



Winter snow in the sun. Source: 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 the editor.

If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in STEM

<https://whatsnext.global/>

From **November 25 to December 10**, we recognize the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) global campaign, culminating on Human Rights Day. November 25 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. For those who understand the ongoing fight for human rights, many of us are asking - What's Next?

The What's Next campaign focuses on systems change in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). With STEM set to lead future job growth, it's our responsibility to ensure workplaces are safe and equitable.

This year, SCWIST is proud to share our #LeadtheChange for Safe STEM campaign, including a powerful series of videos with influential leaders and advocates. We call on action to #LeadtheChange for Safe STEM, emphasizing a shift in workplace cultures and policies focused on prevention.

Each day, a new video will be shared on SCWIST social media platforms at **2 PM EST** (11 AM PST) on the following dates:

WEEK 1

- Monday, November 25, 2024 - Campaign Launch - Spoken Word by Desiree McKenzie - Share Now!
- Tuesday, November 26, 2024 - Dr. Imogen Coe Interview Teaser
- Wednesday, November 27, 2024 - Dr. Coe Interview
- Thursday, November 28, 2024 - Eva Wong Interview Teaser
- Friday, November 29, 2024 - Eva Wong Interview

WEEK 2

- Monday, December 2, 2024 - Savanna Hamilton Interview Teaser
- Tuesday, December 3, 2024 - Savanna Hamilton Interview
- Wednesday, December 4, 2024 -Dr. Andrade Interview Teaser
- Thursday, December 5, 2024 - Dr. Andrade Interview
- Friday, December 6, 2024 - National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - Remembering Ecole Polytechnique (French Translation of Spoken Word)**

WEEK 3

- Monday, December 9, 2024 - Interview Compilation
- Tuesday, December 10, 2024 - End of Campaign - Human Rights Day

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2. World AIDS Day – December 1

<https://www.catie.ca/world-aids-day>

World AIDS Day, December 1, which also launches the start of Indigenous AIDS Awareness Week in Canada, is a time for reflection on what we have achieved with regard to the national and global response to HIV, and what we still must achieve.

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3. Career Advancement in STEM

<https://makepossible.ca/landing>

December 3 | 5:30-7pm PST | 8:30-10pm EST | Online. Join us at The Table for a conversation on career advancement in STEM! Led by Christin Wiedemann, this event will explore the essential skills that help women in STEM advance—like leadership, communication and networking. Christin will share insights from her journey from Ph.D. in astroparticle physics to her current role as Senior Director at Slalom. Register for MakePossible to join this inspiring discussion!

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4. Women leading change in sustainable agriculture and market inclusion

<https://www.iisd.org/ssi/webinar/women-leading-change-sustainable-agriculture/>

Around the world, women are coming together to embrace sustainable farming practices and access high-value markets, including those that are voluntary sustainability standard (VSS)-compliant.

In this webinar, we will feature experts working with women farmers in Voluntary Sustainability Standard (VSS)-certified value chains. They will share insights and stories about how women have collaborated to adopt sustainable practices and improve their products, helping them reach higher-value markets.

We'll hear directly about the experiences of those involved in women-led initiatives that have earned VSS certification. These stories will guide a discussion on how VSS-certification bodies can better support women's groups and help them to succeed.

Interpretation will be provided in both French and Spanish for this event. **Dec 3, 2024, 08:00 AM Central Time.**

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5. Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative in Ontario

<https://onregionalecdev.com/2024/10/01/agricultural-workforce-equity-and-diversity-initiative-and-information-sessions/>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/agricultural-workforce-equity-and-diversity-initiative>

On September 24, 2024, the governments of Canada and Ontario announced an investment of up to \$1.5 million, through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP), to help members of underrepresented groups start and grow businesses in the agri-food sector.

Through the Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative funding will be provided to industry organizations, research bodies, municipalities or Indigenous governments or communities to support projects that help to address barriers for business ventures in the industry led by members of underrepresented groups including Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQ+ people, persons with disabilities, youth, women or members of French linguistic minority communities.

Projects that support access to equipment, spaces to grow or process agri-food products or resources to help with financing will be considered. Successful projects are eligible to receive 70 per cent of eligible costs in cost-share funding, up to a maximum of \$100,000 per project. Applications demonstrating financial need may be eligible for a higher level of cost-share funding.

The intake for the Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative **opens on October 8, 2024, and closes on December 3rd, 2024 at 11:59pm.**

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6. International Youth Internship Program (IYIP)

<https://www.alternatives.ca/actualite-stage/5767/>

Applications are open for the International Youth Internship Program (IYIP) with Alternatives! **Apply by January 6, 2025** for placements starting early March. IYIP offers young Canadians confronted with discrimination the opportunity to take part in three-month internships with partner organizations across the world to acquire professional experience abroad and develop skills for future employment or study.

The 2024-2029 edition of the internship program enables selected youth to acquire:

- Professional experience abroad (or in some cases virtually) in the field of international development, education and gender equality, but also in communications, human rights, the right to education, environmental protection, action research and advocacy development.
- Skills that prepare them for future employment or further study.

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7. Connecting Women in Agriculture

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/connecting-women-in-agriculture-3572929>

Join Farm Credit Corporation's free, four-part virtual series celebrating women in agriculture. Hosted by Katelyn Duban of the Rural Woman podcast, each event highlights a different expert and topic including mental health, finances, HR on the farm, and pro-active transition planning.

- January 7, 2025. Women's role managing HR on family-owned farms
- January 21, 2025. Proactive transition planning: Empowering family, business, and legacy

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8. International Year of the Woman Farmer in 2026

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-welcomes-the-celebration-of-the-international-year-of-the-woman-farmer-in-2026/en>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) welcomes the resolution adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to declare 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer. The resolution, which was proposed by the United States of America and adopted by consensus, invites FAO, in collaboration with the other UN Rome-based Agencies, to facilitate the implementation and observance of the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

It also invites UN Member States, organizations of the United Nations System, other international organizations and stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and academia, to increase awareness of the crucial role that women farmers around the world play in agrifood systems, as well as their contributions to food security, nutrition and poverty eradication.

In this regard, the International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026 will serve as a platform for the adoption of effective policies and actions against the barriers and challenges that women farmers face across agrifood systems, as well as to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women in agriculture.

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This Month's News

1. Violence Against Women—A Plight That Spares No Country Across All Continents

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/11/unite-violence-women-plight-spar-es-no-country-across-continents/>

Despite the 1,583 legislative measures in 193 countries around the world, violence against women has not been eradicated or even abated. It is a widespread plight that does not discriminate across cultures, ethnic backgrounds, languages, or geography.

