



Canada geese flying in typical V-formation over Lake Winnipeg. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change, organizational development and international development. Information is shared with members, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse organizations.

The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of AIC.

If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

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Contents

Opportunities and Coming Events

1.	2018 Clean Cooking Investment Forum.....	2
2.	Webinar: Accelerating Women’s Digital Financial Inclusion	3
3.	#GLOBALDEWOMEN Virtual Career Fair	3
4.	Webinar: Gender and biodiversity conservation - progress and future directions.....	3
5.	Webinar: Making sense of ‘intersectionality’	4
6.	World Toilet Day	4
7.	Call for Proposals: Status of Women Canada’s Women’s Program.....	4
8.	Applications to Commonwealth Foundation	5

This Month’s News

1.	The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)	5
2.	G20 Women’s Summit Pushes for Rural Women’s Rights.....	6
3.	Sex-disaggregated data on climate-smart agriculture in CCAFS publications	6
4.	Identifying hotspots for gender-focused climate-smart interventions	6
5.	Weather forecasts for all: Improving access to weather information for women and ethnic minorities.....	7
6.	Targeting the priorities of rural women is crucial for meeting global climate goals.....	7
7.	Concordia engineering school becomes first in Canada named after a woman as alumna donates \$15-million	7
8.	Entrepreneurial about Gender Equality	7

9.	When Gender Parity Knocks at the UN Door, Does Merit Fly Out of the Window?	8
10.	With Good Nutrition, She'll Grow Into It: A campaign	8
11.	Girl Effect and Nutrition International partner to transform girls' nutrition through mobile phones.....	9
12.	Gender equality in the cocoa trade: Two female farmers from Cote d'Ivoire re-address the balance	9
13.	Women are advancing the march to protect biodiversity.....	9
14.	Newsletter of NSERC Chair for Women in Science & Engineering in the Prairie region	10
15.	Human male urine bricks invented by South African students	10
16.	Rich in Agriculture, Madagascar Suffers from Extreme Malnutrition	10
17.	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Nutrition Programme	11
18.	Africa's Fast-Growing Population: Tackling Youth Unemployment and Capturing the Demographic Dividend.....	11
19.	"Counting the Beans: The True Cost of a Plate of Food Around the World" index.....	12

Reports, Publications, and Resources

1.	What works for gender norm change? Enhancing gender-inclusive agricultural development programming.	12
2.	Canada's Gender Equity Roadmap	13
3.	An analysis of efforts to scale up clean household energy for cooking around the world	13
4.	Women in Food and Farming	13
5.	Recorded Event: Can farming improve the lives of rural women and girls?	14
6.	Innovation Management Competencies Associated with High-Performing Managers	14
7.	Gendered voices for climate action, a theory of change for the meaningful inclusion of local experiences in decision-making	15
8.	Video: Food, sisterhood and dreams.....	15
9.	Only one in five millennials expect to see global gender equality in their lifetime	15
10.	Identifying Pathways for More Gender-Sensitive Communication Channels in Climate Services	16
11.	Gender and climate risk management: evidence of climate information use in Ghana	16
12.	Briefing Paper: Changing the lives of rural women and girls for the better.....	17
13.	New IMAGES Research Reveals Challenges to and Momentum Toward Gender Equality in Tanzania	17
14.	Shifting Social Norms in the Economy for Women's Economic Empowerment	18

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. 2018 Clean Cooking Investment Forum

<https://clean-cooking-investment-forum.b2match.io/>

The 2018 Clean Cooking Investment Forum on **5-6 November 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda**. The Forum is a first-of-its-kind, private sector-oriented conference to convene business leaders, investors, donors and government representatives to collaborate on developing an industry at scale to deliver modern, clean cooking solutions around the world, with a special focus on East Africa. The Clean Cooking Investment Forum is part of the Rwanda Sustainable Energy Week 2018.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Webinar: Accelerating Women’s Digital Financial Inclusion

<https://seepnetwork.org/Event/Accelerating-Digital-Financial-Inclusion-of-Women>

Webinar: **Thursday, November 8, 9:30 - 10:30 AM (US EST)**

Digital technology is key to expanding access to financial services for women. Digital financial services can help improve women’s access to and control over income, savings, and assets. However, across low- and middle-income countries, significant gender gaps persist in terms of women’s access to and use of digital technologies and formal financial services.

This webinar will explore how development practitioners can work innovatively with banks, mobile operators, technology firms, and regulators to address this gap. Presenters from AWEF, Women’s World Banking, and the African Management Initiative will showcase how a variety of approaches can work effectively in diverse contexts, factors that impact success and ways in which development practitioners/organizations can engage government and private sector partners to accelerate progress on the digital financial inclusion agenda.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. #GLOBALDEWOMEN Virtual Career Fair

<https://pages.devex.com/global-dev-women-2018>

Linking top global development organizations, companies, and agencies with the best talent to advance women’s leadership. Gender inclusion is a core tenet of global development work, yet, as a sector we have a long way to go to reach gender parity, particularly in leadership. This two-day virtual career fair – aimed at advancing women’s leadership in development – gives mid-to-senior level self-identified women professionals the opportunity to connect with top global development organizations, implementers, and agencies from around the globe. All candidates are pre-vetted by Devex recruitment experts and have at least seven years of professional experience.

Register in advance. November 13-14, 2018. Online.

