



Children at Nyaharongo village, Tanzania during a meeting. Dec. 2013. Photo courtesy of Dinah Ceplis.

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 to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. The Global Change Leaders Program

<http://coady.stfx.ca/themes/women/gcl/>

The Global Change Leaders Program at Coady International Institute, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada aims to build the leadership capacities of women from developing countries who work in themes of community development related to agriculture, environment, health, education, rights of girls and women, and other subject areas. The program provides successful candidates with a seven-week intensive course in Canada followed by mentoring opportunities in their home countries. The application deadline is **17 January 2014**.

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2. Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialdevelopment/brief/inclusion-matters>

Social inclusion is a central tenet in the World Bank Group's new Strategy, as it is in the post-MDG discussions. Yet the idea is notoriously many things to many people. A new World Bank Group report "*Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity*" is perhaps one of the most comprehensive contemporary reviews of social inclusion, grounded in both conceptual and empirical rigor. At this ODI, World Bank and Oxfam hosted event Maitreyi Bordia Das, lead author of a new World Bank Group report "*Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity*", will present the report's main findings in a webinar on **January 20, 2014**.

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This Month's News

1. How to calculate Gender Gap for publishing scientists

<http://labandfield.wordpress.com/2013/12/12/how-to-calculate-mygendergap-for-publishing-scientists/>

A recent article in Nature looked at the gender gap in scientific publishing among a variety of countries. There's lots of good stuff in there, but the one metric I want to focus on is the ratio of women/men authors. In Canada, it was 0.459, meaning that for every woman author, there are 2.17 male authors.

There's lots out there on women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), the challenges they face, and the degree to which they are under-appreciated (including historical figures).

So what can I [the author of this article at Lab and Field], a white man, do?

Well, the data in the Nature article had to come from somewhere. So as an actively publishing scientist, I [the author of this article at Lab and Field] contribute to this phenomenon (regardless of whether my data were included in Nature).

After a bit of musing, I pulled up my current CV and decided to look at the gender gap in my own academic record.

- Male thesis/postdoc supervisors: 5
- Female thesis/postdoc supervisors: 0

- Male thesis committee members/examiners: 10
- Female thesis committee members/examiners: 0

- Male field crew members: 4
- Female field crew members: 2

- Male coauthors: 45
- Female coauthors: 27

That gives me a female/male coauthor ratio of 0.60 (i.e., 27/45), which though an improvement on the national 0.459, still shows the lack of parity. Granted, some of these numbers were beyond my control (e.g., thesis examiners, existing collaborations to which I contributed).

But it's a simple way to do a little academic introspection. If you're a PI and supervise students, that's another ratio that's easily calculable. Some might argue that certain disciplines have an inherent gender bias in their composition (e.g., engineering tends to be a male-dominated field), so the tendency might be to compare our own F/M ratios to those in the field. But achieving a ratio of under-representation isn't success (or even mediocrity), and will do nothing to change the status quo.

"But I'm a successful PI, and this will take a lot of time!" some might say. I think taking 30 minutes (or substantially less) is a perfectly acceptable time to look at one's collaborative and mentoring gender inequality. Divide the number of women by the number of men, and hopefully Tweet your stats using #MyGenderGap [<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23MyGenderGap&src=hash&f=realtime>].

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2. Restoring Sight to Africa's Gender-Blind Rice Sector

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/12/restoring-sight-africas-gender-blind-rice-sector/>

NDOP, Cameroon, Dec 3 2013 (IPS) - For more than 20 years, Anastasia Ngwakun from Bamunkumbit village in central Cameroon has been farming rice the hard way – using only hand tools. But Ngwakun knows that if she were a man, she would have access to the technology that would not require her to work so hard.

"Rice farming is hard work, especially for a woman, because I am involved in the planting and processing using limited or no resources and tools, unlike the men folk in my village, who can easily get credit or have access to a tractor," Ngwakun, who grows rice on a 1.5-hectare plot, told IPS.

“Women do not have access to land, and many times we farm plots that are owned by men, and they dictate where tractors are available, which plots are ploughed first, and that we can only plough after [they have first done so],” she added.

Ngwakun also does not have access to the use of threshing machines, which would save her from the laborious task of removing the rice husks by hand.

Rice production and processing would be easier for Ngwakun if she used improved technology like threshing machines, weeding tools and parboiling vessels, which can boil up to twice the amount of rice normal pots can. But Ngwakun, like many women in Cameroon and in the rest of Africa, does not have access to this.

Research by Africa Rice Centre, a pan-African rice research organisation, shows that compared to women, who statistically form the bulk of rice farmers in Africa, male rice farmers have greater and unequal access to resources, such as farming land, inputs, capital, equipment and knowledge.

These entrenched differences between female and male rice farmers are partially fuelled by local culture and economic considerations.

