



# GEM Digest of the Month for February 1, 2013

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*Rural Manitoba sunrise with crescent moon in January 2013. Photo courtesy of C. Murray.*

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Working Group of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) gathers information and articles on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change and organizational development. Information is shared with members, partners, scientific societies and member organizations. The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of AIC.

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

Regards,  
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member (Volunteer)

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## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. Women's Farm and Forestry Alliance Gathering

[http://wffalliance.org/wffaannualgathering/.](http://wffalliance.org/wffaannualgathering/)

The Women’s Farm and Forestry Alliance, is hosting the Annual Gathering of the Women's Farm and Forestry Alliance on **March 11-12, 2013** at the Saint Paul Hotel in **St. Paul, Minnesota, USA**. This is an important gathering of leaders in women in agriculture and forestry, and it provides an opportunity to build new relationships. In addition, we will be looking for your input for the WFFA online training curriculum that is designed to address advanced financial and business management skills development that will benefit all women who own and operate agricultural businesses.

The program will feature speakers such as Celeste Settrini, a 4th generation cattle rancher Salinas Valley, CA and a Produce Broker for Fresh Network, and Sara Wyant, Editor/Publisher of Agri-Pulse, who will deliver a presentation on *So You Think a Media Crisis Can't Happen to You? Seven Steps to Consider in Crisis Communication*. Check out the full agenda at to see other exciting and informative presentations from dynamic leaders in agriculture.

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## This Month’s News

### 1. Climate talks adopt gender balance goal

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/climate-talks-seen-adopting-gender-goal>

U.N. climate talks have approved a "gender balance" goal that would increase women's participation in the negotiations, with experts hoping this will make climate change policy more responsive to women’s needs.

The decision - which was adopted on Saturday [December 8, 2012] at the end of the fractious conference - says that the almost 200 nations involved in the talks need to make additional efforts to improve the gender balance in the many bodies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

It also asks them "to strive for gender balance in their delegations" at the talks, known as the Conference of the Parties, or COP for short. Gender balance is not defined, but is usually understood as the aim of achieving an equal split of men and women.

"What we've now got is a decision that will bring gender right into the bodies of the COP and the decisions of the COP, and it's quite obvious that this is going to make a huge difference because women are so central to making progress on climate

change," said Mary Robinson, former Irish president, former U.N. human rights commissioner and a champion of gender equality at the climate change talks.

The decision asks the U.N. climate secretariat to organise a workshop at next year's conference on boosting women's involvement in the talks. And it says progress towards gender balance should be reviewed in 2016.

*Refer to the link for the complete article.*

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## **2. Africa - Post 2015 - What Women Want!**

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201212100553.html?viewall=1>

Despite the great strides made in international development in the past years, it is now clear that many countries will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

In line with this year's theme for International Human Rights Day, "inclusion and the right to participate in public life", it is imperative that African women articulate what the Post-2015 Development Framework should contain.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development provides a roadmap to MDG 3 - gender equality - through 28 targets to be achieved by 2015. As the campaign for a post 2015 agenda gains momentum, the Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance is also stepping up momentum for 2015 itself. The Alliance slogan has evolved over the last year from "2015, Yes we can!" to "2015: Yes we must!"

*Refer to the link for the complete article.*

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## **3. The UN Post-2015 Development Agenda – A Critical Analysis**

<http://awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/The-UN-Post-2015-Development-Agenda-A-Critical-Analysis>

As 2015 and the deadline for the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches – with progress limited, narrow and uneven – and on the heels of a disappointing Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development, the UN is advancing a process to define a new global development agenda beyond 2015.

While the MDGs became an important tool for sustaining global attention and galvanizing international support to promote development, they had definite shortcomings. The MDG3 specifically called for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, but overall, the MDGs failed to recognize that gender equality is not just an objective in itself but that it is essential to achieving all of the development goals. Formulated to support a neo-liberal model of development, the goals were also not necessarily supportive of women's or marginalized groups' rights – also representing women as vulnerable victims rather than change agents – and did not analyze nor address the root causes of under-development.

A new development framework must draw from lessons learned from the MDGs: critically question the long-standing assumptions driving dominant development models and be based on different macroeconomic policies and ways of understanding development beyond economic growth. Development must therefore confront the injustices of the neoliberal model and patriarchal societies, enable social and gender justice and be sustainable, applying an "ecosystem lens" to the challenges the world faces.

*Refer to the link for the complete article.*

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## 4. New Push for U.S.A. to Ratify Major Women's Treaty

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/01/new-push-for-u-s-to-ratify-major-womens-treaty/>

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 8 2013 (IPS) - The United States continues to be in the dubious company of six countries that have either refused or are reluctant to ratify the landmark U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Now a coalition of more than 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), human rights groups and women's organisations is renewing a longstanding demand for U.S. ratification of the treaty. The reason for the renewed demand? A record number of 20 women senators, including existing and newly-elected, who took the oath of office last week.

