



# GEM Digest of the Month for April 1, 2016

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*Female youth providing a report at a village meeting in 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](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. Gender and irrigation

<http://ilssi.tamu.edu/news/all/ilssi-technical-workshops/>

*Upcoming workshops in **Ghana (April 13-14)** and **Tanzania (April 20-21)** will carry forward this dialogue and forge new networks of government agents and practitioners working at the interface of gender and irrigation.*

On March 9-10, 2016, the first in a series of Feed the Future ILSSI workshops to strengthen capacity on gender and water was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, convened by the International Food Policy Research Institute, the International Water Management Institute, and the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Over 45 participants from the Ethiopian government, NGOs, and research institutes joined for two days of interactive presentations, trainings, and discussion on gender issues in agricultural water management. Workshop materials, including presentations and videos, can be accessed at the website.

The workshop series was motivated by the fact that control over water is essential for productive agriculture, but we have limited knowledge about whether women’s water needs are being met. ILSSI is addressing this knowledge gap, through research and capacity building-for-development in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ghana to identify the technological, economic, and cultural factors limiting women’s ability to irrigate.

The workshop involved presentations from the Women’s Affairs Directorate in the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Agricultural Transformation Agency, and IFPRI describing the state of knowledge on women’s access to water and the benefits of gender equality in water. A dozen NGOs and researchers shared case studies on their work overcoming barriers to women’s access to water. Presenters pointed out that women have distinct needs that are not being met, and a one-size-fits all irrigation promotion policy is insufficient to achieve national gender equality, food security, and climate resilience goals.

Building on early findings from qualitative and quantitative research in Ethiopia, Ghana, and Tanzania, the ILSSI team is developing a diagnostic checklist that water-related interventions can draw on to identify the key factors limiting women’s control over water. This instrument is being further refined through these workshops.

In the Ethiopia workshop, participants practiced using the checklist to apply gender concepts to the case study discussions. Participants expressed interest in using the checklist to promote dialogue with communities about solutions to gendered water needs and proposed using the checklist to inform Ministry of Agriculture gender mainstreaming guidelines.

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## 2. Visiting researcher position: CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research Network Communications support

<https://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2016/03/30/visiting-researcher-position-cgiar-gender-and-agriculture-research-network-communications-support/>

The visiting researcher will support the Communications and Knowledge Management Coordinator for the Gender Network and be responsible for generating, editing and curating content and special features, including social media for the gender network’s website and related online channels, with the aim of increasing the sites' effectiveness in attracting and engaging with target audiences such as network members and donors.

Please send a cover letter, curriculum vitae or resume (less than 2 pages), and names and email addresses of three referees knowledgeable about the candidate’s professional qualifications and work experience.

All correspondence should be addressed to Martina Mascarenhas ([m.mascarenhas@cgiar.org](mailto:m.mascarenhas@cgiar.org)) and must include “**Visiting Researcher: CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Research network Communications**” in the subject line.

Applications received after **30 April 2016** will not be considered.

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## 3. L’Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Fellowships

<http://www.fwis.fr/en/fellowships>

The UN's Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and L'Oreal co-sponsor doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships for women in science. The fellowships are organized by regions and countries.

The program for **Sub-Saharan Africa** offers 14 fellowships, with an application deadline of **29 April 2016**.

The **Middle East** Regional Program offers four fellowships, and has an application deadline on **01 June 2016**.

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## 4. Prize for Women’s Creativity in Rural Life

<http://womensection.woman.ch/index.php/en/nomination-letter-guidelines>

The Women's World Summit Foundation awards this prize of US\$1 thousand per laureate to honor women and women's groups for exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage, and commitment to improve the quality of life in rural communities. Each year, WWSF awards the Prize to between 5-10 creative rural women and women's groups around the world. Nominations include biographical data about the nominee; at least two endorsement letters; and labeled photos. Self-nominations are not accepted. The deadline for nominations (*submitted by postal mail only*) is **30 April 2016**.

