



Youth examining tomato seedlings, Ngudama village Tanzania, March 2013. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGHIH, FAIC
GEM Committee Member (Volunteer)

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Course on Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Adaptation

<http://asianfarmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Mainstreaming-Gender-in-CCA-Mitigation-2013-4-8-13-1.pdf>

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, along with Gender Works and Asian Farmers’ Association For Sustainable Rural Development is sponsoring this course which will focus on building capacities in integrating gender concepts and methodologies in developing programs for climate change adaptation. The course targets program/project managers, policy makers, researchers and educators who are involved in climate change adaptation, policy and action, and community and smallholder-led responses.

The 10-day course will be held in Cavite, **Philippines** from **September 17 -26, 2013**.

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2. Course on Influencing Skills for Women Leaders

http://www.niagarainstitute.com/public-programs/influencing-skills-for-women.aspx?utm_source=dmniagara&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ISFWJul3

Join fellow women leaders, **September 18-19 in Ottawa**, or **October 3-4 in Niagara-on-the-Lake**, for The Niagara Institute’s *Influencing Skills for Women Leaders* program, and develop your leadership skills to achieve career advancement.

The program is designed to help you learn how to influence others and explore new ways of articulating vision, building buy-in and overcoming communication blocks.

- A tailored program for women.
- Access to current Canadian data on what makes female leaders successful at influencing others and advancing their careers.
- Comprehensive individual feedback from selected people in your workplace regarding your strengths and challenges in competencies such as influencing, getting results, credibility, and executive image.
- Advanced influence practice using current situations from your own workplace.

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3. Call for Applications from AWARD

<http://www.awardfellowships.org/>

AWARD (African Women in Agricultural Research and Development) is a career-development program that equips top women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate agricultural gains by strengthening their research and

leadership skills through tailored fellowships. AWARD is a catalyst for innovations with high potential to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of African smallholder farmers, most of whom are women.

AWARD Fellows benefit from **two-year fellowships** focused on fostering mentoring partnerships, building science skills, and developing leadership capacity. Fellows stay in their institutions, continue their research, and travel to AWARD training courses held in various locations in Africa.

The deadline for applications is **August 9, 2013**.

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4. New online *Journal of Learning for Development*

<http://www.col.org/resources/publications/Pages/JL4D.aspx>

The Commonwealth of Learning's (COL) new online *Journal of Learning for Development* will provide a forum for the publication of research with a focus on innovation in learning and its contribution to development. Content will include *interventions that change social and/or economic relations, especially in terms of improving equity*.

With a view to showcasing practical application to development contexts, the new e-journal will publish empirical research and case studies from researchers, scholars and practitioners and will seek to engage a broad audience across that spectrum. It aims to encourage contributors starting their careers, as well as to publish the work of established and senior scholars from the Commonwealth and beyond.

The *Journal of Learning for Development* is **seeking submissions for its inaugural issue**. The editors would also like to hear from keen and avid readers who would be interested in being one of the journal's book reviewers.

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This Month's News

1. Agriculture Leans on Japanese Women

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/agriculture-leans-on-japanese-women/>

TOKYO, Jun 26 2013 (IPS) - Yukako Harada, an energetic 29-year-old, is part of a small but determined band of women farmers working hard to revitalise Japan's moribund agricultural sector, which is feeling the crunch of an ageing population and a flood of cheap imports.

From accounting for half the country's economic output just after World War II, agricultural production has shrunk down to just 1.2 percent of the world's second largest economy, generating only 39 percent of Japan's food needs.

According to Professor Masao Fukunaga, an economist specialising in rural development, there is a renewed interest in farming not so much as a profit-generating activity but as a mental release from the stresses of city life, as well as growing awareness of the need to boost the country's food security.

To capitalise on this trend, experts say that the government must not only implement policies to support domestic farmers, but also carve out a special place for women agricultural workers to help revive the industry.

Japan's food self-sufficiency rate, in terms of caloric intake, continues to hover at 39 percent, a steep drop from its former 73 percent in 1965. In comparison, the United States registers a self-sufficiency rate of 100 percent.

Rice production, heavily subsidised by the government, is the only crop that can feed Japan's population of 127 million without relying on imports of staples like wheat, meat and vegetables.

In 1999, 2.8 million households were involved in commercial farming enterprises; today that number has fallen by 200,000 families, who are now heavily dependent on non-farming income.

In total, the agricultural industry comprises just over one percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), which touched six trillion dollars in 2011.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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2. Leasehold Forestry Breathes New Life into Nepal

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/07/leasehold-forestry-breathes-new-life-into-nepal/>

JHIRUBAS, Nepal, Jul 4 2013 (IPS) - Over 40 percent of Nepal is covered in thick forest, but most of it has been degraded. Rural communities that have traditionally relied on the forests for survival now live in abject poverty, struggling to secure the food necessary for survival. Most men have migrated to the Gulf in search of employment.

