

GEM Digest of the Month for August 2011



Storm clouds in rural Manitoba. *Photo courtesy of Cindy 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 are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

Calendar:

August 09, Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Coming Up...

September 08, International Literacy Day

Opportunities:

1. Funding News from CGIAR..... 2
2. African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2011..... 3
3. Employment: Post-doctoral Social Scientist 3
4. Funding: IDRC call for proposals for Adaptation H2O research awards..... 3
5. Employment: Gender and Advocacy Advisor Helen Keller International..... 4
6. Youth and Women Photo and Essay Competition..... 5

This Month's Articles:

1. Report: Gender Responsive Strategies on Climate Change: Recent progress and ways forward for donors..... 5
2. News: Women's Rights, Human Rights and Climate Change 6
3. News: Women Grow Carbon Money on Trees 6
4. Proceedings of the AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium 2011: New Voices, Different Perspectives..... 7

5.	Report: 2011-2012 Progress of the World’s Women: In Pursuit of Justice.....	7
6.	News: First female agriculture minister won't seek re-election.....	8
7.	News: Rural Folk Pave Way for First Female PM’s Landmark Win.....	8
8.	News: Filling the Female Leadership Gap in East Asia.....	8
9.	News: Women Keen to Ease Greenhouse Effect on Their Ability to Provide.....	9
10.	News: Seed-Mothers' Confront Climate Insecurity	10
11.	Report on the Gender Initiative: Gender Equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship	10
12.	News: The Struggle for Women to Own Land	11
13.	News: Gender Equality in Forest Tenure Reforms	12
14.	Documentary: “TO EDUCATE A GIRL”	12
15.	Journal Article: Gender Issues in the Community Management of Biosecurity in Eastern Indonesia	13

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

Opportunities

1. Funding News from CGIAR

http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/cast_the_net/GD_FundingNews_Aug2011.pdf

The August newsletter from Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) provides information on MANY funding opportunities for **scholarships and fellowships, travel and conference grants, research and extension grants, and prizes and awards.**

The CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program is happy to share with you fellowship and scholarship opportunities in this issue of Funding News. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing these funding opportunities to the attention of qualified professionals. If you would like more information on the opportunities highlighted here, please contact the respective organizations, their websites are highlighted in the newsletter.

Please note that, the Gender & Diversity Program only assists in distributing the announcements. Our goal is to cast the net widely, ensuring that women worldwide learn about capacity building opportunities in a timely manner.

The CGIAR Family

Created in 1971, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is an association of public and private members that support a system of 15 international agricultural research centers. The CGIAR Centers work in more than 100 countries to mobilize cutting-edge science to reduce hunger and poverty, improve human nutrition and health, and protect the environment. All new technologies resulting from the Centers’ research are freely available to everyone. For more information visit: <http://www.cgiar.org>

The CGIAR Gender and Diversity Program

In 1991, the CGIAR launched a program on gender staffing aimed at assisting the CGIAR-supported international agricultural research centers in their efforts to promote the recruitment, productivity, advancement and retention of women scientists and professionals within their organizations. In July 1999, this program expanded to include a wide range of diversity issues, to help the centers leverage their rich staff diversity to increase research and management excellence. The program promotes such activities as diversity-positive recruitment, international teamwork, cross-cultural communications and advancement for women.

The CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program is hosted at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), Nairobi, Kenya. For more information, visit <http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org>

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

2. African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards 2011

<http://www.africahrst.org/stict/sa/awards2011.aspx>

The African Union (AU) honours outstanding African scientists through the Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards for fields that include agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, and energy innovation (among others). There are two awards:

- a) The **Regional Scientific Awards for Women** are restricted to women applicants in each of the AU's five geographical regions; the application deadline is **September 30, 2011**. [Value \$20,000]
- b) The **Continental Scientific Award** recognizes the achievements of senior scientists anywhere in Africa; the application deadline is **November 15, 2011**. [Value \$100,000]

More information and detailed instructions are available at the website.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

3. Employment: Post-doctoral Social Scientist

<http://ccafs.cgiar.org/news/careers-and-calls/post-doctoral-fellow-CCAFS-colombia>

The International Centre for Tropical Agriculture CIAT is seeking a qualified Post-doctoral Social Scientist for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), **to conduct comparative analysis of the effect of social, gender and generational differences on adaptive learning of small-scale producers, traders, processors and retailers in response to climate change-induced environmental stress**. In addition, the candidate is expected to support CIAT's social and gender analysis related to all other Institutional programs and initiatives. The position will be based in CIAT Headquarters (Palmira, Colombia). CIAT offers a multicultural, collegial research environment with competitive salary and excellent benefits; we believe that the diversity of staff contributes to excellence.