The Devex online career fair allows you to step into a virtual career hall and connect with recruiters from a range of global organizations, no matter where in the world you are. The fair is run on the VFairs platform which allows you to:

- Chat and video chat directly with recruiters
- Chat to other participants
- Access virtual swag bags with content shared by exhibiting organizations
- Contact a dedicated Helpdesk for real-time assistance should you run into any issues

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Webinar: Gender and biodiversity conservation - progress and future directions

<https://www.iied.org/iied-webinar-gender-biodiversity-conservation-progress-future-directions>

Join IIED on **November 13, 2018 at 2-3:30pm GMT** for the webinar ‘**Gender and biodiversity conservation - progress and future directions**’. We will discuss historical trends and future possibilities for promoting gender equality and equity in biodiversity conservation.

We’ll hear from speakers from policy, NGO and research perspectives who will address four questions looking back over the last 15 years:

- To what extent has there been progress towards gender equality/equity in conservation (rhetoric and genuine change)?

- What has brought this about/constrained progress?
- What difference is this making in terms of social and conservation outcomes?
- Where are we going from here in terms of gender equality/equity in conservation?

This webinar is designed for anyone interested in gender in the context of conservation policy and practice at any level, from local to global.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Webinar: Making sense of ‘intersectionality’

<http://gender.cgiar.org/webinar-2018-intersectionality/>

Do you want to learn more about gender research in agriculture and natural resource management?

Check out the webinar on “Making sense of ‘intersectionality’”, by CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research on **Thursday November 15 (3.00-4.30pm CET)**. The webinar is organized in collaboration with the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA).

The webinar aims to introduce ‘intersectionality’ to researchers working on applied agriculture and natural resource management research who are unfamiliar with the term and/or unsure about how to apply them in their research. Practitioners and policymakers who are concerned with using data, evidence and analyses to ensure that ‘no one is left behind’ – one of the core promises of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development – would also find this webinar to be useful.

There is an increasing recognition within applied agriculture and natural resource management research that gender equality is a goal in its own right; and accordingly, considerable efforts and resources are now being devoted to ‘mainstreaming gender’ in research and in demonstrating how research contributes to gender transformative change. While these are positive developments, ‘gender’ is still interpreted in simplistic and binary ways.

One of the major reason behind these shortfalls is the gulf between applied research and gender/feminist theories. Gender research in agriculture and natural resource management has yet to engage consistently with the concept of ‘intersectionality,’ or intersecting and interacting identities, even as the term is viewed as a gold standard in gender and feminist studies.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. World Toilet Day

<http://www.worldtoiletday.info/wtd2018/>

November 19 is annual World Toilet Day to raise awareness about water and sanitation health issues, including access to toilets for menstrual hygiene management. 4.5 billion people live without a household toilet that safely disposes of their waste. World Toilet Day is about inspiring action to tackle the global sanitation crisis.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

7. Call for Proposals: Status of Women Canada’s Women’s Program

<https://swc-cfc.gc.ca/fun-fin/cfp-adp/2018-1/index-en.html?fbclid=IwAR2mLjs4EyPcYiY5a2J9oGrWZfDDEbs7XZN023LnTPvlea72zH7znE4kqX0>

Status of Women Canada is inviting women’s organizations and Indigenous organizations serving women that work to advance gender equality to submit proposals for projects under the Capacity-building Fund call for proposals. The objective of this Call for Proposals (CFP) is to fund proposals that will increase the capacity of eligible women’s and Indigenous

organizations whose initiatives contribute to a viable women’s movement in Canada to advance gender equality. Funding will increase organizational capacity and help organizations work collectively to address gender equality issues.

Deadline for submission: **December 11, 2018, at 11:59 a.m. Pacific Time**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

8. Applications to Commonwealth Foundation

<https://commonwealthfoundation.com/grants/>

The Foundation offers grants of up to £200,000 over four years in support of innovative project ideas and approaches that seek to strengthen the ability of civic voices to engage with governments and that have the potential to improve governance and development outcomes through their active participation.

All proposals must ensure that the cross-cutting theme of gender is mainstreamed throughout the project. We are interested in supporting projects that strengthen civic voice so that it:

- Is more effective in holding governance institutions to account
- Enhances involvement in policy processes
- Shapes public discourse

Your project should address one or both of the following outcomes and may include the use of creative expression to achieve project aims:

1. Stronger civic voices engaging in policy processes to hold government to account
2. Public discourse more reflective of less-heard voices

Preliminary applications for the 2018/2019 call will be accepted from 1 November 2018 at 12pm Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). **The deadline for preliminary applications is 7 January 2019 at 5pm GMT.**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

This Month’s News

1. The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)

<https://www.ifpri.org/event/pro-weai-new-tool-measuring-womens-empowerment-agricultural-development-projects>

Earlier this year, the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, Phase 2 (GAAP2) launched the pilot version of the project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI), a new survey-based index for measuring empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector. On **October 25th**, the GAAP2 team will introduce the latest version of the pro-WEAI at a special event at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC.

The pro-WEAI builds on the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) and is adapted for project use with a closer focus on aspects of empowerment related to health and nutrition. The index is being developed by the GAAP2 project, a learning and capacity-building initiative led by IFPRI that works with 13 agricultural development projects. GAAP2 is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Feed the Future (led by USAID), and the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH).

