

GEM Digest of the Month for January 1, 2012

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Lunar eclipse of December 10, 2011. Photo 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 organizational development. Information is shared with members, partners, scientific societies and member organizations. The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of AIC.

If you have information to share, please send it to me at dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile it to re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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Opportunities

1. Logo Contest for NSERC-CWSE-Prairies

<http://cwse-prairies.ca/?q=logo-contest>

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Chair for Women in Science and Engineering Program (CWSE) in the Prairie region (Prairies) is holding a logo contest. The NSERC-CWSE-Prairies program would like to display a logo on its program website and on selected promotional materials. These promotional materials will be distributed by the NSERC-CWSE-Prairies program to students, teachers and other stakeholders in Canada, but particularly in the Prairies. Five concepts have been identified as being at the core of the Chair program: Women; Aboriginal Culture; Science and Engineering; Celebration of Diversity; and the Prairie Landscape. The logo’s symbology should integrate these concepts into one.

Deadline is January 15, 2012.

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2. Winter Science Clubs Program for youth at U of Saskatchewan

<http://www.scifi.usask.ca/>

Two clubs run on Saturdays from October through March: *Girls Exploring Science* is the club for girls and it runs from 1:00 - 4:00 pm; *Science Unlimited* is the club for boys and it runs from 9:00 -12:00 am.

The content of the clubs is identical, but we separate the boys from girls for this program as multiple studies have shown that girls learn better and are more comfortable in an all girls setting.

We study a variety of topics in science and engineering. Each club session looks at a different topic in science and engineering - we are developing some projects on magnetism, biology (hopefully a dissection), computer science, chemistry, a session with Engineers without Borders, robotics, a veterinary medicine lab and more!

We have extended this program from 12 weeks to 16; 8 weeks per term. You may register for the entire year or just for either term one or term two. The curriculum for each term is different and we will not be repeating program material.

Summer Camp Registration for 2012 will open in **March 2012**.

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3. The World We Want: An evening with Frances Moore Lappé

<http://usc-canada.org/lappe/>

USC Canada presents an inspiring evening with the visionary author of the ground-breaking *Diet for a Small Planet* (1971), Frances Moore Lappé. Based on her new book, *EcoMind*, Lappé confronts our current myths about markets, food, and environmental issues, challenging us to change the way we think so we can create the world we want.

Toronto – Tuesday, January 31st, 2012 and **Ottawa – Wednesday, February 1st, 2012**

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4. Call for Papers: Policy and Research in Community Investment

http://www.crrf.ca/?page_id=720

Researchers (e.g. academic institutions, government agencies and non-governmental organizations) interested in rural issues are invited to submit a proposal for a paper presentation for the second national Rural Research Workshop (RRW) "Policy and Research in Community Investment", which will take place on **May 24-25, 2012 in Ottawa, Ontario**.

The Workshop will focus on the complex relationships between policy and research as they relate to the practice of rural community investment, while examining the challenges, opportunities and lessons that these three-way interrelationships present.

Papers addressing the following themes and other related topics, while focusing on the policy/research/practice dynamic, will be considered for presentations:

- implications of globalization;
- evolving systems of governance;
- challenges of place-based approaches;

- rediscovery of the role and relevance of the social economy;
- role of innovation, learning and knowledge mobilization;
- transformative development;
- capacity development; and
- changes in our demographic profiles.

Please read the Call for Papers for more information about the Workshop and important submission-related details.

Proposal submission deadline: January 20, 2012

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5. International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Summer Institute – Governing for Sustainable Rural Futures

<http://www.brandonu.ca/news/2011/12/19/icrps-2012/>

The annual summer school (**June 21 to July 6, 2012 in Quebec**) brings together an international, multi-disciplinary group of faculty, students, and professionals to study the many facets of rural policy. The goal is to provide graduate students, researchers, and rural development experts from around the world an opportunity to exchange insights and knowledge regarding rural and northern policy using a comparative perspective.

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6. Webinars: Equity-Focused Evaluations

http://mymande.org/index.php?q=equity_focused_evaluation&x=cl

A series of live webinars on “Equity-focused Evaluations” will address the challenges in evaluating the effects of policies, programmes and projects to enhance equitable development results, with a special focus on the effects to the most excluded, marginalized and deprived groups.