Deadline: 29 July 2011

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

4. Funding: IDRC call for proposals for Adaptation H2O research awards

<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=15>

The International Development Research Centre's Climate Change and Water program is pleased to launch the call for proposals for its graduate research awards entitled "Adaptation H2O." Adaptation H2O **aims to promote important research on the water related impacts of climate change** as well as to build the capacity of students working in this field.

Adaptation H2O will provide research awards to graduate students from developing countries (enrolled in a masters or PhD program) and to Canadian citizens or permanent residents (enrolled in a PhD program). For more details regarding the eligibility criteria please visit www.idrc.ca/Adaptation-H2O.

Themes for the call are:-

1. Economic analysis related to climate change adaptation
2. **Gender analysis of adaptation strategies:** The factors that increase women’s vulnerability to climate change in developing countries are largely under-researched. To address this gap, research must go beyond the simple demonstration of the gender-specific impacts of climate change. It must analyze gender inequalities to examine how climate change exacerbates these disparities. Under this theme, we are seeking proposals that explore the opportunities posed by adaptation strategies to address gender differentials through practical and empowering solutions.
3. Use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and spatial decision support systems for adaptation
4. The role of clean energy in water provision
5. Adapting to climate change in vulnerable coastal communities

The application deadline is Thursday, September 1, 2011.

[Go to top](#). ++++++

5. Employment: Gender and Advocacy Advisor Helen Keller International

<http://www.hki.org/careers/gender-and-advocacy-advisor/>

As part of its nutrition actions, HKI is working on agricultural approaches to combat undernutrition and improve incomes of vulnerable households. In sub-Saharan Africa, one of the key strategies that HKI promotes is the introduction of **orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) cultivars**, which are rich in pro-vitamin A and can be easily introduced as women have traditionally grown white-fleshed sweetpotatoes. HKI’s work in OFSP has been in close partnership with the International Potato Center (CIP).

Currently, HKI is a core partner in two CIP-led multi-year programs. Both programs seek to improve the food security and livelihoods of poor families in sub-Saharan Africa by exploiting the untapped potential of sweetpotato, including OFSP. The program works to develop the essential capacities, products and methods to reposition sweetpotato in food economies of sub-Saharan African countries to alleviate poverty and undernutrition.

As a key partner, HKI is responsible for the Gender and Advocacy components – to ensure that all aspects of OFSP promotion are based on sound gender analysis and to lead the development of advocacy for programs and policy support, including resource mobilization in the countries of interest. HKI responsibilities include fielding a **full time Gender and Advocacy Advisor, located in the CIP-Nairobi office**, responsible to manage specific components on the 2 grants. The Gender and Advocacy Advisor also serves on the Senior Management Team (SMT) of the projects and is responsible for mainstreaming gender into delivery projects and advocacy efforts and assisting in monitoring compliance concerning any gender-related targets.

More information and detailed instructions are available at the website.

Applications should be submitted by August 10, 2011.

[Go to top](#). ++++++

6. Youth and Women Photo and Essay Competition

Essay competition: <http://ardyis.cta.int/en/news/project-news/item/109-essay-cta-nepad/109-essay-cta-nepad>

Photo competition: <http://ardyis.cta.int/en/news/project-news/item/110-photo-competition-nepad-cta/110-photo-competition-nepad-cta>

Deadline for application: 15 August 2011

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) have joined forces in celebrating NEPAD's 10th Anniversary. The two institutions are jointly organising two competitions:

- An **essay competition** on the theme "Looking at ICTs and entrepreneurship in agriculture and rural development through the eyes of women and the youth". For each African Region (Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa), the best essay of each category will receive a prize of EUR 1000.
- A **photo competition** on the theme: "Looking at ICTs, agriculture and climate change in Africa through the eyes of women and the youth". For each African Region (Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa), the best photo of each category will receive a prize of EUR 800.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

This Month's Articles:

1. Report: Gender Responsive Strategies on Climate Change: Recent progress and ways forward for donors

<http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/home&id=58722&type=Document&langID=1>

Gender equality is an important precondition for successful climate change adaptation, and transition to low-carbon alternatives in developing countries. In order for this transition to be effective, climate change adaptation and low-carbon efforts need to be gender responsive, taking into account the specific needs of men and women and the gendered inequalities that may compound the impacts of climate change.