Every year on November 25, the world observes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women designated by the UN General Assembly (UNGA). This year’s theme is UNiTE Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls! #No Excuse (Nov 25-Dec 10)—an initiative of 16 days of activism concluding on the day that commemorates International Human Rights Day.

According to the UN Women data, “an estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life.”

Canadian employers, for example, lose USD 77.9 million annually due to the direct and indirect impacts of domestic violence. Choice of words could move the needle in a desired direction, influencing the problem and reframing the solution’s angles. Rethink data as community wellness indexes rather than crime indicators.

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2. Canada announces more than \$35 million for international assistance projects in Africa

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/11/minister-hussen-announces-more-than-35-million-for-international-assistance-projects-in-africa.html>

Canada continues to be a global champion for gender equality, working alongside its African partners, to promote inclusive growth and ensure that no one is left behind.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, accompanied by Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages and Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, announced Nov. 12 \$35 million in new funding to support gender equality and women’s empowerment initiatives on the African continent.

The funding will support a range of projects aimed at strengthening gender equality and human rights, supporting women’s leadership, and improving access to essential services. Canada’s approach emphasizes collaboration with local organizations and community leaders to ensure sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions that address the unique challenges women and girls face across Africa. The announcement, made alongside of members of the African diaspora, underscores Canada’s dedication to fostering deeper partnerships with African communities at home and abroad.

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3. What I learned at the Agricultural Excellence Conference

<https://mwaf.ca/what-i-learned-at-the-agricultural-excellence-conference/>

Katie McInnes of The Dogs Run Farm, Clearwater, Manitoba was sponsored by Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food for attendance at the 2024 Farm Management Canada Agricultural Excellence Conference in Abbotsford, British Columbia from November 19-21. She writes: *It was a great experience to continue my own professional development and reflect on the role I hope to have as a business owner, mentor and leader in Manitoba agriculture.*

Women of all ages were well represented at the conference, from presenters, organizers and delegates attending under the various roles of industry professional, producers, and organizational representatives. Time after time at the conference I

found myself sitting at a table surrounded by warm, welcoming, interesting, smart, dedicated women in a host of fields related to agriculture. It was an uplifting reminder of how many hardworking women have entered the field, and that our numbers as a demographic are increasing.

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4. Four men inducted to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame

<https://cahfa.com/news/canadian-agricultural-hall-of-fame-gala-welcomes-four-new-inductees-for-2024/>

The Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame welcomed four accomplished Canadians for their contributions to advancing Canadian agriculture. Dr. Bruce Coulman, Dr. Michael Eskin, Paul Larmer, and Dr. Charles Vincent were formally inducted at a ceremony on November 2, 2024.

Nominations must be submitted by May 1 to be considered in the current year.

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5. Canada and Zambia lead on UN resolution to end child, early and forced marriage

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/11/canada-and-zambia-lead-on-un-resolution-to-end-child-early-and-forced-marriage.html>

On November 18, 2024, “the United Nations General Assembly adopted its sixth resolution on ending child, early and forced marriage. This is the 10th anniversary of Canada and Zambia’s partnership leading this resolution together. While good progress has been made, we must continue to collectively accelerate efforts to prevent, address and eliminate child, early and forced marriage by 2030.

“We are proud that the resolution received broad cross-regional support from a total of 123 co-sponsors, reaffirming the vital importance of this issue in addressing poverty and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

“Child, early and forced marriage is an abuse of human rights and a major obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It stops childhood—often resulting in an end to the girl’s education—limits prospects for employment and increases risks to her health.

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6. Canadian farm women face old challenges

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/news/farm-women-face-old-challenges/>

When Statistics Canada released its demographic snapshot of agriculture following the 2021 census, there were 2.3 per cent more female farmers in Canada than in the prior census, the agency said. Over 30 per cent of the nation’s farmers were women. It was the first increase in 30 years, when the agency changed its methodology to allow up to three farm operators to be noted for the same operation.

The number of female farmers was rising and the number of Canadian farmers in general was slipping, StatsCan reported. There were 3.5 per cent fewer farmers in Canada than in 2016, and the number of male farmers had dropped 5.8 per cent in the same window.

There were more women farming on their own and more women farming on farms with the most revenue. At the same time, farmers in general were working more off the farm than in previous years and female farmers were almost nine times as likely to be doing so. The proportion of female farmers reporting off farm work had increased slightly more than it had for men.

Why it matters: The strain of trying to be all things to all people, on and off the farm, is a topic that often crops up at farm women’s conferences. Women face challenges in the agriculture sector, virtual attendees of the Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture Summit heard from panelists in October. Some feel undervalued, outnumbered, dismissed or talked over.

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7. World Food Prize president to step down as Mashal Husain takes over

<https://www.devex.com/news/world-food-prize-president-to-step-down-as-mashal-husain-takes-over-108785>

The World Food Prize Foundation, which is behind the most prestigious global annual award in food and agriculture, will undergo a change in leadership as current President Terry Branstad steps down on Jan. 31 and Chief Operating Officer Mashal Husain takes his place.

“I am deeply honored to step into this role. I grew up surrounded by poverty and hunger,” Husain said in an interview with Devex, referencing her upbringing in Pakistan, Tanzania, Thailand, and the Philippines.

“I have always remembered that food security is paramount,” she added. “And it’s serendipitous that here I am in the heartland of America now being given this wonderful role as president of the World Food Prize and being tasked with this most important issue of hunger and food security. I feel like I’ve come full circle.”

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8. How New Financing Mechanisms in Clean Cooking Can Succeed Where Grants Have Failed

<https://nextbillion.net/funding-fight-against-worlds-oldest-fuel-source-new-financing-mechanisms-clean-cooking-can-succeed-where-grants-failed/> and <https://www.atecglobal.io/>

There is still demand — and a clear need — for clean cooking. That’s why Save the Children Global Ventures, through our Children’s Impact Investment Fund, has invested in ATEC — a high-integrity innovator and distributor of clean cooking devices. ATEC verifies the carbon impact of its stoves by digitally measuring and recording their usage through a SIM card-enabled stove top. This data is used to more accurately calculate emissions reductions.

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9. PAYGO Electromagnetic Induction Stoves

<https://www.atecglobal.io/news/paygo-electromagnetic-induction-stoves>

Globally about 4 billion people, half of the global population, lack access to clean, modern cooking services. This issue is costing the world’s economy approximately \$2.4 trillion each year due to its adverse impact on health, the climate, and the livelihoods of women and girls – who are left with less time for work or education after gathering fuel for traditional, open-fire cooking, and who bear the majority of these adverse health impacts. In addition, approximately 4 million people, mainly women, die prematurely each year, due to household air pollution caused by open fires and inefficient stoves.