The event will include panelists representing organizations that are potential users of pro-WEAI, who will discuss how the tool can support knowledge management in their projects. The discussion will also solicit feedback from the broader development community, including donors, NGOs, and the private sector, about pro-WEAI’s usefulness in promoting women’s empowerment in agricultural projects and as part of national statistical surveys, and further discuss what policy implications can be derived from these analyses.

2. G20 Women's Summit Pushes for Rural Women's Rights

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/10/g20-womens-summit-pushes-rural-womens-rights/>

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 5 2018 (IPS) - Rural women play a key role in food production, but face discrimination when it comes to access to land or are subjected to child marriage, the so-called affinity group on gender parity within the G20 concluded during a meeting in the Argentine capital.

The situation of rural women was one of the four themes of the Women 20 Summit (W20). Women 20 is one of the seven sectors of civil society operating in the context of the G20 (Group of 20), which brings together industrialised and emerging countries and which this year is chaired by Argentina.

The mission of these affinity groups is to make recommendations to the main world leaders, who will meet in Buenos Aires for their annual summit from Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

However, in a day of private meetings and two days of public exhibitions on women's rights and gender issues, held Oct. 1-3, peasant and indigenous women were conspicuously absent, during debates on the invisibility of rural women and their role in development.

In the case of the W20 document, it called for the promotion of economic participation and inclusion of rural women in decision-making, through the allocation of funds to strengthen cooperatives and enterprises and promote access to credit.

In addition to rural development, the other three themes of the W20 were labour, digital and financial inclusion.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Sex-disaggregated data on climate-smart agriculture in CCAFS publications

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/sex-disaggregated-data-climate-smart-agriculture-ccafs-publications#.W9EADWhKjIU>

The inclusion of gender analysis and the collection of sex-disaggregated data in agriculture research can improve food security and increase productivity and incomes.

The Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Gender and Social Inclusion Unit compiled a list of CCAFS publication with sex-disaggregated data on climate-smart agriculture. You can find over 100 publications categorized by regions.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Identifying hotspots for gender-focused climate-smart interventions

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/research-highlight/identifying-hotspots-gender-focused-climate-smart-interventions#.W9EBAGhKjIU>

In a recently published paper, "*Woman in agriculture, and climate risks: hotspots for development*," by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), "hotspots" for climate risks and women in agriculture have been identified. The intention of the study is to inform policy makers and development practitioners on which geographic regions should be prioritized, based on necessity, for implementing climate change adaptation measures for female farmers.

Definitions: what are hotspots? Hotspots are defined in the study as regions with high concentrations of women farmers impacted by a high degree of climatic risk.

Drought, extreme rainfall and heat waves, all of which have a substantial negative impact on major crops, are the three types of climatic risks that were mapped using gridded data from the Indian Meteorological Department.

5. Weather forecasts for all: Improving access to weather information for women and ethnic minorities

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/weather-forecasts-all-improving-access-weather-information-women-and-ethnic-minorities#.W9EB1WhKjIV>

As climate change reshapes weather patterns, forecasting helps smallholder farmers protect themselves and their farms against erratic weather. Smallholder farmers, however, especially women and ethnic minorities, are often unable to fully access and make use of meteorological data. An ongoing project in Vietnam’s My Loi Climate-Smart Village (CSV) helps to give marginalized groups access to weather information and use it to inform decision making.

6. Targeting the priorities of rural women is crucial for meeting global climate goals

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/targeting-priorities-rural-women-crucial-meeting-global-climate-goals#.W9ECU2hKjIV>

Agriculture faces a number of challenges, including increased food demand, population growth, and climate change. If the sector is to overcome these issues, women, including their roles and perspectives, must be prioritized in rural development.

Key features of such an approach to Climate Smart Agriculture CSA implementation include:

- Technology design and implementation that fit women’s knowledge, priorities, and perspectives.
- Listening to the perspectives of women, which is proven to produce successful innovations.
- Actively involving rural women in the design of services and customizing communication channels, because when women have access to climate information, they use it.
- Training women in improved production methods.
- Access to climate finance for women.

7. Concordia engineering school becomes first in Canada named after a woman as alumna donates \$15-million

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-concordia-engineering-school-becomes-first-in-canada-named-after-a/>

Gina Cody arrived in Montreal, Canada with \$2,000 in her pocket and little more than a dream to become an engineer. It was 1979. Her homeland of Iran was in the throes of a revolution, and she escaped on the last flight out. Now, she is donating \$15-million to her alma mater, a gift that will be used to increase diversity in a traditionally male-dominated field. The Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science becomes the first engineering faculty in Canada – and one of the first internationally – to be named after a woman.

The gift will endow three research chairs and offer scholarships aimed at boosting diversity in a field in which women remain the exception. Women account for only 20 per cent of students in undergraduate engineering programs in Canada and fewer than 13 per cent of working engineers.

8. Entrepreneurial about Gender Equality

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/10/entrepreneurial-gender-equality/>

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 1 2018 (IPS) - Asia and the Pacific needs more women entrepreneurs. Women’s economic empowerment and gender equality depend on it, as does the inclusive economic growth needed to achieve the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. This drives a new initiative by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, generously supported by Global Affairs Canada, focused on improving women entrepreneurs’ access to finance in our region.

