



Poinciana (Delonix regia) and woman. 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 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. Webinar (EN, FR): Advancing Gender Responsive NAP Processes

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CzJunEsDTomTh7eC-s5SYg#/registration

On **January 29**, IISD experts will share their analysis of how gender has been integrated into countries’ NAPs. Register to follow the discussions at the launch of our report, Advancing Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes: State of Play and Promising Examples.

During the webinar, NAP Global Network experts will delve into the results of our systematic review of NAP documents and provide an updated analysis of how gender has been integrated into the 56 multisectoral NAPs submitted to the UNFCCC in the current review period. The discussions will cover key topics such as how gender issues are being framed in countries NAP documents, how women and other vulnerable groups are being positioned, and how gender is being integrated into NAP institutions, implementation strategies, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) efforts. Additionally, we will share a few promising examples from NAP Global Network’s partner countries that provide practical examples of how countries are advancing their gender-responsive NAP processes.

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2. Chat With Us: Rendez-Vous with a Senior Scientific Editor

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/chat-with-us-rendez-vous-with-a-senior-scientific-editor-tickets-1119224623979>

Are you wondering what to do after your master's, doctorate, or postdoctoral fellowship? Do you want to learn about science careers outside of academia? The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology - Quebec (SCWIST - Quebec) invites you to listen to the experiences and perspectives of Dr. Kavitha Scranton, Senior Scientific Editor at the Cell Press journal, Immunity.

This is a unique opportunity to network and learn from Dr. Scranton's experience and expertise, including her career path, the role of a senior scientific editor, and accessibility and impacts of different jobs in scientific journals. **January 30 | 9-10am PST / 12-1pm EST | Online**

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3. Indigenous Agriculture: Lost Harvest

<https://www.agrisystemsll.ca/events/indigenous-agriculture-lost-harvest>

Join Alberta Agrisystems Living Lab and Dr. Sarah Carter to learn more about the history of indigenous agriculture in western Canada. Agriculture on Plains Indian reserves is generally thought to have failed because the Indigenous people lacked either an interest in farming or an aptitude for it. In our webinar Dr. Sarah Carter will reveal that reserve residents were anxious to farm and expended considerable effort on cultivation; government policies, more than anything else, acted to undermine their success. **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

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4. Gender in the EU's foreign policies: expectations for the next European Commission

<https://odi.org/en/events/gender-in-the-eus-foreign-policies-expectations-for-the-next-european-commission/>

This online event is part of a series addressing the most urgent challenges and opportunities for promoting gender equality, diversity, and feminist-inspired policies, co-hosted by ODI Europe and UN Women in Brussels throughout 2024.

As a new European Commission starts, this event will focus on key priorities and challenges related to Europe's global leadership in advancing gender equality, as well as safeguarding and promoting feminist-inspired foreign policies at national, EU, and global levels.

Date 06 Feb. Time (GMT +01) 16:00 17:30

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5. WISE Kid-Netic Energy Employment

<https://www.wisekidneticenergy.ca/employment>

We hire Workshop and Club Instructors every Fall, Winter, & Spring/Summer term. We employ undergraduate students to deliver our STEM programming. Throughout the school year we travel to schools in/near the City of Winnipeg delivering hands-on workshops based on K-12 Manitoba Science curriculum. During the spring we deliver our workshops to communities further from Winnipeg, including rural and northern communities and a number of First Nations communities throughout Manitoba. In the summer, we offer day camps in Winnipeg and communities throughout the province.

We are looking for Post-Secondary Students who many be pursuing any science related fields, engineering, education or kinesiology & recreation. You must enjoy working with youth. You must have an Intermediate or full Canadian driver's license (please no beginners). Having access to a vehicle is required. Speaking French is an asset.

Application and Video Deadline - 8AM on Friday February 7, 2025

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6. Society for Human Ecology/SHE XXVI International Conference

<https://www.societyforhumanecology.org/>

The Society for Human Ecology/SHE is holding their XXVI International Conference in **June 18–21, 2025** | University of Mons | **Mons, Belgium**. Conference title is Ecology, Politics, and Justice: Working Towards the Pluriverse. **The deadline for abstract submission is February 10, 2025.**

Our aim is to make this event as broadly interdisciplinary as possible, bridging science, social science, and policy perspectives with literature, humanities, and creative arts. Contributions from all areas of human ecology—theory, education, research, and practice—are welcomed.

