

# GEM Digest of the Month for January 2011

## Happy New Year!



Pine Grosbeak (bird) *Pinicola enucleator* in tree laden with winter's hoar frost. Courtesy of C. Murray.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Working Group of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) gathers information and articles on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change and 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](mailto: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

- We are one year into the **United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification** (UNDDD) <http://unddd.unccd.int/>, from January 2010 to December 2020.
- **International Year of Forests, 2011** <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>. Celebrating Forests for People.
- **International Year of Chemistry, 2011** <http://www.chemistry2011.org/>. "Chemistry—our life, our future" is the theme. An example of an activity for students related to water quality is available at <http://www.chemistry2011.org/participate/featured-ideas/global-experiment/>.
- February 2, **World Wetlands Day**. [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-wwds-wwd2011index/main/ramsar/1-63-78%5E24770\\_4000\\_0](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-wwds-wwd2011index/main/ramsar/1-63-78%5E24770_4000_0). Wetlands and Forests is the theme for World Wetlands Day 2011, especially chosen because 2011 is the UN International Year of Forests.
- March 8, **International Women's Day**. Widespread increased activity is anticipated globally on 8 March 2011 honouring 100 years of International Women's Day.

## Opportunities:

AIC Awards  
PhD RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP FOR HORTICULTURE IN AFRICA  
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## Opportunities

### 1. 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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## 2. PhD RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP FOR HORTICULTURE IN AFRICA

<http://ip.cals.cornell.edu/academics/caha.cfm>

Cornell University in USA is offering an assistantship to support a doctoral candidate from sub-Saharan Africa to study horticulture at Cornell. A major part of the dissertation research must be completed in Africa, under the supervision of a local thesis advisor. Funds will be provided to allow the local thesis advisor to attend the final examination of the student at Cornell and modest research funding will be available.

Qualifications: Master's degree, originate from a country in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa), and be of native African ancestry. Student must agree to return to sub-Saharan Africa after completion of the doctoral degree.

Financial support: Tuition and fees, stipend, health insurance, and travel. Course work will be completed at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Depending on the nature of the research and associated costs, the student may be required to seek additional outside funding.

Application deadline: **January 5, 2011** (for admission in August 2011)

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## 3. Call for Applications: Africa Initiative Graduate Research Grant

<http://www.africaportal.org/content/africa-initiative-graduate-research-grant>

The Africa Initiative Graduate Research Grant supports short-term academic placements for Africans and Canadians enrolled in Master's or PhD programs undertaking research on Africa. The program is building capacity by giving bright, highly-motivated students and scholars an opportunity to discover and impart new learning in a cross-cultural experience. Supported research covers the Africa Initiative thematic areas – conflict resolution, energy, food security, health, migration, and climate change.

The program offers grants of up to CAD\$10,000 each to fifteen students per year to conduct field-based research for up to three months in Africa. Participants have the opportunity to further their research through the utilization of on-the-ground resources and research materials, as well as to develop international networks with fellow researchers and practitioners conducting work in a relevant field of study. Research results are presented and disseminated through a variety of public

channels. The Africa Initiative Graduate Research Grant program is currently accepting applications for research to be conducted between May and December, 2011. The application deadline is **January 31, 2011**.

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## 4. AGRICULTURAL R&D: INVESTING IN AFRICA'S FUTURE

<http://www.asti.cgiar.org/ASTI-FARA-conference>

The Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) are currently calling for proposals for papers for their jointly convened conference, "Agricultural R&D: Investing in Africa's Future: Analyzing Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities," to be held in Accra, Ghana, 5–7 December 2011. The deadline for paper proposals is 15 January, 2011.

Policymakers continue to recognize the value of greater investment in agricultural research and development as an essential element in increasing agricultural productivity in Africa. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has set a target of 6 percent agricultural GDP growth per year as the requisite benchmark for countries where agriculture plays a dominant economic role. One of CAADP's four pillars focuses on increasing investments in agricultural research, extension, education and training as a means of realizing increased agricultural productivity growth. Agricultural R&D investments are also required to address emerging challenges such as adaptation to climate change, increasing weather variability, water scarcity, and the volatility of prices in global markets.