At ATEC, a Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) clean cooking social enterprise, we believe the technology with the greatest potential to solve clean cooking for the base of pyramid (BoP) is electromagnetic induction stoves.

Electromagnetic induction stoves thus far are not readily used in BoP households, and as such we see large potential for their implementation as a clean cooking solution. We came to this conclusion using a combination of technical analysis, modelling and framework tools, one of the most useful public tools being the ESMAP Multi-tier Framework (MTF).

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10. Vulnerabilities are getting in the way of transition to clean cooking

<https://www.devex.com/news/vulnerabilities-are-getting-in-the-way-of-transition-to-clean-cooking-108543>

It is an intuitive finding that poor households will struggle to switch to clean cooking, but a recent report from India funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development finds evidence that the real challenge is sustaining the switch when it happens.

The report is a part of the Cleaner Air and Better Health, or CABH, project and looks at the role of vulnerability in the transition to clean cooking. Its authors found that communities that are marginalized and are most in need of support face compounding challenges of poverty, caste, and gender.

The report is based on analysis and interviews conducted in three slum clusters in Chikli which is at the periphery of the central India city of Nagpur. The report also noted that women are disproportionately burdened by the health risk of being exposed to air pollution. Apart from cooking, they also engage in hazardous occupations in marginalized communities outside of the home like waste picking which further exacerbates their vulnerability.

Transitioning to clean cooking would drastically cut down on indoor air pollution and lead to gains in health, especially for women and children as they spent the most time indoors. Even in terms of receiving access to health care, women were among the last in the household to get it, she said.

Another key insight from the USAID-funded report is that the decision-makers on whether or not to switch to LPG cylinders are not women. This means for policymakers, the target group to convince are men and not women.

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11. The International Fund for Agricultural Development breaks replenishment record

<https://www.devex.com/news/as-aid-budgets-shrink-how-did-support-for-this-un-agency-grow-108502>

So how did the International Fund for Agricultural Development break its own replenishment record? The specialized U.N. agency, which is also a finance institution, secured \$1.42 billion from member countries in its latest funding cycle, with core contributions up nearly 10% since 2021. The agency wants to raise nearly \$2 billion to reach 100 million rural people through 2027.

IFAD President Alvaro Lario says there are two reasons for the surge: IFAD's unique investment approach, which has earned a reputation for impact; and its focus on small-scale farmers, who produce up to 80% of food in parts of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. That appeals to donors seeking to address the root causes of global food insecurity.

"Countries are wanting to see more and more structural changes and medium-term solutions," Lario tells our colleague Elissa Miolene. "And that's what we invest in."

Unlike traditional aid grant-based models, IFAD often brings in the local private sector, local banks, and local financial institutions, and it designs its projects with country governments and local groups. For example, in Côte d'Ivoire, IFAD supported a mango cooperative of 1,000 women with a concessional loan, allowing them to procure the machinery to dry the mangoes, package them, and export them to Switzerland. The project was co-financed by the OPEC Fund for International Development, Côte d'Ivoire's national government, and the women themselves.

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12. Global climate funds are cutting out smallholder farmers, report finds

<https://www.devex.com/news/global-climate-funds-are-cutting-out-smallholder-farmers-report-finds-108807>

An analysis of 40 Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund projects found that climate finance is failing to reach small-scale farmers despite their critical role in food security and climate resilience.

The study, titled “Money well spent?” identified many barriers to finance for small farmers and grassroots groups. Most funding applications for GEF and GCF must be submitted by, or in partnership with, accredited organizations such as multilateral development banks, United Nations agencies, or international NGOs, and also require approval from host country governments. As a result, the projects rarely reflect the needs and priorities of farmers. Further, applying for accreditation — a requirement before organizations may spend any funds — and funding can come with onerous and complex requirements that are nearly impossible for small groups to fulfill.

Meanwhile, only a third of GEF and GCF's \$2.6 billion in agriculture, fishing, and forestry funding during that period targeted sustainable practices, the study found.

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13. Advancing Gender Equality and Human Rights at COP 29: Why intersectionality matters

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/cop-29-intersectionality-climate-adaptation>

It is difficult to argue against the idea that we should centre the most vulnerable people in our efforts to manage climate risks and that, often, the most vulnerable people are those who face intersecting forms of discrimination. Yet there has been resistance to integrating intersectionality language in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) discussions, despite evidence that it is central to just and effective climate action. Angie Dazé explains why intersectionality is a key step toward climate justice.

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14. Protecting Hard-Won Rights: Gender & Climate Action at COP29

<https://odi.org/en/insights/protecting-hard-won-rights-gender-climate-action-at-cop29/>

But we must not lose sight of the reasons why the Lima programme is necessary. Women from developing countries are expected to face a majority of climate change impacts on water, food access, safe waste disposal, displacement and childcare. They are disproportionately dependent on climate-sensitive resources for their livelihoods, which, coupled with unequal access to land, information, and decision-making power translates into greater vulnerabilities in the face of climate impacts. In times of crisis, the majority of those forcibly displaced by climate change every year are women. An analysis of the latest IPCC report suggests that the physical impacts of climate change caused by GHG emissions intersect with social and political processes and structural inequalities so that the impacts are distributed unequally and compound disproportionately. An effective response to climate change should not only avoid increased inequity, but also identify ways to reduce and redress structural inequalities.

Including women is not about optics. Those on the frontline of climate impacts must have a voice in the negotiating spaces determining their vulnerability to climate change – and capacity to provide solutions. It also does a disservice to women and girls to focus only on their vulnerability, overlooking the powerful ways in which feminist organisations shine a light on the solutions needed to tackle climate change and build community resilience. At COP29, negotiators have an opportunity to push for a renewed Lima work programme and an updated Gender Action Plan that does justice to the complexity of integrating gender considerations into climate action. Now is not the time to weaken or backtrack on agreed language. We need inclusive approaches that centre the most marginalised and we need a clear outline of the indicators required to drive sustained and enduring progress on gender equality. The COP29 climate finance litmus test must include women. Not renewing or advancing this critical work programme may have important implications for work on the ground to integrate gender considerations into climate policies.

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15. COP 29 Women and Gender Constituency

<https://wedo.org/wedo-at-cop29/>

The 2024 Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP29) takes place in the Baku, Azerbaijan from November 11–22. WEDO is sending a delegation to advocate for gender-just decisions and an overall vision of divesting from harm to invest in care; strengthen capacities and knowledge at the intersection of gender and climate; convene gender advocates and governments; and build truth when opportunities arise through direct action.

