



# GEM Digest of the Month for February 1, 2016

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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](mailto: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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## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. Sharing Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Supporting Women’s Land Rights: A Debate on the Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC)

<https://landportal.info/debates/2016/sharing-best-practices-and-lessons-learned-supporting-women%E2%80%99s-land-rights-debate-gender>

From **25 January to 5 February**, the Land Portal Foundation will be holding a debate on the Global Land Tool Network’s Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC), which were created to assess the effectiveness of land tools in supporting women’s land rights. The discussion will focus on sharing best practices and lessons learned for supporting women’s land rights.

The debate will take place on the Land Portal in English, French and Spanish, as well as the OECD’s Wikigender platform, and will be facilitated by the International Land Coalition.

For more information or to join this discussion, please click on the link.

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## This Month’s News

### 1. Gender research beyond fairy tales: We can still do more and better

<http://www.econthatmatters.com/2015/12/gender-research-beyond-fairy-tales-we-can-still-do-more-and-better/>

Isabel Lambrecht, Associate Research Fellow at IFPRI's office in Ghana, writes about her choice to investigate gender in agricultural technology adoption. In this blogpost for *Economics that Matters*, she shares some surprises from what she has learned asking the question central to her dissertation:

*Do we get higher uptake of agricultural technologies if agricultural extension programs work with only female farmers from a household, only male farmers, or both spouses jointly?*

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## 2. Young Innovators: Student research helps West African farmers

<http://thestarphoenix.com/news/saskatchewan/young-innovators-student-research-helps-west-african-farmers>

Alexis Adams of Saskatoon enrolled in a soil science master's program at the University of Saskatchewan and vowed to help by improving local soil fertility. Now she is studying the impact of micro-dosing, a new fertilizing practice, on soil fertility in the Sahel region of West Africa, which suffered a catastrophic famine in 2012.

Her research is funded by national agencies NSERC, the International Development Research Centre and Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada through the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund.

The research team, led by soil science professor Derek Peak, will receive more than \$500,000 towards a \$4.45-million project in partnership with the University of Manitoba and three universities in Nigeria and Benin to expand novel farming practices to 50,000 farmers.

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## 3. Powered by pulses

<http://words.usask.ca/news/2016/01/11/powered-by-pulses/>

Some parts of Ethiopia were once considered unsuited to growing pulse crops due to recurring periods of drought. This view may change thanks to a research collaboration between the University of Saskatchewan and the Ethiopian Hawassa University, a top centre in human nutrition. Dr. Carol Henry is assistant dean of nutrition at U of S in Saskatoon.

After moving to Saskatoon from Ethiopia three years ago, Dr Henry's PhD students, Getahun Lombamo and Hiwot Hailelassie, have been researching the integration of pulses into people's diets to combat malnutrition in their home country.

Lombamo examined how eating pulses can benefit community health. His research involved 600 mothers and children under age five, comparing pulse-growing communities to those cultivating mainly cereals.

Hailelassie is developing recipes and cooking techniques that enhance the nutritional benefits of pulses without sacrificing taste. She has found that food processing strategies such as soaking and germination are the best way to maximize the nutrition of dishes.

The research is funded by the International Development Research Centre and Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada through the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund. Henry and her team have been awarded an additional \$3.85 million to scale up their innovations.

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## 4. The Only Woman in the Room: Why Science is Still a Boys' Club

The segment from the full program is available at <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/quirks-quarks-for-jan-16-2016-1.3405565>

Listen to the podcast at [http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/podcasts/quirks\\_20160116\\_24398.mp3](http://podcast.cbc.ca/mp3/podcasts/quirks_20160116_24398.mp3)

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation [CBC] aired this interview with science graduate and author Eileen Pollack in a January 2016 edition of *Quirks and Quarks* with host Bob McDonald.

Eileen Pollack grew up in the 1960's and 70's, dreaming of becoming an astrophysicist. But at every stage of her education, she was denied the chance to take advanced math and science courses, and even told to keep dreaming, because, "girls don't do that". Regardless, she made her way to Yale and became one of the university's first two women to graduate with a science degree in physics. But once again, Pollack's dream was met with discouragement from male mentors, and she reluctantly abandoned her quest. Now, in her new book, "*The Only Woman In The Room*", Pollack documents her struggles back then, and examines the social, interpersonal, and institutional barriers that still confront women today in science, technology, engineering and math.

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## 5. Seven Top Challenges Facing African Women

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/01/seven-top-challenges-facing-african-women/>

CAIRO, Egypt, Jan 18 2016 (IPS) - Economic exclusion; financial systems that perpetuate their discrimination; limited participation in political and public life; lack of access to education and poor retention of girls in schools; gender-based violence; harmful cultural practices, and exclusion of women from peace tables, are the major standing barriers to achieving gender equality in Africa.