Recent evidence collected through the Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI) initiative shows that, although public agricultural R&D investments in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have increased overall, investments have declined sharply in some countries, and several countries still have extremely fragile funding systems. Average agricultural researcher numbers have also increased in SSA, but staff qualifications have simultaneously deteriorated in some countries. Staff departures and an aging pool of well-qualified agricultural researchers remain major areas of concern. Further in-depth analysis of the data compiled by ASTI is needed in order to extract in-depth insights into these and other underlying trends and issues related to agricultural R&D investments and human resource capacity.

ASTI/IFPRI and FARA are currently requesting proposals for 15 to 20 invited/commissioned papers on the topic of agricultural R&D developments in Sub-Saharan Africa. Proposals *must* address one or more of the following themes:

1. Levels and Stability of Agricultural R&D Investments
2. Human Resource Development
3. Aligning and Rationalizing Institutional Structures
4. Measuring and Improving the Effectiveness of R&D Systems

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## This Month's Articles

### 1. Gender into International Climate Policy: Climate and Gender Capacity Building for Women Scholars

*Presented by GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice and Colorado State University at a side event during the Cancún Climate Change Conference, 29 November - 10 December 2010 in Cancún, Mexico*

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/enbots/pdf/enbots1290e.pdf> OR <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/enbots/1dece.html>

This event on December 1, 2010 discussed gender in climate policy and capacity building for women delegates and scholars. Gotelind Alber, GenderCC, emphasized that in 2008 there was no reference to gender in the climate policy process. She referenced the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) draft text, which refers to “gender considerations” but noted that women are largely considered a “vulnerable sector” rather than having a significant role in or impact on policy. Alber stressed the importance of integrating women into mitigation and finance, and suggested drawing on the global fund framework.

Eunice Warue, GenderCC, highlighted that women’s involvement in climate change differs from men’s in terms of the impacts they feel, and their contributions to the climate problem; contributions to policy; and reaction to the impacts. She also emphasized the importance of increasing the number of qualified women delegates. Gillian Bowser, Colorado State University, and Betty Loiselle, University of Florida, spoke about the need to build academic capacity among women in the climate sciences. Loiselle highlighted the potential for new technologies to aid scientists in translating information into knowledge for policy-makers. Bowser highlighted the recent “Six Americas” report, which illuminates that 44% of the American public is “disengaged” in climate issues and the majority of these people are women and minorities.

Participants discussed several issues, including: how to use current development funding for gender work; how to involve local women in the process; advocacy; links to the Millennium Development Goals; and networks of female university scholars. One participant mentioned that 10-15% of heads of delegations and approximately 30% of all United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) delegates are female.

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## **2. COP16: Mary Robinson hosts “Women Leaders on Climate Change”**

<http://www.wedo.org/library/cop16-mary-robinson-hosts-women-leaders-on-climate-change>

Cancun, Mexico– On Monday, December 6th, former President of Ireland and human rights activist Mary Robinson convened a side event entitled “Women Leaders on Climate Change”. This event brought together a group of high-profiled women leaders in the climate change arena including: Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC; Ambassador Patricia Espinosa, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of COP16/CMP6; Lykke Friis, Minister for Climate Energy and Gender Equality of Denmark ; Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, Coordinating Minister for Heritage of Republic of Ecuador; and, Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action.

The event aimed to engage women Ministers, negotiators, key civil society figures and senior women leaders in a discourse on the role of women’s leadership in the fight against climate change and in promoting climate justice as a strong, fair, and effective approach to climate change.

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## **3. The Missing Link to Success: Women in REDD+**

<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop16/enbots/29nove.html>

*Presented by Norway and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) on November 29, 2010 at Cancun, Mexico*

This event discussed the role of women in successful implementation of REDD+ initiatives. Noting that gender has been overlooked in global climate policymaking, Audun Rosland, Norway, stressed that gender aspects must not be forgotten in the design of REDD+.

Carole Saint-Laurent, IUCN, said, despite the significant expansion in REDD+ initiatives, there are major gaps in how policy is unfolding, particularly with respect to women’s issues. She stated that immediate and long-term benefits can be achieved by involving women in strategy, decision-making, the distribution of benefits, and capacity building. Raja Jarrah, CARE International, emphasized that gender mainstreaming is “just good development,” and that attaching gender mainstreaming to REDD+ provides a good entry point to re-emphasize gender issues.