Throughout COP29 WEDO team will work closely with other members of the Women and Gender Constituency and other collectives as part of our commitment towards collective advocacy to advance critical advocacy areas of interest to the wider feminist community. As an organization WEDO's COP29 overarching goal is to advance a gender-just transition as an important pathway towards system change and #FeministClimateJustice.

Four Priorities During COP29:

- Gender just transition: Articulating the principles behind a gender-just transition away from fossil fuels and towards a world grounded in care, uplifting key examples of gender just climate solutions, and demilitarization.
- Feminist climate finance: Expressing the demands around financing a gender-just transition—both what is needed at a macro-economic level and what feminist funding/alternative delivery mechanisms for finance could look like.
- Data and outreach: Showcasing and advancing action on the collection and use of gender-disaggregated data at the intersection of gender and environment; and
- Power and voice: Demonstrating how shifting power and representation in voice at decision-making spaces like COP is critical for climate justice.

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16. 7 things to watch for at COP29, from funding to food systems

<https://www.devex.com/news/7-things-to-watch-for-at-cop29-from-funding-to-food-systems-108714>

As the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP29, begins in yet another fossil-fuel-dependent state — and just days after the re-election of climate skeptic Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency — the atmosphere is charged with tension, but also opportunity. While fewer world leaders may be attending than in past years, this conference is also crucial, in that many consider it a last chance to set plans that put the world on the path to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

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17. COP29: Making Space Applications Work for Women in Agriculture

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/11/cop29-making-space-applications-work-women-agriculture/>

When the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova, orbited the Earth in 1963, there were only three active Earth observation satellites. Today, the number is 114 times greater. With more and better satellites, the impacts of advances in the space sector are particularly evident in agriculture, where space data improves insights into the individual components of these landscapes (land, water and forests), as well as their interconnections.

Sixty years since Valentina Tereshkova, women continue to play crucial roles in food production worldwide. In the Asia-Pacific region, two out of five agriculture workers are women. While they face disproportionate impacts from climate change, they are also driving climate solutions. How are they benefitting from the growing capability of the space sector to support agriculture?

Accessible The percentage of women using the Internet in Asia and the Pacific stands at 63 per cent compared to 69 per cent of men. Closing this gender digital divide is indispensable towards enhancing women’s access to new information, skills and knowledge that could help them manage the impacts of climate on their livelihood resources (land, water, forest).

Affordable: Making space data affordable for women-led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can unleash product innovation and create opportunities for growth.

Actionable: Geolocation can aid in developing locally relevant solutions. However, it is seldom sufficient considering that men and women experience the impacts of climate change differently and have unequal capacities to adapt. Engaging local women’s networks in tailoring solutions to the specific needs and contexts of women in different communities is key to making space data actionable.

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18. FAO and COP29 Presidency launch the ‘Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers’

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/fao-and-cop29-presidency-launch-baku-harmoniya-climate-initiative-19112024/en>

The Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers will serve as an aggregator, bringing together disparate initiatives, coalitions, networks, and partnerships to empower farmers, villages and rural communities. There are currently more than 90 global or regional initiatives, networks and partnerships, creating a clear need for coherence, alignment and sharing of lessons learned to deliver greater impact.

The focus will be on evidence-based knowledge and align with scientific best-practices, with a particular emphasis on technologies contributing to resilient and sustainable agriculture. A key aim is to enhance climate policies, creating an enabling environment for implementation, considering the diversity and complexity of agricultural systems.

The Harmoniya Initiative will look for opportunities to realize diverse co-benefits from climate actions in agriculture and food systems. These include increasing farmers’ resilience and reducing the risk of loss and damage, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing GHG sinks when possible, reducing food losses and waste, conserving biodiversity and soil health and applying innovative approaches while considering national circumstances and knowledge.

The initiative will also contribute with activities to build evidence and success stories for the 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer.

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19. Healing Minds, Empowering Women: Ghana’s Climate Change Battle

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/11/healing-minds-empowering-women-ghanas-climate-change-battle/>

As climate change wreaks havoc across the globe, its effects are most acutely felt by those living in vulnerable coastal and rural communities. In Ghana, the Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) has embarked on a groundbreaking initiative that merges climate resilience with an often-overlooked aspect of the crisis: mental health.

While addressing mental health, CDKN is also amplifying the voices of women in northern Ghana’s Upper West region. Here, smallholder farmers and women navigate extreme climate challenges with remarkable resilience. CDKN bridged this gap through an innovative storytelling initiative. Women’s experiences with climate risks were transformed into community songs. These songs, rooted in folk traditions, weave together lived experiences and new knowledge, becoming powerful tools for awareness and advocacy.

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20. Can school feeding address climate and food system challenges?

<https://odi.org/en/insights/beyond-nutrition-can-school-feeding-address-climate-and-food-system-challenges/>

Expansion and reform of school feeding can deliver benefits for health and nutrition, but also education, social protection and gender equality. However, the role they can play in addressing climate adaptation and mitigation, including by catalysing climate-aligned food system transformation, has received less attention.

However, our retrospective analysis of climate finance flows and country-level climate strategies reveals that school feeding is scarcely mentioned in climate policies and strategies, and even where such connections are made, school feeding is often relegated to a minor role. School feeding has not featured in the formal, negotiated decisions made at COPs, nor it has appeared in associated declarations.

Highlighting successful initiatives at international forums like COP29 can inspire other countries to consider the potential of school feeding programs for climate action. But careful targeting and sustained effort will be needed to encourage climate finance to unlock the climate benefits of school feeding. Our analysis points to the following:

- Build further evidence on the case for allocating climate finance to school feeding.
- Build awareness within climate and school feeding constituencies.
- Demonstrate commitment through existing domestic investments in school feeding.
- Engage likely allies among countries and funders.

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21. Fiji: Rise Beyond the Reef

<https://www.devex.com/news/19-local-organizations-to-watch-rise-beyond-the-reef-108357>

Rise Beyond the Reef economically empowers rural Indigenous women and their families in Fiji by designing ecologically, culturally, and socially conscious handmade goods while promoting climate-smart agriculture. The organization builds sustainable pathways for Pasifika women to access local and international markets while maintaining their traditions. The ultimate goal is to create women-led solutions to the climate crisis.

