

– AGROPARITECH -WATER FOR ALL CHAIR  
WORLD WATER DAY 2023

**THEME: Accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis**

**“There is nothing about us without us”**

For women, the water crisis is personal. They are responsible for finding a resource their families need to survive - hence given an opportunity to change the narratives they do it with all their might. Women are for example absent on the decision table where water production and distribution are discussed, including where sanitation designs are decided. They are at the receiving end meanwhile they are managers and users of these services at the receiving end (household level). This sub-theme come at a perfect time when we need to involve women participation so as to promote their involvement in matters that concern them.

Challenges in the sector

1. **Gender stereotype** that have resulted into the gender biases in terms of career choice. Thus male dominance in the field favor them in terms of tools/equipment and machinery, WASH infrastructure. This has fitted in the belief that women are weak and thus cannot operate certain machinery (made for men in the first place).

2. On the other hand most **women cannot participate in any meaningful economic activities** to better their lives because they spend a lot of hours fetching water for their families for food and cleaning. That's why we need a policy shift which can only be created when women are given a place at the table to change the dynamics, reshape the conversation, and make sure women's voices are heard and not overlooked.

**3. Women cannot realize their full potential**

Generally water sector has been dominated by males because of stereotypes as women are considered weak and may not succeed in certain leadership positions in the sector because of the nature of operations. As a result, Career growth in the water sector for women has been a challenge though we have seen some considerable number of women taking up Careers in water, but we are still behind and we need to push the numbers if our impact is to be felt.

Hence we need women at all levels of leadership, including the top so they can represent even the marginalized women in the society

**To promote women participation in the sector –**

- ✓ STEM subjects in schools to encourage girls
- ✓ Mentorship programs, trainings – Networking, Most successful women attribute their success largely to strong mentorships.
- ✓ ‘We need policies that are family friendly to encourage women in WASH and reduce turnover of women in the sector
- ✓ Our governance system should deliberately put in systems that will help women thrive in the sector these include automation of processes that require hard labor
- ✓ Gender Mainstreaming of process and procedures and ensure no one is left behind

- ✓ Special Career advancement programs targeted for women in the sector
- ✓ Battling Leadership and exemplarity of Managers
- ✓ . Be Attractive to catch the Good Executive Leaders and Managers in the domain of water and sanitation and to keep them !
- ✓ 2. Coach topmanagers **along their professional lives** to adapt the water frameworks

3. To Invest in Executives capacity building programmes and Human resources is a good return on investment

- Ms. Aura Maria Bustillo / MS. Beatriz Brandão, Education Lisbon / Womenvai
- Ms. Ruth A. Richardson International Network of Liberal Women/ Dutch Water Authority
- Ms. Carola Hein/ Mr.Matteo D'Agostino UNESCO Chair Water Ports and Historic Cities
- Li An Phoa; Drinkable Rivers,
- Mr. Marcel Sanches – SABESP - WWC and Public agent of Sao Paulo
- Ms. Lylian COELHO FERREIRA, AgroParisTech-SUEZ Water for All Chair
- Ms. Geraldine M'Pouma-Longo/ Leticia Ackun Africa Water and Sanitation Academy (AWSA)
- Ms. Mara Ruth Hercelin ; Caese Education, University of Campinas; São Paulo, Brazil
- Ms. Fleur Newman UNFCCC;
- Mr. Omar Sène, Directeur de l'assainissement du Sénégal
- Ms Hakima El Haité - Morocco and Africa (speaker)
- Ms Mary Muoria AgroParistech Water for All , Kenya
- Ms. Dawn MUTEKANGA Shannon AgroParistech Water for All Chair, Uganda
- Mr. Jean Antoine Faby / Maria Magana AgroParisTech Water for All Chair
- Ms. Marie-Hélène Aubert/ Working Group SDG6 PfE -Partenariat-francais-eau
- Amara Sanafo – ONAD Cote d'Ivoire