For women wanting to start or expand a business, access to finance is key. 70 percent of women-owned micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are underserved by financial institutions in developing countries. Women struggle to borrow in a region where land is required as collateral but where very few are landowners. So women-owned enterprises are consistently smaller and concentrated in less profitable sectors.

To inform policies which strengthen women’s rights and access to justice; reforms which update inheritance and property regimes; and legislation which stops credit being extended according to gender or marital status. For such a broad challenge, we will bring women entrepreneurs and policy makers together, to build a gender sensitive response across policy areas and governments.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

9. When Gender Parity Knocks at the UN Door, Does Merit Fly Out of the Window?

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/10/gender-parity-knocks-un-door-merit-fly-window/>

As gender empowerment gathers momentum, both inside and outside the United Nations, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is expected to announce shortly a set of new proposals to improve UN human resources policies— specifically aimed at increasing gender and geographical diversity within the Secretariat.

But his recent proposals to amend UN staff rules and regulations to further advance gender parity at the United Nations, have triggered a strong protest from the Geneva-based federation of UN staffers worldwide.

In January 2017, a Gender Parity Task Force was established to come up with a clear roadmap, with benchmarks and timeframes, to achieve parity across the system, according to the UN.

The Task Force, consisting of staff from more than 30 UN entities, was divided into subgroups focusing on:

- Data / setting targets / establishing common definitions of what is being measured / accountability
- Special measures
- Senior Appointments
- Mission Settings
- Enabling environment / organizational culture / policies related to work environment

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

10. With Good Nutrition, She’ll Grow Into It: A campaign

<https://www.canwach.ca/article/good-nutrition-shell-grow-it-campaign-touched-hearts-and-minds-and-helped-us-learn>

Two billion people around the world suffer from malnutrition, but it is not often acknowledged how girls are disproportionately affected more than boys.

Often eating least and last, girls experience anaemia at a higher rate than boys, for example, which has ripple effects on their performance at school and later in life.

At a time of increased attention on women and girls’ rights and well-being, it seemed important to us at Nutrition International to remind the global development community that if we are serious about promoting gender equality and creating better conditions for girls to “empower” themselves and achieve their dreams, nutrition is a critical part of the equation.

At the same time, we needed to recognize the existing social barriers that also hold girls back. On last year's International Day of the Girl Child, we launched the With Good Nutrition She'll Grow Into It campaign to raise awareness of the mutually reinforcing relationship between nutrition and gender equality. We wanted to make crystal clear the role of nutrition in helping girls achieve their dreams.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

11. Girl Effect and Nutrition International partner to transform girls' nutrition through mobile phones

<https://www.nutritionintl.org/2018/06/girl-effect-and-nutrition-international-partner-to-transform-girls-nutrition-through-mobile/>

Girl Effect, the creative non-profit using media and mobile technology to empower girls to change their lives, and Nutrition International, the global nutrition organisation working to transform the lives of vulnerable people by improving their nutritional status, announced in June 2018 a two-year partnership to tackle the lack of knowledge about nutrition among adolescent girls in Indonesia.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, has some of the most worrying nutrition statistics globally. Poor nutrition among young people in particular is widespread – for example, rates of stunted growth due to malnutrition are incredibly high, at more than 36% (the world's average is 25%). On the other hand, Indonesia's digital landscape is fast evolving; 30% of the population accesses the internet through a phone and 130 million people use Facebook.

This opens up an opportunity to connect with millions of adolescent girls where they are, on their phones, in a way that has never before been possible. The innovative partnership supported through funding by the Government of Canada will see Nutrition International and Girl Effect come together to create and disseminate nutrition specific content that girls will love and interact with.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

12. Gender equality in the cocoa trade: Two female farmers from Cote d'Ivoire re-address the balance

https://www.confectionerynews.com/Article/2018/10/16/Gender-equality-in-the-cocoa-trade-two-female-farmers-from-Cote-d-Ivoire-readdress-the-balance?fbclid=IwAR3LX191O8T4cuKc0B75Jy-UMIM0FZH_8jCmWJ1FwTGp_aNv4xAG8fsOyJY#.W8dH46OnNA4.twitter

Two women with senior roles in their cocoa cooperatives in Cote d'Ivoire, outline the main issues affecting women on plantations and explain how the Fairtrade Women's School of Leadership has changed their lives.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

13. Women are advancing the march to protect biodiversity

<https://www.iied.org/role-influence-impact-women-biodiversity-conservation>

Ahead of the November UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD), IIED has launched a series of blogs and interviews illustrating the role, influence and impact of women working to safeguard the world's biodiversity. From providing clean air to fresh water, and fertile soils to nutritious food, biodiversity underpins the health of our planet and the well-being of those living in it. A new series of articles from IIED running up to the UN summit tells the stories of women across the world who are working to conserve and manage our earth's precious biodiversity. The first blog in the collection by Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Dr Cristiana Paşca Palmer, explores how women – as agents of change and front runners – can be empowered to build new pathways to sustainability.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

14. Newsletter of NSERC Chair for Women in Science & Engineering in the Prairie region

http://cwse-prairies.ca/pages/newsletters/19_CWSE_Prairies_Oct_2018_Newsletter.pdf

The CWSE-Prairies is pleased to bring you the October 2018 issue of our newsletter. Read about the recent activities of the NSERC Chair for Women in Science & Engineering in the Prairie region.