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22. Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC)/Fund for Congolese Women

<https://www.devex.com/news/19-local-organizations-to-watch-fonds-pour-les-femmes-congolaises-ffc-fund-for-congolese-women-108346>

Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises, or FFC, is a local, indigenous grantmaker offering financial and technical assistance — grants are between \$1,000 to \$5,000 — to small organizations run by women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It also helps facilitate networking among women's organizations to lobby at local, national, and regional levels to promote changes in legal frameworks and promote women's participation at negotiating tables discussing peace and women's leadership. These organizations work in the following areas: HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence and sexual violence, conflict transformation, women's political participation and female leadership, and climate justice and environmental protection.

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23. Tanzania Home Economics Association

<https://www.facebook.com/taheamwanza>

Recent postings show cassava planting at Buchosa, Tanzania [west of Mwanza], empowering farmers in sustainable agriculture. #TAHEAMwanza team conducts a hands-on training session on best farming practices, equipping local farmers

with the skills needed to improve crop yields and boost food security. Together, we are building resilient communities and ensuring a brighter, more sustainable future.

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24. Cattle, crops and ancient olive groves: Lebanon’s farmers ‘lose everything’ to Israeli bombs

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/nov/12/cattle-crops-and-ancient-olive-groves-lebanons-farmers-lose-everything-to-israeli-bombs>

As of 11 November, 3,189 people had been killed and 14,078 wounded in Lebanon, according to the ministry of public health. More than a million have had to leave their homes.

Across south Lebanon and the Bekaa valley, important agricultural regions, fields and crops are being hit in the attacks. Thousands of hectares of fertile land, including olive trees that have survived for millennia, have been destroyed in the country’s agricultural heartland. At least 22% of the olive production was lost this year. Olives are an important crop, a tenth of agricultural output in a country of more than 12m olive trees.

This includes forests, grasslands and fields with crops such as tobacco (a major cash crop for villages on the border), citrus and olives. As much as 80% of GDP in the south comes from agriculture, and 22% of all citrus grown in the country and 38% of olives come from the south.

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25. The world’s most feminist city: how Umeå in Sweden became an idyll for women

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2024/oct/30/the-worlds-most-feminist-city-how-umea-in-sweden-became-an-idyll-for-women>

From snow-clearing to bus stops, civic furniture to football teams, women and men are considered and treated equally in this small city in Scandinavia – with the aim of making life happier for everyone. For example:

- a swinging seat which was commissioned as part of a special project that canvassed the views of teenage girls and is designed with average female height in mind: 165cm.
- a workshop for primary school teaching assistants, which seems to focus mostly on trying to get the participants to accept the idea that women don’t have to be the primary parent
- specially devised “gendered landscape” bus tour – safety in public spaces

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26. Legal Abortion Rights in Ethiopia

<https://newint.org/interactives/2024/fertile-ground/index.html>

Anti-abortion campaigners have their sights set on Ethiopia – a progressive outlier in a region marred by restrictions. Who’s behind the emboldened ‘pro-life’ movement and what’s at stake for women’s rights amid a myriad of other challenges?

Despite its strong religiosity, in 2005 Ethiopia managed to do what many countries are still struggling to do – liberalize its abortion laws. Led by local doctors, women’s groups and lawyers, a determined coalition successfully pressured parliamentarians to reform the 1957 law in order to legally permit abortion in cases of rape, incest and foetal impairment, as well as for women with disabilities and minors.

Sustained pressure from the coalition on top of the strong political will of successive Ethiopian governments helped cascade the 2005 legislation into action, and within a decade maternal mortality from unsafe abortion plummeted from 32 percent

to less than 10 percent. The law was revised in 2013, shortly after Ethiopia ratified the Maputo Protocol – the first treaty signed by 43 African nations that recognizes abortion, under certain conditions, as a human right. While there is still a way to go to ensure full access to the right to safe abortion on demand, the 2005 reforms have undoubtedly been lifesaving.

With deep pockets and loud voices, a growing anti-rights movement is aligning itself with the US Christian Right and gaining access to the halls of power, where it is on a mission to end the right to safe and legal abortion.

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27. In Nepal, aid cuts and Trump presidency threaten safe abortion gains

<https://www.devex.com/news/in-nepal-aid-cuts-and-trump-presidency-threaten-safe-abortion-gains-108697>

Nepal’s remote and mountainous topography remains a barrier to accessing health care, but huge strides have been made in recent years toward lowering maternal deaths from unsafe abortion. After legalizing abortion in 2002, the maternal mortality ratio dropped from 539 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1996 to 151 in 2021, and the severity of complications from unsafe abortions significantly reduced during that period.

Dwindling foreign aid budgets, as well as the impact of a U.S. Agency for International Development funding freeze known as the global gag rule, or GGR, on nonprofits that promote or perform abortion services, have resulted in the shutdown of family planning services and clinics across Nepal, those working in the country said.

Nepal introduced medical abortion — oral medication taken to induce abortion — in 2009, expanding access to abortion services in remote areas. But a lack of awareness and trained medical providers has resulted in misuse, which can lead to life-threatening complications. Many women come to the clinic with complications after acquiring medical abortion pills from unregistered providers. Most are women from rural, marginalized communities who already have children and cannot afford to raise more.

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28. A Global Call to Men on the 25th Anniversary of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/11/stand-speak-global-call-men-25th-anniversary-international-day-elimination-violence-women/>

In 1999, the United Nations inaugurated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW).

Implicitly acknowledging that world leaders did not care about the social and human cost of violence against women, the World Bank took a different tack: following the money. In 2014, the Bank reported that violence against women cost countries up to 3.4% of their GDP. In some countries, this was more than double their investments in education. Implying that we should care about violence against women because it affects our bottom line is certainly a mercenary approach, but even this stark calculation failed to prompt a change in policies, practices, or prioritization of the elimination of violence against women (EVAW) as a socio-economic and security concern.

On November 25, 2024, as the UN commemorates the 25th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, perhaps it is worth stating it explicitly: violence against women is not just a women’s issue. It is a societal, economic, and security issue. Given the vast majority of perpetrators are men, it is also very clearly a men’s issue. At a minimum, it is time to shift the shame and fear that women have harbored for so long, onto the men who perpetuate the violence.

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29. Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre

<https://www.devex.com/news/19-local-organizations-to-watch-rwanda-men-s-resource-centre-108358>

The Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre, or RWAMREC, promotes gender equity and prevents gender-based violence by focusing on positive masculinity. For example, its flagship Bandedereho program involves community health workers facilitating 17 sessions with men and couples with young children to promote positive men’s engagement in reproductive, maternal, and newborn health, violence prevention, and caregiving. Their other programs — such as Baho, While Gen G, and Gewep — have similar goals.

