

GEM Digest of the Month for November 1, 2011

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Autumn frost in rural Manitoba. Photo courtesy of C. Murray.

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 and organizational 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 me at dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile it to re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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Calendar:

- 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/resources.shtml>

Coming Up...

- 01 December: World AIDS Day
- 10 December: Human Rights Day

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Opportunities

1. Webinars: Equity-Focused Evaluations

http://mymande.org/index.php?q=equity_focused_evaluation&x=cl

A series of live webinars on “Equity-focused Evaluations” began in September with the support of UNICEF, UNWOMEN, the Rockefeller Foundation, Claremont Graduate University and IOCE, in partnership with IDEAS, OHCHR, UNEG Task Force on National Evaluation Capacities, UNDP, ILO, IDRC and PAHO. This new series of webinars will address the challenges in evaluating the effects of policies, programmes and projects to enhance equitable development results, with a special focus on the effects to the most excluded, marginalized and deprived groups.

Webinars are free and open to interested people. You may attend virtually from your personal or work computer anywhere in the world. You just need a computer, internet connection, speakers and a microphone/headphone. In addition to watching live presentations, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments in real time.

To register and to set up your computer, follow the link before the session begins. These webinars will enable the sharing of good practices and lessons learned. Global-level speakers will contribute international perspectives.

Some upcoming sessions are listed below:

Bob WILLIAMS , Independent Consultant Martin REYNOLDS , Lecturer in systems thinking and evaluations, Open University	Systems thinking for equity-focused evaluations	14 November 2011, 3:00 PM New York time
Michael Quinn PATTON , Founder and Director, Utilization-focused evaluation, and former President of the American Evaluation Association	Developmental Evaluation	6 December 2011, 11:30 AM New York time
Donna MERTENS , Department of Educational Foundations and Research, Gallaudet University Bagele CHILISA , University of Botswana	Methodological guidance in evaluation for Social Justice Indigenous approaches to evaluation	January 2012
Jennifer GREENE , University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Values-Engaged Evaluation	February 2012
Rodney HOPSON , Duquesne University Katrina BLEDSOE , Education Development Center, Washington	Cultural Responsiveness in Applied Research and Evaluation Settings	March 2012
Bradley COUSINS , University of Ottawa	Evaluations in marginalized communities influencing national policies. The case of Aboriginal communities in Canada	March 2012

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2. Webinar: Women in Senior Management: Where Are They?

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?did=4475>

The Conference Board of Canada recently released a report revealing that the representation of women in senior management has flat lined over the last 22 years. It highlighted challenges that women still face in the workplace, showcased three organizations striving for gender balance and collected practices for overcoming these barriers. *Women in Senior Management: Where Are They?* received extensive media coverage and stimulated lively debate about why so few

women rise to senior levels and what can be done to foster gender diversity in organizations. We wanted to expand on the learning and explore further what you can do to ensure women in your organization develop, thrive and achieve their full potential.

We are pleased to present a special live, interactive webinar on **Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. EST**, featuring Rilla Clark and Jenny Howe, Executive Coaches with The Niagara Institute who design and deliver the Influencing Skills for Women programs. *Women in Senior Management—Strategies for Creating an Environment Where Women Thrive* is a 60-minute session that will explore strategies and practices that organizations can undertake to ensure women attain the skills, confidence, critical experience and gender-specific career strategies that will help them in their career journey. The session will be moderated by Ruth Wright, Associate Director of the Conference Board’s Human Resource Management Research, who leads the Conference Board’s work on gender and diversity.

The session will look at the nine best practices for achieving gender diversity outlined in the report:

- i. Using accountable search techniques
- ii. Identifying talent and providing succession planning initiatives
- iii. Setting up mentoring and coaching programs
- iv. Offering job rotation opportunities
- v. Ensuring ongoing measurement
- vi. Creating an inclusive work environment through awareness training
- vii. Avoiding the glass cliff and token females
- viii. Highlighting role models and communicating success
- ix. Ensuring senior management support

In addition, time will be spent focusing on why both men and women in organizations need to be involved in the solution. Join in the discussion on November 15 and learn how to create greater levels of employee satisfaction and engagement by increasing the female representation at the top of your enterprise.

