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Member of Mama Maji (*Women and Water*) agricultural production group, with child, at Lubuga, Tanzania. *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 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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Calendar

March 8: International Women's Day.
The global theme for 2012 is *CONNECTING GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES.*



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Opportunities

1. AIC Honours & Awards

<http://www.aic.ca/about/awards.cfm>

AIC honours individuals and organizations that have made a significant contribution to agriculture in Canada and internationally. Nominations for our Fellowship, Sustainable Futures, and International Recognition Awards are invited before the deadline of **March 31, 2012**.

AIC Fellowship

- AIC's highest honour, the title of Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada recognizes an individual AIC member who has made a distinguished contribution to Canadian agriculture through contributions to building scientific capacity for societal good, integration and collaboration between disciplines and sectors, and communications

Sustainable Futures Award

- The Sustainable Futures Award recognizes imminent leaders - young men and women who are advancing and applying innovative scientific knowledge on the sustainable use of agricultural resources for societal good.

International Recognition Award

- The International Recognition Award honours individuals and organization who have made outstanding contributions to the improvement of agriculture in the Developing World.

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2. PHE Ethiopia Consortium online forum “Women, our agents of climate change adaptation”

<http://www.phe-ethiopia.org/>

Population, health and environment (PHE) interventions in Ethiopia are a holistic, participatory development approach whereby issues of environment, health and population are addressed in an integrated manner for improved livelihoods and sustainable well-being of people and ecosystems.

Population: Family Planning (Birth Spacing, limiting births, emergency contraception, adolescent sexual and Reproductive Health, etc.)

Health: HIV/AIDS, ARI Prevention, water and sanitation, malaria prevention, primary health care, child survival, etc.

Environment: Environmental conservation, natural resources management (NRM).

PHE Ethiopia Consortium will be hosting its second online forum entitled “Women, our agents of climate change adaptation”. We would like to invite you to yet another stimulating forum which will take place between **March 7 to9, 2012 to mark the International Women's Day celebrations.**

In the last online forum, participants had vibrant discussions on population and climate change where they learned about the need to integrate population issues into climate change adaptation policies and activities. They shared personal experiences with population and climate change adaptation and also shared with us how their organizations were integrating these issues. This time our online forum will be focusing on thought provoking themes related to gender and climate change adaptation against the backdrop of PHE integration.

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3. Next call for applications for AWARD Fellowships set for August 2012

<http://www.awardfellowships.org/news-and-events/award-news/336-next-call-for-applications-for-award-fellowships-set-for-august-2012.html>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is planning its second phase of fellowships for African women in agricultural research. Pending approval of its Phase II grants, AWARD anticipates the following schedule.

- Early August: Call for applications for the 2013 AWARD Fellowships to be announced
- Late September: Application deadline
- October/November: Applications shortlisted and references checked
- December: AWARD Steering Committee selects and announces winners

- February 2013: Two-year fellowship activities begin

African women agricultural scientists in AWARD demonstrate that you can juggle a science career and motherhood:

- 65% of AWARD Fellows are mothers
- 31% of AWARD Fellows have three or more children
- 13% of AWARD Fellows gave birth during their two-year fellowship

AWARD has family-friendly policies that enable fellows who are nursing mothers to bring their babies to AWARD events.

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4. Webinars: Equity-Focused Evaluations

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

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

Some upcoming sessions:

- **March 15, 2012:** Rodney HOPSON of Duquesne University and Katrina BLEDSOE, Education Development Center, Washington on *Cultural Responsiveness in Equity-focused Evaluations*
- **March 2012:** Bradley COUSINS, University of Ottawa. *Evaluations in marginalized communities influencing national policies. The case of Aboriginal communities in Canada.*

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5. Human Rights and Gender Issues at U of M

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/about/vc/>

The University of Manitoba has launched a new speaker series. Visionary Conversations speaker series will continue throughout the year. Please join President and Vice-Chancellor David T. Barnard and the university community for these themed events:

April 11 – Human Rights and Gender Issues

June 13 – The Food we Eat

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This Month’s News

1. Nuffield Canada Announces 2012 Scholars

<http://nuffield.ca/>

The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust has announced their 2012 recipients - Ryan Bonnett from Alberta, Crosby Devitt from Ontario and Brenda Schoepp from Alberta.