This paper from BRIDGE focuses on the role of donors in this process, and is targeted at those working on climate change in donor agencies. It outlines a rationale for improved integration of gender and proposes key principles which should premise climate change policies and programmes. Some of the principles outlined include the ideas that neither the impacts nor responses to climate change are ever gender-neutral, addressing gender is about addressing unequal power relationships between women and men, and gender relations are context-specific, and change over time. The paper also offers **recommendations** for donors which include:

- Taking a stronger lead on gender equality in the climate change arena by promoting gender-inclusive policy dialogue.
- Creating enabling organisational environments for effective gender mainstreaming by addressing 'mainstreaming fatigue' and providing gender and climate change tools covering the entire project or programme cycle.

- Filling knowledge and best practice gaps in participatory ways that capture men’s, women’s and young people’s ideas and knowledge, particularly in areas where the gender dimensions of climate change impacts and responses are not immediately obvious, such as transport and infrastructure.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

2. News: Women's Rights, Human Rights and Climate Change

<http://www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/cafe2/article/157>

A major paradigm shift in dealing with climate change has been unfolding in the last few years – largely thanks to concerted efforts by women's human rights advocates. Once a strictly "environmental" or "business" issue, climate change has been increasingly accepted as a gender equality and social justice issue by civil society organizations, UN agencies and governments from around the globe. Despite this, an ongoing struggle is underway to address both climate change and its specific gender impacts.

The impact of climate change has become undeniable. The highest scientific panel in the world -- the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change -- emphasized that impacts would vary based on geography, age and gender. Governments such as Iceland and Finland have been outspoken in connecting the dots, and women's organizations have gained visibility as experts on climate issues. A powerful tool has been CEDAW – the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women – which, with great foresight, included global warming as a gendered issue.

It's going to cost billions upon billions of dollars worldwide to mitigate the damage *already done* to our climate. **Adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology, capacity building** – these are essential and interlinked pieces, and women and gender issues are at the heart of every one.

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

3. News: Women Grow Carbon Money on Trees

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56343>

105 Forest User Groups (FUGs) in three districts of Nepal – Dolakha and Gorkha in the west, and Chitwan in the south – are celebrating the fact that they have made money grow on trees.

The Charnawati watershed in Dolakha, spread over 14,037 ha, the 1,888 ha Ludikhola watershed in Gorkha, and the Kayarkhola watershed in Chitwan, covering 2,382 ha were found to have done the best job in sequestering carbon. As an incentive, on June 15, these watershed areas were paid a total of 95,000 dollars by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development. Charnawati got the most, 45,535 dollars, followed by Ludikhola with 27,560 dollars while Kayarkhola received 21,905 dollars. This is the first time that carbon money has been paid in Nepal.

According to the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN), over 50 percent of the members of the 15,000 odd FUGs are women. Also, the committees governing the groups must have a woman either as president or secretary.

The story began in 2003 when the Netherlands government funded research into how communities living on forest produce can be taught to conserve them so that the trees can absorb carbon dioxide released on burning bio-fuels. The research was conducted with regional partners in East Africa, West Africa, Papua New Guinea and the Himalayan region.

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the partner in the Himalayan region, undertook the research in India and Nepal and in 2008, at the climate change talks in Poznan, Poland, proposed that a "Forest Carbon Trust Fund" be established for a pilot project in Nepal - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus (REDD+).

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

4. Proceedings of the AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium 2011: New Voices, Different Perspectives

http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/Uploads/news/AfricaAdapt_new_voices_different_perspectives.pdf

Nearly 200 researchers, civil society actors, donors, government officials, NGO practitioners and media specialists gathered in Addis Ababa to share and learn at this 3-day event on March 9 to 11, 2011. These proceedings of the 2011 AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium have been assembled to share the wealth of research, experiences, and co-constructed knowledge that emerged from the three-day, bilingual symposium with the wider climate and development community. The publication includes short abstracts of all the papers and addresses delivered over the three days of meetings, and links to more extended versions of the papers, PowerPoint presentations, and other relevant resources.

This compilation of papers includes a **section on gender and climate change**. See the proceedings for links to the following articles:

- *Africa Adaptation Programme experiences - gender and climate change: Vulnerabilities and resilience in the face of climate change* by Ryan Laddey (page 98)
- *Gender, food insecurity and climate change amongst pastoral communities: Case studies of Mandera and Turkana in Northern Kenya* by Nancy A. Omolo (page 99)
- *Documenting the linkages between population growth, reproductive health, gender and climate change* by Philip Otieno (page 100)

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

5. Report: 2011-2012 Progress of the World's Women: In Pursuit of Justice

<http://progress.unwomen.org/>

This report from UN Women highlights the ways in which governments and civil society are working together to reform laws and create new models for justice service delivery that meet women's needs. It demonstrates how they have risen to the challenge of ensuring that women can access justice in the most challenging of situations, including in the context of legal pluralism and during and after conflict.