Manohara Khadka, Himalayan Grassroots Women’s Natural Resource Management Association (HIMWANTI) discussed gender equality and community access to forest resources and benefits in Nepal. She emphasized that a persistent challenge is elevating women from their traditional roles in using and managing forest resources to having a voice in policy and decision-making.

Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Asian Indigenous Women’s Network, said traditional knowledge of indigenous people must be protected and integrated into REDD+ policymaking. She highlighted the important role of indigenous women in forest management. Jeannette Gurung, WOCAN, underscored the problem of women’s exclusion from global forest policy, saying that many existing REDD+ funding mechanisms have not formally recognized women as stakeholders.

Lorena Aguilar, IUCN, announced the launch of the **Global Initiative on Women and REDD+**. She said the Initiative aims to ensure that REDD+ efforts are more responsive to women and poverty alleviation at global and national levels. She said the Initiative will mainstream gender into global REDD+ policy and work with national ministries.

Panellists discussed various issues related to integrating gender issues into REDD+ policymaking.

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## 4. The Global Initiative on REDD+ and Gender Equality

<http://womensnews.org/story/environment/101208/un-carbon-planning-opens-indigenous-women>

At this year's conference in Cancun, a coalition of activists and women's organizations came together to demand that women be included within the REDD process, from the negotiating table to the implementation of individual projects.

Together, the International Union of Conservation of Nature, Women's Economic Development Outreach and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management launched The Global Initiative on REDD+ and Gender Equality.

Valuing the role of women in REDD projects can be done: Since April 2010, the governments of Zanzibar and Norway have been supporting a project on the islands of Unguja and Pemba in the Zanzibar archipelago where shifting cultivation patterns and the harvest of trees for firewood and charcoal are driving deforestation.

The four-year project, Hifadhi ya Mimitu ya Asili (Conservation of Natural Forests)--or HIIMA--is focused on protecting the island forests by designing systems where local people take steps to preserve forest with an eye to selling those carbon credits to excess carbon producers.

The project aims to include local women's organizations in its activities, strengthen women's control over the use of incoming funds, work with the next generation of women and ensure that women benefit from the project financially and socially.

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## 5. L'Ordre national du Québec honours Mrs. Angèle St-Yves, ing.

<https://www.bioeng.ca/component/k2/item/210-l'ordre-national-du-québec-honours-mrs-angèle-st-yves-ing>

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1282164065955&lang=eng>

“Ordre national du Québec” is the highest honour bestowed by the Province of Québec. Mme Angèle St-Yves, ing. was named Knight (Chevalière) of the National Order of Québec in September 2010. Belated congratulations to Mme St-Yves. Mme St-Yves was one of the first women in Québec to practice both as an engineer and an agronomist. She was the first woman president of the Ordre des agronomes and the Association des ingénieurs en génie rural.

A biographical note and the speech of Premier of Quebec during the ceremony are available in French at [http://www.ordre-national.gouv.qc.ca/recherche\\_details.asp?id=800](http://www.ordre-national.gouv.qc.ca/recherche_details.asp?id=800).

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## 6. Final Report from Women Leaders Dialogue on Investment in Agriculture

[http://www.wocan.org/files/all/womens\\_leaders\\_dialogue\\_cfs\\_side\\_event\\_october\\_13\\_2010.pdf](http://www.wocan.org/files/all/womens_leaders_dialogue_cfs_side_event_october_13_2010.pdf)

“On October 13, 2010, the Network met in Rome for a Women Leaders Dialogue at the FAO during the 36th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Participants discussed their initiatives to invest in women in agriculture and a stronger role for women in the newly reformed CFS.

At the event, over 85 leaders from governments, international institutions, producer organizations and CSOs were present. The Network is sponsored by Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Heifer International.

Since the Network’s launching in 2008, it has been active at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the ECOSOC discussions on rural women, and at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), conveying the central message that rural women are major contributors to food security and agricultural development, their leadership and voice are essential, and programs and resources must target their needs.

The NWMLA seeks to foster women’s leadership across sectors and spaces where food and agricultural policies and decisions are being designed and implemented. It represents a space for partnership, individual relationships, synergy and critical thinking. Its premise is that rural women are agents of change, not just recipients of already formulated and often flawed plans. The NWMLA is committed to food and nutrition security, sustainable development and the empowerment of rural women.”