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7. International Day of Women and Girls in Science

<https://www.unesco.org/en/days/women-girls-science>

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated on **11 February**, is implemented by UNESCO and UN-Women, in collaboration institutions and civil society partners that aim to promote women and girls in science. This Day is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. Gender equality is a global priority for UNESCO, and the support of young girls, their education and their full ability to make their ideas heard are levers for development and peace.

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8. Call for Applications: AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Agricultural Sciences

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/call-for-applications-award-leadership-program-for-emerging-african-women-in-agricultural-sciences-2/>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is announcing the Call for The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science. This Call targets young women in science under 35 years of age from Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, and Malawi. The Call for applications **closes on February 12, 2025.**

The program, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) and implemented by African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), seeks to build a pool of capable, confident, influential young women scientists equipped to excel in agricultural sciences, thrive in leadership roles, and champion gender integration in agriculture.

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9. Supporting the Advancement of Women in Agriculture Survey

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8135713/Supporting-the-Advancement-of-Women-in-Agriculture-Survey-10-Year-Update>

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) provides national leadership to address current and emerging issues in the agricultural workforce. We would like to hear your opinions and experiences on the challenges and issues facing women in advancing to leadership roles in agriculture.

The original survey was conducted in 2015. The survey is being run again to measure changes over the past ten years. It will gather insights about what tools and information may be helpful to break down these barriers.

Please answer the questions as best you can, based on your experiences in the agricultural sector (i.e. farm business owner/operator, student, manager). Deadline to complete is **February 20.**

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10. Unstoppable Women: Celebrating Award-Winning Development

<https://www.mcic.ca/members-and-partners/dev-impact-awards>

Join MCIC on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 1 PM CT**, as we celebrate the winners of MCIC’s 2025 Development Impact Awards. Hear from MCIC members as they showcase their award-winning projects advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls worldwide.

The awards recognize exceptional initiatives funded through the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program (MGMGP) that align with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

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11. Cattle’s Role in Sustainable Food Systems

<https://eventscalendar.umanitoba.ca/site/fafs/event/tk-cheung-lecture-in-animal-science-cattles-role-in-sustainable-food-systems/>

The 2025 Annual T.K. Cheung Lecture in Animal Science at the University of Manitoba presents CATTLE’S ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS. Presented by DR. SARA PLACE, Associate Professor of Feedlot Systems, Colorado State University. **Tuesday February 25, 2025. 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM.** Register for a livestream link.

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12. Certificate of Merit – U of Manitoba Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and the School of Agriculture

<https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/certificate-merit>

The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences is seeking nominations for its 2025 Certificate of Merit awards. Each year, two are presented, usually one to a graduate of the Agriculture Diploma program, and one to a graduate of the Agriculture or Home Economics/Human Ecology Degree programs. Nominations should include a letter from the nominator describing the nominee’s leadership contributions and service to the community. Letters of support may also be included. Nominations must be received no later than **February 28, 2025.**

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13. Agriculture Scholarship for Saskatchewan Students

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/programs-for-farmers-and-ranchers/agriculture-student-scholarship>

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture is looking for young people who plan to pursue a career in the industry. To be eligible for this scholarship, you must be a Grade 12 student or recent high school/GED graduate (within the past two school years) residing in Saskatchewan who is planning to take agriculture-related post-secondary education beginning in the fall of 2025. Post-secondary schools do not have to be located in Saskatchewan and may be any accredited post-secondary institution in Canada. Applications from those who self-declare as Indigenous, persons with disabilities and visible minority persons are encouraged.

The winning scholarship is valued at \$6,000 and the three runner-up scholarships are valued at \$3,000 each. The application deadline is **March 1, 2025.**

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14. Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture - Graduate student video competition

<https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/sustainability-canadian-agriculture-2025/graduate-student-video-competition-2025>

Current graduate students (MSc or PhD candidates) in agriculture are invited to take part in a 3-minute video competition, held in conjunction with the Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture Conference, **March 4-6, 2025**.

Show and tell your story! Pitch your research project in a pre-recorded video, telling us about your research and how it can potentially benefit farmers and the sustainability of Canadian agriculture in three minutes!

Video entries will be showcased on the conference website and select entries will be chosen for special presentation/Q & A during the conference. Those students whose video will be featured during the conference are required to take part in a live Q & A session following the video presentations.