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30. ‘The International Community Must Stop Turning a Blind Eye to the Suffering of Sudanese Women’

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/11/international-community-must-stop-turning-blind-eye-suffering-sudanese-women/>

CIVICUS discusses Sudan’s civil war and its impact on women with Sulaima Elkhalfa, a Sudanese human rights defender and expert on gender-based violence. Like the male population, women and girls are trying to escape bombings and avoid being caught in the crossfire. But women and girls are also being targeted as sexual violence has become a weapon of war that is being used systematically. Attackers often target women who belong to particular tribes or accuse them of supporting the former government as an excuse for sexually assaulting them. The truth is no woman is exempt.

Our message to the international community is clear: stop talking about Sudanese women as symbols of inspiration and understand they now need support and protection. Those who’ve experienced sexual violence need immediate care, support and a sense of safety. They need accountability for the crimes committed against them, not political rhetoric and blame games. The international community must stop turning a blind eye to the suffering of Sudanese women and start treating this issue with the urgency it deserves.

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31. Agrifood systems come with \$11.6T in hidden costs driven by poor diets

<https://www.devex.com/news/agrifood-systems-come-with-11-6t-in-hidden-costs-driven-by-poor-diets-108739>

The true price of food far exceeds what you’re paying in the supermarket. And thanks to FAO, we now have a sense of just how much.

For the second year in a row, FAO has dedicated its flagship State of Food and Agriculture report to true cost accounting. This approach moves beyond basic metrics like productivity and caloric intake to capture the full range of environmental, social, health, and economic impacts of the agrifood system.

And these costs come to the tune of \$11.6 trillion per year, according to FAO’s estimates, with health expenses linked to noncommunicable diseases responsible for 70% of those costs. Some experts believe that’s almost certainly an undercalculation, given how difficult it is to estimate environmental impacts, like soil erosion and water pollution.

But those costs aren’t consistent across countries. That’s why this year’s report builds on the previous version by offering a more nuanced analysis of the type of agrifood system that dominates in each country. The six different categories are: industrial, formalizing, diversifying, expanding, traditional, and protracted crisis.

See: *The global map of the agrifood systems typology*. Source: FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2616en-fig01>

It then looks at how those hidden costs differ depending on which category a country falls in. The map above shows you just how varied this whole system is and offers stakeholders in those countries a starting point to figure out how to address the costs that most affect them.

While most of the six categories saw health as their chief hidden cost, those health risks are not all the same. Among the upper-middle-income countries that fit into the industrial, formalizing, and diversifying categories, noncommunicable diseases were the big threat. But in lower-middle-income and low-income countries that fit into categories that relied on expanding and traditional agrifood systems, the risk of malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies from unhealthy diets grew.

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32. Measuring small towns – why do definitions matter?

<https://www.iied.org/measuring-small-towns-why-definitions-matter>

The transition to an urban world is linked to profound rural transformations. Currently, a large proportion of people in low- and middle-income countries live in small towns. They may move between different locations, relying on very diversified income sources that combine farming, industry and services.

This challenges the view of a neat urban-rural divide. It also calls for a better understanding of urbanisation dynamics beyond large and intermediate centres.

As the growth of smaller urban centres is projected to be an important contributor to urbanisation in Africa and Asia, these centres will play a crucial role in facing new local and global challenges.

These include the ability to provide basic services and infrastructure to their growing populations and those of their surrounding rural areas, supporting the creation of employment for a youthful and mobile labour force that often includes displaced people, and adapting to the impacts of the climate and ecological crisis while playing a growing role in managing local natural resources.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. New research: Canadian CSOs and the Triple Nexus

<https://cooperation.ca/new-research-canadian-csos-and-the-triple-nexus/>

As part of its mandate to develop a robust, evidence-based use case for triple nexus, the Canadian Triple Nexus Working Group has commissioned a research report on triple nexus within the Canadian context. Produced by Molly den Heyer and Brian Tomlinson, the purpose of the review was to generate an understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with the triple nexus approach, aiming to enhance both practice and policy discussions for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and government departments in Canada.

This report was financially supported by Acted Canada, CARE Canada, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Mennonite Central Committee and Cooperation Canada.

Triple nexus is an overarching holistic approach to protracted humanitarian crises, which links humanitarian and development action with the inclusion of peace initiatives. There is a focus on better programming, coordination and finance along with a growing emphasis on three core concepts: gender, conflict sensitivity and localization.

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2. New Research Reveals Canadian Perspectives on Global Engagement and Priorities

<https://cooperation.ca/new-research-reveals-canadian-perspectives-on-global-engagement-and-priorities/>

In July 2024, CanWaCH’s Public Opinion Research Working Group (PORWG), of which Cooperation Canada is a member, commissioned Abacus Data to refresh its 2023 polling on Canadians’ views toward international development and Official

Development Assistance (ODA). Building on the same questions from the previous year, this updated research provides new insights into Canadians' priorities and their perceptions of Canada's role on the global stage.

With over 2,300 Canadians surveyed, the results offer valuable data on how public sentiment has evolved amid global crises and heightened uncertainty. The findings highlight what Canadians believe matters most and where they think their government should focus its efforts.

Canadians remain pessimistic about the direction of the country and the world with domestic issues by and far topping the list. 72% of Canadians are very concerned about cost of living- with healthcare, the economy, and how housing affordability, a concern for over 90% (very/somewhat concerned).

The most concerning global issues remains the Russian invasion of Ukraine (35% very concerned), followed by the health and wellbeing of others around the world (34%). But overall, global issues are less of a concern, and less of a priority for vote- only 23% place a global issue (aside from climate change and the environment) in the top three issues impacting their vote.

There are two other key changes to note:

- Concerns about domestic inequality have risen in general, and most considerably among passives. This is relevant to the growing domestic first mindset. As concerns about poverty and equality at home grow, Canadians may feel more justified in their domestic first mindset.
- Passives are much more concerned about all issues- including global issues. As fewer Canadians are indifferent, there is an opportunity for them to become active supporters (but an equal chance they may become Canada First).

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3. 2024 Microfinance Index

<https://60decibels.com/insights/mfi-index-2024/>

The 2024 Microfinance Index is here! Now in its third year, the 60dB MFI Index has become the defining global report on client outcomes in microfinance. Drawing from 36,000+ microfinance clients across 45 countries, this year's report represents 32 million people globally. It explores key themes including client protection, gender impact, and climate resilience. The Index also recognizes 9 top-performing financial service providers (FSPs) through our 60dB Social Impact Awards. Key highlights:

- 89% of clients report improved quality of life, the highest in three years.
- 26% remain vulnerable to unexpected expenses, though additional services like training, savings, or insurance are helping to bridge this gap.
- Clients of female-focused FSPs—who are more likely to be poor—are 20% more likely to report improvements in their financial resilience and ability to face an emergency expense than women working with non-female-centric FSPs.