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## 7. Toolkit for Integrating Gender-Related Issues in Land Policy and Administration Projects

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/GiA\\_toolkit\\_v4.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTGENAGRLIVSOUBOOK/Resources/GiA_toolkit_v4.pdf)

Women are often the primary users of land for residential and agricultural purposes, but are frequently denied primary and ownership rights to land and other natural resources because of cultural norms. Women are also often excluded from effective participation in the provision of land administration services.



This 4 page toolkit provides a quick guide for task team leaders of land administration projects, titling components of larger operations, or other land titling initiatives to ensure greater participation by women in the land titling process. A core checklist of actions and initiatives is provided for the successful implementation of a project at the socioeconomic, legal, and institutional levels. This checklist is organized around the four project stages: (1) identification, (2) design and preparation, (3) appraisal, and (4) implementation, supervision, and completion.

More details can be found in an expanded 20-page toolkit in the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook at [www.worldbank.org/genderinag](http://www.worldbank.org/genderinag).

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## **8. Gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: Differentiated pathways out of poverty (Status, trends and gaps)**

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1638e/i1638e.pdf>

This report reflects the latest thinking on the gender dimensions of rural poverty and employment, based on the outcomes of a recent workshop organised by FAO, IFAD and ILO. The workshop sought to deepen analysis of the gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment, identify research gaps and examples of good practice in addressing gender inequalities. The cornerstone of the analysis is the United Nation's Decent Work Agenda, which calls for creating better jobs for both women and men, obtaining social protection and applying labour standards to all rural workers and promoting rural institutions that equally represent women's and men's interests. The workshop and report are an important step in providing guidance to policy makers, researchers and development practitioners.

Three main topics were discussed: key gender issues, gaps in knowledge, data and approach, and policy implications. From the rich group discussions, the most important conclusions include the following:

1. Gender inequalities in rural employment exist everywhere, regardless of the level of economic development in the country/region, but exhibit different patterns according to social, cultural, religious and economic factors. Some of them –such as the burden of unpaid work at home, lack of education and bargaining power, and limited access to assets - clearly constitute significant economic disadvantages for women compared to men. In this context, it is interesting to observe that 90 percent of the wage gap between men and women in developed or developing countries is unexplained: in other words, it is attributed to gender discrimination.
2. Women tend to be more risk adverse than men when engaging in rural employment and women's heavy burden of unpaid work is one of the most important factors constraining their access to paid work in rural settings.
3. Gender patterns of rural employment change over time and differ across countries, in response to new trends, shocks and opportunities but some deep set gender inequalities remain. Changes in international trade, migration, financial crises, diversification of the rural economy are a few of the many phenomena that play an important role in changing men and women's rural employment opportunities and roles.
4. It is not enough to create more jobs for rural men and women. The quality or decency of those jobs also matter.
5. Financial services must be linked to wider sustainable development processes, so that increased access to financial services also contributes to the development of markets, value chains and the strengthening of local and national economies. Both the opportunities and the challenges have gender dimensions that need to be taken into account in the current process of innovation and expansion.



6. Sex-disaggregated data are needed to fill critical gaps in knowledge and improve policy decision making processes.
7. Since gender differences in rural employment are many and often inter-related, a package of complementary policy measures are needed, including legal reforms that promote gender equalities, social safety nets, support to the creation of farmers, women and youths' organizations, child care programmes, female education, instruments to improve access to information and labour markets.

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## 9. Corporate-level evaluation on IFAD's performance with regard to gender equality and women's empowerment

<http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/ec/e/65/EC-2010-65-W-P-4.pdf>

This 98 page report on the performance of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) identifies the following objectives:

- i. assess the relevance of IFAD's strategy in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment;
- ii. learn from the experiences and good practices of other development organizations;
- iii. assess the results of activities funded by IFAD related to gender equality and women's empowerment in its country programmes and corporate processes; and
- iv. generate a series of findings and recommendations that will assist IFAD's Executive Board and Management in guiding the Fund's future activities in this area.

