

## GEM of the Month for April 2010



2010 International Women's Day celebrations at Ukiriguru, Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Bert Phillips.

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](mailto:Dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) and I will compile them to re-distribute once a month.

**If any AIC members are planning to attend the conference on gender relations and the changing dynamics of Canadian rural life at the University of Guelph on May 13-14, 2010, please consider providing us with some summary articles of key events at the conference.**

Best wishes,  
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

### This Month's Articles:

1. **Women Farming Panel**
2. **Africa: Women Are Behind 80 Percent of Continent's Food Production**
3. **Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)**
4. **Engendering Agricultural Research**
5. **Women, Food Security and Agriculture in a Global Marketplace**
6. **Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture**
7. **Rural Women Making Change**
8. **Conference: Gender, Rurality, Transformation**
9. **Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Systems**
10. **Clinton presents award to Majeed**
11. **Canada's Best Diversity Employers**

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## Women Farming Panel

(International Women's Day) March 8<sup>th</sup> program on CBC Radio's program *The Current* on Women Farmers  
<http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/2010/201003/20100308.html>

### Listen to Part Three

"We started this segment with a clip of Margaret Jwajiro, a full-time farmer in Torito in the Kabu district of Kenya. She feels farm land rights should be equal and her sentiment is shared by millions of women all over the world ... women who plant, plough, pick, water, feed, milk and harvest. When it comes to small-scale farming, women outnumber men by a substantial margin. But they often have little or no control over the land they tend.

In Africa, about 80 per cent of farmers are women. But they own less than 5 per cent of the farm land. And land ownership is just one of the problems that women who farm grapple with. This morning, on International Women's Day, we gathered a few people with some thoughts about how to address those problems. "

Sound clip from a farmer (widow) in Ghana (Upper East Region) is also included.

### Panel Members:

1. Steffanie Scott is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo in Canada. She was in Toronto and spoke about her experiences in Vietnam.
2. Ramata Thioune is a Senior Program Officer for Women's Rights and Citizenship with The International Development Research Centre. She's normally based in Dakar, Senegal but she was in New York City this morning.
3. Noemi Porro is an Anthropologist and a professor of natural resource management at the Federal University of Para in Brazil.
4. Vandana Shiva is the Director of The Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology in India.

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## Africa: Women Are Behind 80 Percent of Continent's Food Production

31 October 2009

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200910310003.html>

[This story is referenced in the sound file above.]

"The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) considers gender mainstreaming, or involving women in farming development efforts, an essential component of its efforts to improve food security in Africa. This is especially the case when it comes to economic empowerment. Annina Lubbock is IFAD's senior technical advisor for gender and household food security. She oversees how to improve the impact of IFAD's programs, both in terms of loans and grants, as well as empowering women to achieve gender equality."

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## Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

<http://www.wocan.org/content/view/about-wocan.html>

"Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) is a women-led US-based not-for-profit international membership network of women and men professionals that provides expertise

to assist agriculture and natural resource management organizations mainstream gender into their programs, projects and internal structures.

The objective of this global network is to address three major gaps that emerge from the knowledge and experiences of sustainable and rural development processes. These are:

1. policies regarding gender within the agriculture and natural resource management sectors;
2. roles of professional women in implementing policy objectives for rural women’s empowerment and gender equality within these sectors, and
3. organizational barriers that obstruct women from realizing positions of leadership and influence to take on such roles.

WOCAN was established in 2004 to address these gaps through active, constructive collaboration with governments, NGOs, universities, international organizations and civil society groups.”

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## **Engendering Agricultural Research**

Engendering Agricultural Research (draft), March 7th, 2010

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

[http://www.wocan.org/files/all/cgard\\_gender\\_march2\\_to\\_editor.pdf](http://www.wocan.org/files/all/cgard_gender_march2_to_editor.pdf)

“This paper aims to make a case for a more gender-equitable agricultural research and development system. It reviews evidence on whether women are factored into research institutions, and whether research institutions effectively focused on needs of women, i.e. research BY and FOR women. Final draft of the paper, Engendering Agricultural Research that is being prepared for this month's GCARD meeting is now available on-line in WOCAN's web-site, in the Library section, under Agriculture and Rural Development.”

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## **Women, Food Security and Agriculture in a Global Marketplace**

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

<http://www.wocan.org/files/all/a-significant-shift-women-food20security-and-agriculture20final.pdf>

“The steep increase in global food prices has added nearly 100 million people to the numbers who are chronically hungry, pushing the world total to nearly 1 billion people. Amid a global financial crisis and further market instability, the number of poor people also is climbing, undoing significant gains made against hunger and poverty in the past decade. This paper reviews current thinking and practice on increasing agricultural productivity, both subsistence and commercial agriculture, and examines what is known about women's roles in both sectors. “

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## **Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture**

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

[http://www.wocan.org/files/all/gender\\_cc.pdf](http://www.wocan.org/files/all/gender_cc.pdf)

“Developing countries will be hit the hardest by climate change, particularly countries which depend largely on rain-fed agriculture. Climate change affects changes in plant growth and in production by promoting the spread of pest and diseases, increased exposure to heat stress, changes in rainfall patterns, greater leaching of nutrients from the soil during intense rains, greater erosion due to stronger winds and more wildfires in drier regions.”