Both the full report and the executive summary are available from the link.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

6. News: First female agriculture minister won't seek re-election

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news/first-female-ag-minister-wont-seek-re-election/1000504031/>

Manitoba's deputy premier and finance minister Rosann Wowchuk, the first woman anywhere in Canada to be named as a minister of agriculture, has announced she won't seek re-election this fall.

Wowchuk, who represents the north-western riding of Swan River, told media as recently as February that she planned to run again in the Oct. 4 provincial election, but "personal issues have arisen that have caused me to reconsider that decision," she said in a release Monday [July 4, 2011].

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

7. News: Rural Folk Pave Way for First Female PM's Landmark Win

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56353>

BAAN FANG, Thailand, Jul 4, 2011 (IPS) - Across villages, towns, and cities in northeast Thailand, a mood of political empowerment is bursting to the surface, with people gathering in groups since Sunday evening to celebrate political history. After all, they helped put Yingluck Shinawatra on the road to becoming the country's first female prime minister.

"I believe that a woman can be a prime minister in Thailand," said an excited Sukunthai Buthawong, a 61-year-old rice farmer. "We have to try something new, not only voting for men to lead the country. I voted feeling this way. I want change. I want to make history."

It was a sentiment echoed by the nearly 30 people gathered around her, men and women who were also part of the same community of rice farmers. "Women are good with details and work carefully," added another farmer who was wearing a red shirt, the colour worn by Phue Thai supporters.

"We have had many Thai women in positions of power but till now not as the prime minister," said Patcharin Tanjapatkul of the National Council of Women in Thailand, the largest women's network in the country. "It is time for that to change."

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

8. News: Filling the Female Leadership Gap in East Asia

<http://www.diversity-executive.com/article.php?in=1226>

Excerpts from this newsletter:

The gender gap in leadership roles is an international issue, but is especially noticeable in East Asia.

The World Economic Forum's *Global Gender Gap Report 2010* stated that in almost all countries "there is a clear pattern across the levels of positions" showing that women tend to be in entry or mid-level positions and the numbers decrease as the positions become more senior. According to the United Nations' "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Countries" annual report published in 2007, restricting job opportunities for women is costing that geographic area \$42 billion to \$46 billion a year in domestic product growth.

David Arkless, president of corporate and government affairs for ManpowerGroup, an international workforce management company, has been working in East Asia for more than 30 years, advising government officials from Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and other countries. He said that women in Asia are one of the “biggest underutilized assets” in the workforce and companies need to start placing them in leadership positions.

Arkless cites education levels, cultural standards and a lack of legislation as reasons for women not being more present in the upper levels of the workforce.

According to the *State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011* report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, women comprise 50 percent of the agricultural workforce of Eastern Asia.

Meanwhile, there’s a shortage worldwide of vocationally trained people, both male and female, but it’s “extremely acute” in Asia, according to Arkless.

According to a Deloitte study titled *The Gender Dividend: Making the Business Case for Investing in Women*, a 2010 global survey of executives found that “72 percent agree that there is a direct connection between gender diversity and business success, but only 28 percent say it is a top 10 priority for senior leadership.”

By putting formal legislation in place and educating company owners that getting women into leadership positions is a good business move, Arkless said, these numbers can increase. Having the government set a quota and standards here will make companies give women more opportunities. By giving women equal pay and opportunities for jobs, work-life balance and maternity leave, in addition to access to basic literacy and education, a “huge change” can occur throughout Asia.

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

9. News: Women Keen to Ease Greenhouse Effect on Their Ability to Provide

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56344>

WINDHOEK, Jul 4, 2011 (IPS) - A successful entrepreneurial programme in the north of Namibia that infuses farming practices with gender-responsive environmentalism may serve as a model for other countries on the African continent.

The women will say that the first thing they want to do is to secure the household staple food production, no matter what. "A woman tends to take an interest in topics like conservation farming and drip irrigation because for her it is vital to get as much food from her land as possible. 'How do I plan my farm with these floods?' 'Should I maybe diversify into rice production?' These are the questions they face."

