

GEM of the Month for March 2010



Mama Maji (Women and Water) Group at Lubuga, Tanzania.
Photo courtesy of Dinah Ceplis.

*Best wishes to all on Monday, March 8,
International Women's Day.*

Thanks for your contributions to this month's news digest from the perspective of AIC members.

If you have information or articles to share about gender equality mainstreaming, within your scientific organizations, gender and climate change, or gender equality and agriculture/rural development, please send them to Dinah Ceplis at Dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile them to re-distribute once a month.

Best wishes,
Dinah Ceplis
GEM Committee Member

This Month's Articles:

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[Gender Mainstreaming in the Ethiopian National Agricultural Research System](#)

GEM Committee Member, Ms. Yeshe Chiche, and her colleague Tewodros Hailemariam of the Gender Research Coordination office for the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) are the co-authors of an April 2009 publication entitled *Gender Mainstreaming in the National Agricultural Research System: Strategy and Action Plan 2009-2012*.

An excerpt from the Preface: "In the new institutional transformation framework of EIAR, gender responsiveness is considered to be one of the major elements of change in the research process for delivering client oriented, demand driven and cost effective innovative agricultural technologies.

The gender coordination office of EIAR has therefore produced a strategic plan that would help to incorporate gender aspect in the national agricultural research system. This strategic plan has been enriched through participatory and consultative inputs of difference stakeholders since December 2007.

This strategic plan is prepared with the purpose to facilitate and promote the integration of gender aspect in the research agenda setting, project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes that will be undertaken by both federal and regional research institutes and their respective centres."

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[Livelihoods and poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka](#)

From rice barn to remittances: a study of poverty and livelihood changes in System H of The Accelerated Mahaweli Development Project (AMDP), Sri Lanka

Livelihoods and poverty alleviation in Sri Lanka

Authors: F. Azmi

Publisher: Norwegian University of Science and Technology , 2008

http://www.eldis.org/go/display&type=Document&id=50252?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+eldis-norway+%28Eldis+Norwegian+research%29

(287 pages)

"The study aims to recognise the important role played by different generations of settlers who are in the process of making changes to alleviate poverty and attain their various objectives in Sri Lanka. The paper states that the Dry Zone colonisation strategy has changed the socio-economic landscape of rural Sri Lanka. However, inequalities and unrecognised dimensions of poverty are on the rise and pose many challenges in the lives of the settlers.

The paper notes that the perceptions of what constitutes poverty were wide ranging in the settlements. Indeed, they were rooted in factors such as basic needs. The paper argues that the settlers' perceptions add new dimensions, different experiences and different contexts to such dimensions.

The main findings of the paper are:

- settlers' perceptions of poverty are linked to the changing social perceptions of poverty which in turn are influenced by increasing links with the outside world
- participants mixed the causes of poverty with the dimensions of it
- there has been little emphasis placed on land as a dimension of poverty among the second and third generations
- income-based dimensions still dominate policies and planning even though the multi-dimensional nature of poverty has been accepted
- it is essential to take different generations into account when framing policies and planning programmes related to poverty alleviation

- how to translate the individual's insights and perspectives into changes in policy is a major challenge.

In conclusion, the paper states that by combining people's perceptions of poverty, a livelihood approach to poverty can capture more detailed understanding of why people change their livelihoods. Moreover, it can clarify what goals they have, how they respond, what constraints and opportunities they face, and what the outcomes are."

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Nutrition information in crisis situations

Source: United Nation's System Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN)

Date: 31 Dec 2009

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SKEA-825KF3?OpenDocument>

Impact of Food Prices Rises On Malnutrition and Food Security

"International food and oil prices soared until further in 2008 and translated in varying degrees into higher domestic food prices causing food riots in over 30 countries. Even though food prices are falling on the global markets, surveillance showed that local prices have continued to increase or have remained at their inflated level in a number of vulnerable countries. ACF conducted country studies in Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Central African Republic and Liberia (ref NICS 17) to investigate the impact on child malnutrition and food security. UNICEF/WFP/IPHN investigated the impact in Bangladesh, UNICEF/WHO in Cambodia and WFP/DID in Tajikistan. "

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Farmer perspectives on the usefulness of technologies introduced by on-farm research

Farmer perspectives on the usefulness of technologies introduced by on-farm research: the case of the TARP II - SUA programme

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=50288&em=170210C=agric>

Authors: Johnsen,F.H.; Mwaseba,D.L.; Mombo,F.M.