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## 5. FAO focuses on developing capacity of women to overcome hunger

[http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/381917/?utm\\_source=PHL+in+the+News&utm\\_campaign=d8bd8ff9e-PHL in the News December+4 2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0 fd863700b4-d8bd8ff9e-102420833](http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/381917/?utm_source=PHL+in+the+News&utm_campaign=d8bd8ff9e-PHL+in+the+News+December+4+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fd863700b4-d8bd8ff9e-102420833)

**1 February 2016, Addis Ababa/Accra** – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is set to invest in securing women’s rights to land and other productive resources, developing their capacity to boost food production and creating more wealth for family farmers, while preventing and minimizing food losses and waste. The objective being to enforce women’s right to land, food and decent employment.

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### This Month’s News

#### 1. Women in Ag: Agriculture More Than Ever

<https://www.agriculturemorethanever.ca/tag/women-in-ag/>

This blog site includes a number of posts on women studying agriculture, women working in agriculture, communication tips and more.

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#### 2. Why Canada Needs an “Old Girls’ Club”

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/leadership/why-canada-needs-an-old-girls-club/>

When Justin Trudeau appointed women to half of the positions in his first cabinet, crusaders for gender equality were elated. But the much-publicized move has yet to spark similar parity in corporate Canada; according to research by The 30% Club—an advocacy group devoted to improving gender balance in corporations—just over 20% of board-level roles in Canada are held by women.

That’s a number Mary Lou Maher is working to change. A veteran of KPMG in Canada—her current job titles are business unit leader, GTA audit and chief inclusion officer—she is fiercely committed to getting more women on the boards of Bay Street (and beyond). Maher spoke with us about why gender parity is so important in Canada’s boardrooms, what it will take to make it happen and the role an “Old Girls’ Club” will play in the process.

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### **3. The challenge for women to smash the glass ceiling**

[http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/leadership-lab/the-challenge-for-women-to-smash-the-glass-ceiling/article29049651/?click=sf\\_globefb](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/leadership-lab/the-challenge-for-women-to-smash-the-glass-ceiling/article29049651/?click=sf_globefb)

It will take 151 years before the proportion of women in middle management is equal to men if it continues to rise at the same rate it did between 1987 and 2010 (approximately 4 per cent).

Though women comprise 48 per cent of Canada's labour force, only 0.32 per cent of them hold senior management roles.

Of Canada's top 500 companies, just 25 are led by female CEOs, and over the last 15 years, the percentage of Canadian women in senior corporate positions has improved marginally, from 14 per cent to 18 per cent.

Shockingly, Canadian women still take home 73 cents for every dollar that men earn, even as their educational attainment has surpassed that of their male counterparts; for example, women with MBAs earn \$8,167 a year less than men with the same degree in their first job out of school.

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### **4. Empowerment of Women Will Be Central to Realising Sustainable Global Development**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/03/the-empowerment-of-women-will-be-central-to-realising-sustainable-global-development/>

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, (1990-1997) and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997 to 2002) comments on the SDGs and gender quality.

DUBLIN, Mar 4 2016 (IPS) - "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" – the theme of this year's International Women's Day serves as a timely reminder that, despite incremental progress of recent years and the ambition of the new global development agenda, we must redouble efforts to achieve a world underpinned by gender equality. All women must be empowered to realise their full and equal rights. But what does it actually mean to step it up for gender equality?

For me, this requires targeted approaches to ensure that all women have a voice in the formulation of decisions that impact upon their lives. This is particularly important when it comes to facilitating the engagement of grassroots women. To realise the "leave no-one behind" approach called for in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitment "to reach the furthest behind first", grassroots women must be recognised as key actors in global sustainable development.

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### **5. African Women Key to Ambitious, but Unfunded, Global Energy Shift**

<http://womensenews.org/2016/03/african-women-key-to-ambitious-but-unfunded-global-energy-shift/>

If current trends continue, half of all Africans will still lack access to energy by 2050, which is the target year for universal access under the Sustainable Development Goals.