A Leasehold Forestry and Livestock Programme (LFLP) launched by the government in 2005, with assistance from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is achieving the twin goals of restoring wasted forest land and providing rural communities with enough income to purchase food during the nine months of the year when farming on the rocky mountain slopes of Nepal bears no fruits.

And slowly but surely, men are trickling back into their communities to help women with the backbreaking work of harvesting broom grass for sale, fodder and fuel.

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3. Gender divide in applied sciences is wide – but narrowing

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/gender-divide-in-applied-sciences-is-wide-but-narrowing/article12850390/#dashboard/follows/>

Although women are still greatly outnumbered in the so-called STEM fields of learning – science, technology, engineering and mathematics (which includes computer science) – they have surpassed the number of men in post-secondary science classes and are making modest gains in the other areas. While women were underrepresented in those fields, immigrants, who make up about a fifth of the population, accounted for half of all people holding STEM degrees at university.

Governments have been reaching out to young women in an effort to convince them to consider the STEM professions. And a number of organizations like the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology are mentoring girls who are drawn to science and engineering.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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4. Gender-responsive Agricultural Research Techniques

<http://www.awardfellowships.org/news-and-events/award-news/808-chicago-council-report-features-award.html>

Women agricultural scientists from 14 countries are better positioned to obtain grant funding for their research and publish more frequently, thanks to a newly designed course piloted by AWARD this month.

The 48 AWARD Fellows and five AWARD Mentors participating in the week-long course learned how to improve their manuscripts and proposals, including methods to ensure that their research is gender-responsive. They also developed basic skills in gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis.

Before winning an AWARD Fellowship, the majority of fellows had not published in refereed journals and only a limited number had won research grants, due to limited training and experience. AWARD's **Science Skills Course** builds the scientists' knowledge and skills in gender-responsive agricultural research proposal and science writing, and covers how to write for various audiences. Training in gender-responsive research is considered important as it helps to target technological developments to specific gender groups, increasing their adoption and impact.

Recognizing that many AWARD Fellows have not been extensively exposed to studies in gender-responsive agriculture, AWARD staff and trainers wrote and developed the curriculum, specifically tailored to meet the needs of women agricultural scientists.

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5. Google Doodle honors 'overlooked' DNA pioneer Rosalind Franklin

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/google-doodle-honours-overlooked-dna-pioneer-rosalind-franklin-1.1383330>

Rosalind Franklin, a British biophysicist who became a cause célèbre in feminism, on Thursday [July 25, 2013] was awarded a 21st-century tribute in the form of a Google "doodle" on what would have been her 93rd birthday.

In its signature graphic replacing the corporate logo, Google's search engine featured a portrait of Franklin, a molecule of DNA and a now-famous X-ray image she took that helped determine the structure of the code for life.

Two Britons and an American -- all men -- shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for Medicine, nine years after revealing that DNA had a double-helix structure of chemical "rungs" that fitted together.

The landmark paper was published by Francis Crick and James Watson of the legendary Cavendish Laboratory at the University of Cambridge on April 25, 1953.

They were selected for the Nobel along with Maurice Wilkins, who headed the laboratory at King's College London where Franklin took the X-ray diffraction images that helped unlock the discovery.

Franklin, a rare woman scientist in what was then a man's world, was snubbed by the three men, who exploited her work without giving her recognition, say feminists.

She has even been dubbed "the Sylvia Plath of molecular biology," a reference to the then-overlooked American writer who took her own life in 1963 during a stormy marriage to fellow poet Ted Hughes.

In a 1961 letter that surfaced earlier this year to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the discovery of DNA, Crick acknowledged the importance of her work in determining "certain features" of the molecule.

Franklin in any case could not be considered for a Nobel, as she died of ovarian cancer in 1958 at the age of 37 and the prize is never awarded posthumously.

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6. Young African women lead the way in adoption of web2.0 and social media

<http://www.cta.int/en/component/cck/?view=item&id=49>

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation 's (CTA) web2.0 training programme has sparked enormous interest across African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. Organisations and individuals have shown themselves hungry to learn about social tools and platforms which can support their collaborative work, and how social media can be adapted to their particular contexts and needs.

But which groups are the most enthusiastic adopters of web2.0 tools, and what impact does that adoption have, in terms of personal development, institutional changes, and new opportunities for beneficiaries in the context of development?

In a bid to learn from three years of its web2.0 training programme (2008-2010), CTA commissioned an impact study to better understand the factors that influence adoption, as well as the outcomes. In this post we summarise what has been learned, as CTA seeks to fine-tune and upscale its work in this area.