So far, 187 out of 194 countries have ratified CEDAW, but the non-ratifiers include Iran, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Palau, Tonga and the United States.

The U.N. General Assembly adopted CEDAW back in 1979. The treaty consists of a preamble and 30 articles, which according to the United Nations, "defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination." And countries that have ratified CEDAW are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. In 1982, the General Assembly also established a U.N. committee, composed of 23 experts on women's issues worldwide, to monitor progress in the implementation of the treaty and review national reports.

*Refer to the link for the complete article.*

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## 5. Ms. Sara Williams in Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame

[http://www.saskatoonhomepage.ca/ag-hall-of-fame-class-of-2013/itemid\\_23](http://www.saskatoonhomepage.ca/ag-hall-of-fame-class-of-2013/itemid_23)

The Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame has announced its 2013 inductees at the official news conference at the SaskFlax meeting during Crop Production Week. Dr. Lorne Babiuk, Zenneth Faye, Gordon Rowland and Sara Williams will be officially inducted into the Ag Hall of Fame on August 4th. The Hall of Fame is located at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon.

- As the University of Saskatchewan's Extension Specialist in Horticulture, Sara Williams developed programs to support Saskatchewan gardeners. She developed courses to be delivered both in person and through distance education. She wrote articles for horticultural publications and magazines, and engaged in radio and television programs on gardening topics. She also gave presentations to agricultural and horticultural societies throughout the Canadian prairies and has led numerous gardening tours in Europe. Sara has contributed to many publications and has published the award-winning book *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape* which is being re-issued in a new edition in February 2013.

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## 6. Wheat board's cowgirl ad called offensive to women

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2013/01/29/sk-wheat-board-ad-attracts-controversy-1301.html>

The Canadian Wheat Board is taking some heat over a print advertisement that uses a leggy pinup girl to sell its services.

The ad, which has been running recently in farm publications, features a well-known illustration of a young woman with a cowboy hat straddling a fence.

**Refer to the link for the full article.**

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## Reports, Publications and Resources

### 1. SHE Figures 2012

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1282>

She Figures is the only major publication presenting a Europe-wide data collection on women in science from tertiary education through to the job market. Together with the 27 EU countries, She Figures also presents data on Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

The leaflet presents some preliminary results of the She Figures 2012 data collection. The website states that the *She Figures 2012* booklet will be published in December 2012 and uploaded on the Director General Research and Innovation Women in Science website. [not yet posted]

Some statements from the leaflet:

#### **Seniority**

*The proportion of women in grade A academic positions varied widely in 2010, from around 10% in some countries to well over 30% in others. Although the country figures generally show an improvement over 2002, a profound gender imbalance is still observed in a vast majority of countries.*

#### **Setting the scientific agenda**

*The under-representation of women on boards and at the head of higher-education institutions reflects their difficulty to influence the design and implementation of the research agenda. The gender gap in leadership has been identified as one of the causes of the perpetuated gender imbalance in sciences.*

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### 2. Women and Climate Change

<http://cdkn.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/CDKN-gender-and-cc-final.pdf>

This publication outlines some of the initial steps the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) is taking to ensure that development is both climate compatible and fair to women and men. Climate change has particular implications for women. Women's wellbeing and life choices are profoundly influenced by social institutions: even without climate change impacts, they face gender inequalities which typically lead to higher rates of poverty and a deeper experience of poverty than among men.

Climate change imposes resource scarcity that affects women deeply, especially in those areas where they are the primary farmers and managers of fuel wood and water.

Reasons are provided why gender considerations should be at the heart of climate change policies and programmes in developing countries.

### **3. IFPRI Releases Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) Discussion Paper**

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01240.pdf>

[IFPRI is the International Food Policy Research Institute.] The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is a new survey-based index designed to measure the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agricultural sector. The WEAI was initially developed as a tool to reflect women’s empowerment that may result from the United States government’s Feed the Future Initiative, which commissioned the development of the WEAI. The WEAI can also be used more generally to assess the state of empowerment and gender parity in agriculture, to identify key areas in which empowerment needs to be strengthened, and to track progress over time. The WEAI is an aggregate index, reported at the country or regional level, based on individual-level data collected by interviewing men and women within the same households.

The WEAI comprises two sub indexes. The first assesses the degree to which women are empowered in five domains of empowerment (5DE) in agriculture. It reflects the percentage of women who are empowered and, among those who are not, the percentage of domains in which women enjoy adequate achievements. These domains are

- (1) decisions about agricultural production,
- (2) access to and decision-making power about productive resources,
- (3) control of use of income,
- (4) leadership in the community, and
- (5) time allocation.

The second sub index (the Gender Parity Index [GPI]) measures gender parity. The GPI reflects the percentage of women who are empowered or whose achievements are at least as high as the men in their households. For those households that have not achieved gender parity, the GPI shows the empowerment gap that needs to be closed for women to reach the same level of empowerment as men.

