

# GEM Digest of the Month for January 1, 2015

176 Gloucester Street, Suite 320, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A6, [www.aic.ca](http://www.aic.ca)



*Tanzanian female youth carrying a pot and live chickens to her home. Photo courtesy of D. 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, organizational development and international 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](mailto: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>.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGhIH, FAIC  
GEM Committee Member (Volunteer)

**With wishes for peace, health and prosperity in  
2015!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. CIAT recruiting a Gender Research Coordinator ..... 2
2. FAO seeks Gender, Water Governance, and Food Security consultant ..... 2
3. IFPRI recruiting a Senior Gender Specialist for the HarvestPlus program ..... 3
4. IFPRI recruiting an Associate Research Fellow for gender analysis in value chain research ..... 3
5. MCWESTT (Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology) 2015 Conference ..... 4
6. Statistics workshops from US Census Bureau, including gender statistics training ..... 4
7. U.S. Department of State -- TechWomen 2015 ..... 4
8. Cartier Women's Initiative Awards -- Edition 2015 ..... 4

## This Month's News

1. AIDS and African Teenagers ..... 5

2.	New Partnerships Aim to Improve Data on Women and Girls .....	5
3.	COP20: Priorities, Events, Advocacy and More .....	5
4.	COP20: Climate change negotiators must consider the role of rural women.....	6
5.	Climate and Post-2015 Development Agenda Talks Share the Same Path .....	6
6.	Gender Equality at COP20 .....	6
7.	Women on the Edge of Land and Life.....	7
8.	Reducing the gender asset gap through agricultural development .....	8
9.	Newsletter of NSERC Chair for WSE – Prairie Region .....	9
10.	Pakistan's women cotton pickers find power in uniting over wages .....	9

## Reports, Publications and Resources

1.	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Decisions and Conclusions: Existing Mandates and Entry Points for Gender Equality .....	10
2.	Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Teachers and Other Communities .....	10
3.	Gender and Land Reforms in Pakistan.....	10
4.	Promoting Women’s Participation in Agricultural Research .....	11
5.	Beyond 2015 Copenhagen Conference - Equality Statement .....	11
6.	Gender Methods Seminar: Using Cognitive Testing and Vignettes in the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index.....	12
7.	2014 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender Equality & Sustainable Development .....	12

[Go to top.](#) .....

## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. CIAT recruiting a Gender Research Coordinator

<http://ciat.cgiar.org/jobs/gender-research-coordinator>

International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is looking to hire a Gender Research Coordinator to provide intellectual leadership to guide research on gender and agriculture across thematic areas of CIAT.

**Position opened until a suitable candidate is identified.**

[Go to top.](#) .....

### 2. FAO seeks Gender, Water Governance, and Food Security consultant

<http://www.gender-gap.net/content/international-consultant-study-gender-water-governance-and-food-security>

FAO is seeking a consultant to lead a paper analyzing the main gender inequality issues in the access to and control of water as a productive resource for agriculture and food security. The main purpose is to highlight persisting and emerging challenges in relation to women’s access to and decision-making on water resources; assess the response of the international community (with particular attention to FAO’s role); and identify the main achievements and gaps in promoting gender equality in water governance for food security.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

### **3. IFPRI recruiting a Senior Gender Specialist for the HarvestPlus program**

<http://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH13/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=IFPRI&cws=37&rid=1452>

IFPRI is recruiting a Senior Gender Specialist for the HarvestPlus program. HarvestPlus leads a global effort to improve nutrition and public health by developing and disseminating staple food crops that are rich in vitamins and minerals.

The Senior Gender Specialist will lead and will be responsible for the development of a HarvestPlus gender policy; training of HarvestPlus staff in gender issues; conducting gender sensitive value chain analysis with country program staff; recommending incorporation of gender considerations in country specific business plans; identification of gender disaggregated monitoring, learning, and action indicators to ensure relevant data are collected and analyzed, and gender related progress/outcomes tracked; and serving as HarvestPlus’ “gender” voice for advocacy and communication activities/documents.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

### **4. IFPRI recruiting an Associate Research Fellow for gender analysis in value chain research**

[http://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH13/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=IFPRI&cws=37&rid=1455&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+ifprijobs+%28Employment+opportunities+at+IFPRI%29](http://ch.tbe.taleo.net/CH13/ats/careers/requisition.jsp?org=IFPRI&cws=37&rid=1455&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ifprijobs+%28Employment+opportunities+at+IFPRI%29)

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks a qualified candidate to serve as an Associate Research Fellow for a two-year, fixed term, renewable appointment in its Poverty Health and Nutrition Division (PHND). The Associate Research Fellow will assist in strengthening the gender analysis in value chain research in the CGIAR.

