



GEM Digest of the Month for August 1, 2014

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Woman using hand hoe for soil tillage and weeding in Tanzania. 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>.

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development Call for Applications for 2015 AWARD Fellowships.....2
2. Vacancy: Gender and Social Inequality Research Leader2

This Month's News

1. Women are underrepresented in big NSERC awards.....3
2. Talent trumps gender in today's agriculture4
3. Newsletter for Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE) for Prairie Region4
4. Women in Science Series.....4
5. Gender Equality and Climate Change5

Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Young Professionals for Agricultural Development.....5
2. Monitoring the Scope and Benefits of Fairtrade6
3. Research Brief: Community-Based Legal Aid and Women's Land Rights.....6

4. Micro-gasification: Cooking with gas from dry biomass.....	6
5. How Gender Inclusion Improves Commercial Dairy Chains	6
6. 2014 UN Human Development Report.....	7
7. Youth Voice and Positive Identity Building Practices: The Case of ScienceGirls	7
8. “Science isn’t just what we learn in school”	8

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

Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development Call for Applications for 2015 AWARD Fellowships

<http://www.awardfellowships.org/the-award-fellowship/applicants/application-form>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) 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, especially 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.

Eligibility: Women agricultural scientists who are citizens of Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, or Zambia, who have completed a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in one of the disciplines listed below, or other agriculture-related fields, are eligible to apply. Applicants must be resident in Africa throughout the two-year fellowship period.

Deadline is **August 8, 2014**.

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

2. Vacancy: Gender and Social Inequality Research Leader

<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/about/careers-and-calls/want-lead-our-gender-and-climate-change-research-work#.U9mEhG90zIX>

<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/sites/default/files/files/CCAIFS%20Gender%20Coordinator%20position.pdf>

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAIFS) is searching for a Gender and Social Inequality Research Leader.

The Research Leader on Gender and Social Inequality will coordinate work across all of CCAIFS Regions and Themes. The incumbent will provide expert input on gender and social inequality to diverse teams and stakeholders, and will work with gender specialists in most of the 15 CGIAR Centers as well as in partner organisations. The successful applicant will be expected to publish research results in top social science and interdisciplinary journals, as well as lead the effort to make strong gender and social inequality-related contributions to CCAIFS outcomes and impacts on food security, poverty reduction, adaptive capacity and emissions reductions. The aim is to develop gender-sensitive, equitable and sustainable

approaches to agriculture under climate change, render them accessible to women and men farmers, and, most importantly, to empower women and marginal social groups. **Expiration date: Wednesday, September 10, 2014.**

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

This Month's News

1. Women are underrepresented in big NSERC awards

<http://labandfield.wordpress.com/2014/06/29/women-are-underrepresented-in-big-nserc-awards/>

Women have been awarded only 17% of major NSERC awards since 2004. Of NSERC's 185 "big award/prize" recipients from 2004-2013, only 31 (17%) were women.

Year	Hamer	Brockhouse	Steacie	Herzberg	Polyani	Synergy
2013	0/5	0/2	0/6	0/1	Group award	0/3
2012	2/5	3/11	1/5	0/1	0/1	0/7
2011	1/5	0/5	1/6	0/1	0/1	0/4
2010	2/2	0/2	3/6	0/1	1/1	1/5
2009	2/2	0/4	1/6	0/1	0/3	2/14
2008	1/2	0/2	0/6	0/1	0/1	
2007	1/2	No award	1/6	0/1	0/2	
2006	2/2	1/8	1/6	0/1	Group award	
2005	0/2	0/3	0/6	0/1		
2004	2/2	0/2	1/6	0/1		
Total	13/29	4/39	10/65	0/10	1/9	3/33
Percent	44.83%	10.26%	15.38%	0.00%	11.11%	9.09%

Source: *The Lab and Field* blog, June 29, 2014

NSERC Communications posted a reply to this blog posting which includes the following statements:

Promoting women in science and engineering is a priority for NSERC and we have taken important steps to provide girls and women with opportunities in these fields.

We encourage the research community to help us recognize and celebrate talented female researchers by nominating more of their peers for NSERC prizes. We also ask that the community provide suggestions on how

NSERC can strengthen the representation of Canada’s talented female researchers with our awards by emailing us at connect@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

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

2. Talent trumps gender in today’s agriculture

<http://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2014/07/02/talent-trumps-gender-in-todays-agriculture/>

Josie Van Lent, the Dean of Agriculture at Lakeland College in Alberta, reflects on changes in attitudes about women in agricultural careers throughout her working life.