- In terms of age, it's perhaps not surprising that trainees under 36 were found to be more likely to adopt web2.0 applications, except for online social networking, which interestingly was not affected by age.
- Also interesting is that females had higher adoption rates than males for almost every web2.0 application. While other studies have found men to be generally more familiar with ICT than women, in terms of this sub-set of women, mainly professionals, the pattern is different.
- In terms of organisations, those working for NGOs and national and international organisations were more likely to adopt web2.0 tools than those in educational and research institutions; this could be explained by the tendency for NGOs to have generally younger staff.
- In some cases, outcomes from the training have also contributed to positive change among farmers and communities.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Report: Meeting small-scale farmers in their markets

<http://pubs.iied.org/16548IIED.html>

The informal sector is growing in parallel with modern formal markets. It is central to rural and urban food security, livelihood generation, and job creation. It is also where much of the produce that reaches the formal sector originates. But the tide of development policy thinking has moved, and considers informality as a public 'bad' – a deadweight that blocks the emergence of a modern private sector.

This report is the outcome of an expert workshop held in November 2012. Participants set out to better understand the dominant informal markets that link small-scale farmers and low-income consumers. It was organised by IIED and Hivos in association with the close of their knowledge programme Small Producer Agency in the Globalised Market. The event brought together 20 leading researchers and practitioners from around the world. The workshop participants have provided the main input to the report, both during the workshop and subsequently by commenting on a draft version.

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2. Resource: LandWise

<http://landwise.landesca.org/>

The Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights has just launched LandWise, a free online resource containing land-related laws, information about relevant customary practices, and explanatory materials. LandWise is an important new tool for policymakers, researchers, legal practitioners, and women's advocates working to strengthen women's land rights around the world.

The site also has three recently-added Practice Guides on the following topics: The Research Process, Inheritance, and Land Rights.

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3. Report: Reducing the risk of disasters and adapting to climate change

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/reducing-risk-disasters-and-adapting-climate-change>

For fifteen years donors and developing country governments have invested many millions of dollars / euros / pounds in developing high quality detailed analyses of livelihoods using **Household Economy Analysis (HEA)** to identify options for responding to immediate needs and to help reduce poverty mostly in rural but also urban settings. The process of 'zooming in' with improved localized analysis has better informed decision-makers in a variety of program and policy decisions at district, livelihood zone and national levels, and as a result, many national governments have taken up the approach.

Now that this rich and unified HEA dataset, with over 300 studies from 26 countries, has been amassed into one place, the time has come to 'zoom out' in order to gain a broader perspective of risk, food security, poverty and livelihoods that can inform policy and program approaches and encourage equitable development.

The research report, a collaboration between Save the Children and the Food Economy Group, begins a process of drawing on evidence from the HEA database to respond to four important questions relevant to disaster risk reduction (DRR):

- Which single shock has the most damaging impact on households' ability to meet their minimum food and livelihood requirements?
- Does diversification always help reduce the risk of disaster?
- Will increasing poor households' agricultural production increase their resilience in the face of climate change?
- What hazards are pastoralists most vulnerable to? And what does resilience mean for a pastoralist economy?

Hundreds of HEA reports can be found at www.heawebsite.org. Forthcoming reports in the *Livelihoods At the Limit* series will answer other important questions applying findings from the HEA dataset to improve our understanding of *food security* and *social protection* with a final synthesis bringing all three reports together.

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4. Approaches to Economic Empowerment of Rural Women for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Implications for Policy

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=65317>

E.N. Ajani, E.A. Onwubuya and R.N. Mgbenka, Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Abstract:

There are several ways of promoting women's economic participation while also counteracting climate change. One approach in the field of climate mitigation is the promotion of renewable energies that help avoid greenhouse gas emissions. The potential of rural women as agents of change for climate mitigation and adaptation remains untapped: Their extensive theoretical and practical knowledge of the environment and resource conservation is not given due consideration. In terms of economic participation, they are not paid for the environmental services that they already provide (example, reforestation). The potential contribution of rural women to climate mitigation by being part of the economic cycle is not sufficiently exploited. The economic empowerment of women through climate mitigation and adaptation fosters economic growth and socioeconomic development, reduces poverty, keeps environmental problems in check, and increases the potential for adaptation, which is to the benefit of both women and men. Enhancing the economic empowerment of women is a catalyst for development, which helps boost a country's economic growth, promotes the socioeconomic development not only of women, but of the entire population, and helps reduce poverty. It is observed that less attention is paid to the potential that lies in the combination of climate mitigation/ adaptation and the economic empowerment of rural women. Yet mitigation or adaptation activities offer opportunities to advance the economic empowerment of women. In particular, this applies to work that is already being undertaken by women or activities in which women could assume a leading role. In developing countries, for instance, women frequently play a major role in the reforestation and afforestation of cleared land and in forest conservation, yet they have hardly ever benefited from these environmental services. The paper addresses the economic empowerment of rural women through climate change mitigation and adaptation. The study recommends that measures to promote the economic participation of women can be integrated into climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. In order for rural women to play an economic role, an institutional, legal and political framework is required that enables and/or makes it easier for rural women to hold their own in the market. Concrete, promising project measures at the local level should therefore be combined with advisory services at the political level related to climate change and the economic empowerment of women, with a view to initiating structural reform.

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