina Hipp Towards a Molecular Understanding of Organismal Interaction
	Dr. Emanuela Noris Barbarian Invasions of Crops: Geminivirus Outbreaks and Genome Plasticity in the Era of Climate Change
	Dr. Gesa Hoffmann FISHing in the Deep: Elucidating the Molecular Basis of Virus Seed Transmission
	Dr. Jana Ordon Plant Immunity in a Microbial World: Immunomodulation by Plant Microbiota
12:45	**Interdisciplinary Cross Talk**
13:30	**Exchange Lounge: Lunchbreak**
14:15	**Plant Biotechnology & Digital Phenotyping**
	Prof. Dr. Nicole Steinmetz From Leaves to Launchpads: Plant-Made Biologics for Cancer, Crops, and Cosmos
	Prof. Dr. Christina Wege From Crops to Chips: Plant Virus-Based Bio-Interfaces in Greener Than Ever Technologies?
	Prof. Dr. Chris-Carolin Schön The Value of Genetic Resources for Sustainable Crop Production
	Prof. Dr. Linda Avesani How Plant-Made Nanomaterials Could Tame Autoimmunity
15:00	**Agricultural Engineering, Sensor Systems & Digital Agriculture**
	Dr. Manuela Ciocca Engineering Plant Bio-Interfaces: Biosafe Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture
	Prof. Dr. Cornelia Weltzien Will Agricultural Robotics Support Sustainability?
	Prof. Dr. Anne-Kathrin Mahlein Digitalisation in Plant Protection - from Research to Practice
15:35	**Exchange Lounge: Connect and Recharge**

16:20	**Agroecology, Nutrition & Application Systems & Communication**
	Prof. Dr. Tanja Mimmo Healthy Soils for Europe: Connecting Science, Policy and Practice
	Dr. Andrea Krähmer Make Diversity Great Again – How to Shape E for a Resilient Y=GxMxE?
	Prof. Dr. Hannah Schneider Root Anatomy and Soil Resource Capture
	Prof. Dr. Caroline Stokes From Plant to Plate to Planet: Nutrition in Food Systems
	Dr. Suzan Fiack Risk Communication for Safe and Sustainable Food Systems
17:20	**Plant Protection and Tree Health**
	Dr. Ute Vogler Plant Protection in Horticulture
	Dr. Sabine Andert Agroecological Weed Control - Challenges and Opportunities
	Prof. Dr. Kathrin Blumenstein Tree–Pathogen Interactions in Forests and Urban Areas under Climate Stress
	Prof. Dr. Gabriele Berg Understanding the Environmental Microbiome for One Health
18:05	**Short Break**
18:15	**Interdisciplinary Cross Talk**
19:00	**End of Workshop**
20:00	**Networking Dinner**
	Conference Dinner for Networking and Discussion **Alte Pumpe Gastronomie,** Lützowstraße 42, 10785 Berlin (Bus M48 or M85 to “Lützowstr./Potsdamer Str.”)

Art Exhibition accompanying the Workshop

„Mirrors of female presence“:
Artworks by Simone Westphal will be exhibited in the hall of the Brandenburg State Representation during the workshop at November 13, 2026.
www.simone-westphal.de

Sponsors and Partners