The review of literature on the topic revealed that there are two major constraints to the effective application of lessons from previous operations: (1) a reluctance to address gender as a major organizing principle of society and (2) a failure to invest sufficiently. All development agencies with recent evaluations have revealed, at best, mixed success in implementing gender mainstreaming. There was a broad consensus among development partners that this was mainly due to **the lack of:**

- a. results orientation;
- b. consistent leadership and follow-up by senior management and executive boards;
- c. staff incentives and accountability through performance management systems;
- d. a clear understanding of how best to address gender inequality;
- e. adequate investment in gender equality expertise in operations;
- f. attention to gender balance in staffing; and
- g. an inclusive organizational culture.

Some of the findings from these evaluations are also applicable to IFAD.

The report identifies detailed conclusions and extensive strategic and operational recommendations in the following table of contents:

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. EVOLUTION OF GENDER-RELATED CONCEPTS AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACHES, AND FINDINGS FROM THE BENCHMARKING REVIEW
- III. IFAD'S STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
- IV. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT RESULTS AND EVOLVING APPROACHES
- V. ASSESSMENT OF CORPORATE BUSINESS PROCESSES
- VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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## 10. Women scientists must speak out

<http://www.nature.com/news/2010/101208/full/468733a.html>

Female researchers still battle sexism. The media gives them an opportunity to be heard alongside male colleagues, says Jennifer Rohn, cell biologist at University College London and editor of the Culture of Science in Fiction & Fact <http://www.lablit.com/>.

Despite decades of awareness, science is still inherently sexist. Women are vastly under-represented in professorships and in national academies worldwide. This is a familiar problem, but less highlighted is how the discrepancy plays out in the public arena of science — the media.

There are positive steps that women scientists can take to increase their visibility in the public arena.

- First and most importantly, women need to speak up.
- Second, keep in mind that, to the media and its audience, you don't have to be an eminent professor to have a valuable opinion — any PhD student or postdoc is miles ahead of the public in terms of scientific knowledge.

Some might question if it matters whether we have more female science pundits, as long as the men are doing the job well. A female messenger could attract a more diverse crowd, including other women. The point of punditry is often to persuade people that science is worthwhile and, more to the point, deserves funding. Also, pundits help to put forward scientific recommendations and counter misinformation. When it comes to controversial issues such as climate change, childhood vaccinations or genetically modified food, we need as many people as possible to hear and engage with our arguments. Women should stand shoulder to shoulder with their male colleagues to make this happen.

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## 11. Global Warming's *Six Americas* report

2007 Report: <http://www.climatechangecommunication.org/images/files/SixAmericas-final-v3-Web.pdf>

June 2010 Update: [http://www.climatechangecommunication.org/images/files/Six\\_Americas\\_June\\_2010\(1\).pdf](http://www.climatechangecommunication.org/images/files/Six_Americas_June_2010(1).pdf)

There is a critical need to engage the American public in solutions to climate change. The first rule of effective communication is “know thy audience.” With the goal of improving the effectiveness of public climate change education and communication efforts George Mason University in USA conducted a national study to identify distinct and motivationally coherent groups within the American public. In the summer of 2007, we conducted two nationally representative telephone surveys to measure Americans’ climate change beliefs, risk perceptions, policy preferences, and behaviours. Using market segmentation techniques, we identified six distinct groups, or global warming audiences within the public. These figures were updated in June 2010.

To identify people who share similar climate change beliefs, policy preferences and behaviours, we used a statistical procedure called latent class analysis. Specifically, our segmentation analysis only examined people’s climate change beliefs, policy preferences and behaviour – not their age, gender, ethnicity, education, income and other demographic descriptors. (although as is evident in the June 2007 report some demographic differences between the segments are apparent). Our analysis identified six distinct audience segments. We then profiled (or described) each audience based on their demographics, religious affiliations, media use preferences, and engagement with civic organizations.

These six groups – the Alarmed (13% of the population), Concerned (28%), Cautious (24%), Disengaged (10%), Doubtful (12%), and Dismissive (12%) – cover the spectrum from being strongly engaged to completely dismissive of climate change as a threat. In this report we profile these six different audiences and suggest ways to improve education and communication efforts to engage them.

**Note the gender differences among the demographics of the six groups.**

Note also the following strategies for public engagement in this report

<http://www.ecoartsofla.org/images/6Americasrecomm.pdf>.

