



Youth group member provides treasurer's report at Ngodama, 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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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Grant Opportunities for Studies

<http://www.terravivagrants.org/Home/funding-news/research-education-training>

See the Terra Viva Grants site for new opportunities for funding advanced studies. For example:

- The Netherlands Fellowship Programs (NFP) offer opportunities for professionals in 62 developing countries to pursue masters' degrees, PhD studies, and short courses in the **Netherlands**. Application deadlines vary by sub-programs -- with many deadlines in **February, May, and October**.
<http://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/scholarships-administered-by-nuffic/netherlands-fellowship-programmes>
- With funding from Japan, the World Bank Institute offers graduate scholarships to individuals from developing countries to undertake international graduate studies at renowned universities in fields that include agriculture and environment (among others). Applications to the Regular Program can be presented in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese. The program lists **preferred universities** for the 2013-2014 application cycle. The application deadline is **31 March 2013**.
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/WBI/EXTWBISFP/EXTJJWBGSP/0,,contentMDK:20285740~menuPK:556575~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:551644,00.html>
- Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC) offers doctoral research awards twice a year (April and November) in priority themes that include agriculture and environment (among others). The program is open to Canadians, permanent residents of Canada, and nationals of developing countries who are pursuing doctoral studies **at Canadian universities**. The next deadline is **01 April 2013**.
<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=52>
- IDRC's "Canadian Window on International Development" makes grants to Canadian nationals and permanent residents, and nationals of developing countries, in support of graduate studies **at Canadian universities**. The grants are for field research on topics corresponding to IDRC's program priorities, which include agriculture and environment (among others). The award covers field research expenses up to CA\$20 thousand per year. The closing date for applications is **01 April 2013**.
<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=51>
- SEARCA offers academic grants for graduate studies and research in agriculture, natural resources, and related fields at seven participating universities in **Southeast Asia, including Vietnam**. Each country has an internal deadline for SEARCA applications, and SEARCA requests complete submissions from the countries by **30 July 2013**.
<http://searca.org/index.php/component/content/article/26-scholarship-announcements/990-searca-graduate-scholarship-for-southeast-asians-2014-2015>
- The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) supports young professionals to study in development-related fields at **German universities**. Subject areas include energy, environmental management, water resources, and others. DAAD provides scholarships to participants from developing countries. The deadline for applications (at the

German embassies) is **31 July** each year.

http://www.daad.de/entwicklung/studierende_und_alumni/bildung_postgradual/ast/08492.en.html

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2. Genomics in Food and Agriculture - FAO e-mail conference

From **4 to 24 March 2013** the FAO Biotechnology Forum is hosting its next e-mail conference on "Impacts of genomics and other 'omics' for the crop, forestry, livestock, fishery and agro-industry sectors in developing countries". Advances in genomics, the study of all the genetic material (i.e. the genome) of an organism, have been remarkable in recent years. Publication of the first draft of the human genome in 2001 was a milestone, quickly followed by that of the first crop (rice) in 2002 and the first farm animal (chicken) in 2004. Huge technological advancements have meant that sequencing has become dramatically quicker and cheaper over time, so the genomes of many of the important crops, livestock, forest trees, aquatic animals and agricultural pests are now already sequenced or soon will be. This e-mail conference will look at the impacts that genomics, and the other related 'omics', have had so far on food and agriculture in developing countries as well as their potential impacts in the near future.

To join, send an e-mail to listserv@listserv.fao.org with the following one line in the body of the message (leave the subject line blank):

subscribe biotech-room3-L firstname lastname

The background document to the conference is available from the Forum website, at <http://www.fao.org/biotech/biotech-forum/en/>. For more information, contact biotech-mod3@fao.org.

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3. Gender Equity and Microenterprise Development Workshop

http://www.aidmat.com/idmat/Strategy%20Planning_2013%20final.pdf

March 14 to 18 in Bangkok, Thailand with the International Institute of Development Management and Technology.

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| ❖ Need and scope of Micro Enterprise Development for women, its role in sustainable development. | Development- identification and formulation. |
| ❖ Gender Equity and Micro Enterprise Development- contexts and challenges. | ❖ Designing Training Strategy for people to work on Micro Enterprise Development - dynamics and trainers' skills. |
| ❖ Planning process for effective participation of Women in Micro Enterprise | ❖ Appraisal techniques in micro-enterprise projects for survival and success. |

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This Month's News

1. Elsevier launches new review journal: Global Food Security

<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/global-food-security>

Amsterdam, January 24, 2013 – Elsevier, a world-leading provider of scientific, technical and medical information products and solutions, is pleased to announce the launch of a new review journal: *Global Food Security*. The launch of the journal is driven by a global concern that scientists and policy makers have great difficulty keeping up with the expanding volume of information about the challenge of meeting human food and nutritional needs whilst at the same time protecting environmental services.