Recognizing that gender is one of the main ways that agriculture influences nutritional outcomes, the CGIAR Research Program (CRP) on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH) has initiated a series of cross-CRP activities to strengthen understanding of gender-agriculture-nutrition linkages, build capacity to do gender-nutrition research, and catalyze joint research across-CRPs. In partnership with the Livestock and Fish and Grain Legumes CRPs, A4NH is also working to integrate nutrition into CGIAR value chain research, where women’s and men’s roles in decision making, their level of participation, and asset ownership need to be taken into consideration to understand how value chain interventions may influence nutritional outcomes.

The Fellow will help bring these streams of work together, bringing a value-chain lens to the cross-CRP gender-agriculture-nutrition work and a gender lens to the empirical research on assessing the impacts of value-chain interventions on nutrition and other key outcomes. The Fellow will also be an integral member of project teams in other CRPs, and will be expected to spend approximately four months per year at other CGIAR centers or field sites, particularly in East Africa, which is a focus region for this work.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 5. MCWESTT (Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology) 2015 Conference

<http://www.apegm.mb.ca/MCWESTT/>

The 2015 MCWESTT (Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology) conference, a full day of professional development options, will be held at the Fort Garry Hotel in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on **May 8, 2015**. Early bird registration opens Dec. 1, 2014.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 6. Statistics workshops from US Census Bureau, including gender statistics training

<http://www.census.gov/population/international/>

The International Programs Center for Technical Assistance at the U.S. Census Bureau has just announced its 2015 statistical workshop series. Gender Statistics for Data Users will be offered **July 20-24, 2015**. For more information, including course descriptions, please visit their website.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 7. U.S. Department of State - - TechWomen 2015

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

TechWomen is an Initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. TechWomen offers **professional mentorship and exchange for emerging women leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in selected countries of the Middle East, Central Asia, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa**. The eligible countries are Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. TechWomen covers the costs of travel and accommodation for the program events in California and Washington, DC. The application deadline is **10 February 2015**.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 8. Cartier Women's Initiative Awards -- Edition 2015

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

Cartier **supports women entrepreneurs who lead social enterprises in their early phases** that have potential to grow significantly. Cartier reviews applications from Latin America, North America, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East & North Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region. Previous laureates have included several whose work links to environment and related issues, e.g., product recycling, low-cost energy, water treatment, fair trade, and others. Each of the selected women entrepreneurs receives US\$20 thousand, networking and visibility opportunities, and personalized business coaching for one year. The closing date for applications is **27 February 2015**.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## This Month's News

### 1. AIDS and African Teenagers

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/11/africa-aids-is-no-1-killer-of-teenagers/>

HIV among teenagers is devastating families in Africa, where AIDS has become the leading cause of death among adolescents. The global AIDS death toll fell by 30 percent between 2005 and 2012 but increased by 50 percent among adolescents, says a UNICEF report.

One reason for this shocking teen death toll is the low number of adolescents on antiretroviral treatment (ART).

Alarming, adolescent HIV prevalence is highly gendered, with teen girls showing infection rates that UNAIDS calls "unacceptably high".

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

### 2. New Partnerships Aim to Improve Data on Women and Girls

[http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/12/15/new-partnerships-aim-to-boost-improve-data-on-women-and-girls?cid=ISG\\_E\\_WBWeeklyUpdate\\_NL](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/12/15/new-partnerships-aim-to-boost-improve-data-on-women-and-girls?cid=ISG_E_WBWeeklyUpdate_NL)

The World Bank Group, UN agencies, and Data2X are aiming to fill vast data gaps related to women and girls and taking on a global assessment of the value of women's work, as part of a broad effort to empower them and end extreme poverty.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

### 3. COP20: Priorities, Events, Advocacy and More

[http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/GGCA\\_COP20\\_MemberActivities\\_26Nov2014.pdf](http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/GGCA_COP20_MemberActivities_26Nov2014.pdf)

The Twentieth Conference of Parties (COP20) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) began December 1<sup>st</sup> in Lima, Peru, lasting through December 12th. At the conference this year, Parties came together to find agreement on numerous critical issues and actions - of top priority being a comprehensive draft of a new climate agreement- which should be adopted at the COP21 in Paris, France next year.