Produced by: Norwegian University of Life Sciences (2009)

"The objectives of this study are to find evidence to what extent farmers still use the technologies that were introduced during the TARP II-SUA programme in Tanzania, and to identify the farmers' reasons for adopting or rejecting the technologies. The paper indicates that the programme's projects could, to some extent, be participatory, but the degree of farmer participation may have varied considerably from project to project.

The paper finds that:

- the extent of sustained adoption of TARP II-SUA technologies varies widely
- the main reasons that farmers give for adoption of introduced technologies are substantial improvements of income and food security
- the reasons for rejecting technologies are much more diverse and include failure of the technologies to produce tangible benefits under unfavourable weather conditions, and technologies not being accessible to farmers
- another reason for rejecting technologies is required inputs being too expensive.

Based on its findings, the paper makes the following recommendations:

- the technology should respond to farmers' priorities
- any introduced variety should have the attributes that farmers prefer
- the project should not raise unrealistic expectations
- the inputs needed to practice the technology should be affordable to farmers
- the outputs of the activity should be readily marketable at attractive prices
- any increase in farmers' workload should be justified by benefits that are large enough to make the effort worthwhile
- real farmer participation in project identification and planning
- long term involvement in farm development beyond the normal duration of a project
- active involvement of local institutions as well as good leadership of groups that implement on-farm research collectively. "

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Training manual on agricultural water management

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=45300&em=170210C=agric>

Authors: Awulachew,S.B.; Lemperiere,P.; Tulu,T.
 Produced by: International Livestock Research Institute (2009)

"This training manual on agricultural water management has been prepared with the aim of providing reference and guidance materials on smallholders' agricultural management, primarily for Ethiopian farmers, with support of development agents and technical personnel. The documents use existing knowledge in the form of texts, figures, demonstration materials derived from various sources such as books, grey literature such as web material, reports, manuals, etc.

The aim is to cover useful elements of agricultural water management from estimating runoff at micro and small watershed level up to irrigated field water management. In addition, the modules aim to cover water availability estimation, water control and management, soil-water-plant relationships, water lifting and conveyancing and irrigation methods. Each module chapter is illustrated with figures, tables, charts and examples.

The manual covers the following key areas:

- watershed hydrology for improved agricultural water management
- water harvesting and development for improving productivity
- soil water plant relationship
- pumps for small irrigation
- irrigation methods and options for smallholders: surface irrigation and drip irrigation

The modules make for a useful reference and field guide as well as teaching materials at technical, vocational, educational, and training centres. "

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Guidelines for rapid appraisals of agrifood chain performance in developing countries

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=45142&em=170210C=agric>

Authors: da Silva,C.; de Souza Filho,H.

Produced by: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2007)

“This paper gives guidelines and presents a methodological strategy for the analysis of agrifood value chains. The guideline aims to provide information on the conceptual fundamentals of chain analyses.

The guideline provides a few steps to chain analysis:

- the components of the agrifood chain, the geographical coverage and the time frame are considered
- research planning: this is related to collecting and analysing information, as well on the utilisation of the results to propose strategies, policies and measures to improve chain performance
- stakeholder validation: a workshop is organised for participants to evaluate and make additions to the report.
- the final report: it should include an executive summary which can be easily consulted by stakeholders and other interested readers.

The report concludes by giving advantages and challenges to the guideline. The advantages given are:

- has a solid foundation in systems thinking; the principles of interdependence, propagation, feedback and synergy are considered at all phases of the analysis, from research planning to the design of performance improvement policies and strategies
- draws from an extensively proven framework for the conduct of sector studies in the agrifood domain
- does not require the application of time consuming, costly data collection and analysis methodologies. Rapid Appraisal methods are adopted instead
- is conducive to the development of a sense of ownership by chain stakeholders, who become proactive participants in the entire effort.

The challenges are:

- the definition of a multidisciplinary team with appropriate set of skills to perform the required duties within a short time frame is an issue because the required expertise might not be readily available
- the need to elect partner stakeholders with a truly representative status within the focused chain is a problem since everyone would claim to be a legitimate stakeholder. “

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[Rural Women Making Change](http://rural-research-network.blogspot.com/2010/01/call-for-papersappel-de-communications_05.html)

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The **Canadian Rural Research Network (CRRN)** is a new means to support information sharing and networking among stakeholders with an interest in rural research.

Source: Rural Women Making Change, University of Guelph.

Gender, Rurality, Transformation: A conference on gender relations and the changing dynamics of Canadian rural life. University of Guelph, May 13-14 2010. Guelph, Ontario, Canada.