

GEM of the Month for February 2010



Community women at a meeting about organic agriculture in Kalesti Valley, Nepal, December 2009. Photo courtesy of Dinah Ceplis.

Thanks for your contributions to this month's news digest from the perspective of AIC members. Thanks also to members who reviewed articles.

If you have information or articles to share about gender equality mainstreaming, within your scientific organizations, gender and climate change, or gender equality and agriculture/rural development, please send them to Dinah Ceplis at Dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile them to re-distribute once a month.

Please let me know what your organization has planned for March 8, International Women's Day and I will include it in the next digest..

Best wishes,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

This Month's Articles:

1. [Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Committee](#)
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[Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Committee](#)

From :

- the American Society of Agronomy <https://www.agronomy.org/membership/wacses>,
- the Crop Science Society of America <https://www.crops.org/membership/wacses>, and
- the Soil Science Society of America <https://www.soils.org/membership/wacses>

“The Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Committee is dedicated to:

- promoting the status of women in the three Societies, [ASA/CSSA/SSSA]
- encouraging women to achieve professional excellence,
- establishing networks of women in the agronomic, crops, soils, and environmental sciences,
- sponsoring meetings to address issues of special concerns to professional women in our sciences, and
- fostering the informal exchange of information and contacts in support of professional activities of women. “

Read more about the Mentoring Award and the nominations deadline at the websites. The nominee need not be a member of ASA, CSSA, or SSSA.

“Mentoring Award

Mentoring is one important way to promote the status of women in their careers. The influence and support of persons established in their careers is essential for young scientists to achieve high levels of accomplishment, job satisfaction, and career advancement. In 2008, the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Women in Agronomy, Crops, Soils, and Environmental Sciences Committee instituted an award to recognize the efforts of established scientists or agricultural professionals who have encouraged the advancement of women and girls in agricultural and environmental sciences based on their teaching, mentoring, and acting as a role model for advancement. “

See information about the committee structure at www.crops.org/about-society/committees/get-file/ACS526/ACS526-guidelines.pdf.

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[Cookstoves and Markets](#)

Cookstoves and Markets: Experiences, Successes and Opportunities

Note: You need to sign up with a user name and password at the Global Village Energy Project (GVEP) International to get a copy of this paper in pdf format.

<http://www.gvepinternational.org/document/1141/>

In many countries, cooking and collecting biomass are the daily responsibilities of women and girls. The paper discusses issues related to daily needs for collecting biomass, health hazards and environmental concerns related to smoke and carbon emissions associated with cooking stoves, and social entrepreneurship on bringing cookstove models to a commercial scale.

“This report provides a view through the lenses of experts working closely in the development and marketing of cookstoves. Many of the writers chart the struggles and successes of their organisations in reaching (or trying to reach) the market successfully.

In the articles, we walk through their research, achievements, continuing challenges, and the arising opportunities when scaling up cookstoves in the market.”

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[Working Climate – Science Faculty at UBC](http://www.science.ubc.ca/faculty/diversity)

<http://www.science.ubc.ca/faculty/diversity>

The Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada has committed itself to addressing the working climate of its faculty.

“A diverse faculty signals that the academy draws from the best talent available, that our students get a well-rounded education, and that our research programs are informed by diverse perspectives. Diversity is not only synergistic with excellence, but also promotes equitable access to the rewards of an academic career.

The 2007 UBC Science Working Climate Report, as well as the 2004 Report on Parental Leave Policies at UBC and the 2004 report of the UBC Science Committee on Mentoring of New Faculty, point to ways in which the Faculty of Science at the University of British Columbia Vancouver can foster excellence by providing a more supportive and equitable environment for our faculty, and give thoughtful recommendations on steps that UBC Science and the UBC administration can take to remedy current problems.

The Faculty of Science Dean's Office has already acted on several recommendations, but we have much work ahead of us and we must all work together to be successful. We must increase our efforts to hire outstanding women and men from different cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or disability status. We must also ensure that all of our faculty are comfortable in expressing their viewpoints, are supported in doing their best work, and know that their accomplishments are valued. As we move forward, we will use these web pages to update you on important developments and progress in implementing the recommendations of our task force.

- Simon Peacock, Dean of Science, UBC”

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[Women Feeding Cities: Mainstreaming gender in urban agriculture and food security](http://www.database.ruaf.org/gender/index.htm)

<http://www.database.ruaf.org/gender/index.htm>

Chapter 4 of the book refers to Accra in Ghana. Other chapters refer to India, the Philippines, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Peru, Kenya, Argentina and Mexico.

About the book:

“ Poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition have become critical urban problems. Meeting this challenge, in many cities around the world, women play a crucial role in household food production, growing vegetables in gardens and vacant urban spaces, raising animals, and trading in fresh and cooked foods .They boost household nutrition as well as generating income and building social inclusion among the urban poor. Women’s vital contribution, however, has largely been neglected by city officials, economic planners and development practitioners, who have tended to concentrate on the industrialization of food production.

Women Feeding Cities analyses the roles of women and men in urban food production, and through case studies from three developing regions suggests how women’s contribution might be maximized. In the second part, detailed guidelines and tools show how to bring women into the mainstream of urban agriculture research and development. Providing evidence from around the world as well as field-tested guidelines, *Women Feeding Cities* is essential reading for both policy makers, planners, researchers and practitioners working on urban agriculture programmes.”

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Statistics Canada – University enrolment

For those of you who are interested in statistics...

University enrolment, 2007/08

July 13 2009

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090713/dq090713a-eng.htm>

See Table 2 for quotable numbers:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090713/t090713a2-eng.htm>

University degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded, 2007

July 13 2009

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090713/dq090713b-eng.htm>

See Table 2 at this site which identifies the number of university qualifications awarded by gender and field of study.