Of particular note:

Brenda Schoepp owns and publishes BEEFLINK TM, a national newsletter on the strategies of beef and beef cattle marketing and has co-authored beef cattle marketing and feedlot production publications in Western Canada. Brenda is known as an industry mentor for youth and new entrants to agriculture and coaches corporate executives in production agriculture, research and agribusiness. ***Brenda will study the needs and successes of women in agriculture and agribusiness and use this information towards the implementation of a Canadian mentorship model for women in agriculture.***

Nuffield scholarships of \$15,000 each are awarded to men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industries and their communities through the doors which will be opened and the opportunities provided. Scholars are able to access the best production, management and marketing systems in every corner of the world. In addition to embracing the 'world's best' in agriculture, scholars gain life-long friends around the world, and a deep understanding, and global perspective of the politics, cultures and challenges of world agriculture.

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2. Remarks on Gender Equity and Sustainable Development

<http://boell.org/web/index-Merlanne-Verveer-Gender-Equity-Sustainable-Development.html>, Key note address by The Honorable Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues at the U.S. Department of State

Conference report, http://boell.org/downloads/GenderEquity_and_SustDevelopment_Boell_ConferenceSummaryReport.pdf

Today, prospects for sustainable development remain a serious challenge as our global economy, our natural environment, our social well-being, and our political structures are in crisis. From the economy to climate change to food and agriculture, systems of governance are in disarray. Everyone is struggling more intensely in today's world – particularly women and girls. The bottom line is that gender equity and sustainable development go hand in hand. The question for us now is: how can we make it happen?

On January 19, 2012, the Heinrich Böll Foundation North America and co-organizing partners Oxfam, ActionAid USA, Gender Action and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy tackled this question in a one day conference on gender equity and sustainable development.

Four roundtables provided a gendered analysis of global governance processes, the global economy, the world's food and agriculture system and climate change respectively. The conference focused on identifying remaining challenges, sketching out solutions and recommending necessary actions to achieve immediate and long-term results in order to make gender equity and sustainable development a reality.

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3. Despite Rhetoric, Women Still Sidelined in Development Funding

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=106663>

WASHINGTON, Feb 6, 2012 (IPS) - As U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro once put it, "Women hold the keys to unlocking the barriers to sustainable development." Women play essential roles in the global economy, agriculture and development. But while the rhetoric regarding the importance of women's inclusion in development projects has peaked in recent years, actual gender-inclusion in investment projects often fails to walk the talk.

The main challenges facing sustainable development in the future are gender inequality, climate change, natural resource degradation and the global recession, said Melanne Verveer, U.S. Department of State ambassador-at-large for global

women's issues, at a recent conference on gender equity and sustainable development. "No effort to advance sustainable development will succeed that does not take into account half of the world's population," she said. "Women have long been promoting solutions to sustainable development challenges. They've been promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, protecting biodiversity and vital ecosystems, securing water access, and combating indoor air pollution."

According to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), women are responsible for half of the world's food production. And they continue to bear most of the responsibilities at home, from caring for children to providing meals. Therefore, women's participation is vital to the success of sustainable development projects.

However, while acknowledging the importance of gender equality for development, the World Bank and other international financial institutions (IFIs) continue to make gender-insensitive decisions, Elaine Zuckerman, the head of Gender Action, told IPS. "A lot of people propose gender equality, women's rights, women's empowerment, but then when you look at what is budgetised, where the funds go, there is a huge disconnect. I think it's critical to translate the rhetoric into investments... A lot of IFI staff don't still, but those who do often speak in a vacuum," Zuckerman told IPS.

