



NEWS REPORT: RIKOLTO

First National Forum on Soil Management, Land Tenure, and the Contributions of Rural Women

On July 22, 2025, more than 300 participants from across Honduras gathered at the W.L. Mittak Auditorium of the National University of Forest Sciences (UNACIFOR) in Siguatepeque, Comayagua, for the First National Forum on Soil Management, Land Tenure, and the Contributions of Rural Women. The event brought together representatives from academic institutions, government agencies (such as SAG and INA), civil society organizations, private sector actors in agriculture and forestry, rural communities, and international cooperation partners.

The forum aimed to foster national dialogue on critical issues linking soil management, land tenure, and gender equity. In particular, it recognized the vital role rural women play in advancing sustainable food systems and sought to amplify their voices in national policy conversations. The forum explored gaps between land policies and implementation; the importance of equitable land access in building resilient food systems; strategies to strengthen the capacities of rights holders, decision-makers, and social auditors and; ways to promote inclusive leadership and community-level advocacy, especially by rural women.

The forum increased awareness on the need for equitable land policies, documentation, and collaboration among institutions working on gender and land rights. The event also contributed to the national roadmap for people-centered food systems, reinforcing commitments from national actors and inspiring tangible follow-up by the Interinstitutional Gender Committee.

Key challenges discussed included: fragmented land policies and limited representation of rural women in decision-making spaces. However, participants emphasized that multi-stakeholder forums, like this one, are essential for enabling collective ownership, accountability, and inclusive solutions. Promoting rural women's active participation and leadership emerged as a core recommendation for future policy engagement.