These challenges are now top on the agenda of the "8th African Union Gender Pre-Summit on 2016 African Year of Human Rights, with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women" taking place in Addis Ababa on 17 – 21 January.

The event is preparatory to the 26th African Union Summit which will bring together the heads of states and governments of the 54 African countries in Addis Ababa on 21-31 January. Significantly the Summit's theme is Human Rights With a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women.

Women represent more than half of the 1.2 billion African population, speaking up to 2,000 different native languages. More than 50 percent of Africa's population is under 25 years of age.

Due to the numerous armed conflicts in the continent-which is home to nearly half of the 42 ongoing conflicts – African women are in charge of the majority of households and are key food producers, and they represent more than 43 percent of the agricultural labour force, in addition to playing a major role in managing poultry, dairy animals, fisheries, aquaculture, and the marketing of handcrafts and food products.

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## 6. New chief of staff for Canadian agriculture minister

<http://ipolitics.ca/2016/01/04/macaulay-picks-egg-dynastys-mary-jean-mcfall-as-chief-of-staff/>

Canadian Agriculture Minister Lawrence MacAulay has selected a chief of staff. Former Egg Farmers of Ontario Board member and recent federal Liberal candidate Mary Jean McFall started in the position at the beginning of January 2016. No

stranger to agriculture, McFall's family owns and operates Burnbrae Farms – one of Canada's largest egg farms. Burnbrae Farms is a family-owned egg business that has been in operation for more than 70 years.

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## 7. Outstanding Year for Dr. Cynthia Grant

Source of excerpts *The Minnedosa Tribune*, Volume 133, Issue 45, January 22, 2016, [www.minnedosatribune.com](http://www.minnedosatribune.com)

It was a stellar year for Cynthia Grant, now retired soil scientist from the Brandon Research and Development Centre.

- In May 2015, the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences presented Cynthia with the Certificate of Merit in recognition of her leadership with agricultural organizations and outstanding service to the community at large.
- In July 2015, the Canadian Society of Agronomy recognized Cynthia with the distinguished agronomist award for 2015. It was presented at the CSA's annual meeting in Edmonton.
- In November 2015, Cynthia was honored as the first recipient of the Fertilizer Industry Round Table Recognition Award: Innovative Technologies Advancing the Fertilizer Industry, presented at the annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida.
- In January 2016, the International Plant Nutrition Institute [IPNI] chose Cynthia as the recipient of the 2015 IPNI Science Award.

Cynthia earned a BSA from U of Manitoba in 1980, an MSC in 1982 and a PhD in 1986. She worked at the Brandon Research and Development Centre from 1986 until her retirement this year. She has published extensively and has served as President of both the Canadian Society of Soil Science and the Canadian Society of Agronomy. She farms with her husband near Minnedosa, Manitoba.

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## 8. World Bank Group Launches New Gender Data Products

[http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/01/20/wbg-launches-new-gender-data-products?cid=ISG\\_E\\_WBWeeklyUpdate\\_NL](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/01/20/wbg-launches-new-gender-data-products?cid=ISG_E_WBWeeklyUpdate_NL)

The World Bank Group re-launched its popular Gender Data Portal, comprising current and historical data on topics ranging from health and education to jobs, assets, and political participation—all broken down by sex.

The Bank Group is also launching its *Little Data Book on Gender 2016* alongside new online tables—to be updated quarterly—linked to the latest World Development Indicators, making it easier than ever to see how women and men are faring across a range of global indicators.

In addition to standard demographic and economic information, new indicators include the percentage in a given economy of businesses with female ownership or top management, percentage of men and women holding mobile phone accounts, percentage of men and women who saved any money over the preceding year, and proportion of women in ministerial-level government posts.

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## 9. Empowerment matters: “Invisible Women” in Niger produce less food

<http://agrilinks.org/blog/empowerment-matters-%E2%80%9Cinvisible-women%E2%80%9D-niger-produce-less-food>

Fleur Wouterse has a new blog published on Agrilinks discussing recent research using the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) in Niger. Her takeaway messages include:

*Empowerment matters for agricultural production. Less empowered households experience lower returns to their labor and use their traction equipment and animals in a less effective manner. Women are much less empowered in so-called dual households where a primary male is also present. Increasing the empowerment of these women, for example, through leadership training or encouraging membership in groups (rotating savings schemes or producer organizations) will ultimately generate benefits in terms of increased food production.*

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## Reports, Publications and Resources

### 1. Access the Latest Research on Women and Work

<http://www.catalyst.org/what-we-do/services/information-center>

Featuring extensive resources and a highly experienced staff of trained librarians, Catalyst's award-winning Information Center (IC) creates knowledge products and responds daily to requests from members, the media, academics, and the public, as well as Catalyst's own experts.