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## 12. **Outreach: Stakeholder Forum Newsletter on the 2010 Climate Change Talks in Cancun**

[http://www.unifem.org/materials/item\\_detail.php?ProductID=187](http://www.unifem.org/materials/item_detail.php?ProductID=187)

*Outreach* is a multi-stakeholder newsletter published by the Stakeholder Forum and co-sponsored by UNIFEM (part of UN Women). This particular series highlights the stakeholder perspectives daily during the Conference of Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

See Dec. 3, 2010 edition, pages 4-5, *Gender, Energy Technologies and Climate Change*,

[http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/20101203\\_outreach.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/attachments/products/20101203_outreach.pdf).

Sustainable energy technologies are essential for effective climate change responses, as well as for economic and social advancement, including increased access to food, water, shelter, sanitation, medical care, schooling and information.

**Investments in low-emission technologies that benefit women:** There are many low-carbon energy technologies that can be used to provide electricity in off-grid or underserved areas, as well as motorized power, for agricultural production and processing machinery, water pumps, communications technologies, and other equipment that frees up women’s time, expands their access to information, and provides new employment and business opportunities. Examples of these technologies include: solar photovoltaic panels, small hydro systems, wind turbines, and generators fuelled by plant oils or biofuels (including biogas, biodiesel, and bio-ethanol) produced locally in ways that do not adversely affect food supplies. In addition, improved cooking stoves can also simultaneously reduce: greenhouse gas emissions; indoor air pollution that damages women’s health; the amount of women’s time and labour expended in collecting fuel; and the increasing pressures on forests and woodlands as fuel sources. Recently, research on the contributions of ‘black carbon’ or soot to climate change has focused new attention on the potential for innovations in cooking stove designs.

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## 13. Gender Implications of Biofuels Expansion: A computable general equilibrium Analysis for Mozambique

[http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2010/en\\_GB/wp2010-111/](http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2010/en_GB/wp2010-111/)

United Nations University – World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) uses a gendered computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to assess the implications of biofuels expansion in Mozambique. We compare scenarios with different gender employment intensities in producing jatropha for biodiesel. Under all scenarios, biofuels accelerate GDP growth and reduce poverty. However, a stronger tradeoff between biofuels and food availability emerges when female labour is used intensively, as women are drawn away from food production. A skills-shortage amongst female workers also limits poverty reduction. Policy simulations indicate that only modest improvements in women's education and food crop yields are needed to address food security concerns and ensure broader-based benefits from biofuels.

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## 14. Study: Africa can feed itself in a generation

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2010-12/hksb-acf112310.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2010-12/hksb-acf112310.php)

*Presidents of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi receive landmark study at retreat on African food security and climate change*

Africa can feed itself. And it can make the transition from hungry importer to self-sufficiency in a single generation.

The startling assertions, in stark contrast with entrenched, gloomy perceptions of the continent, highlight a collection of studies published today that present a clear prescription for transforming Sub-Saharan Africa's agriculture and, by doing so, its economy.

The strategy calls on governments to make African agricultural expansion central to decision making about everything from transportation and communication infrastructure to post-secondary education and innovation investment.

The approach is outlined in an independent study, "The New Harvest, Agricultural Innovation in Africa," led by Harvard University professor Calestous Juma.

Key elements in the transition include:

- Use of modern technologies (including modern biotechnology) and investment in geographical sciences for improved natural resource management;
- Continued expansion of basic infrastructure (telecommunications, transportation, energy, and irrigation);
- Creation of new enterprises, especially in fields such as seed production, farm mechanization, food storage and processing;
- Harmonization of trading practices that extends regional markets;
- Close cooperation between government, industry, academia and civil society in policy formulation and implementation;

- Leadership by presidents and prime ministers to coordinate critical input involved a diversity of powerful ministries dealing with finance, infrastructure, education, trade and industry, and regional cooperation.
- *Improved technical education, especially for women and provision of experiential education.*

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## 15. Profits Were Only a Phone Call Away

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53789>

GenARDIS (Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in the Information Society) teamed up with the SB Mathur Foundation in a six-month project to provide women farmers in Cameroon with cell phones with which to gain access to valuable market information.

