

GEM Digest of the Month for May 2011



Members of Youth Micro-enterprise Development Project, Nyamle, Tanzania. *Photo courtesy of Dinah 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 me at dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile it to re-distribute once a month. Back issues are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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Calendar

May 9 – 10, World Migratory Bird Day

Coming Up...

June 05, World Environment Day

June 17, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

Opportunities

1. Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists
2. UNESCO-L'OREAL International Fellowships Programme for Young Women in Life Sciences (2012)
3. Association for Women in Science – Awards and Prizes
4. Call for Proposals for International Forum on Women's Rights and Development
5. Employment: Gender Specialist for Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests
6. Call for Papers: Enhancing the productivity & profitability of the horticultural industry in the face of global climate change
7. Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger

This Month's Articles:

1. Study: Women's Leadership Development
2. Social media is agriculture's newest survival tool
3. Report: Status of Women Faculty at UBC Science
4. Special Issue: Women Driving Vision in BC Agriculture
5. Progress on Women University Researchers
6. Why Women Matter in Agriculture: Overcoming Gender Barriers to Agricultural Development
7. Report: Gender, International Financial Institutions and the Global Food Crisis
8. Gender Analysis Checklist in International Finance Institution Investments
9. Report: A New Instrument to Advance Development Effectiveness: Program-for-Results Lending
10. Critique: The World Bank's Proposed Program for Results (P4R)
11. Case Study: Women who Go, Women who Stay: Reactions to Climate Change
12. Keynote: Gender - A Key Dimension Linking Agricultural Programs to Improved Nutrition and Health
13. Video: Shea Nut, and Community Fair Trade in Ghana
14. Tool: Land Portal
15. Tool: Gender and Land Rights Database
16. Tool: Social Institutions and Gender Index
17. Report: Women Pastoralists- Summary Report and Action Plan 2011-2013
18. Event: The Hidden Role of Gender in Food Security & Value Chain Development
19. Publication: Women, marriage and asset inheritance in Uganda
20. *Joto Afrika*: Women as Key Players in Climate Adaptation
21. News: Malawian Cotton Farmers Ecstatic Over High Prices
22. News: Police disperse Bangladesh protests against women's rights
23. News: Women Key to Greening the Economy
24. Women Breaking Through Trade Barriers

25. Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM)

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

Opportunities

1. Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists

Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDC) at Centres of Excellence in the South

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

With funds generously provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSDW) has instituted a fellowship programme for female students from Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), who wish to pursue postgraduate training leading to a Ph.D., at centres of excellence in the South (developing countries), outside their own country.

The general purpose of the scheme is to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of women leaders in science and technology, and to promote their effective participation in the scientific and technological development of their countries.

The specific aims of the scheme are:

- To improve access to educational and training opportunities in science and technology for young and talented women graduates from Sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs.
- To increase the scientific productivity and creativity of women scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs.
- To empower a new generation of talented women to assume a leadership role in science and technology and their application to sustainable development.

Deadline for applications: 31 July of each year.

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

2. UNESCO-L'OREAL International Fellowships Programme for Young Women in Life Sciences (2012)

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

The UNESCO-L'Oréal International Fellowships are 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 research.** Special attention will be given to candidatures from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Deadline for applications is June 30, 2011.

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

3. Association for Women in Science – Awards and Prizes

<http://www.awis.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=69>

Refer to the website for a listing of numerous awards and prizes available to women in science. Note that there are various deadline dates.

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

4. Call for Proposals for International Forum on Women’s Rights and Development

<http://www.forum.awid.org/forum12/call-for-proposals/>

Through the 2012 Association for Women’s Rights’ in Development (AWID) Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2012, we aim to explore how economic power is impacting on women and the planet, and to facilitate connections among the very diverse groups working on these issues from both human rights and justice approaches so that together we contribute to stronger, more effective strategies to advance women's rights and justice.

Regardless of the circumstances and contexts in which we live, economic power cuts across all dimensions of our lives, from negotiating household expenditures to allocating national budgets and campaigning for recognition of the care economy, fair wages, decent working conditions, and affordable, common access to the world’s resources – including food, water, energy and land.