You have a choice of registration options for this webinar:

- Buy the webinar for \$395 or
- Buy the webinar and the report for \$595.

To register for *Women in Senior Management—Strategies for Creating an Environment Where Women Thrive*, please quote campaign code WOMENWEB2 when registering.

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3. Gender Budget Workshops with UN Platform for Action in Winnipeg

<http://unpac.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/y/8834A0E14F555624/E09032E2BEA7031DC06B463AA70A4F2C>

Event 1: Budgeting for Women's Human Rights

Wednesday, November 2, 9am-4:30pm, University of Winnipeg, Convocation Hall, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

What does a government budget have to do with women's equality?

Come learn how the spending and taxing decisions of the federal government affect women's equality rights. Learn how governments set budget priorities and how women are advocating for change. Share your own concerns and hopes and help create budgets that represent you.

Presenters:

- Dr. Marilou McPhedran, Principal, Global College, University of Winnipeg
- Dr. Lorna Turnbull, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
- Dr. Meg Luxton, Professor, School of Women’s Studies, York University
- Dr. Barbara Cameron, Associate Professor, Department of Equity Studies and Political Science, York University

Co-organized with FAFIA and University of Winnipeg Global College

Event 2: A Community Workshop on Women and the Manitoba Budget

Saturday, November 19, 9:30am-3:30pm, Westminster United Church, Winnipeg

A fun and interactive workshop designed to provide of basic understanding of the government budget process and examine how government budgets really do impact women’s lives.

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4. Employment: Research Opportunity at ICRISAT

<http://www.icrisat.org/careers/Principal-Scientist%E2%80%93Empower-Women.htm>

ICRISAT is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. ICRISAT and its partners help empower those living in the semi-arid tropics, especially smallholder farmers, to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through more efficient and profitable agriculture. ICRISAT is headquartered in Greater Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India and belongs to the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

ICRISAT is accepting applications for the following research position:

Principal Scientist, Empower Women. ICRISAT invites applications for a Principal Scientist to lead a new research initiative to investigate the innovations and approaches to empower women in smallholder households to better participate in agricultural growth. The position will be based at its headquarters in Patancheru, near Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India or in Africa and will be housed in one of the research programs but will provide support to all the research programs.

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This Month’s Articles:

1. Report: Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Studies_Publications/TaskForcesandStudies/GirlsRuralEconomies/Release_Event_Information.aspx

A report by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, *Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies* will evaluate the role of adolescent girls in the developing world and identify opportunities for national governments and bilateral donors to equip these girls to be agents of economic and social change. This report serves as the next volume of the Girls Count series. Girls Count provides some of the first critical research specifically focused on adolescent girls in the developing world. It demonstrates how providing support to girls ages 10-18 dramatically improves their lives – and also results in significant benefits for society as a whole.

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2. Resource: Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=89-503-X&lang=eng>

Understanding the role of women in Canadian society and how it has changed over time is dependent on having information that can begin to shed light on the diverse circumstances and experiences of women. *Women in Canada* provides an unparalleled compilation of data related to women's family status, education, employment, economic well-being, unpaid work, health, and more.

Women in Canada allows readers to better understand the experience of women compared to that of men. Recognizing that women are not a homogenous group and that experiences differ not only across gender but also within gender groups, *Women in Canada* includes chapters on immigrant women, women in a visible minority, Aboriginal women, senior women, and women with participation and activity limitations.

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3. News: Manitoba Women's Institute - New Website

<http://mbwi.org/>

Manitoba Women's Institute (MWI) is a rural women's organization dedicated to personal development, family, agriculture, rural development and community action -- locally and globally. Through MWI, women from their homes in rural or urban Manitoba can make a world of difference, locally, nationally and globally. Federated Women's Institute of Canada (FWIC) is a federation of provincial Women's Institutes. FWIC provides a united national voice for all Women's Institutes in Canada

Find out everything you ever wanted to know about this internationally recognized women's organization. Each year resolutions covering varying topics are brought forward by WI members for debate and action. These resolutions benefit all Manitobans. The white lines on Canadian highways, stop sign arms on school buses, and mobile breast screening units are just a few of the achievements we have lobbied for over the years. Bursaries are awarded to deserving students attending Brandon University and the University of Manitoba and to mature students wishing to upgrade their skills in order to enter the workforce. Annually Manitoba Women's Institute supports a project overseas to benefit men, women, and children under the auspices of The Associated Country Women of the World.

