

GEM Digest of the Month for December 2010



SADP Nepal in partnership with The Organic Village, LEAD-Nepal and GSMTF conducted an organic farming training workshop at Resource Centre, Pokharelphant, Tanahun, Nepal in October 2010 with 27 participants (14 male and 13 female) *Photo courtesy of SADP Nepal.*

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 organizations. 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.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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Calendar

December 1: **World AIDS Day** <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/>

December 3: **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=1540>

December 5: **International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development**, “Volunteerism is a source of community strength, resilience, solidarity and social cohesion. It can bring positive social change by fostering respect for diversity, equality and the participation of all. It is among society’s most vital assets.” *Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 5 Dec. 2009.*
<http://www.un.org/en/events/volunteerday/>

December 10, **Human Rights Day**, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>

December 19, **United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation**, <http://www.un.org/en/events/southcooperationday/>

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Opportunities

CALL FOR PAPERS: *Feminist Economics* Special Issue – Land, Gender and Food Security

<http://www.feministeconomics.org/issues.html>

In reaction to the global food price crisis in 2007–8 as well as concerns over population pressures and water shortages, wealthier developing countries and newly industrialized ones have begun a surge of leasing and acquisition of millions of hectares of farmland in many poorer developing countries. The expanding global demand for biofuels and other non-food agricultural commodities, along with rising agricultural commodity prices, represent an additional impetus for these acquisitions by wealthier developing countries. Experts are concerned that these large-scale land deals will increase food insecurity and inequalities within the countries that lease or sell land. Such transactions may also widen income gaps between the wealthier and poorer developing countries engaged in them.

To date, analyses of land acquisitions have not addressed gender implications of these processes. Given women’s important roles as producers and consumers of agricultural products in affected countries and the implications of gender equality for long-run growth, this is a critical lacuna in research. For this special issue, *Feminist Economics* encourages scholars from economics and related disciplines to submit papers that reveal gender impacts of the leases and acquisitions, including effects on women’s access to land, intrahousehold allocation, on-farm agricultural productivity, household food security, and investments in children’s well-being. Consideration of gender differences related to class, ethnicity, and location are encouraged. *Feminist Economics* especially welcomes submissions from the Global South and transition economies.

Contributions may cover diverse topics, including but not limited to:

- Distributional, including gender, effects on access to and control over land and livelihoods
- Gender employment effects and broader socioeconomic impacts of land leasing and land acquisition
- Impacts of the leasing arrangements on urban and rural producers and consumers
- Land rights, human rights, and socioeconomic justice
- Responses by civil society and government to land acquisitions

Deadline for abstracts is no later than **15 January 2011**. If the Guest Editors approve an abstract, the potential contributor may be eligible to apply for a small amount of funding to partially defray research expenses. The complete, invited manuscript will be due 15 March 2011.

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Funding News from CGIAR

<http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/newsletter/FundingNews/GD%20Funding%20News%20November%202010.pdf>

CGIAR’s Funding News for November 2010 lists many opportunities under the following headings:

- Travel and Conference grants
- Scholarships and Fellowships
- Research and Extension grants

Some opportunities with deadlines in December and January include the following.

L'Oréal-UNESCO Regional Fellowships for Women in Science in sub-Saharan Africa

<http://anstigrants.unon.org/loreal/real001.php?d=1>

The L'Oréal-UNESCO Regional fellowships "For Women in Science" in sub-Saharan Africa seek to assist women scientists to realize important scientific research in all fields of science, engineering and technology. The aim of the fellowship is to assist women scientists to achieve a PhD degree in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Ten fellowships, up to a maximum value of US \$20,000, will be awarded. Women scientists who are nationals or permanent residents of any country in sub-Saharan Africa may apply. The age limit for the applicants is 40 years. **Deadline is 31 December 2010.**

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Orskov Foundation – Small Grants

<http://www.orskovfoundation.org/home>

Orskov makes grants of up to £2,500 to support agriculture in developing countries. One category of grants supports university students in agricultural studies related to poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. The second category of grants is for community-based agriculture on a revolving-fund basis. **Deadline is 31 January 2011.**

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International Foundation of Science (IFS) Research Grants

http://www.ifs.se/Forms/how_to_apply.asp

Applications for IFS Research Grants are welcome from young scientists in developing countries to do research on the sustainable management, use or conservation of biological or water resources. This broad statement covers natural science and social science research on agriculture, soils, animal production, food science, forestry, agroforestry, aquatic resources, natural products, water resources, etc. Applications are accepted all year and are to be made on an IFS Application Form.