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15. Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture 2025 Virtual Conference

<https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/sustainability-canadian-agriculture-2025>

Join us virtually on **March 4, 5 and 6th**. This 3-day virtual conference brings together researchers, students, producers, government, commodity organizations and industry representatives with a range of perspectives to collectively share ideas and experiences about how to improve agricultural sustainability in Canada. Sessions will feature brief presentations followed by facilitated panel discussions

- exploring Indigenous perspectives for a secure food system,
- adopting best management practices: understanding producer decision-making, and
- expanding the boundaries of agricultural production systems.

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16. Skills development and Technical and vocational education and training fund – Call for proposals

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/tvet_fund-eftp_fonds.aspx?lang=eng

Canadian organizations are invited to submit their proposal and contribute to Canada’s action on its international assistance priorities. Please submit your proposal for project aimed at supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship through skills development as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET) primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. This call for proposals places a specific emphasis on addressing employment for the hardest to reach young people including women and girls, youth with disabilities, refugees, displaced populations, and supporting sustainable and inclusive economic growth, including in crisis and conflict-affected settings.

This is a single-step application process, through which applicant organizations must submit a full proposal.

The successful applicant will establish and manage a fund to provide sub-grants to Canadian, international, and local organizations in the field of skills development and TVET that are aligned with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Deadline to apply: **March 6, 2025**, at noon ET.

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17. Webinar- Empowering women to build their food careers

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/empowering-women-tickets-1128814928839>

This free webinar is part of Canadian Food Innovation Network (CFIN)'s new Unpuzzling webinar series, designed to provide actionable insights and guidance on navigating complex food business topics.

This session will feature CFIN's CEO, Dana McCauley, and VP of Partnerships & Development, Richa Gupta, for a discussion that will explore both Dana and Richa's breadth of experience in the food sector. In commemoration of International Women's Day, the webinar will be packed full of insights aimed to empower women building their own ambitious food careers. **Thursday, March 6, 12 - 1pm CST.**

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18. Submit your session proposal for Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA19)

<https://www.iied.org/cba19-call-for-proposals-for-conference-sessions>

The 19th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA19) is going ahead the week of **12 May in Recife, Brazil**. At CBA19 we will try to answer the question, "how can we achieve just and equitable adaptation", and while registration for the event is not open yet, **we are seeking session proposals**. We will welcome conference sessions that answer the above question under three themes:

- LLA locally-led approaches in action (how to move from principles to practice, at scale, highlighting best practice and emerging innovations and challenges)
- Urban adaptation (achieving just and equitable adaptation that meets the needs of all urban dwellers, including issues around informality, infrastructure and health), and
- Nature/adaptation (highlighting the interconnections between nature and climate and the importance of local and Indigenous knowledge and practices in achieving just and equitable adaptation).

Gender justice, anti-racist and decolonial approaches will cut across the whole conference.

The event will see around 300 participants from local community organisations, Indigenous Peoples' organisations, NGOs, research institutes, governments, foundations and multilateral agencies come together over five days to share, learn and evolve understanding of best practice on locally led adaptation.

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19. Women in STEM Career Fair - Virtual

<https://scwist.ca/programs/career-fair/>

An interactive career fair focused on connecting employers and recruiters in STEM to women and underrepresented groups across Canada. Have you been searching for a new job opportunity? Or do you want to learn about ways to leverage your professional skills in today's job market? Our annual STEM career fair is dedicated to helping women, the 2SLGBTQ+ community, racialized communities, new immigrants, individuals with disabilities and other under-represented groups accelerate their career development. **May 15, 2025**

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This Month's News

1. Rwanda: 100,000 cassava farming households to strengthen food security and climate resilience

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/190563/rwanda-strengthen-food-security>

INGABO Syndicate Farmers, a producer organization, and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) signed a US\$2 million project to enhance food security, improve livelihoods, and build climate resilience for over

100,000 cassava farming households across 10 districts in Rwanda. Women will make up more than half of the participants, and almost one in five will be young farmers.

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2. Tanzania: Pemba's Woman Salt Farmers Forge Livelihoods Amid Climate Woes

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/01/pembas-woman-salt-farmers-forge-livelihoods-amid-climate-woes/>

For female artisanal salt farmers in Pemba, Tanzania, salt production is both their livelihood and their struggle. In this deeply patriarchal Muslim community, the gleaming piles of white salt represent survival—a craft demanding patience, precision and grit. However, rising sea levels put their enterprise at risk.