Negotiations on the new climate agreement, happening under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2.7), will be based on three current documents, including: a **revised non-paper on elements of the 2015 agreement**; a **draft decision on advancing implementation of the Durban Platform** (which combines the two previous separate draft decisions on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) information requirements and pre-2020 ambition into a single text); and a **scenario note for the ADP session** in Lima.

#### ***Gender Equality at COP20***

At COP20, the main priorities for strengthening gender-responsive climate policy within the UNFCCC include:

- Ensuring gender equality is central to the new climate agreement, reflected as a guiding principle in operative text of the ADP
- Adopting a new decision on gender equality under the COP Standing Agenda Item on Gender and Climate Change (SBI 16)

- Monitoring and advancing gender considerations across decisions in the subsidiary bodies (i.e. adaptation, technology, etc.)

Alongside partners in the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and the Women and Gender Constituency, WEDO will provide strategic and technical support to Parties and stakeholders in the UNFCCC process and advocate for strong inclusion of gender issues within the UNFCCC and its decisions, reports and outcomes, including as part of Gender Day on **Tuesday, December 9th**.

[Go to top](#). ++++++

## 4. COP20: Climate change negotiators must consider the role of rural women

<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach/index.php/219-cop20/cop20-day5-forests-food-ag/11798-cop20-day5-negotiators-consider-role-rural-women>

*Outreach Magazine*, a multi-stakeholder magazine on climate and development, has published a series of articles on climate change and gender for COP20, including a new post from Claudia Ringler, Deputy Director of IFPRI's Environment and Production Technology Division, on including women in the current climate change negotiations. She writes:

*As smallholder farmers in many parts of the world, women play a crucial role in food production. Yet they are the least equipped to adapt their farming practices to climate change. The reason? They have less access and control than men over key assets, such as capital, agricultural information and training, farm inputs, and other resources related to agricultural production. This week, as world leaders gather in Peru to participate in the climate change negotiations, it is imperative that we turn our attention to rural women and focus on policies that increase their ability to cope with climate change.*

[Go to top](#). ++++++

## 5. Climate and Post-2015 Development Agenda Talks Share the Same Path

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/12/climate-and-post-2015-development-agenda-talks-share-the-same-path/>

**LIMA, Dec 4 2014 (IPS)** - The international community's post-2015 development agenda will depend, in key aspects, on whether the delegates of 195 countries meeting now at the climate summit in the Peruvian capital reach an agreement to reduce global warming, since climate change affects all human activity.

Climate change's effects on agriculture, health, poverty reduction or housing among vulnerable segments of the population mean progress in the search for a solution to global warming will have a major impact on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said experts consulted by IPS at COP20. ...

On Wednesday, agriculture day at COP20, organisations involved in farming underscored the links between climate change and agricultural practices. They also stressed the importance of small farmers in ensuring a sustainable future.

**Refer to the link for the complete article.**

[Go to top](#). ++++++

## 6. Gender Equality at COP20

[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima\\_dec\\_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv\\_cop20\\_gender.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gender.pdf)

One of WEDO's priorities heading into COP20 was to see the adoption of a new decision on gender equality under the COP Standing Agenda Item on Gender and Climate Change (SBI 16). The Standing Agenda item is a result of the Decision 23/CP.18 in Doha, which focused on enhancing gender balance and women's participation in the UNFCCC delegations, boards and bodies.

Since that decision, which included mandates for submissions and a workshop at COP19 in Warsaw, Parties have worked alongside civil society to outline the elements of a new decision to take forward action and implementation, not simply on gender balance in the negotiations, but on gender equality and gender-responsive climate policy.

This work led to the launch of the '**Lima Work Programme on Gender**', which aims to advance implementation of gender-responsive climate policies and mandates across all areas of the negotiations. The decision establishes a two year work programme that includes: 1) a review of implementation of all gender-related mandates by the UNFCCC Secretariat; 2) training and awareness raising for delegates on gender-responsive climate policy; 3) training and capacity building for women delegates; 4) two in-session workshops on gender (in relation to mitigation, technology, adaptation & capacity building) at SBI 42&44; 5) submissions by Parties on these workshops; 6) a technical paper by the Secretariat on guidelines for implementing gender considerations in climate change activities; and 7) appointing a senior focal point on gender at the UNFCCC Secretariat.