Global Food Security aims to publish papers that contribute to a better understanding of the economic, social, biophysical, technological, and institutional influencers of current and future global food security. At the same time the journal will stimulate debate across disciplines. The goal is to publish concise and timely reviews and synthesis articles about research covering the following elements of food security:

- Availability (sufficiency; quantity and quality)
- Access (affordability, functioning markets and policies)
- Nutrition, Safety and Sanitation
- Stability and Environment (resilience and ecosystem services)

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2. Women’s Slow Climb to the Top in Corporate Canada

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/careers/womens-slow-climb-to-the-top-in-corporate-canada/article8792907/>

The proportion of women in senior officer roles at Canadian companies is almost unchanged in the past two years and continues to lag, particularly at publicly traded companies.

A new study by women’s advocacy group Catalyst found that women comprised 18.1 per cent of senior officers and top earners at Canada’s 500 largest companies in 2012, up only marginally from 17.7 per cent in 2010.

The highest-rated company on the list was the Manitoba Public Insurance Corp., a provincial Crown corporation with five of its six top senior officer positions held by women. In contrast, the survey found 30 per cent of companies have no women in senior officer roles, such as chief executive or chief financial officer.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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3. First Nations Regional Science Fair

<http://myuminfo.umanitoba.ca/index.asp?sec=2&too=100&dat=2/24/2013&sta=3&wee=5&eve=8&npa=30440>

The First Nations Regional Science Fair brought together over 400 Grades 4 to 12 students from 30 Manitoba First Nations operated schools on February 15, 2013 at the University of Manitoba. All students competed with Youth Science Fair standards for Gold, Silver, and Bronze medallions of excellence in science, plus major awards.

The Manitoba First Nations Science Fair is designed to provide extended opportunities for students of First Nations schools to become engaged in, and to excel, in science. After 10 years of implementation, we have had thousands of students participate locally and provincially, and sent 30 students on to the National Level, receiving national awards and recognition 15 times!

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4. Fabulous Female Farmers

<http://theloveoffood.ca/fabulous-female-farmers/#more-227>

Elaine Edel's kitchen in Morris, Manitoba, Canada resembles a lab with its grinders, dehydrators, mixers and other tools of her trade. She grinds flour, rolls oats and barley, she makes soup and salad dressings from scratch, and cans hundreds of jars of food every year. Elaine is not only a farmer and chef extraordinaire; she is a pioneer in food science and author of seven cookbooks

Necessity really must be the mother of invention, at least according to Elaine. Years ago, when she was a young mom to five boys and her family found themselves overwhelmed with financial burdens, the ingenious stay-at-home mom rose to the occasion. Elaine contributed to the family income by using her culinary know-how and working magic in the kitchen.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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5. New Generation of Women Leaders in Agricultural Research and Development

<http://awardfellowships.org/media/news-releases-fact-sheet/652-award-cultivates-a-new-generation-of-women-leaders-in-agricultural-research-and-development.html>

70 women scientists from 11 African countries were chosen for prestigious fellowship.

Africa's current leadership in agricultural research is small in number, mostly male, and on the verge of retirement, with few experienced professionals equipped to succeed them, according to a leading career-development program for African women agricultural scientists.

In order for African agriculture to become an engine for prosperity and well-being, it is critical to cultivate a new generation of African leaders in food and agriculture, including technically competent, influential women. And African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) says it is doing just that.

AWARD announced the 70 winners of its 2013 AWARD Fellowships in a ceremony in Nairobi, Kenya on February 21, 2013. These outstanding women scientists, selected from among an impressive cadre of 1,094 applicants from 11 African countries, will benefit from AWARD's two-year career-development program that is focused on building their science and leadership skills. The fellowships are granted on the basis of each scientist's intellectual merit, leadership capacity, and the potential of her work to improve the livelihoods of African smallholder farmers, most of whom are women.

The list of winners is available at

http://awardfellowships.org/images/stories/award/downloads/news/award_2013_fellows_list_media_web_final_february_15_2013.pdf. It includes:

Meaza Bahiru Heterat, BA from the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency

Research: Creation of agricultural cooperatives that sustainably improve increases in yield and income

Mildred Osei-Kwarteng, MSc from the University for Development Studies in Ghana.

