



Poultry section of typical outdoor market at Mkolani, Tanzania. Photo courtesy of L. Gross.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Working Group of the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) gathers information and articles on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change and organizational development. Information is shared with members, partners, scientific societies and member organizations. The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of AIC.

If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Advancing Women – Women in Agriculture Conference

<http://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/>

Women make a significant contribution to Canadian agriculture, but it requires special skills to be a leader in an industry. Agriculture is rich with successful women. We want to connect those successful women with others. We believe opportunities for women in agriculture have never been better! To help women capitalize on these opportunities, Iris Meck Communications has created a conference where women can sharpen their skills and share their inspirational gifts. On **Monday, April 28 and Tuesday, April 29, 2014**, *Advancing Women* will be held in **Calgary, Alberta**, the first in a series of workshops, conferences and forums. Our goal is to bring together over 300 participants and 10+ powerful speakers to discuss, share and collaborate on women's opportunities.

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2. Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trade & Technology conference

<http://www.cwestt2014.ca/>

Registration for the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trade & Technology conference is now open. The CWESTT Conference will be held in **Regina, Saskatchewan** on **May 22-24, 2014** with a conference theme, *Open Opportunities: Mentoring the Future*.

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This Month's News

1. Announcing the 2013 Best Paper Awards for Canadian Young Scientists

<http://www.cdnsiencepub.com/news-and-events/press-releases/PR-CYSJ-Best-Papers-2013.aspx>

The Best Paper Awards for Canadian Young Scientists recognize the authors of exceptional papers published in the *Canadian Young Scientist Journal* (CYSJ). Sponsored by Canadian Science Publishing (NRC Research Press), the Best Paper Awards for Canadian Young Scientists are given out annually to aspiring young scientists for outstanding contributions. Chosen by the editorial board of CYSJ, each winning author receives a certificate and a subscription to an NRC Research Press journal in a field related to their paper. Honors went to a number of outstanding young students in a variety of scientific areas.

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2. Canadian Census of Agriculture –2011 Gender Statistics

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ca-ra2011/index-eng.htm>

A closer look at operators of Canadian farms

Of the 292,795 farm operators in the Agriculture-National Household Survey (Ag-NHS) database, there were 212,185 (72.5%) male operators and **80,605 (27.5%) female operators** in Canada's provinces (Table 6). Similarly, in the total population, the majority of the self-employed labour force was male in 2011 (64.0% male and 36.0% female) according to the 2011 NHS. *[Editor's note: In 2006, 27% of farmers were female.]*

Compared with the other provinces, British Columbia had the largest proportion of female farm operators (36.5%), followed by Alberta (29.2%) and Ontario (28.4%).

Highest level of education

In 2011, the majority of farm operators had completed at least a secondary school education (78.3%). The remaining 21.7% of farm operators and 12.5% of the total self-employed labour force reported no certificate, diploma or degree in the 2011 NHS.

A larger proportion of farm operators than of the total self-employed labour force reported their highest level of education attainment as a secondary school certificate, trades certificate, or college diploma (Chart 7). In contrast, approximately 1 in 6 farm operators reported university credentials as their highest level of education attainment, compared to one-third of the total self-employed labour force.

Among the farm operators, the proportion that attained a secondary school education or higher was larger for female operators (86.3%) than for male operators (75.3%). A trades certificate (including apprenticeship) was the highest education attainment for 17.4% of male operators and 9.3% of female operators. Over a quarter, 26.4%, of all the female operators reported a college diploma as their highest level of education compared to 16.6% of male operators. At 23.2%, the proportion of female operators with university credentials was larger than the 15.0% of male operators with university credentials.

Major field of study

In 2011, over half of farm operators reported a post-secondary education (51.6%), while 65.8% of the total self-employed labour force attained a post-secondary education. Over half of female farm operators, 58.8%, and nearly half of male operators, 48.9%, attained a post-secondary education.

For male operators with a post-secondary education, "agriculture" was the most frequently reported field of study (28.3%), followed by "mechanic and repair technologies/technicians" (15.5%), and "construction trades" (8.6%). For males with a post-secondary education in the total self-employed labour force, "business, management, marketing and related support services" (16.9%) and "construction trades" (9.3%) were the most frequently reported major fields of study.

The most frequently reported fields of study for female operators with a post-secondary education were "health professions and related programs" (23.6%), "business, management, marketing and related support services" (22.7%), and "education" (13.5%), followed by "agriculture" (9.9%). In comparison, the two most frequently reported fields of study for females in the total self-employed labour force were "business, management, marketing and related support services" (20.7%) and "health professions and related programs" (18.5%).