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4. Resource: Women in National Parliaments

<http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

Rwanda has the world's highest proportion of female members of parliament (56% in the lower house and 34% in the upper house). Canada is tied with Australia at 38th spot with 25% women elected to the House of Commons.

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5. News: Saudi Monarch Grants Women Right to Vote

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/26/world/middleeast/women-to-vote-in-saudi-arabia-king-says.html?_r=2&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=globaleua2&pagewanted=all

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia granted women the right to vote and run in future municipal elections, the biggest change in a decade for women in a kingdom that practices strict separation of the sexes, including banning women from driving.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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6. News: Salvadoran *Campesinas* Go Organic

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105304>

TECOLUCA, El Salvador, Sep 30, 2011 (IPS) - Mariana Rosales is part of a women's collective that for the past four years has been involved in organic farming in the fields around the town of Tecoluca, 73 km east of San Salvador in the central province of San Vicente. The area forms part of the Bajo Lempa region in the hot lowlands of El Salvador, which is regularly hit by floods and is seeing more irregular rainfall patterns year after year, as a result of climate change. Harvests are often ruined, which drives up the prices of staple foods like corn and beans.

That makes it even more important for Rosales to be able to grow her own food – and it is even better if she can do so in a sustainable manner, in harmony with the environment. That is the objective of the project organised by the Popular Movement of Organic Agriculture (MOPAO), which groups 17 local and national organisations. One of them is the 500-member Municipal Association of Women from Tecoluca that is working hard to boost self-sufficiency in food, which gives them greater economic autonomy.

Food security and sovereignty is hard to achieve in a country where agricultural production is at the mercy of drastic climate variations: either the rain pours down and the crops rot in the fields, or there is no rain at all and they dry up. For instance, the "El Niño-Southern Oscillation" (ENSO) weather cycle, a warming of the Pacific Ocean surface waters that periodically affects global weather patterns, caused a shortage of rain in Central America in September and October 2009. That hurt the year's second harvest in much of Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reported.

Then Hurricane Ida, whose rains lashed part of Central America in November of that same year, caused millions of dollars in damage to agricultural infrastructure. In El Salvador it also claimed 198 lives, left 15,000 people homeless and caused 240 million dollars in losses.

In May 2010, serious damage to crops was once again caused by Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala and El Salvador.

To feed its population of 5.7 million people, El Salvador has to import beans, a staple part of the local diet, from Nicaragua, and more recently from China. At times of scarcity, the price of beans rises threefold, to 1.50 dollars a pound, in a country where 40 percent of the population lives on less than two dollars a day and 19 percent on less than one dollar a day, according to United Nations figures.

FAO statistics show that 22.7 percent of the economically active population in the country is engaged in agriculture, while 9.6 percent of women formally participate in farming – an underestimate because many work on the family farm, but are not counted.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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7. News: Re-Greening Africa in the Footsteps of Wangari Maathai

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105278>

NAIROBI, Sep 28, 2011 (IPS) - Africa needs to remain focused and continue following the late Professor Wangari Maathai's initiatives for environmental sustainability in order to address climate change across the continent, environmentalists say. Maathai, the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2004, was founder of the Green Belt Movement, which aimed to reforest Kenya, stop soil erosion and provide firewood for families by paying poor women to plant trees. She passed away on Sep. 25.

