

GEM of the Month for June 2010



Apple blossoms in May in Manitoba, Canada.
Photo courtesy of Cindy Murray.

Thanks for your contributions to this month's news digest from the perspective of AIC members.

If you have information or articles to share about gender equality mainstreaming, within your scientific organizations, gender and climate change, or gender equality and agriculture/rural development, please send them to me at Dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile them to re-distribute once a month.

Best wishes,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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UNESCO-L'OREAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme for Young Women in Life Sciences

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=44170&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Closing date for receipt of applications: 30 June 2010

Within the framework of the UNESCO Co-Sponsored Fellowships Scheme, a joint programme has been launched with the L'ORÉAL Corporate Foundation with a view to promoting the contribution of young women - from all over the world – in research developments in the field of life sciences.

The programme is designed to identify and reward fifteen deserving, committed and talented young women scientists, from all over the world, active in the field of life sciences. With a view to ensuring that a balanced geographical representation is made, a maximum of three young women, from each of the five geo-cultural regions of the world, will be awarded fellowships.

Candidates must already be engaged in pursuing research at the doctoral or post-doctoral level in one or allied fields of life sciences including biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, agriculture, medicine, pharmacy and physiology. Projects involving animal models (i.e. experimentation using vertebrate laboratory animals) are rejected, and proposals in the area of cosmetics research are NOT encouraged; preference is given to non cosmetic researches.

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Database: World Bank Frees Up Development Data

The World Bank Group now offers free access to more than 2,000 financial, business, health, economic and human development statistics (including ones on gender) that had mostly been available only to paying subscribers. This effort will

allow access to data and information from the World Bank's databases. For more information, visit the website: data.worldbank.org.
See Topics like Agriculture and Rural Development at <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/agriculture-and-rural-development>
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New Oxfam Publications Website

Oxfam has relaunched its Publications website at www.oxfam.org.uk/publications. The site provides free access to over 2,000 policy, research, and programme learning resources including all articles from the journal Gender & Development and related book series.
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Journal: Gender & Development focuses on Water

<http://www.genderanddevelopment.org/current.asp?&>

Gender & Development is the only journal published to focus specifically on international gender and development issues, and to explore the connections between gender and development initiatives, and feminist perspectives. The latest issue is Volume 18:1, March 2010: *Water*.
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Women's aid group loses federal funding

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/ottawa/story/2010/05/04/ottawa-match-international.html>

An Ottawa-based aid organization that supports women's rights in the developing world has had all its federal funding cut.

Match International has relied on government funding for 34 years to support programs that help women gain leadership skills and start their own businesses in countries such as Ghana, Mali and Tanzania. The group also works to prevent violence against women and female genital mutilation.

The non-profit organization has been getting about \$400,000 a year — about 75 per cent of its budget — from the federal Canadian International Development Agency. The rest comes largely from charitable donations. See the link for the rest of the article.
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Politicizing, undermining gender equality

By Betty Plewes and Joanna Kerr in Embassy

<http://www.embassymag.ca/page/view/equality-05-05-2010>

“How is it that a G8 program to promote the health of women and children in poor countries, a goal which every serious person would support, has become such a divisive discussion in Canada? To answer that, we need to step back and look at what is happening in the area of women's rights in Canada's international programs. “
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Female academics 'discouraged' after women shut out of funding

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/Female+academics+discouraged+after+women+shut+funding/3045365/story.html>

Industry Minister Tony Clement announced the first 19 Canada excellence research chairs Monday (May 17, 2010), which bring world-renowned scientists to Canadian universities in order to lead research programs in fields ranging from biology to computer technology to the Arctic. But on the gender-equity scorecard: Men 19, Women 0.... A spokesman for Clement said the absence of women on the winner's list was very quickly noted by the minister, leading Clement to immediately appoint an ad-hoc panel to find out why. Erik Waddell said the panel found the lack of women was not due to active

exclusion of female candidates by the proposal review committee, but rather it was a function of the fact none of the universities actually submitted any female candidates to choose from.