Women make up half of its 7,500-student enrolment at its two campuses in Vermilion and Lloydminster. Those entering its agricultural programs expect to be judged on their abilities — and expect to excel.

“The young women coming into agriculture today have more confidence,” she says. “A lot of them are quite skilled and come in as equals to our male students. There isn’t anything they can’t do.

“If they’re from farms, the expectation is that they will learn and do what the guys are doing on farms. I don’t think that was the case even 15 years ago.”

Male students also have a different attitude and their understanding of equality is “refreshing,” she says.

“Our male students expect our female students to do the same things they’re doing, and our female students don’t see why they shouldn’t be.”

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

3. Newsletter for Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE) for Prairie Region

<http://cwse-prairies.ca>

The July issue of the NSERC CWSE - Prairies newsletter has been released. You can view the newsletter at the website or on the Facebook Fan Page.

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

4. Women in Science Series

<http://www.cdnsiencepub.com/blog/women-in-science-series-meet-dr-andrea-kirkwood.aspx>

Sarah Boon, PhD has begun a blog on women in science. She writes:

While the topic of women in science receives a lot of theoretical attention, stories from actual women in science can be few and far between. There are studies on why women leave academic science, how we can recruit more women to STEM fields, what we need to do at different stages along the ‘pipeline’ to keep it from ‘leaking’....but it seems as though little is done, and we remain bound to the societal norms that are so clearly explained in Virginia Valian’s *Why So Slow?*, a book that can make thoughts of systemic change seem futile.

For this Women-in-Science post, I wanted to talk to a woman in science about her own personal experiences. While this is by no means representative of the experience of all women in science, it provides a glimpse into one personal

story and career trajectory, and gives us a window into potential ways in which we help – or hinder – women in science. For girls and women interested in science, this post is intended to help them better understand what that career path might look like.

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

5. Gender Equality and Climate Change

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

From 4-15 June 2014, in Bonn, Germany, WEDO and its partners from the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), working alongside members of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), attended the fortieth sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 40) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 40), as well as the June session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

At the second meeting of the UNFCCC in 2014, Parties gathered in Bonn to make progress on the development of a new climate agreement. The 2015 agreement, being discussed under the ADP, was further elaborated in parallel to continued work under the Subsidiary Bodies on implementation and scientific and technological advice, in addition to a High-Level Ministerial segment.

Since the ADP meeting in March, Parties and groups of Parties have expressed their views on integrating gender into the new climate agreement in their submissions and interventions. These statements strongly support that gender equality should be both a guiding principle and a cross-cutting element of the new agreement.

Refer to the web site for a full listing of articles.

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

Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Young Professionals for Agricultural Development

<http://www.ypard.net/who-we-are>

YPARD is an international movement of nearly 8,000 young professionals, a vibrant network, both online and on the ground, inspiring young people into a wide range of agriculture careers and to play active roles for innovative agricultural development. At the heart of YPARD are its members, who are encouraged to become active in their area, spread the news about YPARD to other young professionals, encourage a stronger voice of youth in their own organizations and share their views and ideas with other young professionals in the network.

This global on-line and off-line communication and discussion platform is meant to enable YPs all over the world to realize their full potential and contribute towards innovative agricultural development.

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

2. Monitoring the Scope and Benefits of Fairtrade

<http://www.fairtrade.net/single-view+M52877ab09dd.html>

Monitoring the Scope and Benefits of Fairtrade, Fifth Edition (PDF), includes more than 120 pages of data, charts, and statistics on Fairtrade farmers and workers, and also gives summaries and links to in-depth impact studies on banana producers in Colombia, farmers and workers in Malawi, flower producers in Ecuador, women in supply chains, and more.

One of the key insights:

- Women make up 23 percent of total Fairtrade farmers and workers, but 47 percent of all workers on estates and plantations.

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

3. Research Brief: Community-Based Legal Aid and Women’s Land Rights

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/rb20.pdf>

From the International Food Policy Research Institute comes this research brief.