Doctorates in science and engineering

Oct. 24, 2007

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/071024/dq071024a-eng.htm>

"For every woman who held a doctorate in either science or engineering in Canada in 2001, there were four men, according to a new study that profiles scientists and engineers with PhDs.

Using data from the 2001 Census, this study, published in the *Analysis in Brief* series, examines the geographical distribution of this important Canadian workforce, together with the industrial sector in which they work, and their earnings.

The study covered people who held a doctorate in agricultural, biological or veterinary sciences, engineering or applied sciences, health sciences, or mathematics, computer or physical sciences."

National Graduates Survey

April 22, 2009

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/090422/dq090422a-eng.htm>

"The pool of graduates with a master's was higher in 2005 than it was in 2000 for both men and women. However, the employment rate among master's graduates remained stable for men at 94%, while it rose for women, from 89% in 2002 to 92% in 2007. Consequently, among graduates with a master's degree, the gap in employment rates between women and men nearly closed.

Findings also showed differences in terms of earnings from one level of education to another. The largest earnings gap existed between the bachelor's and master's levels, suggesting that investing in further postgraduate work is financially beneficial. On the other hand, the earnings gap between a master's and doctorate suggests that the monetary gain from employment two years after graduation for doctorate students is marginal."

This National Graduates Survey goes on to say: "Women who were working full time generally earned less than their male counterparts. Furthermore, more women than men were working part time in 2007 at all levels of education."

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Gender Gap in Science and Engineering

Testifying before U.S. House Subcommittee, Leshner Details Gender Gap in Science and Engineering

American Association for the Advancement of Science, July 2009

http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2009/0724leshner_women.shtml

“Although women have made substantial gains in science and engineering fields during the past four decades, the progress has been uneven and, in some cases, ground is being lost, AAAS Chief Executive Office Alan I. Leshner told a congressional panel.

There is some encouraging news, Leshner said at a 21 July hearing of the House Subcommittee on Research and Science Education. At the K-through-12 level, girls have greatly increased their participation in science and mathematics, with gaps between boys and girls disappearing for such pre-college classes as chemistry, advanced algebra and pre-calculus math.

That, in turn, has affected college course selection and professional aspirations by women. In 2006, women received nearly half of the doctoral degrees in the biological sciences compared to 22% between 1973 and 1977.” Read the full article on the web site for more information.

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[Standard Gender Mainstreaming Tools](#)

http://portal.unesco.org/es/ev.php-URL_ID=11340&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

“Though these instruments have been designed for UNESCO staff and their partner organizations, these resources can provide useful information for government staff or individuals working in civil society organizations.

Their aim is to provide practical guidance that can help staff address gender equality issues in their daily work.”

UNESCO Gender Lenses:

[1 - Baseline definitions of key gender-related concepts](#)

[2 - UNESCO Gender Lens for project design and review](#)

[3 - UNESCO Gender Lens for measuring performance: guide for developing gender sensitive indicators](#)

[4 - UNESCO Gender Lens for developing terms of reference \(TORs\) of surveys & research](#)

[5 – UNESCO Gender Lens for planning and execution of programme evaluations](#)

[6 - UNESCO Gender Lens for meetings, workshops and conferences](#)

[7 - UNESCO Gender Lens for organizing and running trainings](#)

[8 – Guidelines on Gender neutral Language](#)

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[CANADA-GLOBAL: New spending on agricultural research](#)

University World News Africa Edition

December 20, 2009

“Canada has put out a call for research proposals to try to solve some of the developing world's most pressing agricultural needs. The Canadian International Development Agency recently launched the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund, a five-year C\$62 million (US\$58.5 million) envelope that will support research partnerships between Canadian and developing country organisations.”

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=2009121810380945>

For more information about research funding opportunities, email IDRC at cifsrif@idrc.ca with subject title "CIFSRF request for information--[insert name of organisation]. In the text of the email provide the name of a contact person, organisation name, address, telephone number and fax number.

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[Women's Leadership and Management Course](#)

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Gender & Diversity Program

http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/resource/at_cost_manag_course.asp

The website indicates that an Advanced Women's Leadership Course is being held in Mombasa, Kenya from March 21-27, 2010.

"The purpose of the Gender & Diversity Program is to help the CGIAR Centers leverage their rich staff diversity to increase research and management excellence. We promote such activities as diversity-positive recruitment, international teamwork, cross-cultural communications and advancement for women."

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[Brooding Over the Next Generation of Prairie Farmers: Making Space for our Practical-Minded Youth](#)

By David M. Neufeld for Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba_Pubs/2008/Brooding_Over_the_Next_Generation_of_Prairie_Farmers.pdf

or <http://tinyurl.com/yhycmv2>

Although this article was published two years ago, it is an interesting discussion on where the future farmers of the Prairie provinces of Canada may originate – farm raised youth, immigrants, young urban families, and/or urban youth. It identifies many of the organizations in Manitoba who are preparing and training rural-oriented youth, and the focus of their programs. The article also offers suggestions for supporting vibrant rural societies.

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[Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate](#)

United Nations Population Fund State of World Population 2009

<http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2009/>

"How do population dynamics affect greenhouse gases and climate change? Will urbanization and an ageing population help or hinder efforts to adapt to a warming world? And could better reproductive health care and improved relations between women and men make a difference in the fight against climate change? Find the answers in the *State of World Population 2009*.

The whole world has been talking about carbon credits, carbon trading and emissions targets. But not enough has been said about the people whose activities contribute to those emissions or about those who will be most affected by climate change, especially women.

The climate-change debate needs to be reframed, putting people at the centre. Unless climate policies take people into account, they will fail to mitigate climate change or to shield vulnerable populations from the potentially disastrous impacts."

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