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3. Leadership program dedicated to advancing female scientists and engineers receives federal funding

http://news.ualberta.ca/newsarticles/2014/february/setting-up-women-for-success-in-oil-and-gas-sector?utm_source=Daily%20News%20Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20News:%20February%2020,%202014&utm_content=894006

(Edmonton) The Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology (WinSETT Centre), led by the University of Alberta's Margaret-Ann Armour, is receiving \$250,000 to help retain and advance female scientists and engineers working in the oil and gas sector across Alberta. Rona Ambrose, minister of health and regional minister for northern Alberta, on behalf of K. Kellie Leitch, minister of labour and minister of status of women, was at the U of A Feb. 18 to announce the Government of Canada's support for the WinSETT project.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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4. Gender Counts in the Aftermath of Disaster

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/01/gender-counts-aftermath-disaster/>

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Jan 31 2014 (IPS) - The rise in natural disasters in the Caribbean due to climate change has led to increased suffering for both men and women, much of it as a consequence of socially constructed roles based on gender, experts say.

So although women typically suffer more during natural disasters, gender policies that specifically focus on helping men when disasters strike are also needed, according to a disaster management official in the Caribbean.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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5. Kenya's Empty Bread Basket

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/02/kenyas-empty-bread-basket/>

According to the regional Drought Management Authority, lower Mukurweini has only been receiving 200 mm of annual rainfall, which has resulted in a dire food shortage. But Mukurweini is not the only region in the midst of drought and food shortages. Arid areas are the most affected, particularly Turkana County in Rift Valley Province, where half of the residents – about 400,000 people – are facing starvation.

The Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) says that in total at least one quarter of the 41 million people in this East African nation lack sufficient food and 1.7 million are under threat of hunger and starvation.

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, aside from a few areas, no part of the country is food secure as this season's harvest of maize – the country's staple food – was not enough to feed the nation. The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations says the country is short of about 10 million bags of maize and warned that the drought is expected to reach its peak in August.

But agricultural researchers like Professor Mary Abukutsa-Onyango have blamed an over reliance on rain-fed agriculture for the shortage.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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6. After War Comes Peace, Not Prosperity

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/02/war-comes-peace-prosperity/>

COLOMBO, Feb 12 2014 (IPS) - Sri Lanka's war-battered Northern Province had reason to celebrate when the results of a countrywide exam were announced last December. Of the 16,604 students from the province who sat for the exam, 63.8 percent secured the required marks for entry into prestigious national universities.

It was a spectacular performance for a region wrecked by three decades of sectarian conflict that ended in May 2009 with a military offensive. The region has endured a tedious reconstruction effort since then.

There are an estimated 40,000 families headed by women in the Northern Province.

But education – one of the fruits of peace – has not spelt prosperity for the Northern Province.

This would mean projects such as factories that create jobs, funds to help farming and fishing, and efforts to get children to stay in school – efforts that have been slow to take off amid mega development projects.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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7. AWARD Fellowship Winners Primed to Make a Difference

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=90b9e0b7ae3a29d3aba309bce&id=1fe0da0a93&e=8dee5dd406>

2014 fellowship winners from African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) were announced publicly this week in Nairobi, Kenya, where they convened for an orientation workshop. 70 outstanding African women agricultural scientists were selected from among an impressive cadre of 790 applicants from 11 African countries.

390 women have benefited from AWARD since the program was launched in 2008.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Gender Agriculture and Assets Project

<http://gaap.ifpri.info/>

The Gender Agriculture and Assets Project (GAAP), jointly led by the International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI and the International Livestock Research Institute ILRI, has released the first set of discussion papers detailing the findings of the GAAP.

GAAP core team members work with agricultural development projects in South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa to:

- Identify how development projects impact men's and women's assets;
- Clarify which strategies have been successful in reducing gender gaps in asset access, control and ownership;
- Improve partner organization's abilities to measure and analyze qualitative and quantitative gender and assets data in their Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plans for current and future projects.

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2. Can Dairy Value-Chain Projects Change Gender Norms?

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01311.pdf>

Abstract: Value-chain projects are increasingly being used to link smallholders to markets. However, in contexts where women tend to own and control fewer assets than men, and are more likely to be involved in informal rather than formal market activities, there is potential for value-chain projects to have unintended consequences on gender dynamics. In particular, there is concern among project implementers regarding possible adverse effects for women in terms of shifting intra-household distribution of assets, gender norms, and household members' time allocation to various activities. Using both quantitative and qualitative research methods, the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project (GAAP) worked with CARE-Bangladesh to assess the impact of the Strengthening the Dairy Value Chain Project (SDVCP) on (1) women's ownership of assets, men's ownership of assets, and jointly held assets; (2) gender norms around asset ownership and control; (3) gender norms regarding decision-making in these areas surrounding the dairy value chain; and (4) trade-offs and time costs involved in project participation.

