



Tanzanian women's group greeting visitors with a song. Photo courtesy of J. Sebastian.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Working Group of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) gathers information and articles on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change and organizational development. Information is shared with members, partners, scientific societies and member organizations. The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of AIC. If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com 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 (Volunteer)

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Women's World Summit Foundation -- Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life 2013.

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

The Prize honors women and women's groups anywhere in the world exhibiting creativity, courage, and commitment for improving the quality of life in rural communities. WWSF aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security, and peace. The Prize provides an award of US\$1 thousand per laureate, and US\$3 thousand for specific African women's organizations. Nominations are due **30 April 2013**. Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post to Switzerland. E-mail nominations are not accepted.

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2. Nominations now open for women in agriculture award

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

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is looking for the names of women who are agricultural leaders.

Until January 15, the organization is accepting nominations for the 2013 FCC Rosemary Davis Award, which recognizes and honours Canadian women for their leadership and commitment to agriculture.

Five women from across the country will be recognized for their achievements. Winners must be at least 21 years of age and actively involved in Canadian agriculture.

The Rosemary Davis Award was created and named after a successful Canadian agribusiness owner and operator and the first female chair of the FCC board of directors.

Winners will be announced in March 2013. They will have the opportunity to attend the Simmons School of Management Leadership Conference in Boston on April 2.

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3. Conference Alert! Introducing MCWESTT* 2013!

* **Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Technology and Trades**

<http://www.mcwestt.com>

We are inviting women and men to attend the **MCWESTT 2013** in the Fairmont Winnipeg (2 Lombard Place) on May 10, 2013 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

The conference will highlight two world class keynote speakers, a lively panel discussion, and a choice of 3 out of 12 break-out sessions on a variety of topics ranging from “successful workplace mentoring” to “parental leave for men”.

Professional development credit options will be available.

The conference is organized by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba (APEGM)’s Committee for Increasing the Participation of Women in Engineering and the NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (Prairies).

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This Month’s News

1. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD)

[http://www.awardfellowships.org/news-and-events/newsletter.html?utm_source=AWARD+News&utm_campaign=a0bda4e739-AWARD News September2012&utm_medium=email](http://www.awardfellowships.org/news-and-events/newsletter.html?utm_source=AWARD+News&utm_campaign=a0bda4e739-AWARD+News+September2012&utm_medium=email)

This month's issue includes the following features:

- Empowering Even More African Women Scientists: AWARD Launches Second Phase
- Winners of AWARD’s Competition for Advanced Science Training Announced
 - This includes winners from **Ghana**: Evelyn Asante-Yeboah and Faustina Dufie Wireko-Manu of KNUST, Vincentia Naa Ayele Hammond of the University of Ghana, Wilhemina Quaye of CSIR Food Research Institute; and from **Ethiopia**: Adey Melesse Yalew, Atsede Solomon Retta and Bezaye Gorfu Tessema from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research <http://www.awardfellowships.org/building-science-skills/research-attachments/2011-award-fellows-on-attachment.html>.
- Rising to the Challenge: Making a Difference for Smallholders

You'll also find job opportunities and funding news, as well as much more information on the site about the outstanding women in our program and their work.

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2. Tanzania: TAWLA Advocates Women`s Recognition in Constitution

<http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Women-s-Rights-in-the-News2/Tanzania-New-Constitution-TAWLA-advocates-women-s-recognition>

In the wake of continued activist campaigns for women`s rights, the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) has voiced for recognition of women in the new nation Constitution whose process is underway countrywide.

The remark was made yesterday [Nov. 15, 2012] in Dar es Salaam by TAWLA chairperson, Magdalena Rwebangira during the workshop with consultative stakeholders when launching the Gender Forum Consolidated Report on mainstreaming gender in the constitution making process.

Ms Rwebangira stated that “in the constitutional review process there are some vital issues that should be incorporated by the constitutional commission,” listing them as *women's rights to own land and labour*.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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3. Girls' engineering club a place for fun learning

http://www.engineering.ualberta.ca/NewsEvents/Engineering%20News/2012/December/Girlsengineeringclubaplaceforfunlearning.aspx?utm_source=mailoutinteractive&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily+News%3a+December+4%2c+2012

Edmonton—It isn't often that school-aged kids spend their Saturday soldering circuit boards, working together to find ways to purify contaminated water or learning about thermodynamics in microgravity environments.