On Pemba Island, where farms yield 2,000 tons of salt annually, prosperity feels like a mirage. Experts believe output could triple with better tools, but resources remain scarce. Families and cooperatives divide the land, with an average of four owners per plot, leaving wealth unevenly distributed. Farm owners collect the bulk of the earnings, while the workers—who toil under the weight of every harvest—are left to scrape by, their paychecks barely carrying them through the season.

Salt farming has always tested endurance, but climate change conspires against the women who depend on it. Rising temperatures accelerate evaporation, often causing salt to crumble before it can be harvested. Unpredictable rainfall—once a seasonal certainty—now arrives without warning, flooding the ponds and washing away weeks of labor back into the sea.

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3. Indonesia Kickstarts \$28 Billion Nationwide Free-Meal Program to Fight Malnutrition

<https://time.com/7204926/indonesia-free-nutritious-meal-program-prabowo-subianto/>

Indonesia's new government started an ambitious project on Monday to fight malnutrition by feeding nearly 90 million children and pregnant women that is expected to cost \$28 billion through 2029, although critics question whether the program is affordable.

The newly formed National Nutrition Agency will use funds to buy an estimated 6.7 million tons of rice, 1.2 million tons of chicken, 500,000 tons of beef, 1 million tons of fish, vegetable and fruit, and 4 million kiloliters of milk.

Nearly 2,000 cooperatives will be involved in the free meals program by providing eggs, vegetables, rice, fish, meat, milk and other food, Cooperative Minister Budi Arie Setiadi said.

A researcher at the Center of Economic and Law Studies said Indonesia's state finances are not strong enough to support the program and this will lead to additional national debt.

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4. Kenya's celebrated coffee under threat as farmers hit by climate change

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp3zw27322zo>

Farmers feel the trading system between Kenya and Europe - the world's largest coffee market - has been stacked against them for many years. But now, a new threat looms, jeopardising farmers' ability to make a living - climate change. Growing the berries is labour intensive - picking, pruning, weeding, spraying, fertilising and transporting the products.

The price of a single cup of coffee in a chic European café, typically \$4 (£3.20), highlights a stark disparity when compared to the earnings of many Kenyan coffee labourers, who make at most \$2.30 a day. Edita Mwangi, who harvests coffee cherries on the red earth hillside overlooking the processing plant, confirms this. "They don't know the poverty we suffer. You have to struggle day and night just to survive," she said. With four children depending on her, Ms. Mwangi works six days a week, earning about \$1.40 a day. She has to walk 5km (three miles) to reach the farm where she works.

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5. Opinion: Cooking up Success: Solar Kitchen Initiative Aims to Expand Access to Clean Energy in Angola

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/01/cooking-success-solar-kitchen-initiative-aims-expand-access-clean-energy-angola/>

Access to energy is essential for sustainable development, but for many rural communities, it's still out of reach. In Angola, according to the 2019-2020 agricultural census, most rural villages lack access to electricity. Over 83 percent of villages have no electricity at all, while 11 percent rely on private generators. These numbers highlight the urgent need for better energy solutions to support rural communities and boost their development.

Hence, earlier this year, three teams from UNDP Angola joined the dedicated Crowdfunding Academy for Nature, Climate and Energy projects in Africa, supported by the UNDP Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy and the IRH- Alternative Finance Lab. Through this experience, UNDP Angola launched its first-ever crowdfunding campaign: "Solar Kitchen: Cooking with the Right Energy!".

This campaign is part of a regional effort, which will include more campaigns in the region under the same thematic area. Alongside other countries, the Solar Kitchen campaign becomes part of the new UNDP Africa #SwitchIt crowdfunding initiative. This is a pan-African push to address the UNDP Energy Moonshot that aims to provide sustainable, affordable and reliable energy to an additional 500 million people by 2025, while advancing a fair energy transition and also being a pathway to economic empowerment, gender equality and improved quality of life.

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6. Colombia's Historic Child Marriage Ban

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/01/colombias-historic-child-marriage-ban/>

Colombia has just marked a historic milestone in the global campaign against child marriage, with the Senate passing one of Latin America and the Caribbean's most comprehensive bans on child marriage and early unions. In a country where one in five girls under 18 and one in 10 under 14 are married or live in marriage-like conditions, the new law raises the minimum age to 18 with no exceptions, eliminating a 137-year-old Civil Code provision that allowed children over 14 to marry with parental consent. This achievement aligns with goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which has a target of eliminating harmful practices like child marriage by 2030. The new law now awaits the signature of President Gustavo Petro to come into effect.