Articles include:

- Understanding the 'Climate' of Academic Workplaces
- ICAN-WISE scholarship program for its fifth year, creating opportunities for university students in the sciences / engineering to gain research experience. ICAN-WISE is the Integrated Collaborative Academic Network for Women in Science and Engineering
- Verna J. Kirkness program for Science and Engineering Education has continued to create opportunities for Indigenous youth to explore an education in STEM
- The CWSE-Prairies and the FFDC have sought out several women with interesting careers in agriculture, and with the help of Frank Digital Studios, have created videos of these women describing their work

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

15. Human male urine bricks invented by South African students

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-45978942>

The engineering students at the University of Cape Town (UCT) have been harvesting urine from men's toilets. After first making a solid fertiliser, the leftover liquid is then used in a biological process "to grow" what the university calls "bio-bricks". The process is called microbial carbonate precipitation. The bacteria produce an enzyme that breaks down urea in the urine, forming calcium carbonate, which then binds the sand into rock hard, grey bricks. "It's essentially the same way that coral is made in the ocean," Dyllon Randall, their supervisor at the University of Cape Town, told the BBC.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

16. Rich in Agriculture, Madagascar Suffers from Extreme Malnutrition

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/10/rich-agriculture-madagascar-suffers-extreme-malnutrition/>

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar, Oct 24 2018 (IPS) - As much as 80 percent of Madagascar's population of 24 million people is involved in agriculture and the country's economy largely depends on the sector, yet 48 percent of households are faced with food insecurity according to the [National Nutrition Office](#) (NNO). Over 70 percent of households live below the national poverty line of 535,603 Malagasy ariary per year (1 U.S. dollar equals 3,447.50 ariary).

Madagascar is the fifth most malnourished country in the World, the NNO says. Slightly more than 47 percent of children under five years are stunted meaning nearly one in two children are malnourished.

According to the DHS Survey in 2010, acute malnutrition affected 27 percent of young women 15–19 years old in 2009, especially in rural areas. Anemia is present in 35 percent of women 15–49 years old.

Raising public awareness of the National Plan of Action on Nutrition is key to its overall success. This is being addressed, in part, by community sensitization through television, radio, and print media.

Madagascar is among the pilot countries in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Nutrition Programme, and as agents of change, Girl Guides in Madagascar are joining the campaign to fight malnutrition through advocacy and communications. We have taken part in the design of the nutrition curriculum, and currently, 80, 000 members in all 22 administrative regions (even in extreme rural areas) are involved in the movement in Madagascar

The youth advocates pool, a group of Girl Guides involved in nutrition advocacy in Madagascar, will help promote sensitization through online portals and in-person meetings in communities. The pool will help deliver public education from the nutrition program curriculum and speak at relevant nutrition events in our country.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

17. World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Nutrition Programme

<https://www.wagggg.org/en/what-we-do/girl-powered-nutrition/>

We're working in partnership with Nutrition International to ensure that every girl can access good nutrition. Girls are disproportionately affected by poor nutrition. Ensuring that girls have good knowledge about nutrition can help to stop malnutrition continuing from one generation to the next. Our vision is that healthy and well-nourished girls are able to reach their full potential and are empowered to take actions to break the cycle of malnutrition. We are delivering this new programme in partnership with five of our Member Organisations:

- BANGLADESH GIRL GUIDE ASSOCIATION (BGGA)
- SKOTISMA ZAZAVAVY ETO MADAGASIKARA (MADAGASCAR GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION; SZM)
- GIRL SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES (GSP)
- SRI LANKA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION (SLGGA)
- TANZANIA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION (TGGA)

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

18. Africa's Fast-Growing Population: Tackling Youth Unemployment and Capturing the Demographic Dividend

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/10/africas-fast-growing-population-tackling-youth-unemployment-capturing-demographic-dividend/>

GENEVA, Oct 26 2018 (IOM) - Africa's population is growing at an astonishing rate. By 2050, the number of people on the continent will climb to 2.5 billion. By the same year, the United Nations predicts that nearly half of the countries in Africa will double their populations. While regions such as Europe have virtually stopped growing, Africa's population growth shows no signs of slowing.

The number of young people without employment is staggeringly high. In sub-Saharan Africa youth unemployment stood at nearly 14 per cent in 2017. But this is dwarfed by North Africa, whose youth unemployment rate was estimated to be 29 per cent in the same year. With 60 per cent of its population below the age of 25, Africa is the world's "youngest" continent. And as the region's population continues to grow rapidly, the demand for jobs is bound to increase.

Free movement, as it pertains to labour, is only part of the solution. It is not the panacea for Africa's jobless youth. To avoid what some have deemed the coming 'demographic nightmare', which could leave millions more young people without jobs, free movement must be coupled with other efforts such as improvements in education systems, skills training and continued investment in infrastructure, which is vital to attracting much-needed investments.

Labour mobility will be a key area of focus at the fourth Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM) due to take place in Djibouti from **19–21 November 2018**.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

19. “Counting the Beans: The True Cost of a Plate of Food Around the World” index

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/10/true-cost-plate-food-around-world/>

<https://www.wfp.org/content/2017-counting-beans-true-cost-plate-food-around-world>

How much would you expect to pay for the most basic plate of food? The kind of thing you might whip up at home – nothing fancy, just enough to fill you up and meet a third of today’s calorie needs. A soup, maybe, or a simple stew – some beans or lentils, a handful of rice, bread, or corn?