"In the current era of climate change, the professor has left behind adaptation actions that we must implement in order to save the poorest of the poor that solely depend on the environment and natural resources," said Gaster Kawuubye Kiyingi, the national project manager for Tree Talk Plus, a network of organisations engaged in the development and sustainability of the forestry sector in Uganda. Kiyingi said some of these adaptations include campaigning for forest-based enterprises and the sustained use and planting of more trees.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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8. News: Councilwomen in Peru Fight Climate Change in Land of Melting Glaciers

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105276>

LIMA, Sep 28, 2011 (IPS) - Some symbolic acts are powerful reflections of a broader struggle. In March some 300 women planted trees in the Santa River basin in northwest Peru to demonstrate their determination to preserve the environment and help adapt to climate change.

Now a network of councilwomen have organised to that end. The organiser of the tree-planting activity was Eugenia Maguiña, the only female town councillor in Recuay, a municipality in the north-western region of Ancash. She urged local women recipients of the Vaso de Leche national food supplement programme for poor families to take part in the symbolic act on International Women's Day, Mar. 8. Her aim was to give a practical demonstration that "it is possible to contribute to solutions, with participation by the people," she told IPS.

At the time, the Red de Mujeres Regidoras de Ancash (Network of Councilwomen of Ancash) was just emerging, representing some 40 women town councillors from the middle and upper stretches of the Santa River basin. The Santa River is a key source of water in the region of Ancash, where people in both the highlands and the area along the Pacific coast depend on it for water supplies. Maguiña says that while it is true that climate change affects all people everywhere, some countries and rural areas are hit harder than others – such as Peru and its mountain ecosystems.

In response to this situation, the Mountain Institute has supported the work of the councilwomen as part of the "Peaks to Coast" project it is carrying out with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project's mission is to develop models of conservation and sustainable use of mountain ecosystems that regulate the water cycle. It involves restoring grasslands and forests, training local authorities, and raising awareness among the local population with respect to environmental management and climate change adaptation projects.

The project has "a gender focus that seeks to highlight the important roles that women play in raising livestock and managing the ecosystems of the puna, and within the family," Giraud said. As a first step, the participants in the network of

councilwomen have worked to strengthen their leadership capacity and acquire new knowledge about climate change and other environmental issues, in order to design better projects in their municipalities and get local authorities involved.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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9. News: Facing Climate Change with Flower Power in India

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105271>

Medical doctor Gazalla Amin is now leading frustrated farmers out of the conundrum of climatic uncertainties, lost crops, debt and poverty and setting examples in feasible farming alternatives. In the Baramulla, Bandipora and Pulwama districts of the state, farmers who traditionally cultivate maize barely squeeze about 110 dollars out of each hectare annually. With rain, temperature, snow and humidity becoming increasingly unpredictable, these smallholders, deep in debt from repeated crop failures, are selling their land to rapacious developers and abandoning their ancestral profession. "But they need not," says Amin. She says an answer is lavender shrubs, grown on what is locally called 'kandi' (semi-barren, rainfed farmlands).

"Lavender on one hand can yield Indian rupees 200,000 (4,000 dollars) yearly profit, and has a 20-year lifetime demanding minimal input. It is almost pest-free and cattle have no taste for it," Amin said. Farmers buy quality saplings, costing about 10 cents each, which Amin - and government and private nurseries - supply. In 2009, she formed the Jammu & Kashmir MAP Growers' Cooperative with 30 farmers, now grown to 300 members. All receive planting material and training in cultivation of aromatic plants through this collective, aided by the government.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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10. Newsletter: CGIAR Gender & Diversity News

http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/newsletter/GDNews113_October2011_Dignity.pdf

The theme of the most recent issue (October 2011) is Dignity in the Workplace.

A workplace of dignity is a fear free environment where innovation, risk-taking and out-of-the-box thinking can thrive. Dignity in the workplace allows each individual – regardless of grade, nationality, ethnicity or gender – to contribute to a Center's innovation and productivity without fear of reprisals, ridicule or threat. This month we bring you resources, research and good practices to help identify and prevent behaviours that threaten dignity and encourage those that build a healthy workplace of common respect.

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11. Resource: How to Design and Manage Equity-focused Evaluations

<http://www.mymande.org/?q=virtual>

An introductory webinar with the authors, and a PowerPoint presentation, are also available at

http://www.mymande.org/?q=how_to_design_implement_and_use_evaluations.