Forty-one Canadian universities had initially submitted 130 proposals to establish CERC programs. Forty of them were shortlisted and then invited to submit specific candidates for the chair positions. None of the 40 candidates put forth by 17 Canadian universities were women.

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International Fund for Women and Girls: Climate Change

<http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/womensfund/>

The US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently launched the Global Fund for Women and Girls. It is a State Department-led privately-funded initiative committed to providing flexible, rapid, targeted, and high-impact grants to nongovernmental organizations working to meet the critical needs of women and girls around the world. Climate change is one of the topic areas being funded. <http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/rls/other/2010/140805.htm>

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Cultivating Global Food Security: A Strategy for U.S. Leadership on Productivity, Agricultural Research, and Trade

<http://csis.org/publication/cultivating-global-food-security>

These recommendations from leaders in government, business, academia, and the nongovernmental and philanthropy communities emphasize the importance of U.S. leadership and commitment to improving food security and making agriculture a priority for broader U.S. development efforts. This report provides insights and policy initiatives on three main pillars for achieving long-term global food security: boosting agricultural productivity, especially in developing countries; strategically investing in agricultural research and development to increase productivity; and energizing the trade agenda to play a strong role in improving food security

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Women in Asia on Climate Change

<http://awid-org.sitepreview.ca/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Women-in-Asia-on-Climate-Change>

The “Declaration of Women in Asia on Climate Change” is a result of a women’s training held from 28 to 29 September 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand. Based on the framework of climate justice, the text contains progressive positions even in otherwise still ambiguous and contested issues surrounding climate change. It highlights the central role of women primarily as agents in the fundamental management of communities and the environment.

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The International Research Journal of Agricultural Science

<http://www.Interesjournals.org/IRJAS>

The International Research Journal of Agricultural Science (IRJAS) is a multidisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that will be published monthly by International Research Journals. IRJAS is dedicated to increasing the depth of the subject across disciplines with the ultimate aim of expanding knowledge of the subject.

Call for Research Articles

IRJAS will cover all areas of the subject. The journal welcomes the submission of manuscripts that meet the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence, and will publish:

- Original articles in basic and applied research
- Case studies

- Critical reviews, surveys, opinions, commentaries and essays

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Gender & Climate Change: Two Calls for Papers

Call for Papers 1

<http://www.liu.se/genusforum/Konferens/Gender%2C+Sustainability+%26+Climate+Change?l=en>

1) Linköping, Sweden 25 November 2010

Gender, Sustainability & Climate Change

Chair: Måns S. Andersson. Tema department, Linköping University & Royal Institute of Technology KTH, Stockholm

“The fairly short history of gender and climate change research, activism and politics mainly deals with painting two simplistic images of women. Firstly, it is the image of third world women as vulnerable victims of climate change, deprived of information and means of coping. And in addition, burdened by disproportionate work load and care taking responsibilities, sometimes plagued by a fragile physique resulting in for instance increased mortality rates.

Secondly, it is the image of virtuous, proactive first world women with, as compared to men, greater acceptance for drastic climate change policies and measures, a higher level of policy internalization, skepticism against technical solutions and a higher level of sustainable self sacrificing practicing of the 3 R’s (reduce, reuse, recycle).

Analyses of the available literature show that gender studies, as discipline, is a latecomer to the field. Gender studies has demonstrated a striking inertness when it comes to reacting to the threats posed by global warming, as well as performing empirical studies in first world contexts and possibly also in producing applicable theory. Despite substantial efforts to put gender on the political and scientific agenda regarding climate change very little has happened within academia. What kind of responsibility does gender research institutions have when it comes to producing the much needed academic knowledge regarding gender and global holocaust scenarios and what are the obstacles and possibilities, organizational and theoretical?