Citizen of a developing country, with a Master's degree and under 40 years of age (45 in sub-Saharan Africa) are eligible to apply. Closing dates are **31 December 2010** and **30 June 2011**

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AIC Awards

<http://www.aic.ca/about/awards.cfm>

AIC invites members to help us recognize and celebrate excellence by nominating a deserving individual for our **AIC Fellowship, Sustainable Futures Award, and International Recognition Award.**

- AIC's highest honour, Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, recognizes an individual AIC member who has made a distinguished contribution to Canadian agriculture through contributions to building scientific capacity for societal good, integration and collaboration between disciplines and sectors, and communications.

- The Sustainable Futures Award recognizes tomorrow’s leaders in agricultural innovation: young women and men who are advancing and applying innovative scientific knowledge on the sustainable use of agricultural resources for societal good. People who believe agricultural resources can answer challenges in human and animal health, food security, climate change, energy demand and environmental health.
- The International Recognition Award honours **individuals and organizations** who have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of agriculture in the Developing World.

Deadline for submission of nominations for each of the awards is **February 15, 2011**.

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Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award

http://www.woman.ch/index.php?page=nomination-guidelines&hl=en_US

This award from Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) honours women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities.

The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their projects. While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in their communities, they still do not have full access to tools needed for development, such as education, credit, land rights and participation in decision making. By highlighting and awarding creative development models, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in addressing the eradication of rural poverty, gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment.

Nomination materials should arrive no later than **31 March, 2011 through the post**. E-mail nominations are **not** accepted.

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This Month’s Articles:

CGIAR Gender & Diversity Program Database of Women Scientists and Professionals

http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/cast_the_net/default.asp

IF YOU ARE A WOMAN WORKING as a scientist, researcher or management professional, you are warmly invited to join the CGIAR database. All belonging to this database automatically receive an email message whenever G&D learns of a new opportunity relevant to their expertise.

The Gender and Diversity Program runs a global database of women scientists and professionals. Its purpose is to "cast the net widely" - to inform women around the world, in a timely manner, about job vacancies in the CGIAR and other international organizations, and to ensure that women everywhere receive information about the availability of fellowships, scholarships and grants. Our overall goal is to increase the pool of qualified women who apply for scientific and professional positions.

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Continuing Obstacles to Women in Science

<http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2010/0928loreal.shtml>

The full report is available at http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2010/media/0928loreal_survey_report.pdf.

National Survey Conducted by AAAS and *Science* Confirms Continuing Obstacles to Women in Science

A survey conducted by American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and *Science* at the request of L'Oréal USA suggests that "gender still matters with regard to women's being able to be successful and to move ahead in science," said Shirley Malcom, director of education and human resources at AAAS.

Respondents to the Science-AAAS survey included male and female scientists who hold doctoral degrees and are members of AAAS. Questions focused on the barriers that scientists face when beginning and advancing their professional careers, the extent to which the barriers affect females and males differently, and solutions to overcome these obstacles.

The contributions of female scientists are critical to U.S. advancements in science and economic growth.

Appropriately crafted legislation as well as employer accommodations for female scientists who are juggling work and family responsibilities were cited by Malcom and other panellists as examples of solutions.

"AAAS-*Science* Survey Results

In the AAAS-*Science* survey, some 98% of all women who responded reported that they know a female colleague who has left the science field because she encountered barriers to her professional success.

In addition, of the 1300 female and male scientists who took part in the survey, 61% of female respondents said that they had personally struggled to balance life and career. More than half of female respondents (52%) reported experiencing gender bias, and half (50%) cited challenges with child care support as a major barrier for individuals working in the science field. More than one-third (34%) of female respondents said that they had encountered limited access to mentors. Elder care was nominated as a barrier by 22% of women and 12% of men.

Respondents to the Science-AAAS survey included male and female scientists who hold doctoral degrees and are members of AAAS. Questions focused on the barriers that scientists face when beginning and advancing their professional careers, the extent to which the barriers affect females and males differently, and solutions to overcome these obstacles.

The survey suggested that significant barriers are causing many female and male scientists to make personal sacrifices or leave their chosen career field. For example, the vast majority of survey participants (83%) had a colleague who left the field due to one of the barriers cited in the survey. Respondents said that they felt male scientists who left the field were more constrained by tangible barriers such as insufficient pay, access to grants/funding, or job scarcity. In contrast, respondents said that they felt women scientists left the field because they were constrained by work/life balance, having and raising children, and gender biases.