UNICEF launches a new publication on "How to design and manage Equity-focused evaluations".

The push for a stronger focus on equity in human development is gathering momentum at the international level. Its premise is increasingly supported by United Nations reports and strategies as well as by independent analysis. More and more national policies and international alliances are focusing on achieving equitable development results. While this is the right way to go, it poses important challenges – and opportunities – to the evaluation function.

1. How can one strengthen the capacity of governments, organizations and communities to evaluate the effect of interventions on equitable outcomes for marginalized populations?
2. What are the evaluation questions to assess interventions are relevant and are having an impact in decreasing inequity, are achieving equitable results, and are efficient and sustainable?
3. What are the methodological implications in designing, conducting, managing and using Equity-focused evaluations?

The new publication “How to design and manage Equity-focused evaluations” represents a first attempt to address these questions.

The document starts by defining equity, why equity matters and why equity is so urgent now. It then presents what an Equity-focused evaluation is, explaining what its purpose should be and potential challenges in its promotion and implementation.

The second part of the document explains how to manage Equity-focused evaluations, presenting the key issues to take into account when preparing for the Equity-focused evaluations and developing the Terms of Reference, including presenting potential equity-focused evaluation questions; how to design the evaluation, including identifying the appropriate evaluation framework, evaluation design and appropriate methods to collect data; and how to ensure the evaluation is used. The document also addresses how to conduct Equity-focused evaluations under real-world constraints.

Last but not least, eight case studies are included to illustrate how evaluations supported by UNICEF have addressed equity-focused issues.

We hope this new publication will help you in designing and managing evaluations of interventions concerning equitable development results. This document will be complemented by an electronic resource center developed by UNICEF and UN Women to be launched next month.

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12. Publication: Better Access to Water Raises Welfare, But Not Women’s Off-Farm Work

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP67.pdf>

In the developing world, poor rural women and their children spend considerable time collecting water. Do women living in areas where more time is needed for water collection tend to participate less in income-earning, market-based activities? Do the education outcomes of their children tend to be worse?

This note uses microdata for eight developing countries [Yemen, Morocco, Uganda, Malawi, Madagascar, India, Nepal, and Pakistan] to examine these questions. Better access to water is not found to be associated with greater off-farm paid work for women, but is associated with less unpaid work. In countries where substantial gender gaps in schooling exist, enrolment for both boys and girls tends to be higher.

13. Publication: Rural Women and Corporate Investment in African Land

<http://landforafricanwomen.org/sites/default/files/docs/Rural%20Women%20and%20Corporate%20Investment%20in%20African%20Land.pdf>

This is a joint Oxfam and ActionAid paper prepared by Nidhi Tandon, Marc Wegerif and Catherine Gatundu. The views in this paper are not necessarily the positions of the organisations involved.

Section IV. Recommendations

1. **Women's concerns and priorities must be central to all process related to land.** This requires:
 - Commitment of resources to help ensure spaces where women's voices are heard and respected.
 - Orientation of officials to ensure that they value women's participation and allocation of resources for promoting women's participation.
2. **Pro-active tenure reform and improvement local governance institutions capacity to include and effectively manage the registration of women's rights to land** and other resources. Registration systems should be locally based, accessible and uncomplicated. Systems should be "user friendly" so that anyone from lawyers to small scale farmers are able to check on what rights are held over specific areas. This is very important for women who are often presumed to be secondary land rights holders.
3. Within investment agreements, there must be **active support of women's rights to natural resources** and to **ensuring that women give free, informed and prior consent** before any deal can be concluded. These processes must go beyond narrow recognition of registered rights and provide mechanisms to recognize and honour women's often complex and varied rights to and use of natural resources.
4. **There needs to be a dramatic improvement in the provision of social services** to relieve the burden of 'reproduction', which predominantly still falls to rural women, including the provision of clean water and sanitation thus giving women a choice to allocate their time and energy towards production and economic activities.
5. A **pro-active and deliberate allocation of any available land and water to women and other small scale local farmers and pastoralists along with support services and targeted investments**, thus ensuring that women have opportunities to increase production, meet food security needs, and benefit from market opportunities.