Research: Promotion of African indigenous leafy vegetables through extension of postharvest technologies

Jemima Abena Yakah, MSc from the University of Ghana

Research: Innovations in climate-change adaptation among smallholder farmers

Priscilla Adofo Boateng, MSc with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Ghana
Research: Breeding of maize hybrids that are tolerant to low-soil nitrogen

Martina Mariki, BSc from Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology in Tanzania
Research: Design of a mobile phone-based enterprise resource-planning system for information transfer, data collection, and daily communication among smallholder poultry farmers

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Policies to shape agricultural investments and markets in favour of small-scale farmers

http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/tipping-the-balance-policies-to-shape-agricultural-investments-and-markets-in-f-254551?utm_source=K4DNewsletterEN&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=K4D_EN_Dec2012

This report by Oxfam and IIED identifies key policy levers at a national level that can tip commercial investments in favour of either small- or large-scale farming. It shows how policy levers influence market governance to constrain or to support the fair sharing of risk and reward between small-scale producers and the rest of the market. This report develops a framework to examine the role of policy at three levels:

- at the level of agricultural policy basics (Agriculture within wider development policies; Infrastructure and institutions; Cross-cutting gender laws and policies; Voice and participation);
- at the level of directly shaping investments (Investment policies; Control over land and natural resources; Conditions for investor access to land and natural resources; Contract farming and supply chain relationships); and
- at the level of market governance (Support for producer organisations; Diversity of market outlets; Market co-ordination; Competition policy; Quotas and market preferences; Public policies for private standards; Trade policy).

The report also examines policy elements that can specifically contribute to gender-equitable results. Case studies conducted in Guatemala, Nigeria, Tanzania and the Philippines supported the research.

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2. Global database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA)

https://extranet.who.int/nutrition/gina/en?utm_source=K4DNewsletterEN&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=K4D_EN_Dec2012

The Global Database on the Implementation of Nutrition Action (GINA) is an interactive platform for sharing standardized information on nutrition policies and action, i.e. what are the commitments made and who is doing what, where, when, why and how (including lessons learnt). Users can apply this tool to:

- Map nutrition policies and action;
- Link policies and action to nutrition status indicators;
- Monitor implementation of key nutrition action;
- Identify overlaps and gaps;
- Share experience on implementation practices.

The GINA policy section tracks commitments to ensuring good nutrition demonstrated in policy documents. The documents are sometimes specific for nutrition, e.g. national nutrition policies or vitamin A strategies, other times they have a broader scope, e.g. health or agriculture sector strategies, development plans. They include policies, strategies, action plans and legislation.

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3. What is the role of conservation agriculture on family farms in the South?

http://www.cirad.fr/en/research-operations/research-results/2012/what-is-the-role-of-conservation-agriculture-on-family-farms-in-the-south?utm_source=K4DNewsletterEN&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=K4D_EN_Dec2012

This meta-study conducted by scientists from CIRAD (France) and partner institutions in Brazil, presents the advantages and limitations of conservation agriculture (CA). It shows that while CA is a viable option to achieve sustainable and intensive crop production, its success mostly results from the permanent presence of organic mulch on the soil surface and the incorporation of cover crops in the rotations. Thus, applying CA principles requires a significant reorganisation of the production process at farm level, and when facing technical or socioeconomic constraints, most farmers usually opt for applying only partially the three main principles of conservation agriculture. The authors point to further investigations into the consequences of such partial implementation of conservation agriculture principles on its actual efficiency.

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4. Rural households in a changing climate

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=63651>

This World Bank policy research working paper investigates household-level strategies for adapting to climate change in rural settings, looking particularly at the adaptive capacity of poor rural households – a subject the authors claim has received little attention due to its broad and complex nature. The paper argues that climate change poses two distinct sets of challenges for rural households, which it broadly defines as ‘shocks’ and ‘shifts’:

- **shocks** signify events that temporarily disrupt a household's modal environmental conditions, i.e. increased weather variability, and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events;
- **shifts** permanently change the modal conditions, i.e. long-term shifts in temperature, rainfall patterns, water availability and other environmental factors.

Within this framework, the authors examine evidence from existing empirical literature on topics including: determinants of household economic mobility, ambiguity risk, agricultural technology adoption, reaction to weather-related information, determinants of migration, income diversification, health and past experiences of permanent environmental changes. They synthesise the evidence from this literature into a picture of household-level strategies for adapting to climate change in rural settings. The findings and conclusions include the following examples.

- Increased frequency and severity of weather shocks is likely to have the greatest impact among the poorest rural households.
- Weather-related declines in schooling in rural areas are often associated with increases in households’ use of child labour.
- Climate shocks and shifts complicate rural households’ attempts to: smooth consumption (using credit, insurance, savings, etc.), smooth income (adjusting agricultural portfolios, diversifying sources of income, etc.) and evaluate options (such as migration).

- Policies and programmes that help to increase households’ human capital and improve their access to physical assets, financial capital and markets can play important roles in strengthening their capacity to adapt to climate change.

The authors also provide examples of country experiences with better systems of information for adaptation and climate-adapted risk management instruments (such as indexed production insurance) and social safety nets that are targetable and scalable on the basis of weather events.

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