We find that participation in SDVCP had significant positive impacts on the *composition* of household assets. SDVCP participants increased the value of livestock assets, as well as the value of agricultural and non-agricultural productive assets, relative to nonparticipant households that were similar prior to the program. While participation in the program increased the value of men's assets, it also increased the value of assets held jointly by men and women. This finding suggests that women were able to build up assets, not by acquiring assets that they exclusively owned, but by acquiring jointly owned assets.

We also find that program participation tended not to affect who makes dairy-related decisions. Regardless of SDVCP participation, dairy-related decisions involving financial outlays or inflows were made by husbands, while those about allocation of milk not for sale were made by wives. However, SDVCP participation had a modest impact on men's and women's decision-making within the household, favoring greater participation of women in household decisions and greater control by women of money for household expenses. SDVCP also increased women's mobility and ability to access value-chain services (input dealers, livestock health workers, milk collection points) both inside and outside the community.

SDVCP participation also increased households' time allocation to the specific dairy activities encouraged by the program, particularly activities related to livestock health and hygiene. This increase in time allocation was borne mostly by adult women. SDVCP also increased women's time spent on dairy activities located *within the homestead*, while it increased adult men's time spent on dairy activities that required leaving the homestead. There was no significant impact on young girls' time devoted to dairy activities, but there was a small increase among young boys. We find that the increased allocation of adult women's time for dairy activities came at the expense of their time in household activities, with young girls (but not boys) consequently increasing their time in domestic work.

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3. New infographics portal

New infographics portal: Everything you wanted to know about Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

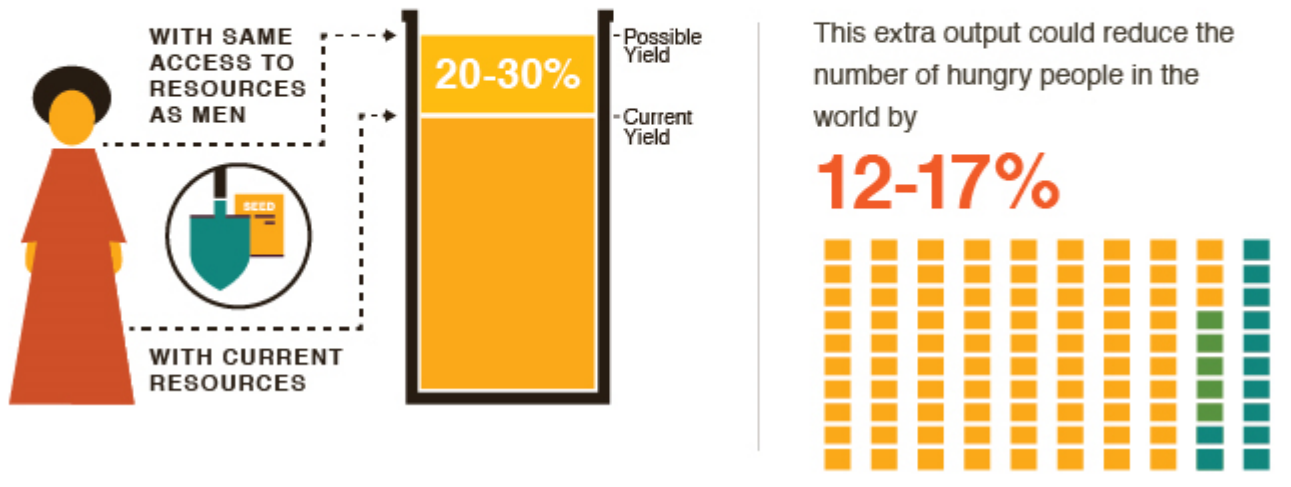
<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts2014/>

What impact will a changing climate have on the food we grow and eat? How do our diets contribute to climate change? And how can food and farming be climate-smart? Now you can get all the Big Facts on the links between climate change, agriculture and food security. The new site features over 100 stunning infographics that illustrate the most up-to-date, thoroughly researched information on these topics.

See the following for an example:

GENDER

If women had access to resources, on-farm yields could **INCREASE BY 20-30%**.



Source: *The Big Facts project, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).*

<http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts2014/>

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4. The State of Knowledge of Food Security in Northern Canada

<http://scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/in-progress/food-security.aspx>

Question: What is the state of knowledge of the factors influencing food security in the Canadian North and of the health implications of food insecurity for Northern Aboriginal populations?

The final report from the Council of Canadian Academies is expected in March 2014.

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