Child marriage disproportionately affects Colombia's most vulnerable communities, with rates of between 40 and 65 per cent among rural, Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations. In some communities, girls as young as 10 are married off. These early unions expose girls to unequal power relations, deny them education, limit their bodily and economic autonomy and lead to higher rates of gender-based violence and health issues linked to early pregnancy.

Colombia is by no means alone in having a child marriage problem. Around the world, some 12 million girls are married each year, two million before the age of 15. While child marriage can affect boys as well, girls are six times more likely to be married as children than boys.

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7. 'The end of women and children's rights': outrage as Iraqi law allows child marriage

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/22/women-children-rights-iraqi-law-allows-child-marriage>

Iraqi MPs and women's rights groups have reacted with horror to the Iraqi parliament passing a law permitting children as young as nine years old to marry, with activists saying it will "legalise child rape".

Under the new law, which was agreed January 21, 2025, religious authorities have been given the power to decide on family affairs, including marriage, divorce and the care of children. It abolishes a previous ban on the marriage of children under the age of 18 in place since the 1950s.

Child marriage has been a longstanding issue in Iraq, where 28% of girls were married before they turned 18, a 2023 UN survey found. While marriage is presented to some underage girls as a chance to escape poverty, many of the marriages end in failure, bringing lifelong consequences for young women, including social shame and a lack of opportunities because of unfinished schooling.

For Shia Muslims, which make up the majority in Iraq, the lowest age of marriage for girls will be nine years old, while for Sunnis, the official age will be 15.

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8. Taliban's Decrees Worsen Crisis for Afghan Women, Banning All NGO Work

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/01/talibans-decrees-worsen-crisis-for-afghan-women-banning-all-ngo-work/>

Afghan women are enduring perhaps their most challenging time. Since the Taliban regained power four years ago, restrictions on women and girls have escalated, beginning with bans on education and paid employment.

Recently, the Taliban closed the few remaining employment opportunities for women, including positions in domestic and foreign NGOs. Women are now entirely barred from domestic or foreign NGO work. Unemployment among women is rising with the same frequency as new decrees are issued banning women from taking up various jobs.

Terminating the activities of foreign and domestic non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan will only make the already harsh conditions worse for women. These organizations play a key role in meeting the people's basic needs and supporting the country's infrastructure.

In the absence of these organizations, women would suffer severe consequences because NGOs were the main source of crucial social, economic and health services. Without them, poverty leading to forced marriages would rise among women.

All of the activities that the NGOs provided, such as skills, vocational training, and small holding agriculture, which improved the lives of women, are now being taken away. With unemployment and poverty rising, most of Afghan families are bracing themselves for a bleak winter.

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9. Rural areas in Canada are harder hit by climate change. These communities are rising to the challenge

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whatonearth/climate-change-rural-canada-1.7439426>

About 20 per cent of Canadians live in rural and remote parts of the country. And according to a report by the federal government released in 2023, rural Canadians are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

But challenges also put rural communities on the front lines to tackle some of these pressing issues, and many are finding ways to go above and beyond in the fight against climate change.

10. **Uganda’s anti-LGBTQ+ law cost the country \$1.6B, business coalition says**

<https://www.devex.com/news/uganda-s-anti-lgbtq-law-cost-the-country-1-6b-business-coalition-says-109149>

Aside from the life imprisonment it imposed — along with the death penalty for what Uganda referred to as “aggravated homosexuality” — it also cost the country’s economy up to \$1.6 billion in a single year, according to research from the Open for Business coalition, which aims to demonstrate that LGBTQ+ inclusion is a core component of sustainable economic growth. The World Bank ceased new loans to Uganda. The U.S. withdrew Uganda’s African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, status. “Countries with low levels of LGBTQ+ inclusion tend to experience higher levels of brain drain,” Arnall said. “That means young people leaving the country.”

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11. **How Trump’s US aid stop-work order affects global food aid**

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-trump-s-us-aid-stop-work-order-affects-global-food-aid-109190>

The United States is the world’s biggest donor of international food aid: It funnels billions of dollars annually into emergency vouchers for food in crises, school meal programs, more productive crops, and improving smallholder farmers’ livelihoods in the world’s lowest-income countries.

