



Youth at Ukiriguru, Tanzania. Photo courtesy of K. Mbemba.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered 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, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse 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
(Volunteer)

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Webinar: Investing in Women: New Evidence for the Business Case

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ee0liij3e03c3e8f&llr=a96zmepab>

The International Finance Corporation of The World Bank Group is hosting an online event. The business case for gender equality isn't just about women's leadership. *Investing in Women: New Evidence for the Business Case* shares new findings that show how IFC clients and partners have grown, profited, and innovated by closing gaps between men and women as employees, entrepreneurs, customers, and community stakeholders.

Join Mary Porter Peschka, Director, Cross Cutting Advisory Solutions, at the online report launch to learn how to put gender-smart business solutions into action. Hear how:

- An agribusiness identified \$166,000 in annual costs savings and \$1.58 million in new annual revenue opportunities;
- A bank gained a return of over 35 percent by developing value propositions for women;
- A solar distributor increased sales by 30 percent by using a network of women agents; and
- A coalition of companies developed responses to gender-based violence.

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM EDT

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2. Women’s Economic Empowerment Global Learning Forum

<https://weeforum2017.org/>

The WEE Global Learning Forum intends to narrow the divide between best practices and informed policy decisions and aims to explore topics that are emerging as critical constraints to women’s economic empowerment across the globe. The agenda of the Forum will focus on three themes:

- The Rural Poor: Women’s Empowerment on and off the Farm – Topics include:
 - Towards Transformational Change: Upgrading Women’s Roles within Agricultural Value Chains
 - Identifying Levers of Empowerment in Agriculture: Lessons from Africa and Asia
 - Problem or Opportunity: Migration’s Impact on Women and Family Farms
 - Women, Nutrition, and Livestock: Overcoming Social Barriers to Engagement
- Employment Opportunities through Enterprise Development and Job Creation

- Women’s Financial Inclusion: Leveraging Finance to Advance Women’s Empowerment

The forum takes place in **Bangkok, Thailand from May 23-25, 2017.**

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3. IDRC Doctoral Research Award

<http://ow.ly/4tTa30b0W9C>

Are you interested in international development and doing field research in a developing country? If you’re a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or from a developing country and pursuing doctoral studies at a Canadian university, you could qualify for the IDRC Doctoral Research Award (IDRA).

New this year is the David and Ruth Hopper and Ramesh and Pilar Bhatia Canada Research Fellowship that will be offered to a top female candidate in Canada. Apply to the IDRA, and you’ll be automatically considered for the fellowship. If you want to help improve the lives of people in the developing world, apply now! Deadline for submissions is **May 31, 2017.**

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4. Save the Date: Gender Summit is coming to Canada for the first time in 2017

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/ProgramNewsDetails-NouvellesDesProgrammesDetails_eng.asp?ID=849

From **November 6 to 8, 2017**, close to 600 advocates of gender equality policy from science, innovation and development fields will participate in the Gender Summit North America 2017, to be held in **Montréal, Canada**. It is a great honour for Canada to welcome the Summit and its participants for the first time. Those present will have the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions under the overarching theme of "Pluralism, Ethnicity & Inclusion – Canadian Values in a Global Context".

We invite members from industry, academia, research organizations, businesses, education, and other groups interested in gender equality issues to follow the discussions and participate in the dialogue emerging from the Gender Summit North America 2017.

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This Month’s News

1. CCIC Analysis of Canadian Budget 2017

http://www.ccic.ca/files/en/what_we_do/2017_04_07_Analysis_of_Budget_2017.pdf

The Canadian Council for International Cooperation published its analysis of the federal budget. “Budget 2017 included no new increases to the Canadian international assistance envelope (IAE) – the principal source of programmable aid. Looking forward, it is estimated that ODA in 2016-17 will be roughly \$5.67 billion (or 0.28 % of GNI), up from \$5.28 billion in 2015-16 (or 0.27 % of GNI), and \$5.2 billion (or 0.25% of GNI) in 2017-18. After a year of consultations during the International Assistance Review, and a number of factors that seemed to raise the likelihood of an ambitious increase, the absence of a costed funding framework for implementing the outcomes of the Review – as is happening with Defence – is deeply disappointing. The government of “Canada is back” could now become the government with the lowest average GNI ratio in Canadian history.”