Some upcoming sessions:

- **January 24, 2012:** Donna Mertens of Gallaudet University on *Methodological Guidance in Evaluation for Social Justice* and Bagele Chilisa of University of Botswana on *Indigenous Approaches to Evaluation*
- **February 15, 2012:** Jennifer Greene from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on *Values-Engaged Evaluation*

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7. Citation in Internationalization

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/cii.html>

University of Manitoba students may receive recognition on their transcripts for incorporating international perspectives into their degree programs or by pursuing co-curricular opportunities with an international focus. Starting February 2012, all graduating students are eligible to apply for the Citation in Internationalization which will be noted on their transcripts as of the spring 2012 Convocation.

The Citation in Internationalization is wide in scope and may take into account knowledge, skills and competencies that have been acquired through formal courses, student exchanges or study abroad programs, and volunteer and co-curricular activities.

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This Month's Articles: News

1. Women's Roundtable Discussion Report

<http://www.aic.ca/>

See the AIC website for a report of the women's roundtable discussion held on December 6, 2011 held in Winnipeg at the Bruce D. Campbell Farm and Food Discovery Centre, University of Manitoba by the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the Prairies (NSERC-CWSE-Prairies), Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst.

About 30 women from academia (including graduate students), provincial and federal government, and industry attended the discussion to explore experiences related to the themes of:

1. Career Choice
2. Equal Opportunity/Leadership/Managerial Opportunities
3. Work-Life Balance
4. Mentorship
5. Earning Potential
6. Research and Publishing
7. Membership in professional organizations

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2. NSERC-CWSE-Prairies Newsletter

http://cwse-prairies.ca/CWSE_Content/CWSE-Prairies_Newsletter_Vol_1_Iss_1.pdf

The NSERC-CWSE-Prairies Newsletter is downloadable in a higher resolution (for better printing quality). Note that the file size is large. You can also refer to the NSERC-CWSE-Prairies website at <http://cwse-prairies.ca>.

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3. Women and Gender Constituency - new status and COP17 involvement

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/COP17/COP17_feminist_approach.pdf

Shortly before COP 17, the UNFCCC Secretariat granted the Women and Gender Constituency full status as an official NGO constituency within the UNFCCC process.

Following a two-year provisional period, the formal approval of the Constituency is a testament to the hard work and vision of many people, and reflects the increased recognition that is being given to gender issues within the UNFCCC process and climate policy more generally.

The Constituency was active throughout COP17. The Women and Gender Caucus – involving both Constituency members and others interested in gender – met daily to discuss progress in the negotiations and gender issues and events at the COP.

Some caucus members formed working groups to further discuss specific topics, including mitigation, adaptation, finance and feminist approaches.

In the second week of COP17, UN Women kindly hosted an event to celebrate the Constituency's full status. This was a great opportunity for Constituency members to socialise and reflect on the progress made by women and gender groups within the UNFCCC process.

The discussion paper of the feminist approach working group is available at the link.

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4. Gender and Climate Change: Durban Explores the Intersection

<http://thinkprogress.org/romm/2011/12/05/381664/gender-and-climate-change-durban/>

Most people do not think of climate change as a gender issue. But experts at the COP 17 climate conference in Durban, South Africa are trying to raise awareness of the disproportionate impact that a changing climate has on women.

Women are responsible for collecting water that is becoming increasingly scarce, and they need to travel farther distances to reach clean water supplies. Women are primarily responsible for putting food on the table, but food prices are rising and as climate change worsens agricultural productivity. And women are often the most vulnerable in war and regional conflicts, which will be exacerbated by resource scarcity.

A discussion held yesterday in Durban focused on these impacts. The panel featured the Honorable Mary Robinson, the former president of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. In addressing climate resilience, Robinson stressed the importance of focusing on health and burden impacts of climate change.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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5. Side event at COP17: Gender responsive adaptation and low carbon development – including the role of rural and indigenous women

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/COP17/Presentation_for_side_event_01.pdf

On Thursday 1 December, GenderCC – in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) – hosted a very successful side event at COP17 entitled Gender responsive adaptation and low carbon development – including the role of rural and indigenous women.

Three women gave presentations on behalf of GenderCC.