It is a welcome step in moving beyond words on paper to supporting implementation of gender-responsive climate policies. However, it was not adopted without challenges, with governments trading language on "gender equality" for "gender balance."

In the end, Parties backed down on the language in order to ensure an outcome under the agenda item. Mexico stood out as a sole leader to negotiate for gender equality language to the very end, insisting they would not back down from already agreed language in the UNFCCC decisions. The decision, Lima Gender Work Programme, does now contain two references to gender equality in mandates and language in the preamble.

Under the ADP, the draft elements text for the new Paris agreement has language on gender in the Preamble, and in relation to adaptation, finance and capacity building. Additionally, on the final day of negotiations on the outcome regarding pre-2020 ambition and INDCs, Philippines and Ghana called for a recognition of human rights and women's rights in the outcome, supported by Mexico who called for gender equality, and the inclusion of 'women and youth' as experts in relation to pre-2020 ambition was supported by the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, and Thailand. The final outcome now includes women and youth as experts to be engaged in defining actions with high mitigation potential.

WEDO and its partners will work to ensure progress is achieved with this new decision, and WEDO is committed to a strong outcome on gender equality in the new climate agreement. However, as stated in the release of the Women and Gender Constituency, we insist that a fundamental framework of a strong "rights-based" agreement must be the goal for COP 21 to be held in Paris, France, in 2015. Without gender equality, women's rights, indigenous peoples' rights and climate justice - including financing for loss and damage, a rapid transition to safe and renewable energies, massive commitment and emissions reductions by the developed world, and full participation of those most impacted - the programme of work to be done will be incubated and launched within an empty shell and will do little to support the lives of millions or protect the precious ecosystems upon which we depend for our survival.

[Go to top](#). ++++++

## **7. Women on the Edge of Land and Life**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/11/women-on-the-edge-of-land-and-life/>

**SUNDARBANS, India, Nov 26 2014 (IPS)** - November is the cruelest month for landless families in the Indian Sundarbans, the largest single block of tidal mangrove forest in the world lying primarily in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal.

There is little agricultural wage-work to be found, and the village moneylender's loan remains unpaid, its interest mounting. The paddy harvest is a month away, pushing rice prices to an annual high.

For those like Namita Bera, tasked with procuring 120 kg of rice per month to feed her eight-member family, there is seldom any peace of mind.

That is, until she came together with 12 other women from the poorest households in the Dakshin Shibpur village of the Patharpratima administrative division of West Bengal to insure their families against acute hunger.

Humble women with scant means at their disposal to withstand savage weather changes and national food price fluctuations, they did the only thing that made sense: set up a grain bank under the aegis of their small-savings, self-help group (SHG) known as Mamatamoyi Mahila Dal.

The system is simple: whenever she can afford it, each woman buys 50 kg of low-priced paddy and deposits it into the 'bank', explains Chandrani Das of the Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC), the Kolkata-based non-profit that matches the quantity of grain in a given number of community-based banks.

In this way, "At least one-third of the 75-day lean period becomes manageable," Shyamali Bera, a 35-year-old mother of three, whose husband works as a potato loader at a warehouse in the state's capital, Kolkata, told IPS.

***Refer to the link for the full story.***

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## **8. Reducing the gender asset gap through agricultural development**

<http://www.donorplatform.org/interviews/144-gender-equity-and-youth/1289-ruth-meinzen-dick-on-reducing-the-gender-asset-gap-through-agricultural-development>

IFPRI's senior research fellow Ruth Meinzen-Dick discusses in an in-depth interview with the *Global Donor Platform for Rural Development* how agricultural development projects can understand how men's and women's control of assets will affect project participation and outcomes.

Compared to many other development targets there was a lot of data to support that narrowing the gap between men and women in terms of control over various types of household assets substantially improved agricultural productivity, said Meinzen-Dick.

For long-term poverty reduction, and especially for breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty, gender equality is absolutely critical. Meinzen-Dick, points out that gender-focused interventions are not deterministic 'social engineering,' and that almost all development interventions bring about changes to the fabric of a society.