The Gender, Sustainability and Climate Change symposia aims at problematizing current positions and in developing knowledge about the gendered processes and motivations regarding societal climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a special focus on first world settings. The session aims at scholars as well as a practitioners and policy makers.

The politics of climate change, gender and development

Call for Papers 2

<http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/devnet/>

2) Uppsala, Sweden 26 November 2010

The politics of climate change, gender and development

Chairs: Rohan DeSousa, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Seema Arora Jonsson, Department of Rural and Urban Studies, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

“Climate change is an environmental concern shared across nations. Different reasons and several solutions have been presented over the years. Recent global understanding has been that the increase in temperatures is anthropogenically generated due to long-term intensive industrial growth and high consumption lifestyles in developed countries. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is based on this understanding. However much it is accepted, the politics of climate change shows that this understanding of responsibilities is not uncontested. Developing countries have managed to bring to the agenda the question of development and link it closely to efforts to ameliorate climate change. A system wherein developing countries are funded to start projects that would mitigate the effects of climate change and contribute to development is an important cornerstone. According to some, the developed world has the technology necessary to take care of this problem and the answer is to get the technology transfer right as well as the economics of carbon trading. We invite papers that explore these areas and deal with the nexus of politics, society and the drive towards carbon trading.

- How do current power relations internationally and within nations play out in the responses to climate change? How do issues of poverty and development figure in these relations?
- What are the gendered dimensions of this politics and how may it entrench inequality or provide possibilities for more equitable relations?
- Do the new changes provide possibilities for a change in thinking on science and especially in terms of other intersecting axes such as class, ethnicity, nationality? How might that be?
- How are standard responses to climate change established? What is the role of science and how does politics make itself felt?"

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Engendering Agricultural Research

Multimedia: Video recording of Ruth Meinzen-Dick, IFPRI's Senior Research Fellow, presenting on 'Engendering Agricultural Research' at the 2010 Global Conferences on Agricultural Research for Development (G CARD) in Montpellier France. <http://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2010/05/07/multimedia-video-recording-of-ruth-meinzen-dick-presenting-on-engendering-agricultural-research/>

A 37 minute YouTube video presentation sponsored by the International Food Policy Research Institute in which agricultural research and development is examined through a gender lens to achieve a gender responsive agricultural system.

OR 22 PowerPoint slides are available at Slideshare <http://www.slideshare.net/IFPRIGender/engendering-agricultural-research>.

The presenter, who has an irrigation background, discusses questions such as "Why pay attention to gender in agriculture?" (profitability and productivity), part of the solution (land tenure systems, extension support, technological resources, finances, food security, reducing poverty through empowerment, hunger index), new models for integrating gender in agricultural research and development (who conducts research, why it matters, enabling processes), natural resource management, kitchen gardens/high value production, post-harvest processing, supporting policies and key components (political will including finances, technical capacity, accountability mechanisms, organizational culture).

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Female Participation in African Agricultural Research and Higher Education: New Insights

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00957.pdf>

A 60 page discussion paper published by the International Food Policy Research Institute in March 2010.

A shorter (6 page) version from July 2009 is available at the following website

<http://www.asti.cgiar.org/pdf/ASTI-AWARD-brief.pdf>

"Female farmers play a vital role in African agriculture, accounting for the majority of the agricultural workforce. However, agricultural research and higher education are disproportionately led by men. There is an urgent need for greater representation of women in the field of agricultural science and technology (S&T) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Female scientists, professors, and senior managers offer different insights and perspectives to help research institutes to more fully address the unique and pressing challenges of both female and male farmers in the region. Gender-disaggregated data on S&T capacity are scarce, often lack sufficient detail, and focus more generally on S&T rather than on agriculture specifically. This report presents the results of an in-depth benchmarking survey on gender-disaggregated capacity indicators, covering 125 agricultural research and higher education agencies in 15 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This is the first study of its kind to present detailed human resources data on female participation in agricultural science, the main findings of which include the following:

1. Total capacity in terms of the professional staff employed at the agricultural research and higher education agencies included in this study increased by 20 percent between 2000/01 and 2007/08, and women constituted almost half of this capacity increase.
2. The female population of professional staff grew by eight percent per year on average, which is four times higher than the comparable rate of increase for the male population, indicating that the gender gap in African agricultural sciences is closing.
3. The proportion of female professional staff employed at the sample agricultural research and higher education agencies increased from 18 percent in 2000/01 to 24 percent in 2007/08, but fewer women have advanced degrees compared to their male colleagues. In 2007/08, for example, 27 percent of the sample's professional women held PhD degrees compared with 37 percent of the sample's professional men.
4. Of concern, about two-thirds of the overall (female and male) capacity increase comprised staff holding only BSc degrees, indicating that the overall quality of capacity in agricultural research and higher education is declining in some Sub-Saharan African countries. Notably, the total number of male professional staff trained to the MSc level declined between 2000/01 and 2007/08; however, more in-depth analysis is needed to explain the underlying causes of these shifts and to what degree they represent structural changes.
5. Levels of female participation in agricultural research and higher education among the sample agencies were particularly low in Ethiopia (6 percent), Togo (9 percent), Niger (10 percent), and Burkina Faso (12 percent). Shares of female professional staff were much higher in South Africa, Mozambique, and Botswana (32, 35, and 41 percent, respectively).
6. The female share of students enrolled in higher agricultural education was higher than the female shares of professional staff employed at the agricultural research and higher education agencies in most cases, but a significant proportion of the female students concerned were undertaking only BSc-level studies (83 percent).
7. Only 14 percent of the management positions were held by women, which is considerably lower than the share of female professional staff employed at the sample's agricultural research and higher education agencies (24 percent).
8. The pool of female staff is much younger on average than the pool of male staff.
9. The prevalence of female professional staff is comparatively higher in fields related to life and social sciences, and comparatively lower in fields involving areas traditionally thought of as "hard science", such as engineering."

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Global Research Report: Africa

<http://researchanalytics.thomsonreuters.com/m/pdfs/globalresearchreport-africa.pdf>

This report (12 pages) provides an introduction to patterns of research activity in Africa. Its overall finding is that, whilst the volume of research activity on the continent as a whole remains small, individual countries are making notable and effective contributions of a high standard.

The challenges that Africa faces are enormous and indigenous research could help provide both effective and focused responses. This research finds little correlation between the amount and range of resources a country has at its disposal and the standard and volume of its research contributions.

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Gender and Food Policy News

<http://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/>

Welcome to the Gender and Food Policy Blog, facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This blog is a space to share announcements, news items, multimedia, research tools, resources and links to publications on the topic of gender and food policy.

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Women in Food Industry Management

<http://www.wfim.ca/site2/>

Women in Food Industry Management is dedicated to supporting professionals to become The Best Women at the Table by encouraging advancement through networking and executive development. This includes events such as:

- Academy Round Table
- Leadership Speaker Series
- Mentorship Program Networking Events

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Women in Agriculture

http://www.altalexports.com/women_in_agriculture.pdf

This article highlights the careers of three women in Canada influencing agriculture on local, national and international scales. They work for the advancement of the industry, efficient delivery of agricultural products, clean environment and succession planning.

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Gender and Environment

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

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources a list of articles on gender and environment, and has a link to a 262 page training manual on Gender and Climate Change that was published in March 2009 at http://www.generoyambiente.org/archivos-de-usuario/File/ecosistemas_especificos.pdf.

Module 1: Gender and gender mainstreaming

Module 2: International law instruments as a framework for mainstreaming gender in climate change

Module 3: Overview of gender issues and climate change

Module 4: Gender mainstreaming in adaptation efforts

Module 5: Gender-sensitive strategies for mitigation actions

Module 6: Gender sensitive strategies on technology development and transfer to support actions on mitigation and adaptation.