We’re available specifically to work with Catalyst members who are looking for information to support their efforts to build inclusive workplaces and help advance women.

- Searching for statistics on global topics or issues related to women and work?
- Building a business case?
- Trying to get a basic understanding of Diversity & Inclusion issues?
- Looking for snapshots of U.S. and Canadian industry data?
- Need abstracts, citations, and links to complete text on issues related to women and work?
- Are you a woman in need of help with a job search, personal finance, legal issue, or seeking grant support?
- Do you have more complex knowledge requirements?

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### 2. Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.post2015women.com/sustainable-development-goals/>

What are the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets agreed to at the UN? This link provides a very easy way to review.

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### **3. Introductory thematic guide to Gender and Climate Change**

<http://www.eldis.org/genderandclimate#.VpALHjNIhMs>

Also available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/genderandclimate>

For years, civil society organisations and researchers have highlighted that, as weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable and extreme events such as floods, heat waves or storms become more common, the way in which people are affected depends strongly on their position in society and, therefore, also on gender norms and expectations. The momentum for gender equality in climate change policy, research and practice has been growing.

This is a guide to key issues and trends around the linkages between gender and climate change made in policy and action on climate change. It introduces the ongoing debates and key resources especially with regard to i) climate change impacts and responses, ii) climate policy and finance and iii) women's leadership and empowerment - a key element of bringing gender equality into the global response to climate change.

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### **4. Gender dynamics in a changing climate: How gender and adaptive capacity affect resilience**

<http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Gender-and-Adaptation-Learning-Brief.pdf>

Also available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=73972>

This learning brief synthesises lessons drawn from CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP), which has been supporting vulnerable communities in sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to the impacts of climate change since 2010. It is based on evidence and practical experience in implementing community based adaptation (CBA), about gender dynamics and the ways in which CBA can increase adaptive capacity and promote gender equality. It identifies the factors shaping gender dynamics and adaptive capacity and gives examples of how to integrate gender into CBA approaches as well as outlining knowledge gaps and recommendations for policy and practice.

Gender, climate change and adaptive capacity are intricately linked. Poor and marginalised women and men face multiple and complex challenges. Climate change further exacerbates these challenges and threatens to erode development gains made to date. Unequal distribution of resources and power imbalances are both the root cause of poverty and also impact on a person's capacity to adapt.

It addresses a range of case studies including methods of sharing information and new ways of access via technology and support mechanisms. For example, in Kenya, 20% of women attended workshops getting seasonal forecast information, but when interviewed, 76% of women received that information.

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### **5. Gender, headship, and the life cycle: Landownership in four Asian countries**

<http://ebrary.ifpri.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15738coll2/id/129823>

Also available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=73956>

**Abstract:** Despite increasing evidence that households do not always function as one, policies regarding land and property rights are often formulated at the household level, assuming the primary adult male is the landowner.

Because land policy reform has typically focused on changing household, rather than individual, rights to land, many of the data are collected at the household rather than the individual level. As a result of a combination of these factors, securing women’s land rights has remained a largely unaddressed issue by policymakers.

So as to inform the formulation of policies and interventions to strengthen women’s land rights, this paper analyzes nationally representative data from Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam to understand the processes by which men and women acquire land; the social, cultural, and legal institutions surrounding gender and landownership; and the role of individual and household characteristics influencing an individual’s ability to own land.

The researchers’ findings that women own less land than do men across different types of household structures and that gender inequality increases with household landholdings suggests that women’s land rights need to be strengthened within marriage and protected should the marriage dissolve. Although the impacts of gender-sensitive land policy reform are not well researched, early findings on policy reforms such as joint titling in Vietnam show that policies to strengthen women’s land rights have the potential to improve women’s well-being as well as their children’s without detrimental effects on productivity.

Findings of gender inequalities in intrahousehold land allocation and of increasing inequality as households accumulate land suggest an agenda for future research and policy that strengthens the land rights of women, particularly within marriage

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## **6. Making climate finance work for women: Overview of the integration of gender equality in aid to climate change**

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Making-Climate-Finance-Work-for-Women.pdf>

Also available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=73862>

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. In many developing contexts, women’s livelihoods are dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as subsistence agriculture, forestry and water. Although women and girls typically have less capacity and resources than men and boys to prepare for and adapt to climate change they are often leaders in developing effective coping strategies and building resilience. Both women and men have important insights to contribute to designing and implementing effective climate responses and should be fully included in decision-making relating to climate change at all levels.

This brief is a contribution to the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). It provides an overview of how well members of the OECD (Organisations for Economic Co-operation and Development) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are integrating gender equality into their bilateral aid to climate change, and calls on DAC members to step-up their commitments to integrate gender equality in all aspects of climate action as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development for all.