IFIs still view gender as a "soft issue", Elizabeth Arend, programmes coordinator for Gender Action, told IPS. In 2011, while the World Bank's World Development Report (WDR) highlighted gender issues, the Bank's budget for "social development, gender and inclusion" investments decreased to 908 million dollars from 952 million in 2010. The Bank's spending in this thematic category represents less than two percent of its 2011 budget, Arend noted.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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4. Women Farmers Feed The World

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/peace-justice/women-farmers-feed-the-world>

In West Africa, women's resistance to the new Green Revolution shows that the question of agricultural sustainability is also a question of equality.

It's harvest season in Burkina Faso. Throughout the West African nation's rural regions, small farmers—mostly women—are harvesting millet, rice, and sorghum to feed large families. After a full day gathering grains, each wife will continue the work, tending her own small garden to feed her children.

The harvest marks the end of the "lean season," the dangerous months after the year's food supply has dwindled and the next crops have not yet arrived—a time that leaves many women foraging for their children.

West Africa—and much of the rest of the world—is facing a food crisis. Nearly one billion people are hungry, according to the World Hunger Education Service, and farmers throughout the Global South are experiencing escalating anxiety over the appropriation and control of land, seeds, and farming techniques by foreign governments and corporations—manifested in "land-grabbing," seed monopolization, genetic modification, and the imposition of high-tech, water-, chemical-, and energy-intensive monocrops.

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is a Gates Foundation-funded initiative based in Nairobi and spearheaded by Kofi Annan, former secretary general of the U.N. It's a multimillion-dollar project that seeks to increase food production in Africa by implementing vigorous Western-style agricultural techniques, promising high-yield results for food-insecure populations.

According to the Gates Foundation and other supporters, it's an African-led endeavour, modelled on the previous Green Revolutions of Latin America and the Indian sub-continent but placed in the hands of Africans. It sounds like a good idea.

But a growing movement of local farmers—largely led by women—argue that the surest path to food security is securing food sovereignty. It's a concept that was put forward in the early 90's by Via Campesina, an international alliance of peasant, indigenous, and women's organizations that advocates for communities' control over how food is produced, and who gets to eat it.

The original Green Revolution, beginning in the 1940's, pushed widespread use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and equipment whose expense was out of reach for most peasant farmers. Critics point out that years of water-intensive farming has depleted water tables, while increased use of chemicals has severely damaged soil in some areas. And while new seeds and tools may bring higher production in the short term, many Africans fear the consolidated control corporations exercise over the food supply, the precarious dependence on large amounts of water and energy inputs, and the environmental toll such methods may eventually take.

The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), sponsored by the U.N. and published in 2009, found that the adoption of agrochemicals and monocropping, among other technologies, have harmed more than the land. They've also hurt local communities and economies, benefiting transnational corporations with "near-total control" of food production.

Marcia Ishii-Eiteman, lead author of the IAASTD report, emphasizes instead the importance of agro ecological farming, an approach that supports localized farming and draws on traditional agricultural knowledge. It not only considers productivity, sustainability, and resilience, but also equity.

This is good news for women. Women, according to Ishii-Eiteman, make up a huge percentage of the world's small food producers (who, she says, together grow about 70 percent of the food supply). They do the most to get food on the table, and they're usually the last to eat it.

Fatou Batta works with Groundswell International, an organization which partners with small-farmer groups across the world, including in Burkina Faso. She's helping to lead a broad grassroots alliance that shows that small farmers, and especially women, can feed the world if we give them the resources to control their food, and the right to eat it too.

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5. Dually Successful

http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/newsletter/GD_news.asp

The CGIAR Gender & Diversity newsletter this month focuses on women who are agricultural scientists and mothers. What strategies can they use, and what can be done in the workplace so that they can succeed in both domains?

a. Successful women scientists: how did they do it?