14. Report: Weathering the storm: adolescent girls and climate change

<http://plan-international.org/files/global/publications/emergencies/weathering-storm.pdf>

<http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=58939>

Analysing how and why climate change disproportionately affects adolescent girls, this report seeks to inform decision-makers and policy analysts in countries facing the pressures of climate change about the way forward.

Using evidence collected from Ethiopia and Bangladesh, the report demonstrates that climate change is exposing a growing number of girls and young women to very specific risks. They are dying during disasters, enduring early and forced marriages, being exposed to sexual violence, and dropping out of school.

The report highlights two key priorities and gives the following recommendations for Ethiopian and Bangladeshi girls:

1. Prescribe gender-sensitive strategies for climate change adaptation.

International donors should:

- ensure that national and global financing mechanisms address the specific needs and rights of girls in relation to the impact of climate change on them.
- facilitate integration between climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and poverty reduction efforts by providing funding mechanisms for the delivery of quality education for girls and boys to increase climate change knowledge.

National governments should:

- revise National Adaptation Strategies and Programmes of Action to take into account the effects of climate change on adolescent girls.
- ensure national climate change policies and programmes are aligned with government commitments on gender by adopting national climate change policies that include gender- and age-sensitive programming.
- ensure adolescent girls have improved access to education, training and awareness-raising on climate change adaptation.
- recognise and promote the role of adolescent girls as transformative agents for community resilience by funding CSOs to undertake programmes to support this work.
- ensure effective mechanisms are in place for girls and boys to learn from their elders' indigenous knowledge on adaptation and science.

2. Address gender inequality as a root cause of vulnerability to climate change.

Policy-makers determining national and international adaptation policy should:

- ensure climate adaptation work builds on existing efforts by women's rights organisations in partnership with men and boys.
- ensure adolescent girls are able to participate in decision-making and political processes that affect them.

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15. News: The Nobel Peace Prize 2011

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/articles/heroines/index.html

The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize is shared by three women - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee, Tawakkul Karman – "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work". This brings the total of women receiving the prize since 1901 to 12.

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 92 times to 124 Nobel Laureates between 1901 and 2011 – 99 times to individuals and 23 times to organizations. The nine women who received the prize previously are:

1905: Baroness Bertha von Suttner

1931: Jane Addams

1946: Emily Green Balch

1976: Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan
1979: Mother Teresa
1982: Alva Myrdal
1991: Aung Sang Suu-Kyi
1992: Rigoberta Mench Tum

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16. Resource: Social Institutions and Gender Index

<http://my.genderindex.org/>

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) is a new composite measure of gender equality, based on the OECD's Gender, Institutions and Development Database. It complements and improves existing measures in several ways. While conventional indicators of gender equality capture inequality outcomes, the SIGI focuses on the root causes behind these inequalities.

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17. Multimedia: Women and Agriculture: A Conversation on Improving Global Food Security

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/09/172739.htm>

Read the transcript and see the videos of the September 2011 New York City discussion by the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States; Nick Kristof, moderator and columnist for The New York Times; Reema Nanavaty, director for economic and rural development for the Self-Employed Women's Association; Paul Polman, chief executive officer of Unilever; His Excellency, President Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania; Kathy Spahn, president and CEO, Helen Keller International; and Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva, assistant director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Some points raised:

- *The United Nations estimates that we need to increase global food production by 70 percent by the year 2050 in order to meet growing demand.*
- *Well, one way that we know would yield significant results is investing more in women. This comes down to a simple matter of numbers. Women make up the majority of the agricultural workforce in many developing countries. They're involved in every aspect of agricultural production, from planting seeds to weeding fields to harvesting crops. Yet women farmers are 30 percent less productive than male farmers, for one reason: they have access to fewer resources. They certainly work as hard and they, like farmers everywhere, are at the mercy of nature. But these women have less fertilizer, fewer tools, poorer quality seeds, less access to training and the ownership of land.*
- *The production gap between men and women farmers disappears when that resource gap is closed. If all farmers, men and women, had access to the same resources, we could increase agricultural output by 20 to 30 percent. That would feed an additional 150 million people every year.*
- *In Ghana, for example, if women and men held equal land rights, and if they both had the ability to use land as collateral to make major investments like irrigation systems or draft animals, women farmers would double their*

profits from farming. Multiple studies in places from Honduras to Nepal, from the Philippines to Rwanda, South Africa and Zambia, find that when women are involved in the design and field testing of new technologies, those technologies are actually adopted more rapidly, which increases productivity and incomes faster.