Among the report's central conclusions:

- Nearly all women who participated in the survey (98%) know a female colleague who left the science field because she encountered barriers to her professional success;
- Balancing life and career and having/raising children were cited as the top two reasons why female colleagues left their science careers; and

- Female respondents cited gender biases as the reason why female colleagues left the field almost twice as frequently as male colleagues (47% of females versus 24% of males).

The survey suggested that male and female scientists agree that the three most significant barriers include access to grants/funding, scarcity of job openings, and balancing life and career. But female scientists reported struggling with gender bias at work. When asked to rank 11 barriers to achieving their career goals, female respondents ranked gender-based barriers fourth, compared to male respondents who ranked gender bias ninth out of 11 total barriers.

The survey included these additional key findings:

- 61% of female scientists who participated in the study have personally struggled balancing life and career;
- More than half of female scientists (52%) have experienced gender bias;
- Half of all female respondents (50%) cited challenges with child care support as a major barrier for individuals working in the science field;
- 34% of female scientists have encountered limited access to mentors;
- Nearly one-third of female scientists (28%) have experienced a lack of role models in their careers; and
- 20% of female scientists felt that their work environment lacked gender diversity, versus only 11% of men.

“We’ve got to re-think the employment options for female scientists across the full spectrum, from full-time to part-time and flex-time, and encompassing child-care benefits,” Malcom said. “We’ve got to re-think the reward structure for these scientists, too, and that means re-valuing it.”

Other highlights from the survey:

Personal sacrifices: While the majority of scientists reported having to sacrifice personal goals to achieve professional goals, the impact of personal sacrifices seemed to be dramatically demonstrated among female scientists who were significantly less likely to be married or have children.

- About three-fourths of all respondents (74%) said they had sacrificed their personal goals to achieve professional goals.
- Female respondents were less likely to be married or in a long-term relationship than men (78% of females versus 91% of males).
- Female respondents were much less likely to have children than their male counterparts (53% of females versus 77% of males).

Breaking or bridging barriers: Most of the scientists surveyed felt that barriers to professional success in the scientific field can be overcome and believe a variety of resources ranging from economic to social support can help. Male and female respondents agreed that the four most helpful resources to overcoming career barriers in the sciences were colleagues or peers, personal friends or family, mentors, and grants/fellowships. However, women respondents were more likely to rely on people-oriented resources such as mentors, colleagues, and family.

- The majority of participants said colleagues or peers (61% of males, 65% of females) are the most helpful resource for overcoming career barriers.

- Half of female respondents said that mentors could have helped them to overcome barriers, versus 33% of male respondents.
- A quarter (25%) of female participants noted that more support from teachers or advisors could have helped them overcome career obstacles, versus only 14% of males.
- A majority of female scientists (60%) agreed that personal friends or family members are among the most helpful resource for overcoming professional barriers, in comparison to less than half (40%) of male scientists.
- Female respondents were also much more inclined to believe that government and corporations should play a role in breaking barriers that hinder women. Nearly two-thirds of women (64%) think government should play a role; less than half of men (45%) agree. The numbers were almost identical when respondents were asked whether corporations should play such a role.

Future outlook: Despite the barriers, a large majority of survey respondents (81% of men, 72% of women) would recommend a science career to others, signifying that the rewards of that career choice outweigh the challenges and that science is a worthwhile and fulfilling path for both men and women.”

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Changing the Odds: New NSF-funded University of Maryland Program Seeks to Advance Women Faculty in Science and Engineering and Transform Institutional Culture

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/changing-the-odds-new-nsf-funded-university-of-maryland-program-seeks-to-advance-women-faculty-in-science-and-engineering-and-transform-institutional-culture-107045173.html>

Link to National Science Foundation ADVANCE Program http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5383

Despite the fact that women now earn 40 percent of all science and engineering doctoral degrees, female scientists and engineers make up only about 17 percent of all full professors at research universities nationwide [in the USA] and remain underrepresented at all levels of academia.

A new University of Maryland program funded by the National Science Foundation hopes to change that. The five-year, \$3.2 million ADVANCE Program for Inclusive Excellence seeks to increase the representation of women faculty members in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields at the university. Building on the university's achievements in inclusiveness and equity, the ADVANCE program will implement interconnected strategies designed to transform academic environments and promote the professional growth of women faculty in STEM.

With an additional investment of funds pledged by the university's deans and vice president for research, the impact of the NSF grant will be broadened beyond the STEM disciplines to transform the culture of the entire University of Maryland campus. The program will provide new mentorship and funding opportunities for women faculty members in all disciplines, create greater transparency about how career advancement decisions are made, increase the awareness and use of benefits designed to help faculty members balance work and family lives, and address the underrepresentation of women of color and their specific professional growth concerns.