<http://www.scidev.net/en/features/successful-women-scientists-how-did-they-do-it--1.html>

Women from Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru and the Philippines tell SciDev.Net how they realized their dreams of careers in science. Marriage, motherhood and poverty emerge as common obstacles. But, as the women tell their stories, there are common ingredients for success: ***personal ambition; determined mothers who overcame the odds to ensure their daughters were educated; and supportive husbands later in life.***

b. Mothers at the top

<http://psycnet.apa.org/journals/amp/65/3/182/>

How do women rise to the top of their professions when they also have significant family care responsibilities? This critical question has not been addressed by existing models of leadership. Interviewing 62 successful women leaders in China, Hong Kong and the USA in their recent research, Fanny Cheung and Diane Halpern asked ***what successful women did to advance their careers while managing family life.***

c. 10 ways to beat the mommy track

<http://diversity-executive.com/articles/view/10-ways-to-beat-the-mommy-track>

A pregnancy announcement by a valued colleague presents an opportunity for an organization to establish itself as a ***family-friendly workplace.*** Thoughtful maternity policies can mean the difference between retaining or losing a valued employee. From *Diversity Executive.*

d. Mothers in Science: 64 ways to have it all

http://royalsociety.org/uploadedFiles/Royal_Society_Content/about-us/equality/2011-06-15-Mothers-in-Science.pdf

From the UK, 64 mothers in science exemplify 64 different ways of combining motherhood with a successful career in science. ***Strategies include having children early, or late, flexible working patterns, great time management skills, or taking a career break.*** There is no one size fits all for success.

e. Flexible workplace

<http://www.genderdiversity.cgiar.org/inclusiveworkplace/opportunity/flexible/intro.htm>

G&D's ***inclusive workplace offers model policies*** for allowing parents - mothers and fathers - to work flexibly so that they can successfully combine both work and childcare.

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6. A Feminist View Of The Fourth High Level Forum On Aid Effectiveness

<http://awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/A-Feminist-View-of-the-Fourth-High-Level-Forum-on-Aid-Effectiveness>

The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) which took place in Busan, Korea, from 29th November to 1st December 2011 saw some progress being made in the aid and development effectiveness process but there are still a number of outstanding concerns.

For the first time this HLF included Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as a formal stakeholder group, and a CSO Sherpa who was part of the negotiations. About 300 CSOs formed part of the approximately 3000 delegates who came together at the official HLF-4, including ministers and heads of international organizations. The outcome was the negotiated Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation. While the new partnership was welcomed by CSOs, the Busan Outcome Document (BOD) was received with mixed feelings and has received criticism.

An excerpt from the article:

The Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development

Another important discussion, especially for gender equality and women's rights advocates, that took place during the CSO pre-meetings and during HLF-4 was the Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development – initiated by the Korean and United States (U.S.) governments. The action plan received criticism from women's groups present in Busan who did not endorse the draft action plan in its current form.

In their position paper, women's groups recognized the effort of the Korean and U.S. Governments to produce the action plan also recognizing the efforts of the Korean Government to promote gender equality as a central principle of the HLF-4 and the BOD. They also welcomed any efforts by states to increase funding to women's rights and empowerment and urged governments to make substantial financial commitments to the advancement of women's rights. But they were not able to endorse the action plan in its form, as it did not sufficiently promote the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and substantive equality. Furthermore, women's groups were particularly concerned about the plan's narrow focus on developing economies rather than on women's full enjoyment of their rights. This remains an ongoing process and a consultation will be held on the implementation of the plan at this year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

What next?

It remains imperative for women's rights and gender equality advocates to continue advocating for a shift in the dominant development discourse towards an inclusive, sustainable, and just paradigm that recognizes and values reproductive and care work, promotes decent work and promotes the empowerment of women and girls and human rights for all.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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7. Consumer-Assisted Plants, Produce

<http://www.agprofessional.com/newsletters/agpro-weekly/articles/Consumer-assisted-plants-produce-138325874.html>

American Seed Trade Association in *AgProfessional*, January 30, 2012

A University of Florida professor collaborates across academic disciplines to measure consumer preferences to different flowers, fruits and vegetables with the goal of developing plants designed for the consumers' pleasure. David Clark, professor of floriculture biotechnology, explained this concept - called consumer-assisted selection - to attendees at the American Seed Trade Association's 51st Vegetable & Flower Seed Conference in Tampa, Fla. "Many times corporations start with research and development and usually don't put the consumer first," Clark says. "We are putting the consumer first and engaging the complete value chain."