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18. News: New gender-equality program within Feed the Future

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2011/09/20110920115419elrem0.4325373.html#axzz1bYx0ODVI>

Increasing the income of women farmers means greater financial security for their families and more money circulating in local economies, which ultimately helps businesses grow and national economies expand, Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States, said. Multiple studies have found that when women are involved in the design and field testing of new farming technology, those technologies are generally adopted more rapidly, which increases productivity and farm incomes faster.

Clinton said that is why the United States has focused on women farmers in its Feed the Future initiative, a crucial centerpiece of American foreign policy in the Obama administration. The United States is allocating \$5 million this year for a new gender-equality program within Feed the Future.

“This money will be used to fund innovative approaches to promoting gender equality in agriculture and land use and to integrate gender effectively into agricultural development and food security programs,” Clinton said.

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19. Resource: eAtlas of Gender

<http://www.app.collinsindicate.com/worldbankatlas-gender/en>

The World Bank has launched the World Bank eAtlas of Gender, a companion of the recent *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development*, where several IFPRI staff contributed. You will find maps gender related indicators: wages, earnings, mean age at marriage, leave benefits, school enrolment rates, violence against women and more—over time and across countries.

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20. News: Society for the Anthropology of Work (SAW) Book Prize awarded to *The Gender of Globalization*

http://sarweb.org/?sar_press_gender_of_globalization-p:sar_press_advanced_seminar_series

The Gender of Globalization: Women Navigating Cultural and Economic Marginalities, Edited by Nandini Gunewardena & Ann Kingsolver

As “globalization” moves rapidly from buzzword to cliché, evaluating the claims of neoliberal capitalism to empower and enrich remains urgently important. The authors in this volume employ feminist, ethnographic methods to examine what free trade and export processing zones, economic liberalization, and currency reform mean to women in Argentina, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Ghana, the United States, India, Jamaica, and many other places. Heralded as agents of prosperity and liberation, neoliberal economic policies have all too often refigured and redoubled the burdens of gender, race, caste, class, and regional subordination that women bear. Traders, garment factory operatives, hotel managers and maids, small

farmers and agricultural laborers, garbage pickers, domestic caregivers, daughters, wives, and mothers: Women around the world are struggling to challenge the tendency of globalization talk to veil their marginalization.

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21. Publication: World Bank Report on *Women, Business and the Law 2012: Removing Barriers to Economic Inclusion*

<http://wbl.worldbank.org/>

The project measures how regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women's incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. *Women, Business and the Law* objectively measures such legal differentiations on the basis of gender in 141 economies around the world, covering six areas:

- i. accessing institutions
- ii. using property
- iii. getting a job
- iv. providing incentives to work
- v. building credit, and
- vi. going to court.

While the project provides a clear picture of gender gaps based on legal differences in each economy, it is a simple snapshot measuring only legal differentiation. It does not capture the full extent of the gender gap, nor does it indicate the relative importance of each aspect covered. For a collection of national legal provisions impacting women's economic status in 183 economies, please visit the Gender Law Library.

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22. News: The Woes of Women Amid Climate Change in Ghana

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105528>

ACCRA, Oct 19, 2011 (IPS) - As streams dry out, groundwater levels dwindle, and forests and other vegetation yield to droughts or sever storms, women who live their lives in the rural areas of Ghana have to spend more time and energy finding water and food for their families.

