



Rural women and men assessing energy efficient stoves on display at Ukiriguru, Tanzania. 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, organizational development and international 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>.

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Note that **December 5th is World Soil Day**, as named by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS).

The month of October featured two significant dates:

- **October 15, International Day of Rural Women**
- **October 16, World Food Day.**

A number of articles related to these two themes are included in this month's GEM Digest.

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Online Course: Gender-based Analysis Plus

<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/gba-acsgbacourse-coursacs-eng.html>

The Status of Women Canada's course: Introduction to Gender-based Analysis Plus will provide you with essential information on GBA+ and its related concepts. Completing this course will enable you to:

- Recognize how sex, gender, and diversity can influence the outcomes of policies, programs, and legislation;
- Define the key concepts of GBA+ and begin to identify how they can be used to enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness of your work; and
- Apply some basic GBA+ concepts and processes.

The total estimated time required to complete the course is two hours and 30 minutes.

Start your course at any time.

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2. Online course on gender and food security from FAO

<http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/course/FG>

FAO has launched a new e-learning course to help policy-makers and agricultural planners develop gender-responsive policies and programmes for food and nutrition security. The total curriculum consists of 14 lessons, ranging from approximately 10 to 80 minutes duration, and takes 13 hours to complete in its entirety.

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3. Online course on gender-sensitive governance

Online course on gender-sensitive governance: what does it look like and how can we work towards it?

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/events/gender-sensitive-governance-what-does-it-look-like-and-how-can-we-work-towards-it>

This free web-based course offered by BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, and the Gender Hub provides participants with a general grounding in the current concepts of governance from a gender perspective and offers some examples and resources for applying these within key governance institutions, with a focus on governments.

Course objectives: Why does gender matter for governance? How can we expose gender-blind institutions and processes? What strategies have enhanced the opportunities and outcomes for women and girls in government processes? What can we learn from this and how can we integrate this into our own work?

This pilot course aims to support development practitioners who are working to strengthen gender equality in relation to governance processes in their workplace. To support them this course seeks to equip participants with an introductory knowledge that can help them to take forward strategies for positive change.

Dates: November 3 to November 28, 2014

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This Month's News

1. Gender and Landscape Restoration: The Mighty Shea

https://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/forest/fp_our_work/fp_our_work_thematic/fp_our_work_flr/flr_projects_partnership/our_restoration_knowledge_products/on_gender_and_restoration_a_case_study_series/

Planning landscape restoration often means evaluating forest health, water flows, or the availability of choice seedlings. It should also mean talking to women.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is proud to introduce a case study-based blog series on gender and restoration. Forest landscape restoration is an important and innovative approach to bringing natural function back to degraded land in a way that benefits nature and people. But key questions need to be answered: can women's existing roles and knowledge be leveraged to advance the restoration process? Will a lack of rights to land or title mean women will be left out of this second natural revolution? And can the large and growing global restoration movement benefit women and men alike?

This series presents new stories, ideas, and perspectives on this important issue, particularly how we can:

- Advance restoration by incorporating women, together with men, into the process; and
- Ensure that women and men benefit equally from the restoration of degraded land.

See the website for several case studies, including one on shea nut. For example:

Marlène Elias, Gender Specialist, Bioversity International & CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry, shares a case study in Burkina Faso on gender and landscape restoration with IUCN.

Describing women's specialized knowledge of the shea tree, its care, use, and properties and how different groups value different characteristics of the tree, Marlène notes that landscapes are more than the product of climate, soil, and water.

This case study demonstrates the importance of involving women, their knowledge and preferences, in landscape restoration efforts.

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2. Boosting Incomes and Empowering Rural Women in Cuba

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/09/boosting-incomes-and-empowering-rural-women-in-cuba/>

The project, carried out by ACSUR Las Segovias, a non-governmental organisation from Spain, and the local Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños (ANAP – National Association of Small Farmers), with financing from the European Union, provides training and inputs to 24 women, including farmers, craft-makers and rural leaders.

The project, whose formal title is “incorporation of rural female entrepreneurs into local socioeconomic development from a gender perspective”, has helped women who have traditionally been homemakers to generate an income. It is to be completed at the end of the year.