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## 7. Looking within the household: A study on gender, food security, and resilience in cocoa-growing communities

<http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/looking-within-the-household-a-study-on-gender-food-security-and-resilience-in-582267>

Also available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=73860>

**Abstract:** Many West African cocoa households experience a ‘lean season’ before the cocoa harvest, leaving them vulnerable to various events and issues which potentially cause stress – most notably food insecurity. This study, relying primarily on qualitative data from Côte d’Ivoire, examines how income allocation and intra-household dynamics affect household resilience during the lean season. Its findings indicate that in contexts in which women and men’s income are separate and destined for different purposes in the household, the fact that men’s income is often earmarked for individual spending creates particular problems for households in the lean season. Women’s empowerment within the household is essential to improving intra-household resource allocation for resilience. In many contexts, this translates into development programmes supporting women to increase their production and ability to control income independently of men. However, a context of individual gendered agricultural production, and gendered spending obligations, such as West Africa, calls for a slightly different approach. Enhancing agricultural productivity is critical, but in addition it is important to encourage co-operation between women and men in households to result in joint decision-making in the interests of the household.

*Also available in French and Spanish.*

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## 8. Closing the gender gap in climate-smart agriculture

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/rest/bitstreams/58883/retrieve>

Also available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=73802>

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) has become a central concept shaping action and bringing together constituencies at the global level on agriculture and climate change often with explicit attention to how interventions in agriculture and food systems affect each of three key outcomes: food security, adaptation and mitigation.

In this brief review of recent approaches relevant to climate smart agriculture (CSA) programs, the researcher presents ideas on why emerging CSA policies and plans lack the attention to gender that would enable the transformative change that supporters of CSA claim to seek.

There is evidence and guidance available on what works to achieve gender-equitable outcomes at scale. It addresses the politics of resource access and participation from the start, rather than treating CSA as a predominantly technical challenge.

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## 9. Crop Planters for Women Smallholder Farmers in the West Region of Ghana

<http://ifdc.org/2015/06/23/100-multi-purpose-crop-planters-for-women-smallholder-farmers-in-the-west-region-of-ghana/>

See the 3 minute video on how crop planters are being used by women farmers in Ghana.

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## 10. The World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/aboutWW2015.html>

At the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which “seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle.” Guided by these principles, *the World’s Women 2015: Trends and Statistics* presents the latest statistics and analyses of the status of women and men in areas of concern identified by the Platform for Action. It also reviews progress towards gender equality over the past 20 years. The publication is the sixth edition in a series.

*The World’s Women 2015* comprises eight chapters covering critical areas of policy concern: population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment, and poverty. In each area, a life-cycle approach is introduced to reveal the experiences of women and men during different periods of life—from childhood and the formative years, through the working and reproductive stages, to older ages.

The statistics and analyses presented in the following pages are based on a comprehensive and careful assessment of a large set of available data from international and national statistical agencies. Each chapter provides an assessment of gaps in gender statistics, highlighting progress in the availability of statistics, new and emerging methodological developments, and areas demanding further attention from the international community. In addition to the data presented in the chapters, a wide selection of statistics and indicators at the global, regional and country levels can be found in the Statistical Annex of this report.

Please note Chapter 7 on Environment at [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/downloads/Ch7\\_Environment\\_info.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/downloads/Ch7_Environment_info.pdf).

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## 11. Bringing agriculture and nutrition together using a gender lens

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=74229>

The feminization of agriculture is well recognized: women are acknowledged as the main food producers in mainstream development policy and practice. However, women are disproportionately affected by hunger and malnourishment. A growing body of literature focuses on how to contribute to improved nutrition through agricultural interventions. ‘Women’s empowerment’ is often cited as a promising strategy for improved nutrition. Yet, there are multiple meanings of women’s empowerment and a lack of evidence on the linkages between women’s empowerment and food and nutrition security. As a result, proposed and emerging responses do not provide the evidence of what works and why; neither do they result in sustainable food and nutrition security.

This paper contributes to literature on the linkages between food and nutrition security using a gender lens; through which we can consider specific power relations between men and women. The paper argues that addressing unequal gender power relations is part of the solution to achieving improved nutrition and agricultural outcomes.

Finally, the paper introduces the Nutrition and Gender Sensitive Agriculture Toolkit for addressing food and nutrition insecurity using an explicit gender lens. This toolkit was developed as part of a KIT and SNV partnership.

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## 12. Engaging fathers and grandmothers to improve maternal and child dietary practices

*Engaging fathers and grandmothers to improve maternal and child dietary practices: Planning a community-based study in western Kenya*

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=74228>

Fathers and grandmothers are key family influencers who have an impact on maternal and child health.

This paper describes the planning, design, and implementation of a four - phased evaluation study on the impact of engaging fathers or grandmothers in improving diets of mothers and feeding practices of infants and young children in a rural setting in western Kenya.

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