But that's exactly how dozens of girls from Grade 3 – 8 spent the last eight Saturdays, as members of the Girls, Engineering and Mentorship (GEM) Club. Offered through the University of Alberta's Faculty of Engineering's award-winning DiscoverE outreach program, the GEM Club gives girls a chance to apply scientific phenomena to everyday challenges through hands-on experience.

GEM Club activities covered topics such as engineering and electricity, biomedical engineering, engineering and the environment and even space and thermodynamics. During a special partnership day, the GEM Club members became mentors themselves, leading members of a local Brownie group through fun engineering and chemistry activities.

Registration for the winter GEM Club session is already opened at the DiscoverE website.

The instructors are all U of Alberta students who volunteer their time and seem to have as much fun as the kids.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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4. Engineering is for girls

<http://myuminfo.umanitoba.ca/index.asp?sec=2&too=100&dat=11/23/2012&sta=3&wee=4&eve=8&npa=29837>

The University of Manitoba's Faculty of Engineering hosted 110 girls from high schools throughout the province of Manitoba at the outreach event *Engineering IS for Girls* in Winnipeg in November 2012. The day included a presentation by WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), tours to meet female professors in the Faculty of Engineering and learn about

their world-changing research, a public presentation by Lindsay Melvin, a double grad from engineering at the U of M now working at Manitoba Hydro, described the current and potential future of women in engineering in Manitoba.

In the evening, 125 female alumni, students and faculty members from the Faculty of Engineering participated in a special Celebration of Women in Engineering event, highlighting achievements and challenges the faculty faces with regard to attracting women to engineering.

Following dinner, the new President of APEGM (Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba) Dawn Nedohin-Macek (Engineering Class of 2002, now Assistant to the Vice-President of Transmission at Manitoba Hydro) gave a keynote presentation.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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5. NSERC CWSE (Prairies) Newsletter for December

<http://cwse-prairies.ca/>

Warm Seasons Greetings from the NSERC CWSE (Prairies) team.

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6. “Female Face of Farming” infographic wins 2012 European Excellence Award

English <http://www.fao.org/gender/infographic/en/>

French <http://www.fao.org/gender/infographic/fr/>

Spanish <http://www.fao.org/gender/infographic/es/>

The “Female face of farming” infographic produced last year in collaboration with Farming First to promote the messages of State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010-11 has won the 2012 European Excellence Award in the “Association” category.

Click on the sections to see visual information on these three topics:

- Why are women so important to agriculture?
- Where does a gender gap in agriculture exist?
- What are the impacts of the gender gap in agriculture?

The European Excellence Awards are created to honour the most outstanding achievements of communications professionals in their field. The jury comprises of around 30 leading communications professionals from companies, agencies, and universities, as well as governmental spokespersons.

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7. Gender and Climate Change (CC) Special Edition Newsletter

<http://www.gendercc.net/>

The final Gender CC newsletter in 2012 focuses on UNFCCC COP18 in Doha. Although participation in Doha was much lower than usual at COPs, the gender related activities were many fold and got lots of attention.

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8. Global Gender and Climate Alliance

<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=512f29767f8439084da9be65e&id=f578b28192&e=f347865875>

Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) members, working closely with the women's caucus and UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency focused efforts on a new gender decision introduced by the EU at CO18. The decision focuses on women's participation as a step towards greater gender equality in climate change policies and programming. The final decision entitled "**Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol**" will put in place several key actions and changes:

1. UNFCCC Secretariat will collect and report on sex-disaggregated data
2. Gender will be included as a standing COP agenda item (gender was formerly included as part of "Other business" on the agenda)
3. UNFCCC Secretariat will invite submissions on gender balance from parties in Sept 2013, and compile these results
4. The UNFCCC Secretariat will organize an in-session workshop at COP19 to address (1) gender balance in the UNFCCC process, (2) gender-sensitive climate policy and (3) capacity-building activities to promote the greater participation of women in the UNFCCC process

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9. Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)

<http://www.wedo.org/news/the-doha-gaps-seeking-miracles-solidarity-and-good-old-fashioned-hope-to-fill-them>

The eighteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP18) in Doha, Qatar, failed to reflect reality. COP18 ended Saturday night, December 8, 2012, after more than two weeks of contentious negotiations, with late-breaking final compromises, heralding its outcomes as a "success" of international diplomacy and the multilateral process. The talks were slow and frustrating and culminated in little more than just that: talk.

WEDO is left wondering, how does the global community define "success" these days?

Refer to the link for the full article.