Afiavi Agbhor-Noameshie, a socio-agronomist and gender specialist at Africa Rice Centre, told IPS that there is a glaring absence of gender mainstreaming in the rice sector.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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3. Commentary: Minimizing Postharvest Losses among Smallholder Tomato Farmers in Ghana

<http://globalfoodforthought.typepad.com/global-food-for-thought/2013/11/commentary-minimizing-postharvest-losses-among-smallholder-tomato-farmers-in-ghana.html>

Postharvest losses in Ghana are not just an agricultural marketing problem; they are a matter of life and death. In Ghana’s Upper East Region, high rates of suicide are reported among tomato farmers who have lost their crops, their markets, and their livelihoods. Many can’t earn a living, despite the fact that Ghana is the world’s second-largest importer of tomato paste.

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4. IFDC Newsletter

http://www.ifdc.org/getattachment/Publications/IFDC_Reports/2013IFDCreport_Vol38No4_FINAL_web.pdf/

The *IFDC Report* is a quarterly publication of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). The current issue includes the following articles:

- IFDC and Partners Empower Women in Bangladesh
- Nigeria Sets Stage for Agricultural Revolution
- CATALIST-Uganda: Growing Success with Clusters
- Fueling Food Security for a Century: 100 Years of Industrial Application of the Haber-Bosch Process

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5. COP19 Final Recap: Measuring 'Progress', Challenges & Next Steps

<http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=57b4a173-a232-406d-98cb-6975eed52c53&c=2ff94980-43a8-11e3-90a9-d4ae527557ea&ch=315975c0-43a8-11e3-91e8-d4ae527557ea>

At the conclusion of the COP19 UNFCCC negotiations in Warsaw, Poland, the talks seemed to embody the ever-growing climate chaos - evidenced through lack of real commitment or action by governments. There were some signs of progress, including for gender equality. WEDO offers an overview analysis of the challenges and next steps in the climate process, as well as the need to link our advocacy across multiple coherent processes to move towards a true system change for a healthy and peaceful planet. As WEDO headed straight from Warsaw into meetings of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) looking at the topic of energy- an issue which is inextricably linked to action on climate change- the need for coherency was amplified.

- In Warsaw, many crucial issues for gender equality were on the table. The discussions on **agriculture** concluded with agreement for further dialogue in 2014 as countries continue to struggle over the focus on mitigation versus adaptation.

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6. Eldis Gender Reporter

www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender

This issue highlights research on the role of gender equality issues in achieving development goals, with a focus on issues such as gender mainstreaming, measuring change, legal and policy frameworks on gender and human rights, and successful initiatives from the field.

In recent years women have entered the paid workforce in greater numbers. The development sector is keen to support women into work because employment contributes to development goals and targets, by alleviating poverty, and also because employment has the potential to empower women. The global economic crisis has made women's economic situation more precarious, but also created opportunities for greater state intervention in securing and supporting decent, more equitable employment opportunities. This collection of documents introduces some of the research on work (both paid and unpaid) undertaken by the Pathways of Women's Empowerment Consortium. It provides suggestions on how decision-makers can support mechanisms for improving women's rights as workers, enhance their incomes and working conditions, and strengthen their ability to press for change.

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7. African countries step up focus on statistics for better agriculture and nutrition

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/209132/icode/>

Experts from 35 countries met for the 23rd session of the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS 23, December 2013) to discuss country experiences with the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture and the rollout of the Global Strategy to Improve Rural and Agricultural Statistics. They also reviewed advances in gathering environmental, economic and food security statistics on issues like greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural investments, livestock, and gender related data for land ownership.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. IFAD's Gender and Rural Development Briefs

<http://www.ifad.org/pub/thematic/>

The International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD has published several briefs on Gender and Rural Development, located under its Thematic Publications.

- Europe and Central Asia
- Near East and North Africa
- The Pacific Islands
- Southeast Asia
- South Asia

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2. Banana and Plantain Value Chain: EPAR Brief No. 239

http://evans.washington.edu/files/Evans_UW_Request_239_West_Africa_Bananas_and_Plantains_8_20_final.pdf

West Africa is one of the major plantain-producing regions of the world, accounting for approximately 32% of worldwide production. Plantains are an important staple crop in the region with a high nutritional content, variety of preparation methods, and a production cycle that is less labor-intensive than many other crops. In addition to plantains, bananas are also grown in West Africa, but they account for only 2.3% of worldwide production. Bananas are more likely than plantains to be grown for export rather than local consumption. Major constraints to banana and plantain production include pests and disease, short shelf life, and damage during transportation.

This research brief provides an overview of the banana and plantain value chains in West Africa. Because of the greater production and consumption of plantains than bananas in the region, the brief focuses on plantains and concentrates on the major plantain-producing countries of Ghana, Cameroon, and Nigeria. The brief is divided into the following sections: Key Statistics (trends in banana and plantain production, consumption, and trade since 1990), Production, Post-Harvest Practices and Challenges, Marketing Systems, and Importance (including household consumption and nutrition).