Contribute to shaping the conversation - and the strategies - at the 2012 AWID Forum by submitting a proposal to organize a session. **Submission deadline: May 27, 2011.**

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

5. Employment: Gender Specialist for Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests

<http://genderfoodpolicy.wordpress.com/2011/04/22/employment-gender-specialist-base-bangkok-thailand/#more-1602>

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is seeking the services of a gender specialist to work for up to one year, full-time with the Lowering Emissions in Asia’s Forests (LEAF) program based in Bangkok, Thailand. This is a consultant position with a competitive salary and a negotiable benefit package. The position is open to applicants from Asian countries.

LEAF is a USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA)-funded program being implemented by Winrock International and other partners. Started in January 2011, this five-year program is working on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) implementation and capacity building both bilaterally and regionally, in line with USAID’s goals under its ‘sustainable landscapes’ global climate change pillar. Target countries for the program include Lower Mekong countries (Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), Papua New Guinea, and Malaysia, with replication and outreach activities potentially in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, and Nepal), Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Women have often been overlooked as a REDD+ stakeholder group, despite their significant responsibilities in forest resource management. Women’s knowledge of, and management strategies for, forests are directly related to their extensive use and dependence on forest resources in Asian countries. Though comprehensive data about differences in men and women’s use of forests is lacking, sufficient information is available to show that rural women play critical roles in the forestry sector, especially those whose lives depend on forest resources to meet their daily livelihood needs for food,

fuel wood, fodder and other products that families use to generate income. Poor rural households, in particular, are known to have high levels of forest dependence, through the extraction, consumption, and sale of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which often provide a crucial livelihood safety net. Recognition of women as a key stakeholder group and ensuring their meaningful participation in REDD+ planning and activities is important to ensuring the success and effectiveness of REDD+.

Deadline for applications is May 2, 2011.

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

6. Call for Papers: Enhancing the productivity & profitability of the horticultural industry in the face of global climate change

<http://www.ghih.org/home2/>

The Ghana Institute of Horticulturists (GhIH) will hold its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 14th to 16th September, 2011 at the CSIR-Crops Research Institute, Fumesua, Kumasi at 8.00 am each day. The theme of the AGM/Scientific Workshop is “Enhancing the productivity and profitability of the horticultural industry in the face of global climate change”.

In this respect interested Scientists in horticulture and related fields are kindly requested to send abstracts of papers in line with the general theme.

The deadline for abstract submission is 31st May 2011.

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

7. Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger

[http://www.thp.org/what we do/key initiatives/honoring africa leadership/2011](http://www.thp.org/what_we_do/key_initiatives/honoring_africa_leadership/2011)

A call for nominations for The Hunger Project's 2011 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger has been announced. The Africa Prize was first awarded in 1987. It includes a cash award of US\$100,000 to further the laureate's work for the well-being of Africa's people. The Prize is awarded by The Hunger Project, a global non-profit organization working to empower women and men in 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America to end their own hunger and poverty.

The Africa Prize is awarded to Africans who exhibit exceptional leadership, exemplifying courage, vision and commitment to the well-being of the African people. It focuses on individuals working in areas such as public policy, innovation, agriculture, education and health whose leadership and policies contribute to the sustainable end of hunger at the national, regional or continent-wide level.

The Prize seeks to generate heightened awareness within the world community of the many African leaders who are making bold decisions and taking the necessary actions to resolve the pressing agricultural, economic, political and social issues facing the continent.

Nominations are due by May 31, 2011.

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

This Month's Articles:

1. Study: Women's Leadership Development

<http://www.mercer.com/referencecontent.htm?idContent=1408275>

Despite organizations' efforts to achieve a diverse workforce, the majority – 71% - do not have a clearly defined strategy or philosophy for the development of women into leadership roles, according to a Women's Leadership Development Survey conducted by Mercer with Talent Management and Diversity Management magazines.

In December 2010, 1,800 human resource, talent management and diversity leaders participated in the survey throughout North America, Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), and Asia Pacific.

You will find a link to the study and can download regional and global survey summary reports, listen to interviews with Mercer's consultants on their insight into the survey findings and pick up information about Mercer's suite of leadership solutions.

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

2. Social media is agriculture's newest survival tool

<http://www.wisfarmer.com/news/115906494.html>

There was a time when farmers got together at the local feed mill, and talked about the weather, what's happening in the world of agriculture and in the neighbourhood. Back then, communicating with others was called socializing. It was done face to face and it was generally local. Now people, farmers included, spread the word - whether personal or business - using social media tools, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, MySpace and blogs.

Some agriculture advocates say these social media tools are not just a fad or a way for farmers to amuse themselves. They say social media is agriculture's newest survival tool.