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10. Engineering Toys

<http://www.goldieblox.com/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=y-AtZfNU3zw

GoldieBlox, Inc. is a toy company founded in 2012 by Debbie Sterling, a female engineer from Stanford University. Our mission is to create really fun toys that develop spatial skills and teach basic engineering principles. By designing construction toys from the female perspective, we aim to appeal to a broader audience of children and parents who previously considered engineering a “boys club.” By challenging this stereotype, we hope to inspire more girls like Debbie, like Goldie, to become engineers.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Powerful Synergies: Gender Equality, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/Powerful-Synergies.pdf>

This United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) collection of contributions by gender and sustainable development experts explores the interconnections between gender equality and sustainable development across a range of sectors and issues such as energy, health, education, food security, climate change, human rights, consumption and production patterns, and urbanisation. The articles provide evidence on how women’s equal access and control over resources not only improves livelihoods, but also helps ensure the sustainability of the environment. Recommendations for policy makers and practitioners include:

- develop a participatory and gender-responsive consultation process to inform and ensure equitable decision-making;
- commit to building a green economy based on gender equality, poverty eradication, and technological and social systems that reduce the environmental impact of production and consumption;
- decrease women’s growing burden of unpaid labour by increasing their access to appropriate technologies and natural resources.

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2. Education for All global monitoring report, 2012: Youth and skills: putting education to work; gender overview

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002185/218569e.pdf>

This is a comprehensive report from UNESCO. Of the 775 million adults who cannot read or write, two-thirds are women. 116 million young women aged 15 to 24 in developing countries have never completed primary school and are limited in skills for the work force. While young people living in urban poverty can suffer from low levels of education, those lacking foundation skills are more numerous in rural areas. *Many rural youth, particularly women, need to improve their numeracy and literacy skills as a first step to ensuring they can benefit from agricultural and other non-farm skills development programmes* (page 43).

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3. Briefing paper: 'Learning and the Empowerment of Youth and Women'

<http://www.egfar.org/documents/gcard2-breakout-session-c22-learning-and-empowerment-youth-and-women-briefing-paper>

In 2012, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and partners launched a new mechanism 'Gender in Agriculture Partnership 2 (GAP2)' while continuing to provide support to the Young Professionals Platform for Agricultural Research and Development (YPARD). In Africa for example, there are several programs e.g. the ANAFE-SASACID, FARA UniBRAIN, TEAM Africa, AWARD, and USAID's Borlaug Fellowships, which aim to build up a cadre of professionals who are sufficiently well-prepared, committed and motivated.

More specifically, the expected outcome of the session at the Second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD) [Uruguay October 2012] was to agree on collective action and measures to attract, inspire and empower young people and women for transformative agriculture including AR4D systems and agri-enterprise development.

The guiding questions were the following:

- What are the success factors for empowering youth in ARD?
- And for empowering women in ARD? How different or similar are these factors?
- What tools can be used for tracking progress?
- What programs, projects and networks could be linked to help ensure the greatest degree of learning, and impact?
- What two to three collective actions should we propose for 2012- 2014?
- What changes and results do we want to share when we return to GCARD in two years' time?

Through a series of presentations this session detailed a number of answers, in the form of lessons and innovations, for moving the GCARD youth and women agenda forward and, therefore, strengthening the foundations for transformative agriculture. It was chaired by Vicki Wilde, AWARD and facilitated by Judith Francis, CTA.

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4. From Ignorance to Inclusion: Gender-Responsive Multilateral Adaptation Investments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region

http://www.boell.org/downloads/Schalatek_MENA_Gender-Responsive-Adapatation-Inves_COMPLETE_PDF.pdf

Sustainable use of its environmental resources is by many considered to be probably the most severe long-term development challenge for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which is also one of the regions of the world to be most severely affected by climate change. Yet despite a strong nexus between poverty as well social, political and economic exclusion and poor management of natural resources, governments in the region have not prioritized investments in the sustainable management of water resources and improvements in agricultural practices and productivity as the key to sustainable development. Nor has the region's considerable oil wealth been used to build the governance and production structures needed for social and political equity and justice.

Women in the region, despite vast differences in their economic status, in particular have remained the societal group suffering from the most severe social and political exclusion despite important advances in improving their educational and health status. With climate change impacts expected to exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, women in MENA countries due to the prevailing social and cultural norms in the region that deny them political, social and legal equality with men, are thus facing climate change impacts differently than men, with coping abilities and strategies that are local context-specific as well as gender-specific. Both local context and gender specificity need to be taken into account in projects and programs that deal with climate change impacts in the region and focus on reducing the vulnerability of nature and human systems to these impacts.