In the rich Global North – say, in New York State, USA – such a meal would cost almost nothing to make: 0.6 percent of the average daily income, or **US\$1.20**.

In parts of the developing world, by contrast, food affordability can shrink to the point of absurdity: in South Sudan, a country born out of war and disintegrating into more war, the meal-to-income ratio is 300 times that of industrialized countries.

It is, in other words, as if a New Yorker had to pay nearly **US\$348.36** for the privilege of cooking and eating that plate of food. How do people in South Sudan afford it? It’s simple. They don’t.

Societies cannot lift themselves out of the poverty trap if families are continuously priced out of providing their children with the nutritional meals essential for them to develop into healthy and productive adults, if climate degradation continues to threaten food security and development gains, and if protracted conflicts continue to destroy societies and force young talent elsewhere.

With a concerted global effort, the international community can achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and end hunger and malnutrition. Governments must engage with and support their developing country counterparts in peacebuilding, conflict resolution and disaster risk reduction.

The private sector must embrace that turning a profit can go hand in hand with advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through employing young people to boost incomes, sourcing from smallholder farms, and through working alongside leaders to strengthen supply chains.

The shocking and outraging numbers in this year’s “Counting the Beans” index highlight that peaceful societies and affordable food go hand in hand. We have the modern technological capacities to end world hunger, but first we must end the conflict that fosters it.

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

Reports, Publications, and Resources

1. What works for gender norm change? Enhancing gender-inclusive agricultural development programming.

Springer, E. and Drucza, K. 2018. *What works for gender norm change? Enhancing gender-inclusive agricultural development programming*. CIMMYT: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Online link: <https://repository.cimmyt.org/handle/10883/19617>

Abstract: This Research for Development (R4D) Policy Report summarizes findings from a meta-analysis of external evaluations of Ethiopian agricultural development projects, while also highlighting best practices around gender programming. It explores: What works for gender norm change in agricultural development projects? Intent on building a body of evidence, the inclusion criteria required documents to be: external; methodologically rigorous; incorporate gender in the evaluation; and demonstrate social norm change. With this strict inclusion criteria, external evaluations were then assessed for best practices (n=2), while the disqualified evaluations (n=24) were analyzed for areas in need of improvement.

The findings show that the CARE Ethiopia office is producing the most rigorous and successful projects around gender norm change. Agricultural development project evaluations are currently a lost opportunity for learning ‘what works’ for gender norm change. The findings outline both what to do and highlight what to avoid in undertaking gender transformative development.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Canada's Gender Equity Roadmap

<https://womenintechworld.com/gender-equity-roadmap/canada/>

After 9 weeks on the road and 10 months of analyzing conversations with 1,600+ women and men in 30+ Canadian tech communities, Women in Tech World (WITWorld) is proud to present Canada’s Gender Equity Roadmap, a community-driven action plan to support and advance women in technology.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. An analysis of efforts to scale up clean household energy for cooking around the world

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0973082618302679>

Abstract

Approximately 3 billion people, most of whom live in Asia, Africa, and the Americas, rely on solid fuels (i.e. wood, crop wastes, dung, charcoal) and kerosene for their cooking needs. Exposure to household air pollution from burning these fuels is estimated to account for approximately 3 million premature deaths a year. Cleaner fuels – such as liquefied petroleum gas, biogas, electricity, and certain compressed biomass fuels – have the potential to alleviate much of this significant health burden. A wide variety of clean cooking intervention programs are being implemented around the world, but very few of these efforts have been analyzed to enable global learning. The Clean Cooking Implementation Science Network (ISN), supported by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and partners, identified the need to augment the publicly available literature concerning what has worked well and in what context. The ISN has supported the development of a systematic set of case studies, contained in this Special Issue, examining clean cooking program rollouts in a variety of low- and middle-income settings around the world. We used the RE-AIM (reach, effectiveness, adaptation, implementation, maintenance) framework to coordinate and evaluate the case studies. This paper describes the clean cooking case studies project, introduces the individual studies contained herein, and proposes a general conceptual model to support future planning and evaluation of household energy programs.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Women in Food and Farming

<https://fairworldproject.org/category/publications/issue-17/>

Fair World Project, Issue 17, Fall 2018/Winter 2019

Women make up nearly half of the people who grow and process food around the globe. Yet too often, their voices and their unique struggles go unheard.

In this issue, we focus on the ways women are coming together and organizing to transform their lives, their communities, and the farming and food systems that impact us all.

We hear from Dolores Huerta, civil rights icon and co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America, inspiring perspectives from La Via Campesina, the Coalition for Immokalee Workers, and others.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Recorded Event: Can farming improve the lives of rural women and girls?

<https://www.odi.org/events/4583-can-farming-improve-lives-rural-women-and-girls>

Reducing gender inequality is one of the great challenges of the 21st century. Nowhere are concerns greater than where the disadvantages of being a woman intersect with the disadvantages of living in rural areas of developing countries. In rural areas, access to education and health services is often limited, and women are more likely to depend on farming for a livelihood. As a result, interest in women farmers has grown strongly in recent times. Studies proliferate on the conditions of women as farmers in the global South, as do debates on how best to rectify disadvantages and improve the conditions under which women farm.