For billions of women around the globe access to modern energy would change all this. It would mean attaining such things as artificial light; safe cooking methods; transportation; telecommunications; and the Internet.

By some estimates 20 percent of the global population does not have access to modern energy sources. If you count people with at least some access to electricity, but not cooking facilities fueled by a modern source, that figure can approach 40 percent of all people on the planet.

Those kinds of statistics mean 3 billion people, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa, are forced to burn coal, charcoal, wood and animal waste for cooking and heating.

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## **6. Women and Girls Imperative to Science & Technology Agenda**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/02/women-and-girls-imperative-to-science-technology-agenda/>

Lakshmi Puri is UN Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director UN Women. She commented on science, technology and innovation.

Science, technology and innovation [STI] has the power to disrupt and shift trajectories as it increasingly influences all aspects of life today – from economic opportunity in STI sectors and the application of STI solutions within other productive sectors, including to help women grow business and social enterprise, to opportunity for greatly improving health outcomes (including sexual and reproductive health), energy, environment and natural resource management, and infrastructure development.

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## **7. GREAT (Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation)**

<http://www.greatagriculture.org/>

GREAT (Gender-responsive Researchers Equipped for Agricultural Transformation) is a new project that will equip researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa.

The \$5M GREAT grant to equip researchers to create more inclusive and effective agricultural systems by addressing the priorities of both women and men in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has been awarded to Cornell University, in partnership with Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

GREAT will deliver courses to agricultural researchers from SSA in the theory and practice of gender-responsive research in the key areas of root, tuber, and banana breeding; grain and legume breeding; small ruminant breeding; dairy and legume value chains; nutrition and food systems; knowledge exchange (extension); and agricultural mechanization.

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## **8. NSERC CWSE –Prairies Newsletter for March 2016**

[http://cwse-prairies.ca/pages/newsletters/cwse\\_newsletters/13\\_CWSE\\_Prairies\\_March\\_2016\\_newsletter.pdf](http://cwse-prairies.ca/pages/newsletters/cwse_newsletters/13_CWSE_Prairies_March_2016_newsletter.pdf)

The Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE) for Prairie Canada of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) program issued her recent newsletter. Inside this issue:

- Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba CIPWIE Mentorship Program

- Engineering IS For Girls
- Dr. Farenhorst and her CWSE-Prairies program earn prestigious award
- CREATE H2O students are winners in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Research Poster Competition
- 2015 International Festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- WISE Kid-Netic Energy Girls Club –a continued success
- Amazing Agriculture Adventure

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## 9. Global Team for Local Initiatives Newsletter

<http://gtli.us/empowering/>

This month’s issue features an article about Empowering Women in Ethiopia.

A Dasenech woman grinds by hand the grain that she will use to prepare her family’s meal. This is a task she spends 2 to 3 hours on, every day. Despite her work load, she is finding the time to participate in our women’s strengthening project now underway in the Guerenarema community.

Our project seeks to improve economic empowerment and stability for the women in this underserved community, where there are no schools, no health facilities, and no community-based organizations promoting microenterprise. We are not focusing only on the women, however. A group of men and women are coming together twice a week to learn to read, write, and do basic arithmetic. And in the process, they learn to make decisions together.

In these traditional communities, women do bulk do the bulk of the physical work—fetching water, carrying heavy loads, grinding grain. When we work with communities to empower women, they learn how to form a cooperative to operate a grinding mill and rural trading center. The cooperative will save hours of productive time each day for all of the women in the community. Time that would otherwise be spending grinding grain by hand or walking miles to the nearest trading center.

Our experience with women cooperatives has shown us that as they contribute to the overall economic vitality of the community, they also improve status of the women as valued community members. The women gain productive time, and they gain a voice in matters that affect their well-being and their families’ well-being.

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## 10. Lifelong Learning for Farmers

[http://oasis.col.org/bitstream/handle/11599/2287/201603\\_Connections\\_Vol21-No1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://oasis.col.org/bitstream/handle/11599/2287/201603_Connections_Vol21-No1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

A community of women goat herders in Theni District, southeast India, have inaugurated their own company after receiving training in goat farming and business management through Commonwealth of Learning’s Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) programme.