According to social researchers, the problem of access to remunerated work is one of the worst forms of inequality in rural areas in Cuba. Women represent 47 percent of the more than 2.8 million rural inhabitants in this country of 11.2 million people.

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3. Connecting development actors in Ethiopia: linking climate change, nutrition and gender

<http://www.eldis.org/go/latest-news/news/connecting-development-actors-in-ethiopia-linking-climate-change-nutrition-and-gender#.VC77PG90zIU>

One of the issues high on the agenda at this week’s United Nations Climate Summit is food security. As demonstrated in the latest IPCC report, climate change is having an impact on already worrying levels of hunger and under nutrition in the world. This evidence has reinforced the importance of agriculture becoming more climate smart in order to: increase food security, adapt to build resilience, and reduce agriculture’s greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation).

Climate Change Resource Guide editor Fatema Rajabali, writing for the Knowledge, Technology and Society blog, reflects on some recent work in Ethiopia which looked at how nutritionists, agriculturalists, gender, environmental and climate change professionals are starting to talk to one another and respond to the need for climate smart agriculture.

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4. Family Farmers – Forward to the Future

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/10/family-farmers-forward-to-the-future/>

ROME, Oct 17 2014 (IPS) - “Who is more concerned than the rural family with regards to preservation of natural resources for future generations?”

Pope Francis posed the question in a message read by Archbishop Luigi Travaglino, Permanent Observer of the Holy See for the celebration of World Food Day on Oct. 16 at the headquarters of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The Pope's message went to the heart of this year's World Food Day theme – Family Farming: Feeding the Planet, Caring for the Earth – as part of the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF).

The celebration of World Food Day offered an opportunity to share experiences and steps forward towards the eradication of hunger in a way that is sustainable for the future. [...]

John Kufuor, former President of Ghana, highlighted the need for political leadership in policy-making for agriculture. He said that the 30 percent increase in rice production in his country had been made possible through offering landless people, women and youth degraded but usable land plots.

By providing them with access to training, markets and services, it had been possible to involve them in a system of plantation development and profit sharing and this programme had created jobs and improved income, food security and nutrition.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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5. In celebration of International Day of Rural Women: Seven reasons rural women are key to climate adaptation

Originally posted on IFPRI.org: <http://www.ifpri.org/blog/un-international-day-rural-women>

Growing evidence suggests that men and women experience climate change impacts differently and have different needs for adaptation. Thus, to respond effectively to people's needs and leverage their strengths and contributions, we must pay close attention to gender-based differences and embed them into the design of climate change policies and programs.

- i. There is a gender gap in what men and women own, and women's assets are often sold to cope with climatic shocks.
- ii. Climate information, which is essential for adaptation, is not equally available to men and women.
- iii. Women have less access to agricultural technologies that support adaptation.
- iv. Risk aversion negatively affects adaptation by rural women.
- v. Rural women value risk sharing.
- vi. Group-based approaches for climate change adaptation can support rural women.
- vii. Laws and regulations are not sufficient for gender equality and resilience.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Updated GAAP toolkit for collecting gender and asset data

http://gaap.ifpri.info/files/2010/12/GAAP_Toolkit_Update_FINAL.pdf

<http://gaap.ifpri.info/>

The Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP) Gender & Assets toolkit, originally created in February 2012, has been updated to include case studies from each of the portfolio projects, a new section on key "lessons learned", and links to the tools used in each project.

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2. Toolbox for Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Change Projects

<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/research-highlight/new-toolbox-gender-and-inclusion-climate-change-projects#.VD-OvOdZutl>

On Wednesday, October 15, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CAAFS) and the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) organized a special event launching the Gender & Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change & Agriculture.

The Gender and Inclusion Toolbox is a participatory methodology guide on how to create socially differentiated research for climate adaptation and mitigation projects. The manual has four thematic chapters: *The Co-Production of Knowledge*, *Climate Resilient Agriculture*, *Mitigation*, and *Climate Information Systems*.