This technical paper documents the development of the WEAI and presents pilot data from Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Uganda, so that researchers and practitioners seeking to use the index in their own work would understand how the survey questionnaires were developed and piloted, how the qualitative case studies were undertaken, how the index was constructed, how various indicators were validated, and how it can be used in other settings.

### **4. UNESCO Gender Gap in Science Bulletin**

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002191/219105e.pdf>

The UNESCO Institute for Statistics has published a fact sheet on the gender gap in science. The data is current to October 2012. There is no regional average available for North America due to a lack of data.

Women and men tend to take different career paths and the research field is no exception. Overall, women account for a minority of the world’s researchers. Despite the growing demand for cross nationally comparable statistics on women in science, national data and their use in policymaking often remain limited. This document presents global and regional profiles pinpointing where women thrive in this sector and where they are under-represented.

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## 5. Book: Rural [Canadian] Women’s Health

<http://www.rural-research-network.blogspot.ca/2012/11/e-bookslivres-e-rural-womens-health.html>

*Rural Women’s Health* from the University of Toronto Press integrates perspectives from rural practitioners, residents, and scholars in a variety of fields, including nursing, sociology, anthropology, and geography, to tackle issues relevant to diverse settings across the country. As such, it presents a national Canadian perspective on the nature of women’s health while respecting internal and regional diversity, as well as viewpoints from international scholarship.

The well-being of rural communities affects the well-being of those who reside in towns and cities because of rural-urban connections through food, drinking water, infectious disease, extreme environmental events, recreation, and for many, retirement residence. In rural areas themselves, women play a critical role in the health of their families and communities, yet women’s health is often marginalized or ignored. There have been limited studies to date about rural women and health in Canada. Filling an important gap in scholarship, this collection identifies priority issues that must be addressed to ensure these women’s well-being and offers innovative theoretical and methodological ideas for improvement.

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## 6. Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) 2011-12 Departmental Performance Report

[http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2012/acdi-cida/E94-5-2-2012-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2012/acdi-cida/E94-5-2-2012-eng.pdf)

Please see the report for information related to Canada’s investment in “women’s economic empowerment in order to tackle inequality—a persistent and fundamental obstacle to sustained growth and prosperity.”

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## 7. Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems

***PLANNING FOR FOOD ACCESS AND COMMUNITY-BASED FOOD SYSTEMS: A National [USA] Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans***

<http://www.planning.org/research/foodaccess/pdf/foodaccessreport.pdf>

The American Planning Association (APA) published a new report that outlines the results of a three-year, multi-phased research study that identified and evaluated the food access and food system components of local government plans in the United States of America.

Access to safe and nutritious food is considered a basic individual right by the World Health Organization and the United Nations. However, many residents in low-income neighborhoods—both rural and urban—have limited access to fresh produce and other healthful foods.

While food deserts (geographic areas marked by limited healthy food options) and swamps (geographic areas marked by high densities of unhealthy food options) are prominent aspects of a failure in food access, they do not tell the complete story. Public health strategies are lost without an awareness of the food system—or the interlinked network of processes, actors, resources, and policy and regulatory tools required to *produce, process, distribute, access, consume, and dispose* of food—and its connection to other urban systems (such as land, housing, transportation, parks and recreation, etc.). Recent

research has begun to examine food access more comprehensively, taking into account the nuances of place, people, and policy that interact and reinforce each other.

As a result, food access is not simply a health issue but also a community development and equity issue. For this reason, access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food is a key component not only in a healthy, sustainable local food system, but also in a healthy, sustainable community.

***Refer to the link for the complete report.***

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## **8. EvalPartners launches new book on "Evaluation and civil society"**

<http://www.mymande.org/selected-books>

EvalPartners, UNICEF and IOCE, in partnership with UNEG, OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation, the Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank, Government of Finland, CLEAR centres and UNWomen, are pleased to announce that the new book ***"Evaluation and Civil Society. Stakeholders' perspectives on National Evaluation Capacity Development"*** is now available, for free download.

This is the first volume of a new series of publications on Evaluation and Civil Society. It should be read together with the forthcoming second volume "Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation: Learning from Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia, Europe and Middle East" that will include case studies illustrating how the concepts described in this first volume are being implemented by many regional and national VOPEs.

*"Evaluation and Civil Society. Stakeholders' perspectives on National Evaluation Capacity Development"* aims to contribute to the international discussions on how different stakeholders can create synergies and partnerships to contribute to equity-focused and gender-responsive country-led evaluation systems. This book highlights in particular the strategic roles that Civil Society Organizations, notably the Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), are playing to promote the use of evaluation to enhance evidence-based policy-making, transparency and learning; and the role of EvalPartners, the new International Evaluation Initiative to strengthen Civil Society's evaluation capacities through collaborative partnerships.

This book offers a number of strong contributions from senior leaders of institutions dealing with international development and evaluation. It is divided into two parts. Part I presents a shared framework for National Evaluation Capacity Development (NECD), highlighting the role of Civil Society Organizations. Part II focuses on the roles of different stakeholders in the international community are playing or could play.

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