More on ADVANCE: The ADVANCE program will transform academic environments and promote the professional growth of women faculty members through initiatives including:

1. ADVANCE Professors – Accomplished women faculty in leadership positions within their college will be recruited to act as role models and mentors for their more junior colleagues.
2. Senior STEM Women's Council – Ten women from major national research foundations or policymaking bodies will be invited to attend biannual workshops aimed at providing mentorship, establishing social networks, and aggressively promoting qualified women faculty to positions on science advisory boards, editorial boards, and policy positions.
3. Dashboard - This project will establish an online resource in each college that provides information about career accomplishments and advancement so that all faculty members can gauge how they compare to their peers. It will be used in collaboration with department chairs and ADVANCE Professors for career benchmarking and advancement.
4. Peer-Learning Communities –Three communities will be established, bringing together 1) Assistant Professors; discussing tenure, publication, supervision of research projects, and early career teaching issues; 2) Associate Professors; focusing on preparing for promotion to Professor; and 3) Aspiring/current PIs.
5. Balance of Work and Family Initiatives - The Provost's Office will work with Deans, Associate Deans and ADVANCE Professors to train department chairs on the application of new benefits, including the opportunity for faculty to shift to a part-time appointment due to childrearing responsibilities.
6. Interdisciplinary Seed Grants – Individual grants, in the amount of \$20,000, will be awarded annually in all colleges to women faculty members proposing projects with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary research.

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Women in University Research Careers

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/in-progress/women-researchers.aspx>

The Canadian Minister of Industry has asked the Council of Canadian Academies to examine which factors influence the career trajectory and statistical profile of women researchers in Canadian universities.

Background

After the notable absence of female representation in the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) program, the Minister of Industry, in March 2010, struck an ad-hoc panel to examine the program's selection process. Based on the panel's finding that the lack of female representation was not due to active choices made during the CERC selection process, it was suggested that an assessment of gender equity within the wider university context and talent pool be undertaken by a third-party body. As such, the Minister of Industry requested that the Council of Canadian Academies undertake an assessment of the factors that influence university research careers, both in Canada and internationally.

Question

What policies and what societal, cultural, and institutional (e.g., universities, funding agencies), economic and/or other relevant factors (as determined by the Council's Expert Panel) influence the career trajectory of women researchers in Canadian universities and underlie gender disparities observed in Canadian university researcher's statistical profile, by discipline area, rank, duty/position/stature, salary, tenure, research funding and/or any other relevant indicators (as determined by the Expert Panel)?

More precisely:

1. How does the statistical profile of women in university research careers in Canada compare to that of women in key jurisdictions abroad, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia and Sweden?
2. What are the issues that women university researchers may face as they seek to advance their careers, and do these issues differ across the range of discipline areas in the natural sciences and engineering, social sciences and humanities, and health sciences? Do women researchers in government, non-government and private sector face similar challenges?
3. Both within Canada and internationally, what are the best practices adopted by universities, funding bodies, academic associations, governments, non-government organizations, private sector organizations and/or other relevant actors (as determined by the panel) to recruit and retain women researchers, and appoint them to prominent positions?

Expert Panel

The Council, under the guidance of its Scientific Advisory Committee, is now starting a process to assemble an Expert Panel to complete this assessment. The Panel will consist of experts, both Canadian and international, from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds to ensure the most credible, scientifically rigorous, and independent response to the question.

For further information, please contact: Eleanor Fast, Program Director at 613-567-5000ext. 258 or eleanor.fast@scienceadvice.ca

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Maximizing Opportunities Increasing Women's Participation in Science and Engineering – A Summit

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/Events-Evenements_eng.asp

On Tuesday, Nov 16, 2010, NSERC (in Canada) hosted a summit that brought leaders from academia and the private sector together with policy makers and students to identify best practices and develop innovative solutions for attracting and retaining women to careers in science and engineering.

A report presented at the summit summarizes reasons for the under-representation of women in science and engineering, including stereotypes, women's lower level of self-confidence in math, girls' lack of academic preparation for a science major or career, girl's poor attitude toward science, and lack of social encouragement to pursue these fields. Possible measures identified to increase the number of women enrolled in science and engineering include mentoring programs, positive role models, exposure to professional engineering experiences, adding more women to engineering faculties, and providing a better understanding of what engineers do.

Link to the report available At http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/Reports-Rapports/Women_Science_Engineering_e.pdf.