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# Rural Women Making Change

<http://www.rwmc.uoguelph.ca/>

“Rural Women Making Change is an alliance of community organization members, academics and individuals across Canada. Our projects expand knowledge about the social, economic and political processes that hinder the full participation, effectiveness and well being of rural women and their advocates, and create collaborations for making change.

Eight research teams are engaging partners and collaborators in three areas:

1. **Rural women's organizations' day to day work** - Rural women's organizations everywhere, link rural women's everyday issues to the web of institutions and policies that directly and indirectly affect their work and the lives of rural women.
2. **Rural women's and girls' everyday experience** - In their everyday living and working rural women and girls experience difficulties with jobs and opportunities, un- and underemployment, education and training, transportation, and a variety of governing and corporate business practices that affect them.
3. **Gender and rural policy in trans-local arenas** - Policies and ways of representing and analyzing rural issues often fail to grasp just how policies and implementation practices operate, and as a result fail to identify how to change policies and procedures so that they recognize and support women. We aim to address issues of gender and rural policy across local, provincial, national and international levels.”

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## Conference: Gender, Rurality, Transformation

<http://www.rwmc.uoguelph.ca/page.php?p=83>

Rural Women Making Change will be hosting a conference on gender relations and the changing dynamics of Canadian rural life at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada on May 13-14, 2010.

**If any AIC members are planning to attend this conference, please consider providing us with some summary articles of key events at the conference.**

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## Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Systems

*Agriculture and Rural Development Discussion Paper: Strengthening Agricultural Extension and Advisory Systems: Procedures for Assessing, Transforming, and Evaluating Extension Systems*

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/Stren\\_combined\\_web.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/Stren_combined_web.pdf)

“This discussion paper is designed to provide information on how to transform and strengthen pluralistic agricultural extension and advisory systems in moving toward the broader goal of increasing farm income and improving rural livelihoods. This publication is primarily centered on the technical knowledge, management skills, and information services that small-scale farm households will need to improve their livelihoods in the rapidly changing global economy. Additionally, this resource includes information on how extension should help all types of farmers in dealing with escalating natural resource problems, including climate change.

This discussion paper is divided into nine distinct chapters focusing on agriculture extension concepts and models, major extension models and approaches, an overview of the clientele to be served, policy issues concerned with moving toward more pluralistic agricultural extension and advisory systems, policy issues central with transforming extension systems, outlining methods of collecting primary data, examining intervention strategies and procedures, examining primary investment options, priorities and procedures within existing extension and advisory systems, and key procedures that can be used to supervise, monitor and evaluate projects.”

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## Clinton presents award to Majeed

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/index.php/news/2275-clinton-presents-award-to-majeed.html>

March 11, 2010

“US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton presented the Women of Courage award to Sri Lanka’s Jansila Majeed at a ceremony held at the US State Department in Washington, Wednesday. Majeed was among 10 recipients of the 2010 award. US First lady Michelle Obama also attended the event and delivered a speech.

Ms. Majeed is the Managing Trustee of Community Trust Fund in Puttalam province. The Trust oversees a number of programs on minority and women’s issues, including women’s rights, peace building, relief work, working with young people, and mine-risk education in the North and East. Ms. Majeed’s own particular focus is on uniting the Muslim and Tamil communities in her province.

Having lived as an internally displaced person (IDP) for almost 20 years, Ms. Majeed has become an energetic activist for services for displaced Muslim and Tamil civilians, focusing particularly on grassroots programs on life skills, health, and women's empowerment. Her activism began in 1992 with a working group of five people. She overcame both the general neglect of the problem of IDPs in the Muslim minority as well as her own community’s strictures against women activists to build a broad-based organization that works on minority and women’s issues in a highly sensitive and politicized environment. (Daily Mirror online)”

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## Canada's Best Diversity Employers

<http://www.canadastop100.com/diversity/>

Recognizing the employers that offer Canada's most inclusive workplaces

Now entering its fourth year, *Canada's Best Diversity Employers* recognizes employers across Canada that have exceptional workplace diversity and inclusiveness programs. This competition examines a range of diversity initiatives covering five major employee groups:

(a) Women; (b) Members of visible minorities; (c) Persons with disabilities; (d) Aboriginal peoples; and (e) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered/Transsexual (LGBT) peoples.

See also:

- Canada's Top Family-Friendly Employers

Profiling the employers that offer Canada's most progressive family-friendly benefits

<http://www.canadastop100.com/family/>

- Canada's Greenest Employers

Recognizing the employers that lead the nation in incorporating environmental values into their corporate culture

<http://www.canadastop100.com/environmental/>

- Canada's Top Employers for Young People

Profiling the organizations that lead the nation in attracting and retaining younger employees

[http://www.canadastop100.com/young\\_people/](http://www.canadastop100.com/young_people/)

- Top Employers for Canadians Over 50

Recognizing the employers in Canada that do the most for employees aged 50 years and older

[http://www.canadastop100.com/older\\_workers/](http://www.canadastop100.com/older_workers/)