In retrospect on the role of donors, Meinzen-Dick expressed that some donors deserved a lot of credit, since they had championed gender issues for a long time. That efforts were being donor-driven was not necessarily a bad thing. Donors who championed gender issues had picked up considerable research that showed how important this was for long-term food security and for long-term poverty reduction. These donors created space for women to be involved as co-investors in rural development, producing food for their families, their communities and even for the world.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++



## 9. Newsletter of NSERC Chair for WSE – Prairie Region

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/68cc4adf18fdf7789e424d047/files/Dec\\_2014\\_01.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/68cc4adf18fdf7789e424d047/files/Dec_2014_01.pdf)

The December 2014 newsletter of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (CWSE) for the Prairie region is now available.

Contents include:

- Networking event on September 10, 2014 in Ottawa entitled “Closing the gender gap in science and engineering – an informal dialogue”
- CWSE (Prairies) Hosts Meet and Greet/Mentoring Event
- Engineering IS For Girls –A morning of Information, Discussion and Fun!
- First Annual CREATE H2O Conference
- Indigenous Content in Science.gc.ca Activity Book
- Announcing the MCWESTT 2015 Conference
- Applications for the 2ndAnnual ICAN-WISE Scholarship coming soon!

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 10. Pakistan's women cotton pickers find power in uniting over wages

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/06/us-pakistan-cotton-widerimage-idUSKCN0JJ1KX20141206>

About 74 percent of working women aged 15 and over in Pakistan are employed in agriculture, according to the International Labour Organisation. Illiterate women make up the bulk of the estimated half a million cotton pickers in Pakistan, the world's fourth largest cotton producer, after China, India and the United States, but their working conditions are often poor. Labor activists encouraged rural women to band together and form a united workforce. For example, wages increased from \$2 per day to \$3.50 per day after the strike action.

Global cotton prices have fallen, hitting a five-year low this summer due to slowing demand from China, a glut in the market, and growing popularity of manmade fibers.

Pakistan produces about 13 million bales a year from a world total of about 119 million bales. This year the government has already bought one million bales to try to shore up the price.

*See the link for the full article.*

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## Reports, Publications and Resources

# 1. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Decisions and Conclusions: Existing Mandates and Entry Points for Gender Equality

<http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/GE-Publication-ENG-Interactive.pdf>

This compilation guide highlights a strong foundation for gender-sensitive climate policy, with gender referenced across 32 current decisions related to adaptation, mitigation, technology, finance, capacity building, and loss and damage, as well as current conclusions in agriculture.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 2. Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Teachers and Other Communities

<http://www.col.org/resources/publications/Pages/detail.aspx?PID=493>

The Commonwealth of Learning COL has developed this toolkit to help teachers and teacher educators learn more about gender mainstreaming. This resource explains why gender equality is important to students, teachers, schools, communities and governments. It also explores how teachers, education institutions and other stakeholders can make changes that will help male and female learners participate and succeed in learning programmes.

Although the primary audiences for this toolkit are teachers and teacher educators, it will also provide information useful to other important stakeholders in open and distance learning – parents, communities, non-governmental organizations, and local, regional and national governments.

This toolkit draws on an extensive review of international commitments, reports, case studies and tools. It offers plain-language explanations of important gender issues, and it features tools to help teachers and teacher educators address gender issues and provide a safe and encouraging atmosphere for all students.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 3. Gender and Land Reforms in Pakistan

<http://www.sdpi.org/publications/files/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20P-34aa.pdf>

Women’s land ownership and control have important connections with their empowerment in Pakistan’s agricultural context. However, the link between these has largely remained unexplored; and there has been negligible research to determine how many women own or control land in Pakistan. The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) carried out a multiple pronged research in 2007-09 to fill this knowledge gap and to examine the causality behind women’s land ownership and empowerment. The research focused on women’s rights vis-à-vis the inheritance framework of private agrarian land; and did not encompass private residential or commercial property, neither did it cover other possible means of land acquisition by women like through purchase or as gifts.

The research spanned rural areas across all four provinces of Pakistan, drawing on national laws, existing policies, literature review and field work. The qualitative data was gathered through interviews, surveys, focus group discussions, life histories, narratives and case studies.

This Policy Paper briefly traces the chronological evolution of land organization to examine the context, direction and underlying objectives of state-led land reforms in Pakistan. It does so with a specific focus on the interface of land politics and gender relations, with the understanding that land, among other resources, has been one of the key components for

maintaining patriarchal control of women; that rural women’s lives are intimately connected to land, on which they are direct stakeholders.