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4. A Better Way to Measure Social Impact

<https://hbr.org/2024/09/a-better-way-to-measure-social-impact>

To measure that societal impact, Bayer contracted with 60 Decibels, an independent social impact measurement company, to evaluate how smallholders assessed the benefits from the company's innovative agriculture programs. 60 Decibels performed extensive research to identify the most important themes in farmers' lives. Its continuous learning process, aligned with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Impact Management Project (IMP), produced standardized questions designed to yield actionable insights that guide program improvements. In effect, 60 Decibels created Farmer Reported Outcome Measures, or FROMs, for more comprehensive measurement of the social impacts from agricultural sector interventions.

In 2018, Bayer created the Better Life Farming (BLF) Alliance, a regional ecosystem including the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), irrigation provider, Netafim, and many local value-chain partners and government initiatives. The alliance now supports more than 2,700 Better Life Farming (BLF) Centers in rural India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Mexico, Honduras, Tanzania, and Ivory Coast, with a potential reach of 1 million smallholder farmers. The centers enable smallholders to build viable businesses beyond subsistence farming, and create new positions for agri-entrepreneurs to head each BLF Center, 10% of whom are women.

Bayer uses farmers' feedback from existing programs to improve capacity building, expand use of demonstration farms, and increase personalized attention and training from advisors. It also leverages the data in its program design for new crops in new regions.

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5. Climate finance for sustainable school feeding: exploring the options

<https://odi.org/en/publications/climate-finance-for-sustainable-school-feeding-exploring-the-options/>

This report, developed for the Sustainable Financing Initiative (SFI) of the School Meals Coalition, explores if and how climate finance could enable governments to expand school meals programs through additional resources and whether climate finance for school meals can transform wider food systems. This note is one of three background papers contributing to a wider paper on innovative financing for school feeding by the SFI.

We start by developing a theory of change for how climate finance, and associated policy dialogue, could result in adaptation and mitigation benefits via school feeding programmes. The theory of change is based around six potential pathways. Each in turn has a more discrete scope, moving from the wider food system to school settings:

1. Influencing public procurement and policies to incentivise lower emission and more climate-resilient approaches across food systems.
2. Supporting hands-on education and learning about linkages between food, environment, and human health to shape lifelong climate-aware food practices.
3. Enabling research and innovation around climate-resilient and lower emissions school feeding.
4. Addressing food loss and food waste reduction throughout the supply chain.
5. Encouraging school menu choices that reduce emissions and enhance resilience.
6. Making available more climate-smart methods and technologies for school meal preparation.

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6. The Impact of Nutritious Flour and Vegetables on Improving Growth in Young Children

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1948768175607220>

Tanzania Home Economics Organization - TAHEA Mwanza interviews rural parents in Ilemela, Tanzania about the benefits of feeding nutritious flour and vegetables to children. In Swahili with English subtitles.

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7. Stories of Hope: Featuring Emerging African Women in Science

<https://awardfellowships.org/our-learnings/stories-of-hope-featuring-emerging-african-women-in-science/>

Meet 13 remarkable early-career African female scientists whose inspiring journeys are shaping the future of science and agriculture in Africa.

Through the AWARD Leadership Program, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, these women are pioneering new solutions for Africa’s agricultural challenges. This publication celebrates celebrate their resilience, passion, and innovation.

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8. Role of Vulnerability in Transition to Clean Cooking: A Case of Chikhli Slum in Nagpur, Maharashtra

<https://southasiacommons.net/artifacts/17446192/role-of-vulnerability-in-transition-to-clean-cooking/18334962/>

Biomass burning, used mainly for cooking, is a key contributor to Household Air Pollution (HAP). It poses health risks especially for women and children as they are directly exposed to it for prolonged durations. Such burning also produces Black Carbon which is a huge contributor to global warming. This report was published by Asar Social Impact Advisors in August 2024. It presents the results of a study conducted in Chikhli slum of urban Nagpur, Maharashtra, to understand key barriers in adoption and sustained usage of clean cooking fuel. Households in the slum colonies of Chikhli are primarily engaged in informal and insecure occupations, the report states. Addressing the issue of clean cooking is thus, not only vital for combating climate change but also intricately linked with the overall health and well-being of women in these communities. The study uses compounding vulnerability framework to examine living conditions in three different slum pockets of Chikhli – Pangul Vasti, Rahul Gandhi Nagar and Mata Mandir Nagar. It does so against three variables: i) their inherent socio-economic, spatial and educational vulnerabilities, ii) Women’s exposure to chulhas and their double burden of health risks due to informal and insecure occupations and iii) Coping Mechanism of residents which includes awareness about and access to social security schemes and benefits, membership of labour unions and self-help groups, access to healthcare facilities, and political awareness. This 24-page document is divided into 6 sections: Introduction and Background (Section 1); Conceptual Framework for the Situational Analysis (Section 2); Methodology (Section 3); Findings (Section 4); Discussion (Section 5); Recommendations to the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (Section 6).

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9. Pathways to Growth: Gender-smart business actions that work

<https://acumen.org/reports/pathways-to-growth/>

The business case for gender inclusion is clear: When companies build gender-diverse teams, promote women to positions of leadership, and focus on women customers, it leads to increased profitability, higher sales, and multiple other commercial benefits.

Despite the strong evidence base, few examples and case studies show how change happens for early-stage companies and what types of gender interventions can be effective in early-stage contexts. This is understandable given the myriad challenges that startups face, yet until now, early-stage companies have had limited cases to draw on, which made it hard for investors and funders to encourage or suggest gender-inclusive practices in the early days of business building.

This report seeks to fill this gap by adding multiple concrete and relatable examples to the public domain in three parts:

- Part 1, “Investing in equity,” offers a detailed account of the journey that one investor, Acumen, has embarked on to address gender inclusion internally and across its portfolio.
- Part 2, “Pathways toward growth and impact,” by Value for Women, shares case studies and actionable pathways for early-stage companies to take decisive action to improve gender equality.
- Part 3, “Beyond counting women,” documents the work of 60 Decibels and Acumen to capture and utilize gender-based data and insights by surveying customers from 2020 to 2024.

There is more to learn and act on when it comes to gender-smart actions that work.

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10. Podcast: What does Trump’s election mean for global development?