Members of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture (WWA) have, since the organization's start more than 30 years ago, worked hard to tell the story of agriculture. Whether hosting on-farm events, speaking at public events, or working with schools, WWA members have been proactive in letting consumers and the non-farming public know that farmers care, that farm products are wholesome and safe, and that agriculture is good for the economy.

As host of the event, Condon shared how she uses Facebook to describe what is happening on their farm. She posts photos regularly and communicates with people all around the country. The photos let people see what's happening on the farm and help the non-farming "friends" on her list get to know farmers as caring people. She says it's all about building relationships. Facebook, for instance, links people with like interests. It's a way to connect with those off the regular beaten path and build a reputation as someone who has expertise in the area of farming.

WWA member, Jennifer Oechsner, demonstrated how she created a video on a project on their Brownsville farm and posted it online. It is a part of a contest that offers, as first prize, a truckload of cottonseed worth about \$5,000. Oechsner created the video showing how her family stores cottonseed on their 500-cow dairy farm. She is one of two finalists in the contest, and the public now has an opportunity to vote online to pick the winning video. Oechsner said she heard about the contest at the American Agri-Women (AAW) convention in November 2010, where several workshops featured ideas for using social media to tell the story of agriculture. Both Oechsner and Condon say they became fired up about using social media as a means of speaking up for agriculture when they took part in a leadership training workshop sponsored by Syngenta for AAW members.

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

3. Report: Status of Women Faculty at UBC Science

www.science.ubc.ca/sites/science.ubc.ca/files/faculty/UBCSscience_EquDiv_2007to2010.pdf

We are pleased to refer you to a new summary of data on faculty recruitment and advancement, with particular regard to the status of women faculty at UBC Science, for the period of 2007-2010:

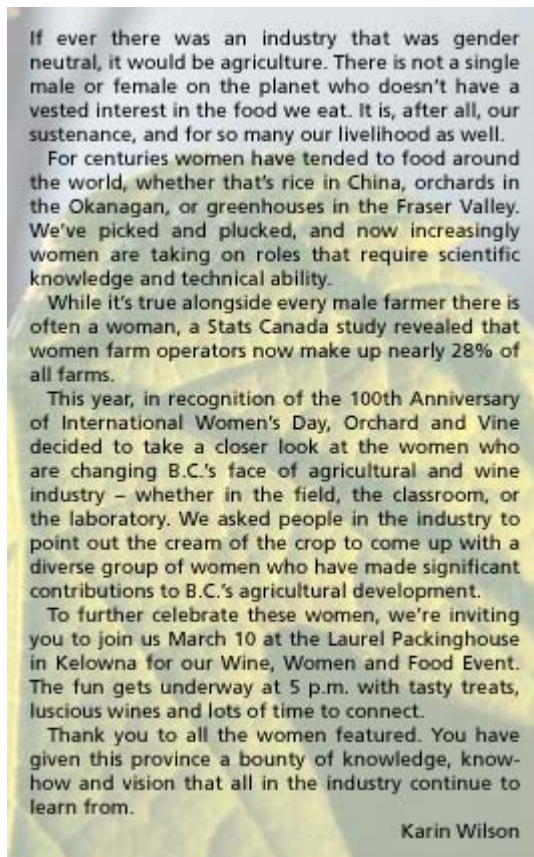
The report comprises data on hiring (including partner accommodation); promotion and tenure; career success and recognition; and new policies, e.g., pertaining to parental and maternity leaves. We expect that these UBC Science data will be of interest to others who are working to advance women in Science.

For more information on UBC Science's faculty diversity initiatives, see www.science.ubc.ca/faculty/diversity.

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

4. Special Issue: Women Driving Vision in BC Agriculture

http://www.orchardandvine.net/flipbooks/pre-spring_2011/



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

5. Progress on Women University Researchers

<http://www.scienceadvice.ca/en/assessments/in-progress/women-researchers/expert-panel.aspx>

In the December 2010 issue of the GEM Digest, we told you about the work of the Council of Canadian Academies to examine which factors influence the career trajectory and statistical profile of women researchers in Canadian universities.

Question

What policies and what societal, cultural, and institutional (e.g., universities, funding agencies), economic and/or other relevant factors (as determined by the Council's Expert Panel) influence the career trajectory of women researchers in Canadian universities and underlie gender disparities observed in Canadian university researcher's statistical profile, by discipline area, rank, duty/position/stature, salary, tenure, research funding and/or any other relevant indicators (as determined by the Expert Panel)?