Improving women’s ability to securely access land is recognized as an effective means to increase gender equality and advance other key social and economic development goals. Despite progressive laws in many African countries, gender disparities commonly persist in women’s access and ownership of land. Although legal empowerment of women can help to strengthen their claims to land, developing country governments commonly lack the capacity to offer legal services. Civil society is increasingly stepping in to fill the wide gap in legal service provision, with the aim of empowering marginalized groups and individuals to exercise their legal rights. Although legal aid has wide application, this brief focuses on the consequences of regulating services provided at the community level to support women’s land rights.

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

4. Micro-gasification: Cooking with gas from dry biomass

<http://www.drtilud.com/2014/04/26/micro-gasification-cooking-with-gas-from-dry-biomass-giz-hera/>

This manual provides an introduction to concepts and applications of wood-gas burning technologies for cooking.

The 2014 revised edition reflects the current state of the art in the growing topic of generating cooking energy by using dry biomass for gasification. It includes the technical background, together with project examples, as well as more recent developments in gasifier stove technologies. The publication concludes with a look into biochar, the use of charcoal for soil fertility and carbon capture.

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

5. How Gender Inclusion Improves Commercial Dairy Chains

The past few months Silja Heyland, student at Van Hall Larenstein University in Wageningen did a desk research commissioned by Agri-ProFocus entitled “how gender inclusion improves commercial dairy chains”. The research resulted in a Bachelor thesis. Last week Silja presented her finding during a lunch meeting organized by Agri-ProFocus in Wageningen.

For more information (including the full thesis) and other back ground material (e.g. the PowerPoint and the report of the lunch session) look at:

- The blog post: [5 arguments to include women in dairy chain development](http://genderinvaluechains.ning.com/profiles/blogs/5-arguments-to-include-women-in-dairy-chain-development) [<http://genderinvaluechains.ning.com/profiles/blogs/5-arguments-to-include-women-in-dairy-chain-development>]
- The forum discussion: [Are women better dairy farmers?](http://genderinvaluechains.ning.com/forum/topics/are-women-better-dairy-producers) [<http://genderinvaluechains.ning.com/forum/topics/are-women-better-dairy-producers>]
- The video: Cartoon: [Women key for successful dairy value chains](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UjKMerwSk0&feature=youtu.be) [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UjKMerwSk0&feature=youtu.be>] The video illustrates the case of dairy value chain development in Nicaragua.

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

6. 2014 UN Human Development Report

<http://hdr.undp.org/en>

The 2014 Human Development Report - **Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience** provides a fresh perspective on vulnerability and proposes ways to strengthen resilience.

According to income-based measures of poverty, 1.2 billion people live with \$1.25 or less a day. However, according to the UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index, almost 1.5 billion people in 91 developing countries are living in poverty with overlapping deprivations in health, education and living standards. And although poverty is declining overall, almost 800 million people are at risk of falling back into poverty if setbacks occur. Many people face either structural or life-cycle vulnerabilities.

Canada ranked 8th in the list, unchanged from 2012, while Norway remained 1st in both 2012 and 2013.

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

7. Youth Voice and Positive Identity Building Practices: The Case of ScienceGirls

<http://journals.sfu.ca/cje/index.php/cje-rce/article/view/1584/1677>

In the *Canadian Journal of Education*, Volume 37, No. 1 (2014):

Abstract

Through two stories of youth voice, learning, and identity development in an afterschool science program for girls only, we show the ways in which such programs can be understood as important identity-building practices. We describe key dimensions of a sociocultural approach to youth voice, learning, and identity, situated also in the context of the literature on afterschool programs. We then explore the manner in which youth voice and identity were marked by time and space. We conclude with a discussion of youth voice and ethics in collaborative research projects with youth.

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

8. “Science isn’t just what we learn in school”

<http://journals.sfu.ca/cje/index.php/cje-rce/article/view/1512>

In the *Canadian Journal of Education*, Volume 37, No. 1 (2014):

Abstract

Using critical ethnographic methods we explored what happened when we introduced digital and arts-based methods for generating science conversations in an out-of-school-time (OST) space usually reserved for talk about girls’ issues. This article identifies episodes of interaction rituals (IR) that generate positive emotional energy among a group of girls. We identify moments of positive engagement with science through the mobilization of funds of knowledge enacted through their repertoires of practice. However, we also identify the limitations in attempts to shift what counts as ‘real science’ or how the youth consider themselves in relation to science.