The government committed – for the first time ever – a whole section of the Budget to a gender-based analysis, one of the recommendations of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

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2. This Female Founder Is Bringing Bees Back to Calgary And Rethinking Honey Production

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/eshachhabra/2017/03/31/this-female-founder-is-bringing-bees-back-to-calgary-and-rethinking-honey-production/#5521beafe1b3>

Alberta is one of the largest honey producing regions in the world with over 600,000 colonies of bees divided amongst 7,000 beekeepers. Yet Eliese Watson, a native of the prairies, says that modern day residents of Calgary have lost touch with the surrounding agricultural lifestyle.

Bees, she says, are an easy way for urbanites to reconnect with nature. That’s why in 2010, she started an urban beekeeping company, ABC Apiaries, with a \$5,000 grant. Seven years later, she has 60 colonies, and produces over 2,000 pounds of honey in a year. But it's not the traditional honey production; her hives are scattered throughout the city, on rooftops, in urban spaces, and in backyards.

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3. “The Ocean Is Not a Dumping Ground”

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/04/the-ocean-is-not-a-dumping-ground/>

PORT-LOUIS, Mauritius, Apr 19 2017 (IPS) - An internationally renowned scientist, Ameenah Gurib-Fakim became Mauritius’s sixth president on June 5, 2015 – and one of the few Muslim women heads of state in the world.

Her nomination constituted a major event in the island’s quest for greater gender parity and women’s empowerment, giving a higher profile to women in the public and democratic sphere of Mauritius.

Gurib-Fakim started her career in 1987 as a lecturer at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius. She was one of the leading figures in local academia with a reputation far beyond the Indian Ocean before she accepted the post of president.

She has also served in different capacities in numerous local, regional and international organizations. Gurib-Fakim has lectured extensively and authored or co-edited 26 books and numerous academic articles on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

President Gurib-Fakim urged world leaders to save our oceans, noting that this critical ecosystem impacts millions of livelihoods, particularly for small island-states and coastal communities.

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4. From Research to Entrepreneurship: Fishing Youth and Women out of Poverty

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/04/from-research-to-entrepreneurship-fishing-youth-and-women-out-of-poverty/>

A research project focusing on post-harvest processing of fish to reduce losses and its complimenting agribusiness component seeking to generate and test novel, creative and bold business models in the fish value chain in Zambia recently won the first prize in Zambia under the Cultivate Africa's Future (CultiAF) Expanding Business Opportunities for African Youth in Agricultural Value Chains in Southern Africa.

The two projects are jointly funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) and implemented by the Department of Fisheries and the Africa Entrepreneurship Hub (AEH), respectively.

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5. Youth want to stay on farm

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/news/youth-want-to-stay-on-farm/>

Annette Desmarais of the University of Manitoba is one of nine researchers involved in the study, which will look at barriers young farmers face in multiple countries, including Canada, India, China and Indonesia. Titled "Becoming a young farmer: young people's pathways into farming in five countries", it will take five years to complete. A conscious effort has also been made to include both men and women in the study, as well as those who might be working in farming, but don't yet have an operation of their own.

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6. Aflatoxins and Extension in Zambia

<http://illinois.edu/emailer/newsletter/126907.html>

INGENAES sponsored a webinar on April 26, 2017. The topics were:

- What are the household-level factors that constrain Zambian women farmers' ability to mitigate aflatoxin contamination of groundnuts?
- What is the potential role of agricultural extension services (AES) for helping women decrease household mycotoxin exposure?

Aflatoxin contamination of staple crops poses an important risk to nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa. Reducing aflatoxin contamination is complicated by its ubiquity in staple foods and the need for multi-sectoral approaches to address contamination issues.