On Friday, that entire system came crashing down when the State Department issued an unprecedented stop-work order for foreign aid grants and contacts as part of the Trump administration’s 90-day freeze of nearly all foreign assistance. While “emergency food aid” is exempt from the order, it remains unclear what counts under that umbrella.

Meanwhile, the directive has paralyzed a vast swath of U.S.-funded food aid and agricultural research work.

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12. **USAID threatens ‘disciplinary action’ in DEIA crackdown**

<https://www.devex.com/news/usaid-threatens-disciplinary-action-in-deia-crackdown-109136>

U.S. President Donald Trump’s crackdown on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility programs across the U.S. government includes orders for USAID officials to report attempts by their peers to conceal these efforts by rewording contract language or job descriptions.

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13. **Opinion: Investing in food systems is a safer bet than military spending**

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-investing-in-food-systems-is-a-safer-bet-than-military-spending-109097>

While global military spending skyrocketed to \$2.44 trillion in 2023 — \$1.2 trillion among G7 countries alone — a critical yet underappreciated pillar of global stability keeps quietly crumbling: agrifood systems.

These systems govern natural resources, sustain livelihoods, and form the foundation of global economies and trade. The continued neglect of agrifood systems in regions vulnerable to instability accelerates economic collapse and fuels conflict.

Yet the world continues to respond to crises with force rather than foresight. In turn, the military spending bill keeps growing. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, military spending has risen sharply — by 105% and 78% respectively — while millions remain stuck in conflict and on the brink of starvation. Failing to fund long-term development traps vulnerable regions in a vicious cycle of conflict, eroding the foundations for sustainable progress.

14. Night-Time Harvesting

<https://grist.org/food-and-agriculture/overnight-work-extreme-heat-adaptation-agriculture>

Moving from daytime to overnight work is often presented as the most practical solution for agricultural laborers struggling with rising temperatures as a result of climate change. But it is no longer simply a proposal: This shift is already underway among many of the communities that catch, grow, and harvest the world’s food supply, from Brazil to India to the United States. Studies show the most common means of adapting to rising temperatures in most crop-growing regions has been to start working when it’s still dark out, or even to shift to a fully overnight schedule.

The impact of a shift to nighttime hours is an understudied piece of the puzzle of how climate change and rising temperatures threaten the world’s food supply and its workforce. But for many experts, and those on the front lines, one thing is clear: Overnight work is far from a straightforward solution.

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15. What Trump’s USDA pick Brooke Rollins thinks about food and nutrition

<https://foodfix.co/what-trumps-usda-pick-brooke-rollins-thinks-about-food-and-nutrition/>

Brooke Rollins, President Donald Trump’s pick for agriculture secretary, appeared before the Senate Agriculture Committee on Jan. 22, offering us our first window into where she stands on a wide variety of food and nutrition issues. The more than \$200 billion Agriculture Department employs nearly 100,000 people and has an incredibly broad portfolio, from managing crop insurance and animal diseases to meat inspection and rural development.

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16. Land Restoration

Saudi Arabia commits \$2.5 billion to environmental sustainability and regional collaboration

<https://fastcompany.com/news/saudi-arabia-commits-2-5-billion-to-environmental-sustainability-and-regional-collaboration/>

Environmental and Climate Sustainability Working Group South Africa <https://g20.org/track/environment-and-climate-sustainability/>

From Devex Davos Dispatch, January 27, 2025

Ibrahim Thiaw, the executive secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, tells Raj how “landpreneurs” — mostly educated youth returning to their families’ degraded farmland — are transforming worn-out fields through tech-enabled ventures. These range from solar-powered irrigation systems to innovative food processing. One standout? A Mauritanian entrepreneur turning discarded date seeds into decaf coffee.

“Gen Z is very creative,” Thiaw says. “The same sun that is rotting the meat can actually be used to conserve it.” But with 40% of Earth’s land already degraded and global food demand set to double by 2050, both small and large-scale solutions are needed.

Enter the Great Green Wall — an ambitious program that combines tech-enabled farming, renewable energy, and water access to restore degraded land across the Sahel. The model is catching on: Saudi Arabia has committed \$2.5 billion for a Middle East version, while Southern Africa is launching its own under South Africa’s presidency of the Group of 20 largest and emerging economies. Turns out landpreneurs might be onto something — restoration pays.