1. Elizabeth Letlhaku from South Africa talked about her experiences as a member of the Siphephile Waste Recycling Co-operative, which undertakes projects on recycling, waste management and urban agriculture. Elizabeth spoke particularly about the need for finance on the ground, and highlighted the challenges faced by her co-op as a result of a lack of financial support.
2. Ulamila Wragg of the Cook Islands and Ruiti Uriano Aretaake of Kiribati talked about adaptation and low carbon development in the Pacific. Ulamila gave an overview of GenderCC's three-year project on gender in adaptation and low carbon development, which is implemented and run by the Secretariat for the Pacific Community. Ruiti then

talked about adaptation strategies in Kiribati, including alternative ways in which women can earn income in response to the changing climate. The presentation given by Ulamila and Ruiti can be downloaded at the link.

In addition, there were two presentations on behalf of APWLD. Vernie Yocogan-Diano presented on rural women's adaptation strategies and indigenous practices in the Philippines, while Kurukulasuriya Antanat Roshanthi Fernando talked about the adaptation strategies of women in small-scale fisheries in Sri Lanka.

The side event was introduced by Dorah Marema of GenderCC and facilitated by Gotelind Alber of GenderCC and Frances Quimpo of APWLD. It was attended by over 100 people, with interactive discussion and questions from the audience.

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6. How Women Are Affected By, and Can Shape, Climate Policy

<http://www.greenbiz.com/blog/2011/12/09/how-women-are-affected-and-can-shape-climate-policy?page=0%2C0>

Introducing a U.N. report on women and climate change at COP 17 in Durban, South Africa, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said: "Women often play a stronger role than men in the management of ecosystem services and food security. Hence, sustainable adaptation must focus on gender and the role of women if it is to become successful."

It's a view that has also been echoed in the U.S. recently: In Washington, D.C., a coalition of civic leaders [last week] launched a climate ethics campaign, where the first woman to head the U.S. Senate committee on environment and public works, Senator Barbara Boxer of California, called for increased public pressure to revitalize climate change action, noting that "the cure for the problem is so good for everybody."

Refer to the link for the full article.

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7. Alberta WaterSMART and Ms. Kim Sturgess

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/news/council-news/fellowsinfocus/sturgess.aspx>

Ms. Kim Sturgess is the founder and CEO of Alberta WaterSMART. She was recently elected as President of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, of which she is also a Fellow. She currently serves on the Council of Canadian Academies' Expert Panel on Water and Agriculture. She says:

The world population is expected to grow to about 9 billion by the mid 2030's, at which time the demand for water will match the annual supply of water. Since two-thirds of the world's water is utilized in agriculture and food production, the critical question is whether we will have enough water to grow the food that we need to support the population. As our climate continues to change, some of the world's food baskets of today, such as Australia, may no longer be able to maintain their current level of food production. This will put increasing pressure on Canada to grow more food. This type of global pressure will be a major policy challenge for Alberta, where water availability in the food growing areas is limited and there are competing demands for urban development and energy production.

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8. STEAM: Experts Make Case for Adding Arts to STEM

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/12/01/13steam_ep.h31.html?tkn=LSMFbCvVb76%2B2MDXzITwKB0MOZRk%2BGjLturu&cmp=clp-sb-ascd

The acronym STEM—shorthand for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—has quickly taken hold in education policy circles, but some experts in the arts community and beyond suggest it may be missing another initial to make the combination still more powerful. The idea? Move from STEM to STEAM, with an A for the arts.

Although it seems a stretch to imagine STEM will be replaced in education parlance, momentum appears to be mounting to explore ways that the intersection of the arts with the STEM fields can enhance student engagement and learning, and even help unlock creative thinking and innovation.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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9. Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2011: STEM Education’s Sputnik Moment

<http://www.hackeducation.com/2011/12/12/top-ed-tech-trends-of-2011-stem-educations-sputnik-will-i-am-maker-moment/>

Some quotes from Audrey Watters’ blog about the looming shortfall of people with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) backgrounds.

