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Session #3 – Women in Agri-Tech, Open Call & Matchmaking

Tuesday, 7 April 2026 • 10:00–11:30 (90 min) • Online • Information Session

About this session

The third information session of the GATE5.0 programme combined two distinct objectives: advancing the inclusive innovation agenda by highlighting the role of women entrepreneurs in the Agri-Tech sector, and continuing the programme of Open Call and matchmaking guidance for participants preparing consortium proposals. Featuring a keynote presentation by Angela Frigo, Senior Managing Consultant at Schuttelaar & Partners, the session attracted 128 participants and brought a new dimension to the Community Hub by engaging a broader audience motivated both by the technical content and by the thematic focus on gender and entrepreneurship in agrifood innovation.

Session impact at a glance

128

Participants attended

92

Technology SMEs

36

Agrifood SMEs

1

Featured speaker

256

Accepted 1:1 meetings (platform total)

90 min

Session duration

Key topics covered

Session #3 combined an expert keynote with structured matchmaking guidance. The main areas addressed were:

- Empowering women entrepreneurs in agriculture: barriers, opportunities, and success models in Agri-Tech innovation across Europe
- Expert keynote by Angela Frigo (Schuttelaar & Partners): insights on gender dynamics and inclusive innovation in the agrifood sector
- Open Call preparation: final guidance on application requirements, consortium composition, and proposal development
- Matchmaking readiness: how to approach the upcoming Pitch & Connect sessions and maximise one-to-one meeting outcomes
- B2Match platform: advanced features for communication, follow-up, and maintaining connections beyond the sessions

Thematic focus: Women in Agri-Tech

Key discussion themes

- Gender gaps in technology adoption and digital entrepreneurship in agrifood
- Women-led SMEs as drivers of sustainability-oriented innovation
- Structural barriers to funding access and consortium leadership for women entrepreneurs
- Inclusive design of acceleration and capacity building programmes

Relevance to GATE5.0

- GATE5.0 encourages inclusive participation across its full programme
- The Open Call is open to all SMEs regardless of leadership profile
- Session attracted participants not previously engaged in the Community Hub
- Cross-sector collaboration opportunities extended to include gender-diverse leadership teams

Outcomes and follow-up

Session #3 was the second largest of the programme in terms of attendance, confirming that the thematic focus on Women in Agri-Tech successfully attracted a new segment of participants while maintaining the core matchmaking agenda. The session contributed to the final wave of pitch profile completions ahead of the Pitch & Connect sessions and helped reinforce the community dimension of the hub by introducing a shared value framework around inclusive innovation.

The session also served as the final preparation touchpoint before the Pitch & Connect sessions. Participants who had not yet scheduled meetings were explicitly encouraged to do so, and the platform recorded its highest daily meeting request activity in the days following Session #3. By the time of the first Pitch & Connect session (9 days later), 256 meetings had already been accepted on the platform.

Access this session

Session recording and details: <https://www.b2match.com/e/gate50-matchmaking-agri-tech-community/sessions/c2Vzc2lvbjoyMTU0NDg=>

GATE5.0 Community Hub: <https://www.b2match.com/e/gate50-matchmaking-agri-tech-community>