This presentation is an overview of research on women's knowledge and practices regarding aflatoxin contamination from household interviews in Eastern Province, Zambia in 2015 and 2016. Interviews focused on knowledge and perceptions of aflatoxin-producing fungi and food contamination and groundnut production practices. The study found that gender disaggregated data on ownership and control over production strategies is important for understanding the mechanisms that create variation in household exposure to aflatoxins. Local perceptions of short and long-term health influence the relationship between knowledge about aflatoxins and practice. Including the social context of decision-making into aflatoxin risk assessment and mitigation helps strengthen intervention efforts.

The presentation concludes with a discussion of the ways in which agricultural extension services can help support gender and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices at the household level and minimize aflatoxin exposure and contamination.

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7. Seventy-six women on a glacier are changing the world

<https://thinkprogress.org/76-women-on-a-glacier-are-changing-the-world-7bf56b19d7c3>

The focal point of a year-long leadership development program called Homeward Bound, which aims to groom 1,000 women with science backgrounds over the next ten years to influence public policy and dialogue, was a three-week trip on the largest-ever, all-female expedition to Antarctica. The travelers were all scientists, and several of them focus specifically on climate change.

The founder of Homeward Bound told Reuters that inspiration came from the trip from hearing two scientists joke that a beard was a requirement to land an Antarctic research leadership role.

The problem of female leadership in STEM isn't a new one. Lifestyle and family changes provide a sticking point between the genders in STEM.

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8. Can pre-school children learn to do science?

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/occams-corner/2017/apr/04/can-pre-school-children-learn-to-do-science>

There are few words more misunderstood than the term "science". If you relied on the subject categories in some media outlets, you'd be forgiven for taking home the message that "science" is gadgets and technology, or pretty pictures of flowers and insects, or the latest health advice.

But none of this stuff is really "science". Science is a method for finding out how things work. In its simplest guise, a question is posed, a potential answer framed, and then an experiment designed and performed to see if the answer is right.

The rudiments of the scientific method are indeed part of the UK primary school curriculum, starting from year 1 and escalating year on year. Very small children seem hardwired to try to process the unknown in terms of questions: the first step of the scientific method. Later, this urge seems to ebb in most people. Why is this?

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9. 20 Leaders Under 40 Who Are Shaping the Future of Our Food System

<https://foodtank.com/news/2017/05/20-food-leaders-40/>

At Food Tank, we are constantly amazed by the variety of ideas, initiatives, businesses, and research put forth by talented individuals making waves in the food and agriculture sectors. They come from varying backgrounds, regions, and perspectives, and represent a wide range of ages.

Our present food system has been shaped by the combined efforts of both the innovative food leaders that have come before us and those that stand beside us, making the prospects of its future exciting and inextricably linked to our current efforts and the efforts of the generation of leaders yet to come. No matter their age, we appreciate and are inspired by those individuals working towards creating a better food system for all.

To highlight the work of some of the younger leaders out there, here are 20 emerging and established changemakers under 40 years old, who are already shaping the future of our global and local food systems.

Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Roles, Strategies, and Capacities to Strengthen Extension and Advisory Services

<https://www.g-fras.org/en/knowledge/new-extensionist-learning-kit-nelk.html>

Is today's extension agent a superwoman or superman? The New Extensionist is a global view of extension and advisory services (EAS) that reinvents and clearly articulates the role of EAS in the rapidly-changing rural context. It argues for an expanded role for EAS within agricultural innovation systems (AIS) and development of new capacities at various levels to play this role.

The Learning Kit contains 13 modules designed for self-directed, face-to-face, or blended learning and can be a useful tool for (not exclusively) individual extension field staff, managers, lecturers and non-governmental organisations, and other training institutions. The development process was designed and managed as an iterative journey of broad consultations, discussions, and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.

Modules should be used in conjunction with the workbook provided. It is encouraged that each user starts with Module 1: Introduction to the New Extensionist, as it provides foundation and the context through which the other modules can be understood.

Module 12 focusses on Gender in Advisory Services.

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