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3. "Existing Mandates and Entry Points for Gender Equality" in current UNFCCC decisions and conclusions

<http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/GE-Publication-ENG-Interactive.pdf>

As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) works towards a new climate agreement at COP21 (Conference of the Parties) in Paris next year, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) is working alongside many countries championing gender equality as a key element of the new agreement. In addition, Parties and key stakeholders from the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) continue to build the foundation for advancing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of current gender mandates in UNFCCC decisions across all areas of the negotiations.

To support these efforts, WEDO, in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)- Global Gender Office, and on behalf of the GGCA, is pleased to share a new policy guide for preparation towards December's COP20 in Peru, outlining all "Existing Mandates and Entry Points for Gender Equality" in current UNFCCC decisions and conclusions.

Available in English and Spanish, and soon in French, this technical guide was developed to support decision-makers, negotiators and advocates in mapping current decisions that contain specific references to gender equality (e.g. in relation to gender balance or gender-sensitive approaches) across all main areas of the negotiations. This mapping further serves to support users in more effectively monitoring the implementation of gender-sensitive climate change policies and actions at all levels.

The compilation highlights a strong foundation for gender-sensitive climate policy, with gender referenced across 32 current decisions related to adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance, capacity building, and loss and damage, as well as current conclusions in agriculture. This includes the often cited Decision 23/CP.18 that established a standing agenda item on gender and climate change at the COP. The upcoming COP20 in Lima, Peru is a pivotal point for the UNFCCC, where Parties have an opportunity to provide the overarching guidance and framework for implementing these gender-related mandates by ensuring:

- 1) Gender equality is reflected as a guiding principle and cross-cutting element for all actions in the new climate agreement,
- 2) Progress is made under the Standing Agenda item on Gender and Climate Change to establish a framework for action to advance implementation of gender-sensitive climate policy.

In addition to a compilation of text, the guide provides an overview analysis of progress and gaps for gender-sensitive climate policy.

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4. Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/19036>

The World Bank has issued the above mentioned report recognising that expanding women's agency - their ability to make decisions and take advantage of opportunities is key to improving their lives. This report represents a major advance in global knowledge on this critical front. The data and surveys distilled in this report cast light on the nature of constraints women and girls continue to face globally. This report identifies promising opportunities and entry points for lasting transformation, such as interventions that reach across sectors and include life-skills training, sexual and reproductive health education, conditional cash transfers, and mentoring. The report also underlines the vital role information and communication technologies can play in amplifying women's voices, expanding their economic and learning opportunities, and broadening their views and aspirations.

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5. Community and government planning together for climate resilient growth

Community and government planning together for climate resilient growth: issues and opportunities from Longido, Monduli and Ngorongoro Districts, northern Tanzania

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10075IIED.pdf>

Planning for climate resilience growth is increasingly important for the natural resource dependent economy of Tanzania. Central government does not have the knowledge, reach, skills or resources needed to plan for the range of livelihoods within Tanzania; but local governments, if granted the authority and resources, could plan with communities in the flexible, timely and appropriate manner that climate variability demands.

This report outlines research conducted in three pastoral and agro-pastoral districts in northern Tanzania and identifies the constraints being faced within formal and customary planning processes.

The roles of communities and local governments urgently need to be rethought, bringing their skills together to achieve greater climate resilience. Women's involvement is included in the process.

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6. Flood early warning systems in Nepal: a gendered perspective

<http://lib.icimod.org/record/29959>

Produced by: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (2014)

This report presents the Nepal focused findings of a study which assessed the institutional arrangements, key stakeholders, legal provisions, coordination and linkage mechanisms, and four key elements of early warning systems – risk knowledge, monitoring and warning services, dissemination and communication, and response capacity – from the perspective of gender. It also gathered experiences from two villages with functioning community-based flood early warning systems. The report suggests that, in view of the diversity of development issues and livelihood challenges that communities face on a day-to-day basis, it is important to tune early warning systems according to the local context. It is argued that early warning systems should be seen as a social and development activity rather than an exclusive domain of engineers and technicians. This simplification and democratization of early warning systems requires bridging the gap between technical departments and communities.

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