



Early autumn scene in Manitoba forest. 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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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. The Extra Mile Award for Women in Saskatchewan’s Agriculture Industry

<https://agribiz.ca/award/>

The 2018 recipient is a woman who has made a positive impact in the lives of one or more community members through volunteer activities that centered around personal and professional mentorship or leadership roles that fostered the promotion of Saskatchewan agriculture and food. The themes for 2019 and 2020 are also posted on the website. The award of \$1000 will be donated to a registered charity or community initiative of the winner’s choosing. Please submit nominations by **September 30, 2018**.

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2. Enhancing the Leadership Capacity of High-potential African Women Scientists

<https://awardfellowships.org/fellowship/application-en/>

We are pleased to announce that the call for the second round of the AWARD Pan-African Fellowship is now open! The AWARD Pan-African Fellowship was initiated in 2017 with support from the Agropolis Fondation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) country missions. It seeks to extend the benefits of the AWARD Fellowship to female scientists from francophone Africa and to maximize interactions between English and French-speaking African women agricultural scientists.

We invite applications from African women scientists who are citizens of Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Togo and have completed a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in an agricultural discipline.

Particular attention will be accorded to applicants working on sustainable agricultural value chains; sustainable food system; agro-ecology and resilient seed systems.

The closing date for the 2019 AWARD Pan-African Fellowship is on **October 08, 2018, 23:59**East Africa Time (EAT).

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3. Advancing Women Conference- East

<http://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2018east/>

Whether you are a student studying agriculture at a university or college, producer, rancher, entrepreneur, representative of a grower association or work in corporate agri-business. Network with women from across Canada and gain insight into how you can enhance your family life and your community, fast-track your career and positively impact the agriculture industry.

OCTOBER 15 & 16 2018, Niagara Falls, Ontario, with optional wine tour on October 14.

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4. Can farming improve the lives of rural women and girls?

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

Streamed live online on 15 October, 15 October 2018 11:00 - 12:30 GMT+1 (BST). Register in advance.

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**, Overseas Development Institute ODI convenes an expert panel to explore this question further. The event includes discussion of new findings from recent research from ODI and the DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme.

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5. Manitoba Farm Women's Conference

<https://www.manitobafarmwomensconference.ca/>

The Manitoba Farm Women's Conference has now opened registration for their event which takes place in **Winkler, Manitoba on Nov 18-20, 2018.**

The Manitoba Farm Women's Conference is a non-profit organization run by volunteer farm women. A conference is planned once a year in one of three cities in Manitoba. Its aim is to provide farm and rural women from around the province with an opportunity to expand knowledge, inform and communicate ideas and above all enjoy.

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This Month's News

1. Investing in yourself: Nuffield Canada Scholarship

<http://www.agwomensnetwork.com/single-post/2018/09/17/Investing-in-yourself-Nuffield-Canada-Scholarship>

Cheryl Hazenberg kindly agreed to answer a lot of questions to give you the inside scoop on her Nuffield Canada Scholarship experience. See also <http://nuffield.ca/wp/about-nuffield/> to learn more about the Nuffield Canada Scholarship. **April 30** appears to be the deadline for applications.

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2. Africa Needs Strong Political Will to Transform Agriculture and Spur Economic Growth

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/09/africa-needs-strong-political-will-transform-agriculture-spur-economic-growth/>

According to the 2018 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR), *Catalyzing State Capacity to Drive Agriculture Transformation*, released this September by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), African states need political will to boost production and income on the millions of small, family farms that grow most of Africa's food.

The continent currently spends over USD 35 billion annually on food imports, money that could make a big difference if invested in agricultural development. AGRA has said Africa could require up to USD 400 billion over the next 10 years in public and private sector investments in food production, processing, marketing and transport.

Ethiopia is the only country in Africa that has achieved the highest agricultural growth rates over an extended period of time. In addition to Ethiopia, the report says Rwanda has marshalled political support for agriculture and integrated detailed action plans within its broader economic development strategies. Progress in the agricultural sector is credited with lifting over one million Rwandans out of extreme poverty in a relatively short period.

Furthermore, the report finds that economic output in Ghana’s agricultural sector—driven in part by the government’s new “Planting for Food and Jobs” programme—grew 8.4 percent in 2017 after posting only three percent growth in 2016. Similarly, AGRA experts point to countries such as Kenya, Burkina Faso, Mali and Zambia as places where political momentum and government capabilities are growing.

The increasing willingness of African governments to openly discuss where they are advancing in agriculture and where they are struggling is a reason for optimism, the report says. For example, 47 countries have signed on to the African Union’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a master plan to achieve economic growth through growing agriculture by at least six percent annually.

In 2015, the CAADP plan identified the need to “improve the productivity of agriculture to attain an average annual growth rate of 6 per cent, with particular attention to small-scale farmers, especially focusing on women.”

While Africa needs urgent agricultural transformation, it should attend to the challenges of rapid urbanisation, climate, significant unemployment (one third of Africans aged 15 to 35 are jobless), and chronic malnutrition, which has left 58 million children stunted.

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3. Creating knowledge and supporting action: citizen-generated evidence from food diaries in Uganda

<https://www.iied.org/creating-knowledge-supporting-action-citizen-generated-evidence-food-diaries-uganda>

Citizens in Western Uganda are using food diaries to generate data on food consumption – helping them understand their own diets and advocate for a better food system.