With a handful of other women Johansson started Creative Entrepreneur Solutions in 2007. She helped poor women in the townships to strengthen their small informal enterprises, or start new ones. In 2009 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) approached CES to roll out a community- based adaptation programme in 20 communities in five Namibian provinces. The programme has been extremely successful.

CES started self-help groups modelled on initiatives in India. Communities organise themselves in cooperatives to tackle climate change issues, or build up savings for business ventures.

The women engage in conservation tilling and improved irrigation methods for their dry-land crops and, in the process, start to farm differently. "Women now grow different plants that are better suited to different climatic conditions or have more

market applications, or they switch to aquaculture. Climate change also brings possibilities. The recent floods have really opened people's eyes to fish farming and they are now establishing ponds and dams. They also have started using energy-efficient stoves and they practise water harvesting."

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

10. News: Seed-Mothers' Confront Climate Insecurity

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56332>

BHUBANESWAR, India, Jul 1, 2011 (IPS) - In eastern Orissa state's tribal hinterlands about 200 'seed-mothers' are on mission mode - identifying, collecting and conserving traditional seed varieties and motivating farming families to use them.

The seed-mothers (*bihana-maa* in the local dialect) from the Koya and Kondh tribal communities have reached 1,500 families in the Malkangiri and Kandhamal districts and are still counting. These women are formidable storehouses of knowledge on indigenous seeds and biodiversity conservation.

Collecting, multiplying and distributing through exchange local varieties of paddy, millet, legume, vegetables and leafy green seeds, the seed-mothers already have a solid base of 80 converted villages.

"This is the best way to cope with erratic rainfall, ensure the children are fed and avoid the clutches of moneylenders," says 65-year-old seed-mother Kanamma Madkami of Kanjeli village, who has multiplied 29 varieties of local millet and paddy seeds.

Annual community seed fairs, organised right after the monsoon harvest, help promote and exchange traditional seeds and knowledge. Here the seed-mothers cook and showcase various traditional items made from indigenous paddy and millet. Tribal women are re-learning the traditional ways of seed preservation from the seed-mothers.

Poor seed quality marketed by the government is a real worry. The government's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in a status report on seed development released in March carried data showing falling rice production in six eastern states, including Orissa - the rice bowl of the country. In Orissa, the seed germination rate for regular paddy is just 55 percent and may drop as low as 25 percent. According to the NABARD report, land under cultivation in the state is shrinking and poor quality seeds and increasing floods and droughts are making farming increasingly unremunerative.

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

11. Report on the Gender Initiative: Gender Equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship

http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/7/5/48111145.pdf?utm_source=Wikigender+users+%28%29&utm_campaign=ad35bd525b-Wikigender+Reminder+June+2011+27+2011%28%29&utm_medium=email

See the Interim Report of the OECD Gender Initiative that was presented at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level in May 2011.

The 2011 Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial level is the first milestone in the Gender Initiative, which was launched by the OECD to help governments **promote gender equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship** (the “three Es”). Reducing persistent gender inequalities is necessary not only for reasons of fairness and equity but also out of economic necessity. Greater economic opportunities for women will help to increase labour productivity, and higher female employment will widen the base of taxpayers and contributors to social protection systems which will come under increasing pressure due to population ageing. More gender diversity would help promote innovation and competitiveness in business. Greater economic empowerment of women and greater gender equality in leadership are key components of the OECD’s wider agenda to develop policies for stronger, better and fairer growth.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

12. News: The Struggle for Women to Own Land

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56481>

NAIROBI, Jul 14, 2011 (IPS) - Even at the best of times, obtaining a title deed from the ministry of lands is a difficult process. But as the minister of lands admitted on July 13 that his office is rife with corruption, the disorganisation of this office means Kenyan women are no closer to owning land.

"It has become impossible to reclaim illegally-acquired land as powerful individuals collude with corrupt officials in my ministry to acquire illegal title deeds," said James Orengo, the lands minister.

But, right’s experts say that Orengo should have addressed corruption a long time ago and it only delays women’s access to land.

"It was very progressive for the minister to admit that corruption is rife in the ministry. But that has a negative impact on the struggle to have more women own land. Fighting corruption will take centre stage while land ownership for women will seem like a non-issue," said Grace Gakii, a gender expert in Nairobi.

The situation is worse for poor women who lack the economic muscle to fight for land ownership against a backdrop of gender-insensitive customary laws that continue to sideline them. Consequently, women still hold a negligible percentage of land title deeds. In Kenya, only a paltry three percent of women have land title deeds and in Tanzania only one percent own land.