In 2000, the women had no experience or skills in using mobile phones or running their own business enterprise. Using mobile phones, community members received voicemail messages with information to help them achieve higher productivity in goat rearing through better breed selection, feed, health management and animal care. The women proudly call themselves voicemail farmers.

In 2013, the women began contemplating forming their own company to eliminate the need for a middleman and enable them to retain more of the profits of their work in their own community. With the support of Vidiyal, a non-governmental

organisation, and India's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Theni District Goat Farmers Producer Company Limited was registered under the Companies Registration Act in January 2016.

The company is operated by a board of eight women and two men, who run it with funds raised from members' shares (each member has bought 100 shares). Profits will be shared as dividends, and the excess will be kept as a reserve.

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## **11. Women, water and farming**

[http://www.odi.org/events/4345-women-water-and-farming?utm\\_source=ODI+email+services&utm\\_campaign=09d17bd572-Events Update 31 March 2016 31 2016&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0 bb7fadfa38-09d17bd572-75622273](http://www.odi.org/events/4345-women-water-and-farming?utm_source=ODI+email+services&utm_campaign=09d17bd572-Events+Update+31+March+2016+31+2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0+bb7fadfa38-09d17bd572-75622273)

For World Water Day 2016, ODI hosted an event on women, water and farming, to explore how women and men are differently affected by climate variability, and how we can build water security for rural women.

Caroline Harper, Head of Social Development at ODI, introduced the event to explore how men and women in rural areas are differently affected by water insecurity, flood and drought. She explained how the majority of people in developing countries live in rural areas and rely on agriculture. Water security is vital for development, but men and women often do not have equal access to and control over water resources. A gendered perspective is vital to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Case study research was carried out through focus group discussions with women and men in rural parts of Malawi. Women often have less access to livelihood assets, such as irrigation.

Secondary research was conducted in Ethiopia. Semi-structured interviews revealed how women have the primary responsibility for water collection for the home. This takes away time from other productive activities.

See the full panel discussion.

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## **12. Women in Fisheries Management**

<http://www.crc.uri.edu/2016/03/elin-torell-to-address-women-in-fisheries-management-at-ci/>

The Coastal Resources Center's involvement in the USAID/Ghana Sustainable Fisheries Management Project supports Ghana's fisheries development policies and objectives. Within this project, CRC works to ensure that the interests of both women and men are represented in fisheries co-management. The presentation held on March 22 highlighted CRC's gender work, which has included a detailed gender analysis focuses on the fisheries sector and value chain and the implementation of a gender mainstreaming strategy.

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## **13. Gender and climate change policy after COP21**

[https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/gender-and-climate-change-policy?utm\\_source=CCAFS+Global&utm\\_campaign=5f6cdfd594-CCAFS Quarterly 03 31 2016&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0 2aef4a737c-5f6cdfd594-246845437#.Vv6CijP2bIU](https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/gender-and-climate-change-policy?utm_source=CCAFS+Global&utm_campaign=5f6cdfd594-CCAFS+Quarterly+03+31+2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0+2aef4a737c-5f6cdfd594-246845437#.Vv6CijP2bIU)



Efforts within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to address gender inequality are real, but progress is slow. Ahead of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference, only 40% of the 160 parties made gender references in their Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs). More concrete actions to engage with women are needed.

A more food-secure and fair world is in sight if the new climate deal truly engages with women farmers. It's a hard life for women farmers in developing countries, and mounting temperatures will make it even harder. Gender inequality means that women are more affected by climate change than men.

Agriculture is a fundamental part of women's livelihoods in least developed countries, where four-fifths of economically active women report agriculture as their primary economic activity. Yet only a small proportion of these women hold land titles. Women usually have a much higher burden of water collection than men, especially in rural areas.

For quite a while now the international development community has acknowledged that gender is a key dimension for addressing development issues ranging from poverty reduction to the fight against malnutrition. This is also true for climate change.

The UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency has called for a true gender sensitive climate change agenda. One way forward would be to systematically request a gender component as a qualifying criterion to access international funding such as REDD+, the Green Climate Fund, the Clean Development Mechanism, Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs).

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## **14. Compatible Technology International Helps Women Grind out Poverty**

[https://agrilinks.org/blog/compatible-technology-international-helps-women-grind-out-poverty?utm\\_content=buffer355f8&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer&utm\\_source=PHL+in+the+News&utm\\_campaign=76ae37ca5f-PHL+in+the+News+December+4+2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_fd863700b4-76ae37ca5f-102420833](https://agrilinks.org/blog/compatible-technology-international-helps-women-grind-out-poverty?utm_content=buffer355f8&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&utm_source=PHL+in+the+News&utm_campaign=76ae37ca5f-PHL+in+the+News+December+4+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fd863700b4-76ae37ca5f-102420833)

Pearl millet, one of the most extensively cultivated cereals in the world and a key staple crop in the African Sahel, is particularly important to the food security of smallholder farmers in arid regions. Yet virtually all of West Africa's almost 4 million pearl millet farmers still use the mortar and pestle for processing the grain into flour. While men handle the planting and harvesting, women grind the pearl millet with traditional tools that are inefficient, time consuming, and result in postharvest losses.

In 2013, with support from Feed the Future Partnering for Innovation, Compatible Technology International (CTI), a nonprofit organization that designs and distributes postharvest processing tools for smallholders, introduced its pearl millet tools in Senegal.

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## **Reports, Publications and Resources**

### **1. The Fight for Equality in Farming**

<http://foodtank.com/news/2016/03/celebrate-international-womens-day-2016>

Food Tank, CARE International, and the CGIAR Research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security recently released a report that shows how inequality determines who eats first and who eats worst, as well as how this shapes people's ability to adapt to climate change. The report suggests that solutions around food production are not enough, and it demands more dialogue and action to address inequality in food systems.

There are many inspirational organizations working to advance this dialogue, amplify women's voices, and support women farmers around the world. Refer to the link to read how some of these amazing groups are advocating for equality in agriculture.

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## **2. Learning From the Past: Framing of Under-nutrition in India Since Independence and Its Links to Agriculture**

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=75939>

<http://www.eldis.org/vfile/upload/1/document/1603/Learning%20from%20Past%20-%20Framing%20of%20Undernutrition%20in%20India%20-%2019-02-2016.pdf>

Understanding policy debates from the past can help to explain and address the challenges of today. Agriculture can play an important role in the reduction of under-nutrition in India. However, the nutrition-enhancing potential of agriculture remains underused. In order to understand the roots for the weak links between agriculture and nutrition in contemporary India, this paper follows the evolution of the policy debates on nutrition and agriculture from India's Independence to the present. The frame analysis reveals several substantial shifts in the framing. Under-nutrition has been framed as a health issue (1950-'65), a problem of food shortage (1965-'75), a multidimensional poverty challenge (1975-'97) and a nutrition and food security issue (after 1997).

The framing of agriculture remained more or less unchanged until the early 2000s, with agriculture being portrayed as a key driver of economic growth and the foundation of food security. During the last 10-15 years the awareness of the potential of agriculture for a balanced, diversified and nutritious diet gradually increased in the policy debates; however, deeply-rooted beliefs and perceptions about agriculture remain and may hinder the development of more nutrition-sensitive agricultural programmes and policies.