The project began with a survey of the women's use of information and communications technology; it was discovered that while men made decisions over purchasing things like phones and radios, women dominated the actual use of these items. None of the 100 women surveyed had used ICTs to ease their access to farm inputs, track market information or get advice from agricultural extension workers.

The potential usefulness of a mobile phone was explained, and the women were put in contact with the city-based resource people. Ma Theresa says the farmers quickly came to understand the role farm traders had been playing in separating the women's hard work from the full value of the fruit of their labour.

Njepang boasts that the project is steadily improving livelihoods in these communities. "The systematic elimination of middlemen who used to exploit the farmers is effectively putting more money in the pockets of the farmers."

There are concerns that the gains could be short-lived because many farmers are too poor to be able to afford a phone of their own. Njepang said only a handful of the women who took part had mobile phones during the six months pilot programme, with a phone belonging to one member of the group often serving all of them. He said that SB Mathur Foundation staff has encouraged women to set aside money each week to buy mobile phones, a basic handset being available for little more than \$40. The value of being connected is apparent in the lengths the women go to use their phones. Some of them live in areas where there is no cell phone coverage or electricity. They trek long distances to recharge their battery or pick up a signal to make a call. The project has made a tangible difference in the lives of the five districts.

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## 16. A Place to Grow – Empowering Women in CARE’s Agriculture Programming

[http://edu.care.org/Documents/A%20Place%20to%20Grow%20-%20Reviewing%20Gender%20Equity%20in%20CARE%27s%20Agriculture%20Projects/APTG\\_Initiative\\_Overview.pdf](http://edu.care.org/Documents/A%20Place%20to%20Grow%20-%20Reviewing%20Gender%20Equity%20in%20CARE%27s%20Agriculture%20Projects/APTG_Initiative_Overview.pdf)

During 2007-2009, CARE implemented 383 agriculture projects in 52 countries. “A Place to Grow was an 18-month effort to establish a strong understanding of the ways in which CARE includes or fails to include women and girls in agriculture and agribusiness initiatives. The project incorporated the development of a Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Framework, a portfolio review and a series of Circles of Learning and informational interviews to validate initial findings. The results include

- a series of case studies on specific country projects,

- an aggregated toolkit for women’s empowerment through agriculture programming,
- a synthesis paper highlighting the overall strengths and weaknesses of CARE's work in this area, and
- a series of related input documents with additional information on particular country or project activities.”

See the website for these tools and reports for the CARE Economic Development Unit – *A Place to Grow* at <http://edu.care.org/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FDocuments%2FA%20Place%20to%20Grow%20-%20Reviewing%20Gender%20Equity%20in%20CARE's%20Agriculture%20Projects&View=%7B4CC6E245-821C-4AB5-B6DF-3294038F4922%7D>.

Gender Consultant Catherine Hill is the author of the organizational self-assessment report. “*A Place to Grow* sought to look at how CARE addresses gender equality across its agricultural portfolio. This includes, to a great extent, the organizational thinking, strategies, processes and structures and the subsequent impact on women’s empowerment. This report augments the in-depth in-country reviews from Ghana and Mozambique as well as the case studies undertaken there and in Uganda which brought to light some of the organizational concerns facing the agricultural portfolio as it moves forward in efforts to work with donors, partners, and beneficiaries to improve the lives of women and girls in the context of agriculture.”

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## 17. TED Women Conference: How are women and girls reshaping the future?

<http://conferences.ted.com/TEDWomen/>

TED is a small nonprofit devoted to *Ideas Worth Spreading*. It started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, and Design. The December 2010 TED Women conference in Washington DC asked the question “How are women and girls reshaping the future?” US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton spoke to the conference participants on December 8, 2010 <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/12/152670.htm>.