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Gender Aware Approaches in Agricultural Programmes: A Study of Sida-supported Agricultural Programmes

<http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/13925518/2003781619/name/Gender%20in%20Agriculture%20Evaluation%202010-3.pdf>

Women are farmers. In many developing countries they do a larger share of the farm work than do men. This fact is well known, but how well is it reflected in the way development assistance in agriculture is carried out? Gender in agriculture matters, from both an efficiency and equality point of view:

- The efficiency point of view notes that gender inequalities in access to, and control over, productive resources results in poorer agricultural and human development outcomes. A World Bank study conducted in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania showed that providing women farmers with the same quantity and quality of inputs that men typically receive – such as fertiliser, land and labour, and improving their access to agricultural education – could increase national agricultural output and incomes by an estimated 10–20% in each country (World Bank, 2005).
- The equality point of view notes that gender equality is a basic human right, one that has value in and of itself. The starting point from both the efficiency and equality points of view is that women are the majority of farmers in many countries.

However, ministries of agriculture, and development agencies, continue to develop and implement gender-insensitive programmes that fail to tackle the structural constraints to women’s full participation in agricultural development, and continue to marginalize women farmers from discussion processes in food and farming. The male farmer remains the conceptual norm, however outmoded this may be in terms of the relative numbers of women and men in farming and in terms of what men and women actually do upon the farm.

In response to persistent gender inequalities in farming, despite decades of development assistance, Team Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security at Sida Headquarters initiated this thematic evaluation in cooperation with the Secretariat for Evaluation and Team Gender Equality. The purpose is to increase understanding of how Sida’s development assistance in agriculture should be designed and implemented to ensure that women farmers are reached, that their needs as producers are met, and that it has a positive impact on their livelihoods. The programmes studied are:

- the Agriculture Support Programme (ASP) in Zambia,
- the Sida Amhara Rural Development Programme (SARDP III) in Ethiopia,
- the Agriculture Development Programme (ProAgri II) in Mozambique,
- the Agricultural Development Fund (FondeAgro) in Nicaragua,
- and the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP II) in Kenya.

The programmes were selected as they represent five of the major Sida supported programmes in agriculture. All programmes have been ongoing for a number of years, are well established and in general considered successful. Apart from the obvious differences in country context, they differ from each other in other important aspects including focus, approach, implementation mechanism, content and funding modality

The main recommendations for programmes and for Sida are outlined below. More detailed recommendations can be found in Chapter 7:

Recommendations for the programmes

1. At the national level, it is necessary to consolidate the gender experience of each programme, and then to act.
2. Sex-disaggregated data on the target groups is critical.

3. Each programme needs to develop an iterative knowledge management strategy to handle data and institutionalize learning.
4. As part of the knowledge management strategy, understanding needs to be developed of whether there are reciprocal links between an intervention at one level and an outcome at another.
5. Special attention needs to be paid to ensuring food security and equitable market development.

Recommendations for Sida: government dialogue processes

1. Sida needs to consider a range of different aid modalities when supporting agricultural development. If project-based programmes are supported, this should be with an eye to upscaling and outscaling from the very beginning. Knowledge managements systems need to include government. Entry points for donor dialogue in programme based approaches must be carefully identified and followed up.

Recommendations for Sida headquarters

1. The Gender Policy Team and staff more widely, need a clearer operational mandate from Sida’s management.
2. The ability of the Sida Gender Policy Team at headquarters to respond to the needs of technical programmes should be enhanced. Its institutional understanding of gender in agriculture issues should be strengthened.

The report does not aim to make full comparisons between the programmes, but is looking for programme specific approaches to successfully involve women farmers in the programmes. It draws upon Country Reports to provide illustrative experience rather than comprehensive accounts of the work of each programme.

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Gender Aware Approaches in Agricultural Programmes – International Literature Review

<http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/13925518/1478050452/name/gender%20evaluation%20international%20literature%20review.pdf>

This working paper belongs to the evaluation project on Gender Aware Approaches in Agricultural Programmes jointly commissioned by the Sida Secretariat for Evaluation and Team Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (see above). All reports can be downloaded from www.sida.se/publications.

The ILR aims to address the following questions:

- Which methodologies and instruments have been used by donors to *widen the scope of women’s agency* in agricultural development programmes?
- To what extent has the work of programmes on involving female farmers impacted upon overall agricultural outcomes?
- What are the most important lessons? What is working well and what is working not so well (effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability)?