Across Africa, there are highly progressive statutory laws that allow individuals, including women, to own and profit from land. However, traditional practices and laws override them.

Although there are a vast number of cultural reasons that have continued to bar African women from controlling and profiting from land, women are no longer accepting harmful traditional practices and attitudes as the norm. In Kenya, the concept of ‘Chama’ has revolutionized the financial situation of thousands of women. *Chamas* are group saving schemes where women save money to buy land for members.

Refer to the link for the full article.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

13. News: Gender Equality in Forest Tenure Reforms

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56468>

Jul 13, 2011 (IPS) - A 1993 forest act gave back Nepal its green hills, many believe. Activists say the law was also a catalyst for positive change in an area not readily linked with it – women’s rights in rural Nepal.

Kalpana Giri, the gender and governance specialist with Forest Action Nepal, a think tank working on natural resources management, told IPS that the act, which created community forests, was a prime mover in bringing the voices of Nepal’s rural women into public forums.

But the unexpected result of rural women finding their public voice through a land reform process was a rare success, when such reforms also guaranteed, and in this instance actually furthered, gender equality.

Giri agrees with the assessment that unless policies are drafted taking gender sensitivities into consideration, women will be victimised.

The constitutional changes that are taking place in the South Asian country have allowed activists to engage in an ongoing dialogue with decision-makers. Within the community forest programme, 33 percent representation is set aside for women on executive committees. And at least 35 percent of the total income from community forests is allocated to disadvantaged women.

Refer to the link for the full story.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

14. Documentary: “TO EDUCATE A GIRL”

http://www.arnec.net/cos/o.x?ptid=1036089&c=/swt_arnec/articles&func=view&rid=296

UNICEF/UNGEI, June 2011 – A powerful and moving film supported by UNICEF and the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) on the struggles girls face daily to get an education in the developing world.

Ten years after world leaders pledged to provide equal access to all girls and boys by 2015, filmmakers Frederick Rendina and Oren Rudavsky set out to answer the question, “What does it take to educate a girl?” amidst poverty and conflict in much of the developing world.

“To Educate a Girl” is a character-driven documentary that spotlights the stories of Manisha, a teenager in Nepal, who works in the fields to allow her three younger sisters the opportunity to go to school. Her story is contrasted by three young Nepalese listeners of a hugely popular youth-oriented radio program that has helped them deal with issues of early marriage and poverty in order to stay in school. In Uganda, Mercy, a six-year-old from an impoverished home, is about to embark on her first day of school, while Sarah, a teenage war orphan struggles against great odds to keep up with her studies.

By the end of the film, it becomes abundantly clear that the stories of Manisha and Mercy can be the untold stories of thousands – if not millions – of other girls who struggle daily to have an opportunity to learn and make a better life for themselves and their families.

Latest estimates show that more than half of the 67 million children of primary-school-age who are out of school around the world are girls. Growing evidence points to girls’ education as a key means of promoting equity and improving productivity in the developing world.

15. Journal Article: Gender Issues in the Community Management of Biosecurity in Eastern Indonesia

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/km85743802hu4748/>

DOI: 10.1007/978-94-007-1412-0_9

Abstract

This chapter aims to identify and discuss the role of women in collective community management of biosecurity activities. These activities are related to women's 'empowerment capacity' to undertake knowledge transfer through sustainable training in the provinces of Bali, Sulawesi, and Papua. Untung (Kebijakan nasional ketahanan hayati, 2007) notes that to encourage people's awareness of biosecurity issues is important, and that the main process for addressing it is through community management (Flora, Community capitals framework, 2007).

The research uses qualitative methods (Creswell, Qualitative inquiry and research design choosing among five traditions, 1998), specifically semi-structured interviews, questionnaires and observation with 82 female leaders and other women involved in agriculture, living at the sites. Data collected during this process was analysed using thematic analysis approaches.

In this chapter, the author discusses the role of women, gender issues and success stories of the utilization of Farmer Field School (FFS) as they relate to community management of biosecurity. This research also acknowledges that women at all sites participated in a diverse range of social, cultural, spiritual, tourism and agricultural activities, particularly in problem solving and decision making processes, as well as the opportunity to manage their family's economy. There are representations of the success stories of a high level of female leadership at an organisational level including examples from education training and the PKK (Program Kesejahteraan Keluarga or Family Welfare and Empowerment). **The initial findings from this research indicate that women participate in the transfer of knowledge between local and outside communities, especially in the behaviour, practices and technology associated with agriculture.**