A few quotes from her speech:

*So the United States has made empowering women and girls a cornerstone of our foreign policy, because women’s equality is not just a moral issue, it’s not just a humanitarian issue, it is not just a fairness issue; it is a security issue. It is a prosperity issue and it is a peace issue. And therefore, when I talk about – (applause) – why we need to integrate women’s issues into discussions at the highest levels everywhere in the world, I’m not doing it just because I have a personal commitment, or not just because President Obama cares about it; I’m doing it because it’s in the vital interest of the United States of America.*

*Let women work and they drive economic growth across all sectors. Send a girl to school, even just for one year, and her income dramatically increases for life, and her children are more likely to survive, and her family more likely to be healthier for years to come. Give women equal rights, and entire nations are more stable and secure. Deny women equal rights, and the instability of nations is almost certain.*

*The subjugation of women is, therefore, a threat to the common security of our world and to the national security of our country. That is why across all of our work in the last 23 months or so, from our initiatives on food security and climate change and global health to our efforts on peace and security, we have made this a primary focus.*

See a video presentation from the conference by Dr. Jemimah Njuki <http://tedxwashingtoncircle.com/speakers/jemimah-njuki/> of the International Livestock Research Institute about the importance of working with men in gender and agricultural development in Malawi and Tanzania at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=nr3J8QYY2Gc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nr3J8QYY2Gc).

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## 18. Chair of the Expert Panel on Women in University Research

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

In December 2010, the Council of Canadian Academies is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lorna Marsden as Chair of the Expert Panel on Women in University Research. Dr. Marsden is the author of several scholarly publications in the field of economic sociology and social change in Canada. As a respected sociologist and academic, Dr. Marsden's appointment is a demonstration of the Council's proven ability to attract the best minds from Canada and abroad.

Dr. Marsden is President Emeritus and Professor at York University in Toronto; and former President and Vice-chancellor of York University, and Wilfrid Laurier University. From 1975-77, Dr. Marsden served as President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and remains a member of the Ontario Committee on the Status of Women. She was named one of Canada's 100 most Powerful Women each year from 2003-2007 and is now in their Hall of Fame. The full composition of the Expert Panel will be announced on the Council's website in early 2011.

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 expert assessment of gender equity within the wider university context and talent pool be undertaken by a third-party body. The Council was therefore asked to assemble an expert panel to conduct an evidence-based assessment on women in university research.

As Chair of the Expert Panel, Dr. Marsden will work with the Panel to examine which factors influence the career trajectory and statistical profile of women researchers in Canadian universities. This assessment will address the question posed by the Minister of Industry to the Council:

*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)?*

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## 19. The Gender Implications of Large Scale Land Deals

<http://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2010/12/20/multimedia-6/>

This set of PowerPoint slides from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) asks about the impact on women of large scale land deals (46.6 million hectares in 203 projects in 81 countries) in locations such as Sub-Saharan Africa. IFPRI indicates that "Large scale land deals that take resources away from women can reduce the welfare of women and their families (even if there are income gains to men)."

The presentation identifies the stages of a land deal with a gender lens – from pre-existing situation, to consultation & negotiation, to contracts & compensation, to implementation and changes in production structure, and to enforceability, transparency monitoring and evaluation. It concludes with: "Whether or not women and men will benefit from land deals



depends in part on the rights and responsibilities women and men have prior to the land deal and in part on how the implementation of the land deal will build upon, improve or distort these roles and responsibilities.”

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## 20. Women Run a New Type of Food Bank

<http://weekly.farmradio.org/2010/11/22/niger-women-run-a-new-type-of-food-bank-to-sustain-families-through-the-%e2%80%98hunger-season%e2%80%99-worldwatch-institute-ifad/>

In Niger, in response to the food crisis in 2005, the International Fund for Agricultural Development created a new kind of food bank. The bank is run entirely by women. It lends food to farmers, not money. The food helps families make it through the hunger season. Called the *soudure* bank, or pre-harvest bank, it is based on exchange. Each week of the pre-harvest season, farming families receive cereal on credit. They pay back the loan with their own harvest, and add 25 per cent interest. This covers the cost of storage and maintenance. The villagers chose this rate of interest. It may seem high, but traditional lenders charge 200 to 300 per cent.

The new banks have already made a huge difference. Today there are 168 *soudure* banks throughout Niger. Over 50,000 women are involved in village committees which oversee how the banks are run. Each week during the rainy season, the women organize the distribution of cereals from the bank. The committees may decide to sell surplus to fund repairs. They also choose whether to lower repayment rates in case of a poor harvest.

The banks store over 2800 tonnes of millet. This is enough to feed 350,000 people for at least a month. During the 2008 global food price crisis, when 90 percent of Niger’s population was at risk of starvation, villages with a *soudure* bank were able to sustain themselves through the harshest period of the year.