The author observes that all the laws related to land reform had a built-in gender bias. The inaccessibility and complexity of the legal requirements and bureaucratic processes further diminished the chances of women claiming and acquiring whatever limited rights they were granted through legal reforms. In conclusion, the author is of the opinion that land reforms in the long term, (especially for women) must be accompanied by deeper structural transformations to achieve any significant change.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 4. Promoting Women’s Participation in Agricultural Research

<http://www.ifpri.org/publication/taking-stock-national-agricultural-rd-capacity-africa-south-sahara>

While the number of female researchers employed in the agricultural research and development (R&D) in Africa south of the Sahara (SSA) has increased substantially in recent years, women are still significantly underrepresented in many countries.

This is one of the findings of a recently released report, *Taking Stock of National Agricultural R&D Capacity in Africa south of the Sahara*, produced by IFPRI’s Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators (ASTI), which summarizes recent progress in the development of the region’s national agricultural research systems.

The new AST report highlights additional human resource and investments challenges to national agricultural research systems as well as provides various successful policy changes already adopted in some SSA countries to address these challenges and which can offer valuable lessons for others.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 5. Beyond 2015 Copenhagen Conference - Equality Statement

<http://www.beyond2015.org/>

In November 2014, the Copenhagen Conference brought together 170 representatives across 46 countries from participating organisations of Beyond 2015, sharing a common vision of an equitable and sustainable world where every person is safe, resilient, lives well, and enjoys their human rights, and where political and economic systems deliver well-being for all people within the limits of our planet’s shared resources.

The campaign discussed the vital importance of achieving equality across all levels and themes of the post-2015 framework, and through implementation and accountability mechanisms addressing all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). The *Beyond 2015 Copenhagen Statement* contains recommendations to contribute to the forthcoming intergovernmental negotiations, and other decision-making processes relevant to the post-2015 agenda, including discussions around the UN Secretary General’s Synthesis Report.

The Beyond 2015 Copenhagen Conference included detailed discussions of eight thematic aspects of inequality in the post-2015 agenda. The recommendations for the post-2015 process arising from each of these thematic discussions can be read in conjunction with *the Beyond 2015 Copenhagen Statement, Equality at the Core: A call for a strong commitment to tackling inequalities through the post-2015 agenda*.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 6. Gender Methods Seminar: Using Cognitive Testing and Vignettes in the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

<https://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2014/12/12/using-cognitive-testing-and-vignettes-in-the-womens-empowerment-in-agriculture-index/#more-2777>

**Abstract:** Presented by Katie Sproule and Chiara Kovarik, this Gender Methods Seminar will focus on lessons learned from two recent field tests done for the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI). Using the qualitative methods of cognitive testing and vignettes, Katie Sproule, Chiara Kovarik and colleagues tested a revised version of the WEAI in Uganda and Bangladesh during the summer of 2014. Cognitive testing is a methodology that allows researchers to systematically identify and correct response error in surveys, while vignettes are hypothetical short stories used to elicit responses on challenging and often abstract topics. This presentation will describe each of these methods in detail, how they were applied to the WEAI, and share some preliminary results and lessons learned. Attendees will learn the benefits and challenges of each methodology, what kind of information each can yield, and practical tips on how to ensure that enumerators and respondents fully understand the questions.

The slides and audio recording of the presentation are available at the link.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++

## 7. 2014 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Gender Equality & Sustainable Development

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2014/10/world-survey-2014>

[http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2014/unwomen\\_surveyreport\\_advance\\_16oct.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2014/unwomen_surveyreport_advance_16oct.pdf)

The World Survey on the Role of Women in Development is a UN Secretary-General report mandated by the Second Committee of the General Assembly and comes out every five years. The 2014 report focuses on gender equality and sustainable development, with chapters on the green economy and care work, food security, population dynamics, and investments for gender-responsive sustainable development.

The report comes at a crucial moment, as the global community grapples with the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals and the emergence of the post-2015 framework. Against this context, World Survey 2014 asserts the central role of gender equality in charting the rationale and the actions necessary to achieve sustainable development.

*The World Survey uses three criteria to assess whether policy actions and investments for sustainable development adequately address gender equality.*

- *Do they support women's capabilities and their enjoyment of rights?*
- *Do they reduce, rather than increase, women's unpaid care work?*
- *And do they embrace women's equal and meaningful participation as actors, leaders and decision-makers?*

It offers a comprehensive set of recommendations for gender-responsive policy actions and investments towards sustainable development overall, as well as for the selected areas which the World Survey emphasizes.

[Go to top.](#) ++++++