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1. Abandoned Routes: Unravelling the Impact of Greyhound Bus Cancellations on Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Rural and Remote Canada

<https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/2622>

Abstract

The purpose of this media analysis was to develop a nuanced understanding of how the cancellation of Greyhound Bus Lines was reported and the potential impacts of risk and perpetuation of gender-based violence (GBV) in rural and remote communities in Canada.

This mixed-methods media analysis, using a transportation justice framework, employed the following process: (1) a comprehensive search of 7 news databases and media websites, (2) title-abstract screening, and (3) full-text screening. We conducted a frequency analysis of article source type, locality, key issues, and time trend analysis. Finally, we engaged in thematic analysis of article content to discern key thematic areas.

Over half of the articles were published by National-level news sources (n = 26, 51.0%). Publication dates aligned with major route cancellation announcements in mid-2018 (n = 28, 54.9%). Using thematic analysis, three themes were generated: (1) transportation inequities serve as significant barriers for GBV survivors, limiting access to safe spaces and fostering the need for unsafe travel practices; (2) the discontinuation of Greyhound services disproportionately impacts Indigenous communities, exacerbating pre-existing structures of GBV risk; and (3) advocates emphasize the need for collaborative efforts between all levels of government to establish an integrated national transportation system as a solution.

According to media reports, the cancellation of Greyhound Bus routes exacerbates barriers to accessing services and perpetuates risk factors for those experiencing GBV. These findings highlight the importance of federally supported, community-based approaches to develop and share sustainable rural and remote transportation solutions from the grassroots level.

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2. Gendered Power Differences at Home, at Work, And at Large: Sex Differences In Patterns of Commuting

<https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/2307>

Abstract

To identify the individual, spousal, and household determinants of commute times for married/common-law workers aged 25-54. Despite clear evidence of gendered patterns at home and in the paid labour market, only some have focused directly on the space connecting these two spheres: the commute. This oversight is critical because commuting times impact the overall time available to spend on paid labour or unpaid housework and may mark an important missing piece in the larger gender inequality puzzle.

We use the 2016 Census of Canada and include married and common-law couples, where both spouses are employed and aged 25-54. We use seemingly unrelated regression models to account for the non-independence of men and women living in the same household. Although magnitudes differ, many characteristics similarly determine the commute times of men and women in our sample. Household characteristics differ markedly between men and women; men increase commute times due to housing value, rental costs, and the presence of children. For women, the opposite is true.

We find that women often have to travel more to fulfill the promise of their human capital and that couples continue to make geographic decisions that disproportionately benefit men's interests.

3. Shifting the pendulum on gender equality and social inclusion through emerging approaches to citizenship education

<https://doi.org/10.1080/02601370.2024.2449168>

Abstract

This paper illustrates how particular approaches to citizenship education can be catalysts or deterrents in the promotion of gender equality and social inclusion. The review suggests that new, emerging (i.e. decolonising, feminist, intersectional/situational) approaches to citizenship education and learning are more likely to address the multiple experiences of women, racialised, LGBTQ+ and disenfranchised groups, particularly when intersectional frameworks and situated learning are included. It further suggests emerging approaches infused with values and practices that enhance solidarity, and social inclusion might be more likely to result in change rather than continuing with lifelong learning that emphasise credentials, individual economic growth, and limited scopes on literacy. Using a literature review method, global examples are provided that illustrate how inequalities are ameliorated and exacerbated, for example by the COVID-19 pandemic. The review suggests that emerging approaches intimate multiple benefits because they move beyond neoliberalism, engage with non-Western ways of knowing, and view all gender conforming, non-conforming and disenfranchised populations as change agents capable of solidarity and participatory democracy.

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4. Canadian Potato Summit 2025

<https://www.potatoesincanada.com/virtual-events/canadian-potato-summit-2025/>

The Canadian Potato Summit 2025 was held online on January 16, 2025. The half-day event included live sessions focused on industry and agronomy updates from some of the most advanced leaders in the potato sector. Videos of the speakers are available at the website. Included are the following scientists and industry specialists: Victoria Stamper, United Potato Growers of Canada; Vanessa Currie, University of Guelph; Erica Fava, AAFC; Christine Noronha, AAFC; and Judith Nyiraneza, AAFC.

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