While this is all encouraging, how important is farming to improving the lives of rural women and girls? Studies of changes to their lives in countries that have progressed from low- to middle-income status since the early 1960s suggest that some of the main drivers of improved lives lie outside of agriculture: in education, health, women-friendly family planning, and opportunities in the non-farm economy.

To mark International Day of Rural Women on 15 October, ODI convenes an expert panel to explore this question further.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. Innovation Management Competencies Associated with High-Performing Managers

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/completed/innovation-management.aspx>

http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessmentspublicationsnewsreleases/innovation-management/improving_innovation_through_better_management_fullreport_en.pdf

The Question

What are the key skills required to manage innovation? And, what are the leading practices for teaching these skills in business schools, other academic departments, colleges/polytechnics, and industry?

Key Findings

Improving Innovation Through Better Management explores ways to provide innovation management training to a large, diverse population of students throughout their careers. The report identifies the competencies that are likely to enhance innovation management, describes what's currently known about where and how to effectively teach these competencies, and outlines the implications for academic institutions, industry, and government. The Panel identified five innovation management competencies (IMCs) associated with high-performing innovation managers across a range of companies:

- finding opportunities,
- commercializing opportunities,
- managing diverse teams,
- leveraging innovation ecosystems,
- and leadership.

The competency-based approach adopted by the Panel is intended to begin a dialogue among business schools, companies, and other stakeholders that educate and train innovation managers.

An excerpt [page 10]:

In fact, diversity and innovation often go hand-in-hand as diverse companies are more likely to outperform their peers (Thomas et al., 2017). Companies without women on their board of directors have, on average, much worse performance than the average for their industry (Catalyst, 2016). However, the relationship between gender diversity and performance is not necessarily causal: it could be that the best companies just happen to hire a more diverse workforce and have more diverse boards. Therefore, it is not the diversity that causes their strong performance; instead, diversity and performance are two outcomes of “being a great company” (Kaplan, 2017).

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

7. Gendered voices for climate action, a theory of change for the meaningful inclusion of local experiences in decision-making

<http://pubs.iied.org/10193IIED/?p=1>

Working paper

Bringing the perspectives of local women and men who have experienced climate impacts into relevant policy arenas is seen as key to just decision-making and meeting the Paris Agreement commitment to a country-driven gender-responsive approach. But there is a lack of robust evidence on how these experiences can increase the ambition, urgency and quality of climate responses at different levels. This paper reviews existing evidence and proposes a theory of change for how the systematic inclusion of women and men with lived experiences of climate change could strengthen climate action. This could be through grounding policy narratives with the realities of daily life, changing ideas of whose knowledge should be included, shifting power dynamics, and increasing accountability.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

8. Video: Food, sisterhood and dreams

<https://www.iied.org/food-sisterhood-dreams>

Nicole Szucs from Hivos reports back from a recent dialogue on increasing dietary diversity and local food systems in Bolivia, and highlights a new video showing how women play a vital role in the food cycle, from production to consumption.

In Bolivia, people eat poorly and more of the same. Local old grains as canuhua are about to be forgotten, but three Bolivian women show why they believe food diversity is so important. Watch the short film in Spanish with English subtitles.

Hivos is committed to a world in which people have access to diverse, healthy food, sustainably produced in harmony with the planet. And women play a fundamental role in making this dream become a real, vital part of the food cycle, from production to consumption.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

9. Only one in five millennials expect to see global gender equality in their lifetime

<http://matchinternational.org/gender-equality/>

New survey from The MATCH Fund reveals over half of millennials want Canada to play a big or leading role in funding women’s rights efforts globally.

(OTTAWA, September 24, 2018). Today, on the first day of Gender Equality Week, The MATCH International Women’s Fund (The MATCH Fund) released the findings of a nation-wide survey of millennials and their expectations of achieving gender equality, in Canada and around the world.

Of the 1,700 Canadians aged 18 to 37 polled by Abacus Data, 75 per cent said they expect gender equality to be achieved in the Western world in their lifetime – but only 21% thought it could be achieved globally.

Millennial men tended to be less pessimistic as only 20 per cent said that achieving gender equality in their lifetime anywhere was “unlikely” or “not possible” while 31 per cent of millennial women said the same.

The positive expectations of achieving gender equality also waned with age. While 84 per cent of 18 to 23 year olds of both sexes said they were optimistic, that figure dropped to 70 per cent among 29-33 year olds.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

10. Identifying Pathways for More Gender-Sensitive Communication Channels in Climate Services

Permanent link to cite or share this item: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/96531>

Abstract/Description

Access to accurate and useful climate-related information is a prerequisite for smallholder farmers to use and benefit from climate services with respect to both agricultural and livelihood decision-making. Whether or not farmers access particular climate-related information products is determined by the types of information products that the national meteorological service and other providers make available, by access to the communication channels used to disseminate information, and by demand for the information. Gender-based factors can influence differing access to communication channels for women and men. The present brief highlights some of these key challenges to achieving socially inclusive access to weather and climate information and presents promising pathways for developing gender-sensitive communication channels in climate services.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

