



GEM Digest of the Month for June 1, 2014

176 Gloucester Street, Suite 320, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A6, www.aic.ca
Note the new address!



Various historic tools used in converting flax plant into fibers for linen cloth in Latvia. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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 to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGHIH, FAIC
 GEM Committee Member (Volunteer)

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. New Journal: International Journal of Gender, Agriculture and Food Security

<http://www.agrigender.net>

A new journal, the Journal of Gender, Agriculture and food Security (Agri-Gender) has been launched with the aim of providing a platform for researchers and practitioners to share information on research work on gender, agriculture and food security. The aim of Agri-Gender is to promote interdisciplinary research related to gender and the agricultural and food sciences.

It is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal that will publish in the fields of agriculture including livestock, fisheries, crop sciences, agriculture economics, rural development, food security and nutrition as they relate to gender. The journal will also publish papers on issues of women's empowerment, feminist and gender studies. It seeks to promote debate, identify best practices and new ideas and make the links between theoretical and practical gender and agriculture work. It will combine rigorous research with insights from development initiatives across the world that have implications for policy and practice in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the agriculture and food related sectors. The editors of the journal are drawn from research and academia across the globe.

The Journal is currently accepting papers for the August 2014 issue. More information on the journal requirements can be found at <http://www.agrigender.net/>. Follow us on the Agri-Gender blog (<http://www.agrigenderjournal.wordpress.com/>), Facebook (www.facebook.com/agrigenderjournal) and twitter (@AgriGender).

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2. African Union -- Kwame Nkrumah Regional Award for Scientific Women 2014

<http://orid.ug.edu.gh/update.php?id=22>

The African Union (AU) honors outstanding African scientists through the Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards for fields that include agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, and energy innovation (among others). The 2014 edition of the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Regional Award for Scientific Women is announced jointly by AU and the ECOWAS Commission. The award is for female scientists in ECOWAS member countries. Eligibility criteria and an application form are included with the announcement. The prize has a value of US\$20 thousand. The deadline for applications is **04 July 2014**.

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3. International Photo Competition: Forests-Agriculture Interface Through a Gender Lens

<http://ciat.cgiar.org/dapa-2/international-photo-competition-forests-agriculture-interface-through-a-gender-lens-3>

Use the gender lens to capture interesting photos with stories and help us do science with a creative twist. We make a maximum impact when we communicate about our work – success and/or failure – to a wider audience using a range of communication and social media. We believe that photos break the global language barriers, and connect people, whether they are farmers, middle-class urban families, public enterprises, donors or students.

OPEN TO ALL PHOTO AND STORY CONTEST

Anyone across the globe can enter this competition. You can be a practitioner, farmer, student, forester, policymaker, manager, researcher, teacher, professional photographer, freelancer among others. No registration fees. Just click, write a story about your photo and email us!

SEND YOUR ENTRY before **JUNE 15, 2014**.

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This Month's News

1. Women in agriculture bank on change

<http://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2014/05/02/women-in-agriculture-bank-on-change/>

Brenda Schoepp, a Nuffield Scholar, comments on a global failure to improve infrastructure and address policy to enable women to access the same level of education, technology, credit, and land ownership.

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2. Advancing Women in Agriculture '14

<http://www.realagriculture.com/category/events/advancing-women-in-agriculture-14/>

See the link for several reports about the *Advancing Women Conference* held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada at the end of April which was attended by 357 women from 6 Canadian provinces and 5 American states. Reports include:

- What's the One Thing More People Need to Realize About Women in Agriculture?
- How Do We Inspire a New Generation in Agriculture?
- The Advancing Women in Ag Wrap Up: Work/Life Balance, Cucumber Water & Why Different is Good
- Senator JoAnne Buth on Evaluating Opportunities, Choosing a Career Path & Achieving Your Best
- Talking to Women in Agriculture: What's Our Biggest Challenge?
- Shirley McClellan: The Evolution of Women as Leaders in Agriculture
- Leadership Learnings from the Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference

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3. Briefing: Building resilience to environmental change by transforming gender relations

http://pubs.iied.org/17237IIED.html?utm_source=IIED&utm_campaign=56458f1166-

[May newsletter 20145 22 2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4c206cf0b2-56458f1166-75836329](http://pubs.iied.org/17237IIED.html?utm_source=IIED&utm_campaign=56458f1166-75836329)

How crucial is a gendered perspective on environmental change to sustainable development? A recent workshop with the International Institute for Environment and Development brought together researchers and practitioners to discuss why

gender relations are still largely absent from debates on climate change and disasters, what misconceptions may exist, and to define the broad lines of a forward-looking action research agenda.

Gender equality is not just about women, but about inequalities that cut across social, economic and cultural systems and norms. A gendered perspective helps to identify these inequalities and address the wider issues of voice, representation and participation in decision making. These power inequalities are often a root cause of environmental change, and transforming them is therefore an essential part of a more effective and sustainable approach to building resilience.

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4. Divisions over Gender Complicate Development Agenda

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/05/divisions-gender-complicate-development-agenda/>

UNITED NATIONS, May 7 2014 (IPS) - As the U.N. focuses on refining its Post-2015 Development Agenda, divisions surrounding issues of population and development continue to plague consensus on a universal way forward.

“People have to be at the centre of development,” Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, executive director of the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), told IPS. “I think we are beginning to see a greater commitment [of governments] to deliver on gender parity, girls rights, issues of gender-based violence and girls education.”

Following the 2014 U.N. Commission on Population and Development (CPD), an annual gathering where member states, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other members of civil society discuss and define goals on population and development, serious divisions emerged regarding issues of sexual health, sexual education and gender.

“The balance of this resolution remains heavily skewed towards peculiar interests of certain developed countries, as evidenced by undue emphasis on selected rights over the real development priorities,” said Fr. Justin Wylie, attaché for the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the U.N., on Apr. 12, following the adoption of the CPD outcome resolution.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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