Consumer-assisted selection is making products that people want before they know they want them, Clark explains. It's exactly what Apple did with the iPhone, he notes. Diversity is characteristic of the flower, fruit and vegetable industries. "Consumers have lots of options available," he says. "Imagine walking into these sections of a store. There is sight, smell and feeling - all of which go into the biosenses."

In describing the consumer, he said 70 - 75 percent of flowers are bought by women and that women influence 50 percent of the purchasing decisions for a household. "More than half of the fruits and vegetables are bought by women," Clark says. "If you Google search for images of people buying produce, all the images show women." The disconnect, he says, is that the

majority of plants are developed and grown by men. "Google search plant breeder and almost all the images depict men," Clark says. "There is a big problem here."

"Men have one switch - on and off, while women have multiple switches, dials and levers. Men are very simple and women are very complex." Most new crops are commercially developed for their yield characteristics and timing of harvest. These characteristics are easy to measure and easy to predict, but these are not the same characteristics that consumers use to make their purchasing decisions, he says. Clark asks, "How do we as plant breeders (men) find out what consumers (women) really want?"

This is what Campbell's cross-disciplinary team of researchers is trying to figure out. His team is comprised of specialists in consumer science, plant science, and psychophysics. Psychophysics quantifies the relationship between physical stimuli and the sensations and perceptions they effect (behaviour and emotions).

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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8. Frances Moore Lappé: Food scarcity is a dangerous myth

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/news/Food+scarcity+dangerous+myth/6033424/story.html#ixzz1m2DeZApC>

Frances Moore Lappé, famed author of *Diet for a Small Planet*, spoke in Toronto and Ottawa on January 31 and February 1st (thanks to USC Canada). She is out to help society question some assumptions that threaten our world. One of the myths she continues to target is food scarcity:

"The world food supply comes to nearly 3,000 calories each day for every person on Earth, enough to make us all chubby. The scarcity frame is not just factually wrong, it's dangerous."

Lappé asks us all to question the democracy of food production and distribution—questions to consider in a world of cheap food. Her new book *EcoMind* will tell us what else she's thinking about.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Baseline Surveys – Households and Villages

http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/resources/baseline-surveys?utm_source=AgClim+Letters+and+Announcements&utm_campaign=1c2f3eaaec-AgClim_Letters_Feb_2012&utm_medium=email

Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Consortium Research Program is engaged in conducting baseline surveys at the household, village and organizational levels across three target regions. The challenge is to design tools and instruments that adhere to the highest quality standards in data collection in order to allow for cross-site comparisons to be made.

In 2010 and 2011, a set of 30 sites was selected for baseline survey implementation. It is explicitly recognized that this initial set of sites may be augmented over time (as new priorities and opportunities emerge), that some sites may receive more attention than others, and it is possible that some sites may be phased out (if priorities change over time). Additional sites and partners will be added as research priorities for CCAFS are co-developed with local and regional partners. Beyond the

baseline surveys undertaken in each of the 30 sites, work is underway defining 'climate analogues' – areas where the projected climate in 2030 matches the current climate at each site.

The plan is to revisit these households and villages after roughly 5 years, and again in 10 years, to monitor what changes have occurred since the baseline survey was carried out. The goal is not to attribute these changes to CCAFS, as multiple partners and interventions are already underway in these sites, but to be able to assess what kinds of changes have occurred and whether these changes are helping households adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.

- **Household** baseline materials include questionnaires, implementation and training manuals as well as data entry and analysis systems, as well as reports from the benchmark sites.
- **Village** baseline materials include field manuals; implementation guide; study and report templates; and terms of reference. Site reports will become available in mid-2012.