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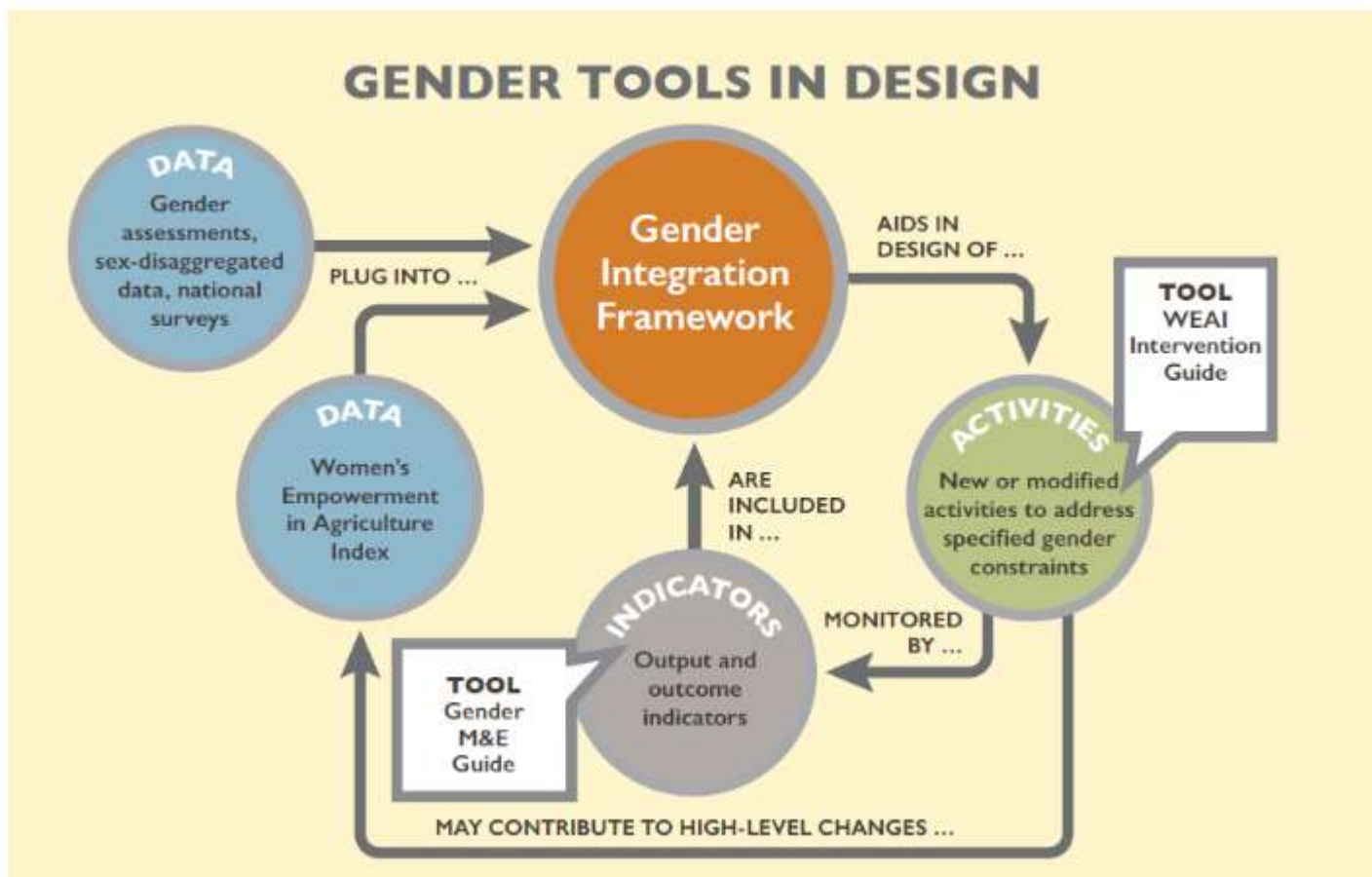
## **3. Using the WEAI and GIF to Mainstream Gender in Your Work**

<http://agrilinks.org/blog/gettin%E2%80%99-gif-fy-it-using-weai-and-gif-mainstream-gender-your-work>

Have you heard of the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (more commonly referred to as the WEAI)? In 2015 alone, 13 Feed the Future partners used WEAI data to inform programming, and to date, close to 40 organizations worldwide are using the WEAI, increasing the evidence-base on constraints women and men face in the agriculture sector. Some of you may also be familiar with the Gender Integration Framework, or GIF—a useful tool for integrating gender into project design and implementation.