- After healthcare, STEM is the fastest growing sector of the economy, and an estimated 1 in 20 jobs by 2018 will be in the STEM field. There’s concern that the U.S. will not be able to provide the skilled workforce to fill these jobs.
- But just as importantly, I’d argue, STEM skills are likely to permeate *all jobs* — we don’t simply need more scientists and engineers; we *all* need to become technologists.
- Despite all we do to stress their importance, STEM fields continue to struggle to attract and retain students. It isn’t simply a matter of preparing students adequately for these fields either. Some 40% of students that enter college planning STEM majors end up switching to other fields or failing to get a degree at all. That rate is even higher (60%) among pre-med students, twice the attrition rate of all other majors combined. Moreover, women and minorities remain underrepresented in STEM fields, again the most talented students opting for careers elsewhere.

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10. Ceres Alberta: Women in Agriculture

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~ceres/>

Ceres International Women’s Fraternity has a Canadian chapter at the University of Alberta with approximately twenty active members. Our members are actively involved around the U of Alberta campus. We host an annual event in March called Women in Agriculture which provides a chance for the agriculture community to come together and celebrate the industry. The evening includes speakers, dinner, a silent auction, and networking opportunities and a portion of the proceeds are donated to the featured charity.

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11. Women in University Research Progress Report

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

The 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.

The Expert Panel on Women in University Research held its fourth panel meeting in Ottawa, from November 16-17, 2011. The report is currently being revised before it is submitted for peer review. The review period is an integral component of the Council's overall assessment process. Following the review, the Panel will meet to address the reviewers' comments and finalize the content of the report. The next and final panel meeting is scheduled for February 2012 in Toronto. The report is expected to be published in 2012.

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12. Humanitarian Crisis Response in East Africa

<http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/acdi-cida/ACDI-CIDA.nsf/eng/ANN-71910150-JQF>

In response to the worst drought in the region in 60 years, the Government of Canada, through CIDA, has allocated \$145.1 million since December 2010 to support humanitarian relief efforts. The Government of Canada created the East Africa Drought Relief Fund, a mechanism in which the government set aside one dollar for every dollar individual Canadians contributed to Canadian registered charities responding to the drought in eastern Africa. Canadians responded generously, with a tally of \$70.5 million matched by the government.

Through Canada's East Africa Drought Relief Fund, 14 organizations are being funded, both regionally and in specific countries. This support will help meet the urgent humanitarian needs related to the ongoing effects of the severe drought by providing food, water, sanitation, medical support, and shelter to drought-affected populations across the region.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack: *Gender and Climate Change*

<http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/bridge-publications/cutting-edge-packs/gender-and-climate-change>

This Cutting Edge Pack from BRIDGE argues that responses to climate change tend to focus on scientific and economic solutions rather than addressing the vitally significant human and gender dimensions. For climate change responses to be effective, thinking must move beyond these limited approaches to become people-focused, and focus on the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents in the struggle for gender equality. The pack advocates for a transformative approach in which:

- Women and men have an equal voice in decision-making on climate change and broader governance processes.
- Women and men are given equal access to the resources necessary to respond to the negative effects of climate change.
- Both women's and men's needs and knowledge are taken into account and climate change policymaking institutions and processes at all levels are not biased towards men or women.

- The broad social constraints that limit women’s access to strategic and practical resources no longer exist.

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2. Electronic resource centre on Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights responsive evaluation

http://www.mymande.org/?q=human_rights_front

UNICEF and UN Women are pleased to announce the launch of a new free electronic resource center on Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights responsive evaluation. Through the resource center, users can access selected material on how to design and manage Equity-focused and Gender Equality and Human Rights responsive evaluations, as well as training opportunities and communities of practice.

The resource centre is a dynamic and collaborative one. Your contributions in the corresponding sections are highly appreciated. Please help us to keep the site alive by uploading relevant evaluation reports, publications, training materials and training opportunities.

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3. Gender and Corporate Social Responsibility: It’s A Matter of Sustainability

<http://www.catalyst.org/publication/507/gender-and-corporate-social-responsibility-its-a-matter-of-sustainability>

A research report published in November 2011 identifies that the benefits of gender-diverse leadership extend beyond short-term financial performance. Companies with both women and men leaders in the boardroom and at the executive table are poised to achieve sustainable big wins for the company and society. New data from Catalyst and researchers from Harvard Business School suggest that gender-inclusive leadership and corporate social responsibility (CSR), examined through the lens of corporate philanthropy, are linked. Findings in *Gender and Corporate Social Responsibility: It’s A Matter of Sustainability* include:

- Compared to companies without women executive leaders, companies with gender-inclusive leadership teams contributed, on average, more charitable funds.
- Even after controlling for key factors that might influence total donations, the presence of women leaders in *Fortune* 500 companies still has a significant, positive effect: more women leaders is correlated with higher levels of philanthropy.
- By keeping gender issues prominent, gender-inclusive leadership likely also affects the quality of CSR initiatives.