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3. Integrated Surveys on Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania: Intercropping

http://evans.washington.edu/files/EPAR_UW_Request_216_LSMSIntercropping_080713.pdf

In this brief we analyze patterns of intercropping and differences between intercropped and monocropped plots among smallholder farmers in Tanzania using the Tanzania National Panel Survey (TZNPS) as part of the Living Standards Measurement Study – Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMSISA).

Excerpt:

Female headed households with at least one intercropped plot were located about 5 km closer to a road than female headed households that did not intercrop (17km compared to 22km). Among all households, intercropping households were located no closer to or further from a market, nearest road, or nearest population center of +20,000 people than households that did not intercrop any plots. (pg.4)

4. Weaving the net: climate change, complex crises and household resilience

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=66526>

The 2008 global food crisis caught everyone by surprise, since it emerged from a complex web of factors in a way that is exceedingly difficult to predict. This issue brief by the World Resources Institute reviews the myriad of influences that brought about the food crisis, and how climate variability acted as an important trigger. It analyses the food crisis through a complexity perspective, and reviews coping strategies and adaptive capacities of vulnerable groups, before using this research to recommend a set of policy recommendations.

The paper begins by charting the chain of events that led to the 2008 food crisis through multiple scales, highlighting how global influences filter down to the local level in a cascade effect. There is then an examination of the ways in which households are impacted, including migration and poverty dynamics. Individual and collective outcomes, adaptation strategies, the role of safety nets, risk governance, and fragile states are also discussed.

The authors draw four categories of policy conclusions from the analysis:

- *Vulnerability observation systems:* There is a need for more longitudinal data, and regular updating of data, in order to observe trends as they unfold. The global spread of IT presents new opportunities such as automated tracking, internet 'mining', and the crowd-sourcing of data, offering the opportunity to detect early threat indicators by combining social, economic, epidemiological, ecological, and sector data.
- *Safety nets:* Governments of developing countries must design safety nets which are broad in scope, resilient to disaster impacts, disaggregated according to vulnerability and gender, nationally owned and funded, and grant secure access to natural resources to the rural poor. Here there is ample opportunity for South-South knowledge transfer.
- *Supporting adaptive capacity:* mobility, diversification, and market exchange are shown to be vital to households' adaptive capacity. These are achievable through enabling policies, but require broad access to education, information, good health, secured rights, and freedom of assembly.
- *Risk governance:* various policies can be employed such as inventories of risk, assessment and mitigation procedures in planning and public investment, insurance, decentralisation of responsibility and resources, and fostering partnerships with private and civil spheres. Additionally, the international community must continue to aid high-risk, low-capacity countries.

5. The environment and gender index (EGI): 2013 pilot

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=66575>

Produced by: World Conservation Union (2013)

This pilot of the Environment and Gender Index aims to measure country performance at the intersection of gender, environment, and sustainable development. Socially constructed determinants can contribute to women's disempowerment. For example: insecure land and tenure rights; obstructed access to natural resource assets; limited

opportunities for participating in decision-making; lack of access to markets, capital, training, and technologies; and the double burden of responsibilities inside and outside the household. This results in a lost opportunity for sustainable development.

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6. Video: Beyond Gender Myths – Closing the Knowledge Gap in Agriculture and Food Security

<http://www.ifpri.org/event/beyond-gender-myths>

There is now growing recognition of the importance of attention to gender for agricultural productivity and food security. However, many “gender myths” persist; myths that either underestimate or overstate the importance of women’s roles and resources. In order to close the gender gap in productivity or assets, there is a need to close the knowledge gap. This policy seminar from the International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI presented evidence gathered for a new volume of studies titled "Gender in Agriculture and Food Security: Closing the Knowledge Gap".

- At this event, Terri Raney highlighted key messages of the State of Food and Agriculture report on gender and agriculture, and how this report has catalyzed new research on gender and agriculture.
- The gender asset gap and its implications for agricultural and rural development was presented by Agnes Quisumbing.
- Ruth Meinzen-Dick discussed one type of capital—social capital—and how it interacts with gender in agricultural development programs.
- Lastly, Deborah Rubin talked about promoting gender-equitable agricultural value chains.

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7. Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialdevelopment/brief/inclusion-matters>

Social inclusion is a central tenet in the World Bank Group's new Strategy, as it is in the post-MDG discussions. Yet the idea is notoriously many things to many people. A new World Bank Group report “*Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity*” is perhaps one of the most comprehensive contemporary reviews of social inclusion, grounded in both conceptual and empirical rigor.

Framing the Issue: Part I of the report makes the case that inclusion has both intrinsic and instrumental value for development and shared prosperity. It is integral to human well-being, but it also matters because the exclusion of individuals and groups has substantial social, political and economic costs.

- ***Gender, race, ethnicity, religion, but also sexual orientation, disability status and nationality are the most common axes of exclusion.***

Transitions, Transformations and Perceptions: Part II of the report emphasizes the urgency for social inclusion.

Change is possible: Part III of the report argues that change is inevitable and can be influenced towards social inclusion.

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