The list of recommendations identifies the following actions:

1. Design context-specific and gender-sensitive interventions

2. Tailor the menu of activities and service delivery to women's needs
3. Adopt a conscious empowerment strategy
4. Involve men in the empowerment process
5. Create space and mechanisms in which women can articulate their demand and claim what they want
6. Adopt a holistic approach
7. Sustain investments in women's human and social capital
8. Invest in gender-sensitization and capacity-building
9. Use participatory, learning-by-doing methodologies
10. Incorporate gender concerns in value chain development
11. Promote women's access to land and natural resources
12. Support institutional and policy reforms that are critical for sustaining empowerment outcomes at the field level
13. Strengthen capacity for mainstreaming gender in new aid modalities
14. Adopt a mix of funding mechanisms

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Carbon Markets for Improved Cooking Stoves

<https://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/gtz2010-en-carbon-markets-for-improved-stoves.pdf>

The social and environmental benefits of improved cooking stoves are indisputable. They reduce workloads involved in fuel collection, and by reducing indoor air pollution, they can reduce the risk of respiratory diseases, especially for women and children. Improved cooking stoves also contribute to environmental protection by reducing biomass consumption and hence greenhouse gas emissions, mainly CO₂, when the combusted biomass originates from non-renewable stocks. In spite of the numerous positive impacts of improved cooking stove projects and more than 30 years of project experience in stove dissemination in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the potential for large-scale emission reductions from efficient cooking stove projects went unrecognised by the carbon market community for a long time. Revenues achievable from greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions from household level biomass stoves were thought to be insufficient to cover transaction and project costs.

Although stove projects still account for a negligible share of the global voluntary and Clean Development Mechanism CDM carbon markets, the carbon market for improved stove projects has been growing rapidly since the introduction of the two methodologies.

The purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of the international carbon market's main regulations, requirements, opportunities and challenges for improved cooking stove programmes. The guide is intended to facilitate successful project development from the very beginning. Section 2 provides a brief overview of the procedures relevant to project registration and credit certification under the CDM and Gold Standard labels. It illustrates the project cycles and their underlying overall timeframes from the initial planning through writing of the Project Design Document (PDD), validation, registration,

verification and, finally, issuance of the carbon credits. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German Technical Cooperation) provides this guide.

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Open Educational Resources (OER) Africa

<http://www.oerafrica.org/Default.aspx?alias=www.oerafrica.org/agricultureoer>

OER Africa is an innovative initiative established by the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE) to play a leading role in driving the development and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) across all education sectors on the African continent.

The site includes a list that is indicative of some of the existing websites containing journal articles, case studies and research methodologies relevant to the agricultural industry

<http://www.oerafrica.org/agricultureoer/JournalsResearchMethodologies/tabid/1487/Default.aspx>.

Another page on the site lists agricultural resources by topic under the following headings:

- Animal Production and Health
- Economics and Policy
- Education and Extension
- Engineering, Technology and Research
- Farming Practices and Systems
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Food Safety and Human Nutrition
- Food Security

Some examples of resources available include:

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Agricultural Commodity Chains in Nigeria: Identifying Opportunities with Cassava, Rice, and Maize using a Policy Analysis Matrix (PAM) Framework,

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/nsspbb13.pdf>

Analysis of relative profitability of key Ugandan agricultural enterprises by agricultural production zone,

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ussppb07.pdf>

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Input Choices in Agriculture: Is There A Gender Bias?

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2010.09.012>

Summary

This recently published paper examines evidence of gender biases in the decisions of agricultural households, utilizing data from International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics's village level studies in India (1975–85). The main empirical finding is that households with a high proportion of boys tend to use some agricultural inputs, including fertilizers and irrigation services more intensively than households with girls. This pattern is more pronounced among wealthier households but does not appear to be driven solely by bequest motives or male child labour productivity.

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Socio-Economic Impact of Mobile Phones on Indian Agriculture

<http://www.esocialsciences.com/data/articles/Document1332010260.994549.pdf>

Published by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations

The rapid growth of mobile telephony and the recent introduction of mobile-enabled information services offer the potential to bridge the gap between the availability and delivery of agricultural inputs and agricultural infrastructure in India. This timely paper explores important aspects of this topic including information most valued by farmers, the impact of mobile phones on agriculture and factors impeding the full productivity of mobile phones in the agricultural sector.

This study, the first in India to look at the impact of mobile phones on the crop sector and, in particular, on small farmers, finds that mobile phones can act as a catalyst to rejuvenate the collapsing extension services in the country. But while there is evidence that mobiles are being used in ways that contribute to productivity enhancement, significant improvements in supporting infrastructure and capacity building among farmers are required.