Module 7: Gender mainstreaming in climate change financing mechanisms

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Gender differences in non-land agricultural inputs, technology and services

A review of empirical evidence on gender differences in non-land agricultural inputs, technology and services in developing countries

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp00975.pdf>

This IFPRI Discussion Paper [48 pages] reviews existing microeconomic empirical literature on gender differences in use, access, and adoption of nonland agricultural inputs in developing countries. This review focuses on four key areas: (1) technological resources, (2) natural resources, (3) human resources, and (4) social and political capital. In general, there has been more empirical research on inorganic fertilizer, seed varieties, extension services, and group membership than on tools and mechanization, life-cycle effects, and political participation. Across input areas, generally men have higher input measures than women; however, this finding is often sensitive to the use of models that control for other background factors, as well as the type of gender indicator implemented in the analysis. We find few studies that meet our inclusion criteria outside Sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, future directions, opportunities, and recommendations for microeconomic gender analysis of nonland agricultural inputs are discussed

See <http://www.slideshare.net/IPPRIGender/peterman-et-al-gender-differences-in-non-land-assets> for a slideshare PowerPoint presentation from FAO's State of Food and Agricultural (SOFA) Writers Workshop in Rome in September 2009. It includes some ideas on measuring of gender indicators.

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Women Marginal Farmers – Mobilising for Change

http://www.concern.net/sites/concern.net/files/resource/2010/03/4356-mobilising_for_change.pdf

“When Concern Worldwide (UK) launched its Unheard Voices campaign in late 2007, the focus was on highlighting the needs of marginal farmers – those whom we define as ‘farming yet hungry’. The majority of these marginal farmers are women and more recently we have shifted our attention to the specific challenges and needs of women marginal farmers. Recently our focus has been on highlighting the fact that women play a vital, but often ignored, role in addressing hunger.

The introduction of this 20 page paper (chapter 2) outlines some of the key constraints to women marginal farmers self-organising or joining pre-existing groups. This paper then goes on to draw together a number of examples of poor women farmers organising themselves successfully and ways that support mechanisms have reached out to include poor women farmers. This paper does not seek to be comprehensive but instead provides a snapshot – documenting examples from Asia and Africa in order to learn from their experiences of appropriate ways of providing support to poor women farmers. Finally, using lessons from the case studies this paper draws out five practical steps in reaching and supporting women marginal farmers:

- 1) take the lead from women marginal farmers themselves in helping build their networks and groups,
- 2) promote alliances and external links,
- 3) organising needs based training workshops and regular meetings,
- 4) developing flexible and innovative approaches tailored to specific needs and circumstances and
- 5) recognise, support and hear voices of women marginal farmers.

We believe these can help influence effective and inclusive programming.”

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'Small Farmers Big Solutions'

Multimedia: ICRW's Senior Gender and Agriculture Specialist David Kauck on 'Small Farmers Big Solutions'

<http://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2010/05/17/multimedia-icrws-senior-gender-and-agriculture-specialist-david-kauck-on-small-farmers-big-solutions/>

A short video from the International Centre for Research on Women.

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Gender Justice Summit

<http://www.oxfam.ca/what-we-do/campaigns/g8-g20-summits-2010/gender-justice-summit-2010/>

June 18-20, 2010 Toronto, Canada

This energizing summit will bring together a diverse community of Oxfam supporters, academics, advocates, researchers, policy-makers, and activists from around the world to discuss poverty and development as it relates to women. It is a unique opportunity to strengthen connections while collaborating on approaches to advancing women's rights, women's empowerment, and gender equality. The themes of the summit will include gender based violence, maternal health, poverty, security, climate change, food security and more.

The GJS is Oxfam Canada's tri-annual National Assembly, including members from across Canada to be part of a dialogue about Oxfam campaigns, program, strategic directions and role in a global movement for change. It will also be connected with the People's Summit, taking place at Ryerson University June 19/20.

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