When it comes to corporate sustainability, stakeholders should look to a new benchmark to help judge the long-term health of a company: the presence of gender-inclusive leadership, both on the board and in executive leadership teams.

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4. GenderCC Discussion Paper on Population Growth, Climate Change and Gender

http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/UNFCCC_conferences/COP17/GenderCC_discussion_paper_on_population_-_FINAL.pdf

An increasing number of individuals and organisations are painting overpopulation as a key driver of climate change, and are promoting increased family planning policies and limits on population growth as a key solution to climate change. GenderCC has serious concerns about these propositions, which divert attention away from the main causes of climate change and have the potential to impede a rights-based approach to family planning.

This discussion paper focuses on arguments about the contribution of population growth to climate change — that is, its relevance for climate change mitigation. It does not deny that population growth is likely to exacerbate a number of existing social and environmental pressures. It argues that population growth *per se* is not a major contributor to climate change, and that a focus on overpopulation as a climate change threat masks the much more critical role played by overconsumption.

GenderCC fully supports voluntary family planning. However, this paper rejects the coupling of increased family planning with reduced greenhouse gas emissions and argues that family planning must not be reframed as a climate change solution.

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5. Maternal Mortality Estimates Info

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

Maternal Mortality Estimates (MME) Info is a comprehensive data visualization portal containing the latest maternal mortality estimates released by the Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-agency Group (MMEIG) as well as related indicators. The site is designed to track global progress on maternal mortality at the country and regional levels, allowing for easy analysis and visualization of the latest and most relevant data.

Since the mid-1990s, the MMEIG has focused on establishing internationally comparable maternal mortality rates, assisting countries in improving measurement of maternal mortality and strengthening data use. Now, with the rapid approach of the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, closer tracking of maternal mortality levels is critical to achieve MDG5.

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6. Child Mortality Estimation

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

On 15 September 2011, the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation released the latest estimates on child mortality. Child mortality is a key indicator not only of child health and nutrition but also of the implementation of child survival interventions and, more broadly, of social and economic development.

Access the full report at the link.

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7. StatsCan report explores women's educational attainment

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11542-eng.htm>

In a new edition of *Women in Canada*, Statistics Canada reports that in 1990, just 14% of women aged 25 to 54 had a university degree. By 2009, that proportion reached 28%. Since the early '90s, women have accounted for the majority of full-time students enrolled in undergraduate programs. Their percentage among graduates has risen above the 60% threshold since 2001. For example, in 2008, 62% of all university undergraduates were women. In 2006-07, women represented 56% of college enrolments and 59% of graduates. Of the six major trade groups, the only one in which women are a majority is food and service trades, accounting for 65% of enrolments in 2007, up from 50% in 1991.

See Table 9, *Percentage of women among university graduates, by field of study, Canada, 1992 and 2008*, which shows that women's participation rates in agriculture, natural resources and conservation changed from 36.7 percent in 1992 to 55.9 percent in 2008.

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8. Book: Exploring Sustainable Solutions for Increasing Global Food Supplies

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13319&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Academies%20Press&utm_campaign=NAP+mail+new+12.28.11&utm_content=&utm_term=#description

Exploring Sustainable Solutions for Increasing Global Food Supplies is available for free download in pdf format from the National Academies Press. It summarizes the second of two USA National Research Council workshops, addressing the sustainability challenges associated with food security for all. The workshop was held in May 2011.

While sustainable food security depends both on the availability of food supplies and assuring access to food, this workshop focused specifically on assuring the availability of adequate food supplies. How can food production be increased to meet the needs of a population expected to reach over 9 billion by 2050?

Workshop objectives included identifying the major challenges and opportunities associated with achieving sustainable food security and identifying needed policy, science, and governance interventions. Workshop participants discussed long term natural resource constraints, specifically water, land and forests, soils, biodiversity and fisheries. They also examined the role of knowledge, technology, modern production practices, and infrastructure in supporting expanded agricultural production and the significant risks to future productivity posed by climate change.

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