<https://www.devex.com/news/what-does-trump-s-election-mean-for-global-development-108710>

The global development community is closely watching how things are unfolding in Washington, D.C. Major reforms to the international financial system are expected, as well as cuts in funding to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the United Nations.

How will Trump approach foreign policy? Will China capitalize on the U.S.’s withdrawal from the international scene? What does the result mean for international climate finance?

To dig into these questions and discuss what the outcome of the U.S. elections means for global development, Devex President and Editor-in-Chief Raj Kumar sits down with reporters Colum Lynch and Adva Saldinger for the latest episode of our weekly podcast series.

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11. Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action

<https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture>

COP29 follows up on last year’s landmark COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action. The big question is how countries will deliver on their pledges to scale up climate adaptation and resilience, protect ecosystems, and strengthen water management, all while enhancing food security. Integrating food systems transformation into climate action plans — or nationally determined contributions, aka NDCs — is at least one way countries pledged to do this. [Source: Devex]

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12. Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation

<https://allianceofchampions.org/>

At a high-level COP29 meeting Nov 12, many countries shared updates, with a shoutout to the Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, which was launched last year, and calls by the World Farmers’ Organization to ensure farmers are consulted — after all, they’re the ones who play the biggest role in carrying out this enormous task. [Source: Devex]

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13. FAO’s State of Food and Agriculture report

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/994d8b45-f279-4411-8aa7-f45c667aa805/content/cd2616en.html>

For the first time, in 2024, The State of Food and Agriculture builds on the previous year’s edition, which quantified the preliminary global hidden costs of agrifood systems using true cost accounting (TCA) – a systems approach that captures the environmental, social, health and economic impacts, both visible and invisible, of agrifood systems. Using publicly available data for 154 countries, The State of Food and Agriculture 2023 revealed that the global hidden costs of agrifood systems were highly likely to have exceeded 10 trillion dollars at purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2020. This preliminary figure would probably be even higher without the data constraints preventing the quantification of several relevant hidden cost components for those 154 countries. A notable finding was that global hidden costs are largely driven by health hidden costs, followed by environmental hidden costs, in upper-middle- and high-income countries. Social hidden costs from poverty and undernourishment are predominant in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

14. Attending scientific conferences after kids: Challenges and Solutions

<https://www.mothersinscience.com/scimomchats/conferences-after-kids>

Attending scientific conferences is crucial for career advancement in STEM, particularly for early-career scientists. Conferences allow academics to build their scientific reputation and establish new connections and collaborations, which are essential for scientific production. However, data shows that many women decline opportunities to attend conferences due to family responsibilities.

In our May 2024 SciMom Chats event, we discussed the obstacles caregivers face when attending conferences and brainstormed potential solutions with leading science policy experts.

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15. Stepping Forward, Stepping Back, and into the Unknown: An Autoethnography of Solidarity

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.56105/cjsae.v36i02.5778>

Abstract

Dr. Cindy Hanson writes: “My social position emerges from years of activism and a rural, working-class history. For decades, I have worked in adult/lifelong learning and development—inside communities and post-secondary institutions—always with the goal of achieving a more just and equitable world. While I aspire to these ideals, I have also had to learn that acts of solidarity involve learning when to step forward, when to step back, and a willingness to step into the unknown. In this autoethnography I choose a few examples from life experience that illustrate solidarity in action and what might be termed revolutionary praxis. Using examples from my work in global/international development, settler-Indigenous relations, feminism, and public transportation, I explore activism and solidarity. Finally, I offer insights into how solidarity functions in spaces of adult learning, including attention to paradoxes or attempting to “do good” while reinforcing inequalities embedded in neoliberal funding, social histories, and authority structures. Positions of solidarity require deep levels of consciousness raising. In my experience, no transformation is without challenges, risk, and acts of courage.”

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16. The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems

<https://www.fao.org/gender/the-status-of-women-in-agrifood-systems/en>

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc5060en>

The 2023 FAO report provides a comprehensive picture of the status of women not only in agriculture, but across agrifood systems. It presents extensive data and lessons learned about gender in agrifood systems, with particular focus on how women participate in and benefit from socio-economic opportunities. Furthermore, it demonstrates how shocks in agrifood systems, such as COVID-19, have a differential impact on men, boys, women and girls and their coping strategies. The report shows how gender equality and women’s empowerment are central to the transition towards sustainable, productive and resilient agrifood systems and how the transformation of agrifood systems can contribute to gender equality and women’s empowerment. It also provides policy-oriented insights and makes specific recommendations on the best way forward.

With the launch of the report, FAO makes a commitment to do even more to mainstream gender considerations in our efforts to achieve Better Production, Better Nutrition, Better Environment and Better Life.

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17. Practical Applications to PSEAH - Learnings from FIT Innovators

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/resources/293/practical-applications-to-pseah-learnings-from-fit-innovators>

En français: <https://www.fit-fit.ca/fr/ressources/292/applications-pratiques-de-peahs-lecons-des-innovateur-trices-s-du-fit>

A PSEAH event organized by FIT provided valuable insights from SMOs and their local partners who shared practical strategies for preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment during their projects. This session fostered a collaborative atmosphere focused on improving PSEAH policy and practice.

One of the key takeaways was the importance of making policies adaptable, implementable, and localized to specific contexts. Organizations must work hand-in-hand with local partners, adapting policies to suit local cultures, legal contexts, and sensitivities while ensuring continuous capacity building and training. Furthermore, the focus on community-based approaches and fostering safe spaces for participants underscores the importance of building trust at the grassroots level.

As SMOs and local partners continue to tackle the issues of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, they must remain vigilant, constantly learning from their experiences and refining their approaches. This event provided a crucial platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned, which will undoubtedly help guide future efforts to create safer, more inclusive environments for all participants.

- The document available in PDF format summarizes the insights from the session.
- An interactive Flipbook version is also available.

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18. Workshop Resources: Making Data Collection Meaningful

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/national-training-making-data-collection-meaningful/>

Making Data Collection Meaningful is an intensive workshop organized by Spur Change, in collaboration with the Inter-Council Network (ICN) members, Salanga and ZENDialogue, as a practical hands-on experience for participants to dive into planning for data collection, gender-sensitive, feminist and community-led approaches to data collection, and technology for data collection with a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning modules.

You'll find the asynchronous learning materials (videos, worksheets, handouts and more) from the workshop which can be completed through self-learning. We recommend you follow each module in progression, as the knowledge builds with each successive step.

Please note that this page has been updated as of Fall 2024. The modules have been reordered and additional resources have also been added.

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