With a gender lens:

Women who were approached refused to be interviewed or participate in focus group discussions because they were neither primary decision makers nor primary users of information available through mobile telephony.

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CGIAR Gender & Diversity, *Men Matter*

The following resource was identified in CGIAR's September 2010 issue of Gender & Diversity, *Men Matter*.

http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/newsletter/GDNews98_Sept2010_Men%20Matter.pdf.

CGIAR is the acronym for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Engaging Men in Gender Initiatives: What Change Agents Need To Know

<http://www.catalyst.org/file/283/mdc-web.pdf>

This 2009 study provides critical information about the cultural forces that can undermine organizational efforts to fully engage men as champions of gender initiatives. The study findings supported the view that before individuals will support efforts to right an inequality they must first recognize that the inequality exists. Other findings revealed three key factors that predicted men's awareness of gender bias: 1) defiance of certain masculine norms, 2) the presence or absence of women mentors, and 3) a sense of fair play.

Based on in-depth interviews and surveys of senior male managers in business, this study begins to explore this question, providing insights about:

- The experiences and beliefs that help increase men's awareness of gender bias and its costs in the workplace.
- The motivations that lead men to champion gender initiatives in the workplace.
- The barriers that limit men's support for initiatives to promote gender equality.

- Specific techniques and practices to enlist men’s support for closing workplace gender gaps.

For example, before individuals can support a change initiative, they must first be convinced that there is something wrong with the status quo.

Our interviews led us to hypothesize that several factors might predict men’s awareness of gender bias including, defiance of masculine norms, a sense of fair play, spouse’s or partner’s employment status, and having a daughter. Therefore, we also included survey items to measure these specific variables. Lastly, we asked survey respondents about the personal significance of achieving gender equality.

What opposing forces can undermine men’s support for gender initiatives? Interviewees mentioned three barriers most often: apathy, fear, and real or perceived ignorance.

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Human Development Report 2010

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/summary/>

“People are the real wealth of a nation.” With these words the 1990 Human Development Report from the UNDP began a forceful case for a new approach to thinking about development. That the objective of development should be to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives may appear self-evident today. But that has not always been the case. A central objective of the Report for the past 20 years has been to emphasize that development is primarily and fundamentally about people.

This year’s Report, published Nov. 4, 2010, celebrates the contributions of the human development approach, which is as relevant as ever to making sense of our changing world and finding ways to improve people’s well-being. Indeed, human development is an evolving idea—not a fixed, static set of precepts—and as the world changes, analytical tools and concepts evolve. So this Report is also about how the human development approach can adjust to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The past 20 years have seen substantial progress in many aspects of human development. Most people today are healthier, live longer, are more educated and have more access to goods and services. Even in countries facing adverse economic conditions, people’s health and education have greatly improved. And there has been progress not only in improving health and education and raising income, but also in expanding people’s power to select leaders, influence public decisions and share knowledge.

Yet not all sides of the story are positive. These years have also seen increasing inequality— both within and across countries— as well as production and consumption patterns that have increasingly been revealed as unsustainable. Progress has varied, and people in some regions—such as Southern Africa and the former Soviet Union—have experienced periods of regress, especially in health. New vulnerabilities require innovative public policies to confront risk and inequalities while harnessing dynamic market forces for the benefit of all.

Addressing these issues requires new tools. In this Report we introduce three measures to the Report family of indices:

- the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/summary/inequality/>,
- the Gender Inequality Index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/summary/gender/>, and
- the Multidimensional Poverty Index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/mediacentre/summary/poverty/>.

These state-of-the-art measures incorporate recent advances in theory and measurement and support the centrality of inequality and poverty in the human development framework. We introduce these experimental series with the intention of stimulating reasoned public debate beyond the traditional focus on aggregates.

Today's challenges also require a new policy outlook. While there are no silver bullets or magic potions for human development, some policy implications are clear.

1. First, we cannot assume that future development will mimic past advances: opportunities today and in the future are greater in many respects.
2. Second, varied experiences and specific contexts preclude overarching policy prescriptions and point towards more general principles and guidelines.
3. Third, major new challenges must be addressed—most prominently, climate change.

Many challenges lie ahead. Some are related to policy: development policies must be based on the local context and sound overarching principles; numerous problems go beyond the capacity of individual states and require democratically accountable global institutions. There are also implications for research: deeper analysis of the surprisingly weak relationship between economic growth and improvements in health and education and careful consideration of how the multidimensionality of development objectives affects development thinking are just two examples.