For these women, climate change means more hard work just to survive. However, "decisions to tackle changes in the climate, which has become a threat to livelihoods in developing countries, are void of women's participation," says Kenneth Nana Amoateng, chief executive officer of Abibimman Foundation. Yet these women are also the same people who pick up the pieces, improvise solutions and provide responses to the challenges imposed by climate change. Amoateng said that most of the women directly affected by climate change are either inadequately represented or exempted from government's policies and programmes designed to solve the issue.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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23. News: Drylands Meeting Deserts Gender

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105520>

CHANGWON, Oct 19, 2011 (IPS) - Delegates to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification's (UNCCD) meeting underway in this South Korean city are convinced that women, though affected most by desertification, hold the key to addressing hunger through land regeneration.

But, walking the talk is another matter. Drafts of the Changwon Initiative do not mention gender, but focus on the private sector, says Patrice Burger, director of the French civil society organisation (CSO) Centre d' Actions et de Realisations Internationales. The Changwon Initiative by the Republic of Korea, which is the president of 10th conference of the parties (COP 10) to the UNCCD is expected to incorporate decisions taken at the Oct. 10 -21 meeting and mobilise stakeholder participation and resources.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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24. Article: Gender and Climate Finance: Double Mainstreaming for Sustainable Development

<http://boell.org/web/index-836.html>

Talking Points for the Public Hearing on "Women and Climate Change" organized by the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality of the European Parliament on October 11, 2011

Women ,who form the majority of the world's 1.4 billion people still living in abject poverty, are often disproportionately affected by climate change impacts, largely because of gender norms and widespread gender discriminations that deny them income, legal rights, access to resources or political participation, while assigning them the primary care for their families and their livelihoods. This contributes to their marginalization in many societies.

Suffering from gender-based vulnerabilities to climate change, women are more often victims of climate change than men; however, women also possess knowledge of and experiences in capacities to mitigate as well as strategies to cope and adapt, which makes them important "agents of change" in the fight against global warming.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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25. News: *Our Bodies, Ourselves* Global Project Initiative and 40th Anniversary

<http://www.ourbodiesourselves.org/programs/network/foreign/default.asp>

October 2011 marked the 40th anniversary of the first publication of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, a resource book on women's health, sexuality and rights. AIC's recipient of the 2011 International Recognition Award, Mrs. Asia Kapande, has been coordinating production of a Swahili language version of the book in Tanzania with the Tanzania Home Economics Association (TAHEA) and recently attended the celebration at Boston University. TAHEA is seeking financial support for printing costs of the book to make it available where such information is scarce or altogether lacking. Pending funding, they

hope to reach women and girls in neighbouring Kiswahili-speaking countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo, Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique.

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26. News: Food aid system continues to fail malnourished children

<http://www.msf.ca/en/news-media/news/2011/10/food-aid-system-continues-to-fail-malnourished-children/>

Despite some recent gains in the fight against childhood malnutrition, the global food aid system largely continues to provide substandard foods to millions of malnourished children every year, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced in advance of World Food Day on Oct. 16.

The bulk of international food aid shipments, including those to countries with a high burden of malnutrition, such as parts of sub-Saharan Africa, are comprised of corn-soy blend (CSB) fortified flours, which do not include the vital nutrients and proteins growing children require. The United States alone annually ships approximately 130,000 tonnes of sub-standard CSB – grown and processed on American farms – to the developing world.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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27. Senior Advisor on Women Faculty at UBC: Dr. Rachel Kuske

<http://vpacademic.ubc.ca/announcement-selection-of-a-senior-advisor-to-the-provost-on-women-faculty/>

Professor Rachel Kuske has been appointed Senior Advisor to the Provost on Women Faculty at the University of British Columbia (UBC) for a three-year renewable term starting October 1, 2011.

Dr. Kuske is Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Applied Mathematics.

Dr. Kuske will lead institutional transformation to enhance the environment for women faculty at UBC. In collaboration with departments, Faculties, institutes and centres across UBC as well as peer institutions internationally, she will move forward the initiatives outlined for the position – policy development, promoting advancement and leadership, ongoing research and assessment, and transformation of the environment. Rebuilding practices and structures for review, rewards, recognition, advancement, and involvement will be a major contribution to UBC’s visibility and recruitment objectives, establishing UBC as a leader in these initiatives.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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