11. Gender and climate risk management: evidence of climate information use in Ghana

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10584-018-2239-6>

Abstract

The gender perspective of climate information use is not well studied although necessary for developing gender-responsive climate information services (CIS). This study determined how CIS use by men and women farmers may be influenced by their perceptions about climate change (CC), farm activities, and demography. The study was carried out at the Lawra-Jirapa Districts of the Upper West Region of Ghana where downscaled seasonal forecast information through mobile phone technologies (Esoko platform) had been disseminated to farmers since 2011. Data was collected from semi-structured questionnaire interviews involving 900 farmers (50.2% women and 49.8% men) and four 20-member focus group discussions. The study confirmed 85.2% (representing 767) farmers were aware of climate change and its implications for their agriculture and other livelihood activities. Men and women had similar perceptions about climate change, perceived by the majority as increased strong winds, higher temperatures, increased frequency of drought, increased rainfall variability and increased flooding. Among other factors, it was evident that use of CIS may be influenced by gender. Men were found to be particularly responsive in adopting CIS use for climate risk mitigation. This was attributed to their ability to easily access and use telephone devices compared with women. The study revealed that unlike women, men were able to access more financial resources and had control of household income which allowed them to purchase mobile phones. Women generally accessed their husbands’ mobile phones. Despite differences in access to CIS, the study showed both men and women found it beneficial for strategic farm decision-making such as when to begin land preparation, when to plant, and which crop to select. In addition, both men and women were found to face similar constrains (such as poor network connectivity and limited of training), to accessing and using CIS through the Esoko platform. The study recommends the need to explore different CIS dissemination channels and design CIS that meet gender-specific needs.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

12. Briefing Paper: Changing the lives of rural women and girls for the better

<https://www.odi.org/publications/11207-changing-lives-rural-women-and-girls-better>

Across the global South, most rural women and girls are disadvantaged compared to men and boys. Most receive less formal education, have fewer opportunities to work outside the household, and when they do, they are often paid less and treated worse than men. Most rural women live with norms that define them primarily as wives and mothers, confined to the domestic sphere, where men do less than their fair share of household chores. Changes to the lives of rural women and girls take place at several levels: within processes of development and transformation at the national level; in rural areas and within agriculture; in households; and, finally, for women and girls as individuals. Changes to agriculture and rural areas over the longer run can be dramatic, as agriculture loses its relative importance when a country urbanises.

To see how such changes take place and what they imply for women and girls, this briefing examines three cases of long-term rural economic transformation since the 1960s: those of **Egypt, Peru and Thailand**. All three countries have seen economic growth, urbanisation, and a marked shift in their economic structure as agriculture has declined relative to industry and services.

Key messages

- Agricultural development is a pre-condition to accelerated national growth and a major driver of the rural non-farm economy.
- For rural women and girls in the global South, however, economic prospects are often better in the rural non-farm economy and through migration to cities than they are in farming.
- Rural women can only take up better economic opportunities if they are healthy, literate and numerate. Hence public investments in rural education, health, and clean water and sanitation make a real difference.
- Family planning can empower rural women, allowing them to have the children they want. In the medium term it can lead to slower growth of the labour supply and consequently higher rural wages.
- Gender norms count, especially those concerning women's ability to leave the home in search of decent work.
- Women who farm are often disadvantaged. Much remains to be done to establish their rights to land, livestock and water, and to improve their access to inputs (feedstuffs, fertilizers, etc.), finance and technical knowledge.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

13. New IMAGES Research Reveals Challenges to and Momentum Toward Gender Equality in Tanzania

<https://promundoglobal.org/2018/10/17/new-images-research-reveals-challenges-to-and-momentum-toward-gender-equality-in-tanzania/>

Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) in Tanzania launch in Dar es Salaam, reveal a complex picture of men's and women's roles and realities in the country.

The research provides new data and insights to understand how men's and women's gendered attitudes, behaviors, and norms impact a range of well-being and development outcomes, from sexual and reproductive health to caregiving, violence, laws and policies, and more.

A few of the key findings:

- **Most men and women reject a zero-sum view of gender equality in theory, but they are less supportive of transforming gender roles at home:** While only 21% of men and 16% of women say that "more rights for women

means that men lose out,” 71% of women and 63% of men still believe that a woman’s most important role is to take care of the home and cook for the family.

- **Women continue to spend 2.5 times as many hours as men do on household tasks in Tanzania:** The study’s time-use data show that women spend nearly 30 hours per week on cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, fetching water, and going to the market, while men spend just over 12 hours per week on these tasks.
- Gender-transformative programming and violence-prevention efforts in Tanzania, as in many other places, **will likely achieve greater impact if they account for food insecurity and economic stress**, for example, through the provision of cash, food, in-kind transfers, or income-generation supports, given the high rates of economic hardship reported by both men and women.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

14. Shifting Social Norms in the Economy for Women's Economic Empowerment

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Shifting-Social-Norms-in-the-Economy-for-Women-s-Economic-Empowerment>

This document is a summary of the process and insights from the participants of a 2017 Practitioner Learning Group (PLG) on “Shifting Social Norms in the Economy to Create Change at Scale,” hosted by The SEEP Network and Oxfam’s Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in Agriculture Knowledge Hub. It provides an introductory overview to social norms and their relationship to women’s economic empowerment. It also highlights practical tools, approaches and frameworks that practitioners and researchers can use to diagnose, measure and change social norms. Finally, it calls for more systematic collaboration and learning, as addressing social norms change as part of WEE is still a new area of exploration.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++