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UNDP / Human Development Report Video

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/d/16332.html>

A 6 minute video of the United Nations Development Programme's flagship report released this week on comprehensive human development said the majority of developing countries have made dramatic but underestimated gains in health and education in recent decades, despite the fact that severe inequalities within and between countries remain.

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Kenya – Water Management Video

http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/d/16285.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ungen+%28UN+gender+equality+news+feed%29

A 3 minute video showing how women take responsibility for water provision and management in Lolpulelei (Samburu tribe), Kenya as part of a UNICEF and EU supported water and sanitation program.

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Sisters on the Planet – Climate Change Video

http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/sisters/index.html

Climate change is already having a disproportionate impact on people in developing countries, and it's hitting women hardest. It's not the easiest idea to understand, so to help explain Oxfam has made these short films about women, in both rich and poor countries [Brazil, Uganda, UK, Bangladesh], who are determined to do whatever they can to put a stop to climate change.

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Developing Self-sufficiency for Poorest Women

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53434>

An Indian government initiative Strengthening Rural Development (SRD) promotion of self-reliance is showing results in West Bengal by increasing the mandate of local village-level governments; promoting their financial sustainability; and building their capacity to make independent and collective decisions, maintain records and accounts with complete transparency.

Each village has access to a SRD-administered Untied Poverty Fund, catering to the diverse needs of individual villages. The Village Development Committee, a special community group with members across genders and castes, then decides how to spend these untied funds, mainly to improve the livelihoods of the most marginalised and needy people in the community.

One of five women in the 12-member committee, 42-year-old Asida Gazi, who represents Sahajadapur’s 40 percent Muslim community, says it has given ‘charkas’ to 95 poor women, 25 of whom had not even been identified by the government as living below the poverty line. "Our committee, however, knows they are poor and needy since we live in the same village," she says.

Other women have also formed self-help groups to escape their poverty. The women started breeding carp and smaller fish. The pond also provides supplementary irrigation for vegetable crops and fruit plants grown on the rest of the land, which fetch the women a good income. Now, the all-woman group also rears some 40 goats, supplies ‘green’ manure, and plans to add a chick-cum-egg poultry production unit on their land. A few of the women have even learnt to keep systematic records and accounts of their farm. Made possible by help from the SRD project and technical training from various government departments, the phenomenal growth of their integrated farm has led to even their husbands and children pitching in to help on a regular basis.

Land owners who dismissed the women’s group initiative are now seeking to replicate their integrated farm model, which requires only a reasonable sum of 4,300 dollars in total to start. Also enticing to investors is the step- payment of capital, and that returns are seen within a year – and multiply over time.

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Land Monitoring Handbook

Monitoring Secure Access to Land: Progress and Prospects

http://www.landcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/monitoring_secure_access_to_land_final.pdf

As part of its Land Reporting Initiative, the International Land Coalition (ILC) conducted a global review of efforts to improve the monitoring of land governance issues. This report aims to bring these perspectives to the issue of monitoring secure access to land and to the development of related indicators. It aims to be a timely and useful contribution to debate as both IGOs and civil society groups move forward with innovative initiatives to improve the assessment of land issues.

From a gender lens:

Land indicators that address gender issues fall into three groups. The first consists in questions about the treatment of women within constitutional and national legal frameworks.

The second group consists of indicators where a gendered dimension is measured by disaggregating data pertaining to men and women, or male- and female-headed households.

The third group consists of questions specific to gender issues that are not about the legal but the actual situation of women.

Questions about actual levels of access to and control over property by women within customary regimes (including the family) are essentially questions about the empowerment of women. These may be effectively beyond realistic assessment by indicators in any extensive monitoring context. This limitation of indicators and monitoring should be borne in mind. The issue of land inheritance is a case where an indicator would be particularly valuable, both as a direct measure of women's access to land and as one indicator of the status of women within customary systems.

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Women's Rights and Access to Land in Africa

http://www.idrc.ca/gender_land/

IDRC hosted a policy symposium, "Gendered Terrain: Women's Rights and Access to Land in Africa" in Nairobi, Kenya from 14-16 September 2010. Researchers from across Africa shared their findings and policy recommendations, engaged with policy makers to facilitate policy influence, and promoted the development of sub-regional networks. Over 140 participants attended the event, representing 17 African countries as well as international and donor organizations. As a result of the symposium, a set of recommendations for policy and action have been drafted and will be finalized for broad dissemination.

Participant presentations, project summaries and background documents, and more detailed information about IDRC-supported research can be found on this website. The symposium report will also be posted on this site in the coming month.

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