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2. Report: The Future We Want. A Feminist Perspective

<http://e2ma.net/go/11626721736/4179247/113433889/15508/goto:http://boell.org/web/index-Christa-Wichterich-Future-We-Want-Feminist-Perspective.html>

The multiple crises – the financial crash, hunger, climate change and resource scarcity – demonstrate emphatically that neoliberal market globalization cannot fulfill its promises: namely to bring about the optimal allocation of resources on the entire planet and thus be a win-win game for all. This also implies the failure of the concept of sustainability put forward at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. That concept was optimistic about the compatibility of economic growth, resource protection and social justice. The United Nations has proposed a Global Green New Deal based on a Green Economy, as the new guiding principle for the Rio+20 Conference. This is its effort to salvage the concept of sustainability, which has lost credibility. The Green Economy seeks to point a way out of the financial, climate and energy crisis and simultaneously make the connection to the Millennium Development Goals and poverty alleviation.

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3. Technologies for climate change adaptation (agriculture sector)

Locate at http://www.nri.org/publications/climate_publications.htm

Authors: Zhu,X.; Clements,R.; Hagggar,J. Produced by: United Nations [UN] Environment Programme (2011)

The agriculture sector faces the challenge of providing adequate food to a growing world population. There is limited scope to expand arable land, and unpredictable weather, floods, and other disastrous events make food production even more challenging. This guidebook provides information on 22 technologies and options for adapting to climate change in the agriculture sector. It describes what policy makers, development planners, agriculture experts and other stakeholders in countries should consider while determining a technology development path in agriculture.

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4. Gender and agricultural value chains – a review of current knowledge and practice and their policy implications

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/am310e/am310e00.pdf>

Abstract:

This paper introduces value chain analysis and development as tools for addressing gender inequities in markets. We describe how factors such as access to assets, gendered education differentials and the nature and value of economic activities affect the way in which men and women participate and gain in value chains, distinguishing among household, institutional and chain levels of analysis. Current empirical evidence for the role of upgrading in value chains in impacting gender inequities in markets is weakened by our as yet imperfect understanding of the issues. However, horizontal coordination can reduce gender-related disparities in bargaining and management power as a precursor to stronger vertical relationships. Improvements in processes, products and functional distribution in value chains can improve chain-level outcomes leading to women's empowerment and, ultimately, to improved household poverty outcomes. However, this progression from positive impacts to desirable outcomes is not a given and depends on often complex context-specific socio-cultural norms. In particular, the benefits of women's participation in agricultural value chains are determined by their control of productive resources and household level decisions. Where both sexes play a role in decision making generic interventions, or even those applied to men only, can benefit both sexes. Where women do not participate in spending decisions a more gender-specific approach that targets underlying gender issues in households and institutions is required. We illustrate that unsound gender analyses can miss the point, resulting in flawed understanding of the real issues and ineffective or even damaging interventions. We conclude that the universal application of packages of generic 'default' interventions risk doing harm and that upgrading strategies should be applied on a case by case basis and only after a thorough and robust analysis of causal factors. We outline for practitioners what a robust analysis should look like and present a menu of policy options for acting to promote gender equity and reduce poverty using the value chain analysis and development approach.

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5. Improving nutrition with agricultural biodiversity

[http://www.bioversityinternational.org/index.php?id=19&user_bioversitypublications_pi1\[showUId\]=5357](http://www.bioversityinternational.org/index.php?id=19&user_bioversitypublications_pi1[showUId]=5357)

This guide, produced by Bioversity International, describes the process and procedures for collecting important information required to assess local farming systems and agro biodiversity, household food consumption norms and the nutritional status of vulnerable groups within a given population using specific indicators. Additionally, this guide provides a framework for practical implementation of a holistic programme that focuses on creating a customized intervention based on community-specific data.

The manual strives to combine perspectives from the following models and approaches:

1. Farming Systems Model (FAO/WB)
2. Agroecological Model (NAFRI, FAO)
3. Indigenous Food Culture Documentation (CINE/IDRC/FAO)
4. Measuring Nutritional Functional Diversity (Columbia EI)
5. Positive Deviance Model (The Positive Deviance Initiative)
6. FANTA Nutritional Assessment Guides (USAID)
7. Food Security and Livelihoods Model (ACF International)
8. Ethnobotanical Documentation: A User's Model (ICH/UNESCO)

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