This desk study reviewed nearly 150 active climate change adaptation-relevant projects in the MENA region. By applying the OECD climate change Rio Markers to determine each project’s adaptation relevance, the authors identified 32 “adaptation relevant” active projects in the MENA region and systematically analyzed the extent of gender-sensitivity in multilateral climate change adaptation investments in the region, finding and elaborating both on best practice and worst practice examples.

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5. Assessment of the Improved Cookstove Market in East Africa

<http://www.gvepinternational.org/en/business/news/new-report-assesses-improved-cookstove-market-east-africa>

GVEP has completed a study which draws on its experience working with improved cookstove businesses in East Africa. The report provides an overview of the cookstove markets in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The task of cooking is an essential part of life for people around the globe, yet in East Africa it is a task that can consume many hours of the day and have far reaching consequences on health and the environment as well as social and economic impacts. Improved cookstoves have been promoted in East Africa for many years and can help to reduce household fuel consumption, time spent on fuel wood collection and exposure to harmful emissions.

The report, entitled *Improved Cookstove Sector in East Africa: Experience from the Developing Energy Enterprise Programme (DEEP)*, was released today. It describes how our programme in East Africa has supported cookstove enterprises and shares the lessons learnt over the past five years.

This report aims to analyse and document GVEP International’s experience working with improved cookstove businesses in East Africa through its Developing Energy Enterprise Programme (DEEP). It describes the context of improved cookstoves in East Africa and provides an overview of the cookstove markets in each of the three countries before going on to describe how the DEEP programme has supported cookstove enterprises and the challenges and lessons learnt from the programme. In addition it examines results from stove testing done on cookstoves produced under the DEEP programme. Based on this experience the report finally goes on to present a strategy for GVEP International to take its cookstove work forward in the future.

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6. SNV and Improved Cookstoves

<http://www.snvworld.org/en/sectors/renewable-energy/about-us/about-snv-energy/improved-cookstoves>

Exposure to smoke from traditional cookstoves and open fires – the primary means of cooking and heating for nearly three billion people in the developing world – causes 1.9 million premature deaths annually, with women and young children the most affected.

Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating, forces women and children to spend hours each week collecting wood. Women face severe personal security risks as they forage for fuel, especially from refugee camps and in conflict zones. Cookstoves also increase pressures on local natural resources (e.g. forests and habitat) and contribute to climate change at the regional and global level.

The use of clean cookstoves and fuels can dramatically reduce fuel consumption and exposure to cookstove smoke. Development of a global clean cookstove industry that is constantly innovating to improve design and performance, while lowering the cost of stoves, can lead the way to widespread adoption of clean cooking solutions.

The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves is a public-private partnership launched on 24 September 2010 to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

The Alliance's "100 by 20" goal calls for 100 million homes to adopt clean and efficient stoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance works with public, private, and non-profit partners to help overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves in the developing world.

SNV is a founding member of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.

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7. Adding Value to Women's Savings Groups through Cooperative Development in Ghana

http://www.snvworld.org/sites/www.snvworld.org/files/publications/adding_value_to_womens_savings_groups_in_ghana.pdf

Many banks and micro finance institutions in developing countries provide services to the poor. However, they are most successful when they operate in economically dynamic urban areas where investment opportunities are plentiful, income streams are regular and diverse and the cost of reaching clients is low. For rural populations, especially the very poor it is difficult to access useful micro finance products. This has led to a renewed interest in searching for financial models that can be used to deliver sustainable financial services for Ghana's rural poor.

In the northern part of Ghana the majority of the rural households rely on rain-fed agriculture. For many women, the main source of income is the production of shea nuts and butter. The shea tree (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) is indigenous to the savannah zone of Ghana where it produces nuts that are of great socio-economic importance to the local people. Shea butter, extracted from the nuts, is used locally as a cooking oil, body cream, oil lamp fuel and for medicinal preparations. The nuts and butter are also sold on the world market for use in the confectionery, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries. There is also a substantial and growing international market shea butter.

The shea industry currently provides employment and income for approximately 900,000 women in the three regions of northern Ghana. Women form the backbone of the industry and are mainly involved in the initial stages of collecting and processing the shea nuts and butter.

Refer to the link for the complete report.

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