Around 200 urban households were randomly selected to participate. KRC and their volunteers trained one person in each household—usually a woman – to fill out the diaries. Following the first round of analysis, a sub-sample of 18 households were selected for interview. If the diaries showed *what* was eaten and *when*, the interviews helped us understand the *why*. What are the underlying drivers of food choice? What do people make of their own diets and what would they like to change?

Later this year, we will be bringing the results back to the participating households to ask them how they think this data should be used, and to design an advocacy agenda with them. We will discuss issues such as access and affordability of fruits, vegetables and protein.

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4. Experts Call For Global Momentum on Gender Parity

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/09/experts-call-global-momentum-gender-parity/>

The 73rd session of the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) is being held in New York, United States, starting on Sept. 18th and running through to October. The meeting comes amidst heightened efforts by the U.N. towards gender parity among its staff across all levels of its employment structure as well as through its work. A number of U.N. entities are already showing impressive progress towards a more gender balanced workforce in the period spanning 2007 to 2017.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. (FAO) has particularly been lauded for progress made towards gender parity within its workforce. Since the organisation’s director general Jose Graziano da Silva took office in 2011, it has not been business as usual as gender issues are taking centre stage. A U.N. system wide action plan on gender parity within this organisation indicates that: “As of the close of 2017, 41 percent of all international posts were held by women, the organisation’s highest representation of women in 10 years.” Moreover, when it comes to junior positions within the organisation, FAO has achieved gender parity.

Nonetheless, there are concerns that overall progress towards gender parity within FAO has been fairly slow. In the last decade, the representation of women has increased by only 12 percentage points.

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5. Empowering women

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/empowering-women>

In promoting Gender Equality Week, IDRC provides an overview on how its work supports Gender Equality.

“What does empowering women look like?”

It looks like high quality, demand-driven, policy-relevant knowledge, partnerships, and networks in the pursuit of effective, evidence-based action to reduce gender disparity, improve opportunities, and embrace women’s autonomy.

It looks like supporting evidence-based research that fosters effective and long-term action to reduce social inequality, foster greater gender parity, and build a safer world.

It looks like promoting agricultural innovations that improve women’s income and access to markets, promoting female entrepreneurship in technology-based interventions, and examining how care work and other domestic duties are valued and redistributed inside and outside the household.

These projects explore some of the many ways that IDRC-supported research is promoting gender equality and ultimately contributing to the SDGs. By sharing efforts to empower women, IDRC is contributing to a vital global conversation that will help make gender equality a reality worldwide.”

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Gender norms and agency in the Ethiopian agriculture sector: policy brief

<https://repository.cimmyt.org/handle/10883/19560>

Abstract: This brief examines gender norms relating to innovation, technology, and agency in four Ethiopian wheat growing villages. Restrictive gender norms remain one of the most significant obstacles for women’s agricultural innovation. Moreover, inequitable intra-household resource allocation affects food security at the households and national level. Strengthening women’s ability to make effective choices and transform those choices into desired outcomes will bring positive changes to household food security and agricultural productivity. Investment in robust studies are needed to strengthen the body of evidence and facilitate gender mainstreaming in agricultural development.

Note – See Item 5 on Gender Norms and Agricultural Innovation.

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2. Climate change, young women and girls

<https://plan-international.org/publication/climate-change-girls-thailand>

A new report by Plan International and the SEI - Stockholm Environment Institute Asia Centre in Bangkok seeks to address a major research gap by adopting an intersectionality approach to better understand the different climate risks, vulnerabilities, adaptation and resilience among people of different ages and different genders. In particular, this report aims to shed light on the specific climate change challenges faced by young women and girls in Northern Thailand whose experiences are not only influenced by age and gender, but also by poverty, legal status, ethnicity, language and education.

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3. Ms. Scientist Documentary

<https://watch.cbc.ca/media/media/absolutely-canadian/episode-21/38e815a-00f06d48567>

This 44-minute documentary from CBC television looks at the challenges female scientists in British Columbia and Alberta face trying to break into and advance their careers and research.

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4. Stalled progress: Recent research on why labor markets are failing women

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/handle/10625/57259>

Abstract: Recent progress in narrowing gender gaps in education, health, and political representation is not matched by similar improvements in labor market outcomes for women, or more broadly, women’s economic empowerment. This paper draws on findings generated through the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program to explore this paradox. It addresses the complex links between factors that shape women’s labor market participation and their economic empowerment. It reviews and synthesizes GrOW research findings to shed light on why development gains have yet to translate into more and better employment for women in some regions, and why employment gains seen in others have failed to empower women.

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5. Video: "Addressing gender in climate change policies for agriculture"

Five minute video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ns1xsSOXups&feature=youtu.be>

One minute video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYr_yq1hFV8&feature=youtu.be

Men and women often have different roles and responsibilities in society and therefore experience climate change impacts in different ways. In this video you will learn how three of the NAP-Ag supported countries, Colombia<<http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/partner-countries/colombia/en/>>, Uganda<<http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/partner-countries/uganda/en/>> and Viet Nam<<http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/partner-countries/viet-nam/en/>> are working to make sure gender considerations are integrated into policies covering the agriculture sectors.

This country-driven work is carried out under a global programme known as Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag), jointly coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

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6. Gender-responsive solutions to climate impacts are needed by the G7

<https://careclimatechange.org/amid-disastrous-storms-across-the-globe-concrete-gender-responsive-solutions-to-climate-impacts-are-needed-by-the-g7/>

Link to the report https://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/G7-Report-Design_final.pdf