What you might not know is just how to use the WEAI and GIF together. What is the relationship between the two, and how can both tools be used to promote gender mainstreaming? How does their use help us work toward our objectives of increased agricultural productivity and improved nutritional outcomes?

To that end, Agrilinks hosted a pilot training on the WEAI and GIF to help USAID staff better understand each tool and how they work together.



Source: Agrilinks, <http://agrilinks.org/blog/gettin%E2%80%99gif-fy-it-using-weai-and-gif-mainstream-gender-your-work>. Retrieved March 10, 2016.

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#### 4. IFPRI Gender Methods Seminar: Good practices and lessons learned on gender and collective lands

<https://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2016/03/02/ifpri-gender-methods-seminar-good-practices-and-lessons-learned-on-gender-and-collective-lands/#more-3509>

Global awareness of two land tenure issues--the importance of recognizing and promoting land rights for women and the problem of insecure collective land and resource tenure rights--is rising. The importance of managing collectively held land, both for those who use it and for the environment, has grown increasingly clear. In fact, studies have estimated that as much as 65 percent of the world's land is held under collective tenure—customary, community-based tenure systems. Securing that tenure is important for protecting the rights of those communities, and has been shown to improve resource management.

However, efforts to secure community land tenure, generally through documenting and registering rights, are still new. In particular, to date, the conversation around securing collective rights to land has paid little attention to women's rights, and the effects of formalizing the rights of the collective on women are not well studied. Focusing on securing collective land and resource rights without considering gender differences within communities has the potential to severely disadvantage women who are very often socially, economically, and politically excluded.

This report on gender issues and best practices in collective land tenure projects seeks to begin filling this gap, by taking a detailed look at how six collective tenure land projects addressed gender differences. The six case studies include projects in China, Ghana, India, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, and Peru. The case studies are program assessments focusing primarily on how each project approached gender, what the gender-differentiated impacts have been in terms of project participation and benefits, and what lessons can be learned and best practices can be drawn from these projects.

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## 5. Gender, agriculture and water insecurity

<http://www.odi.org/publications/10355-gender-agriculture-and-water-insecurity>

Rural female farmers are becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate variability and water insecurity.

El Niño has already had devastating impacts on countries in Africa that primarily rely on agriculture. Drought, loss of livestock and failed harvests push poor households into food stress and result in children being removed from school or families migrating.

Policy and program implementation for water insecurity must consider social norms around gender and other drivers of inequality. Too often, policies and programs on agricultural water management are gender blind and don't consider women's unique needs and experiences.

This paper explains how and why improved water management on the farm matters for women and girls, and what can be done to better support opportunities for them, as well as for men and boys, in the face of climate change.

The authors identify three areas where gender-focused programming needs to address the unique vulnerabilities of women to water (in)security:

- Women are often at the pinch point of water-related tasks in the home and on the farm, with pressure intensifying around seasonal periods of scarcity in many developing countries.
- Compared to men, women may have less access to or control of assets that can be used to buffer against the effects of rainfall variability.
- Women often have fewer opportunities to pursue off-farm work or migrate to urban areas as a temporary coping strategy for seasonal food and income shortages, or for shortages caused by droughts and floods.

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## 6. Preparing Smallholder Farm Families to Adapt to Climate Change

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This set of pocket guides, Preparing Smallholder Farm Families to Adapt to Climate Change, is written for you, the field agent working in agricultural extension. Two are now available, with two additional guides to be published soon on soil management and cropping systems adaptation.

The concepts, information and practices in these guides are meant to support your work with farm families and to help reduce their risks from weather changes. You can use these guides with individual farmers, farmer groups or communities in analyzing, designing and planning ways to adapt their farming systems to changing temperatures, changes in the timing and amount of rainfall, and changes to insect pest and disease pressures. You can also use the guides in developing training workshops or in project planning. The pocket guide series provides a sample of practices for adaptation to climate change within a framework of basic concepts and principles. It also includes assessment tools, participatory approaches and activities that may help you in planning and prioritizing activities before taking action.

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