More precisely:

- How does the statistical profile of women in university research careers in Canada compare to that of women in key jurisdictions abroad, including the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Australia and Sweden?
- What are the issues that women university researchers may face as they seek to advance their careers, and do these issues differ across the range of discipline areas in the natural sciences and engineering, social sciences and

humanities, and health sciences? Do women researchers in government, non-government and private sector face similar challenges?

- Both within Canada and internationally, what are the best practices adopted by universities, funding bodies, academic associations, governments, non-government organizations, private sector organizations and/or other relevant actors (as determined by the panel) to recruit and retain women researchers, and appoint them to prominent positions?

Progress to date:

- The Council, under the guidance of its Scientific Advisory Committee, has now finalized the membership for the Expert Panel for Women in University Research.
- Dr. Lorna Marsden has been selected to chair the expert panel.
- The panel held its first meeting on March 17-18, 2011 in Ottawa. The next meeting will take place in mid-May.

See the link for the list of panel members.

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

6. Why Women Matter in Agriculture: Overcoming Gender Barriers to Agricultural Development

<http://siani.se/index.php/home/events/event/10-why-women-matter-in-agriculture.html>

The Stockholm Environment Institute and the Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative (SIANI) held an event on April 5 with practitioners from Eastern and Southern Africa. The focus of the half-day meeting was on different aspects of agricultural development and why Gender Mainstreaming is making such slow progress.

Much is said about the importance of gender equality in development, especially in relation to the agricultural sector, in which the vast majority of the world's poor women work. Still, evaluation after evaluation points to poor performance of improving gender equality in agricultural programs, even when it is included in the design.

One problem is that while most development practitioners and many agricultural professionals agree on the importance of gender equality in theory, very few have any good idea about what to do in practice. Organizations and governments who adopt progressive gender policies often lack the expertise and tools to implement them.

The aim of the current process is to tap into the knowledge base of what has worked and what has not worked in the field, to support the drafting of implementation strategies. There will be special emphasis on gendered division of labour and specialization in agriculture, the socio-economic dynamics of rural households and gendered inequalities of access to the means of production (credit, inputs and land).

Seminar reports are available at <http://siani.se/index.php/documents/seminar-reports.html>.

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

7. Report: Gender, International Financial Institutions and the Global Food Crisis

<http://www.genderaction.org/publications/fdsec/primer.pdf>

In March 2011, The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index, which tracks the price of 55 food commodities for export, rose for the ninth consecutive month. The index has now reached its highest level in both nominal and real terms since the inception of the index in 1990 (FAO, 2011).

While higher food prices have benefited food corporations, they have contributed to a stark increase in poverty in developing countries. A recent World Bank (WB) report revealed that an additional 44 million people have been forced into poverty due to the drastic rise in food prices since June 2010 (WB, 2011). Having already surpassed the levels witnessed during the 2008 food crisis, the recent upsurge in food prices suggests that yet another food crisis has struck poor women, men, girls and boys. This document from Gender Action serves as a food security primer.

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

8. Gender Analysis Checklist in International Finance Institution Investments

<http://www.genderaction.org/publications/11/checklist.pdf>

The Gender Action's Essential Gender Analysis Checklist can be used to assess the quality of gender integration in International Finance Institution (IFI) investments, and provides a gender analysis framework for civil society, government and other entities' projects. This qualitative checklist reveals the extent to which gender-related issues are addressed. Outputs could be in short narrative form, including examples to describe the extent to which an organization or project:

1. approaches gender issues from a human rights perspective (**gender and human rights**);
2. acknowledges and seeks to redress inequalities between men and women, boys and girls; explicitly promotes equality between men and women, boys and girls (**gender in/equality**);
3. provides and analyzes gender disaggregated data as part of the background/justification for the project's existence and design; includes gender disaggregated indicators for project monitoring purposes (including data on gender participation in planning, implementation and M&E (**gender data**));
4. analyzes gender relations, dynamics and inequalities within relevant political, legal, geographic, economic, historical and/or social contexts to be considered throughout the project cycle (**gender in context**);
5. examines how gender inequalities uniquely affect men and women/boys' and girls' abilities to participate in the project cycle and benefit from project outputs and outcomes, including whether user fees and other harmful conditions promoted through the project may differentially affect access to services for men and women, boys and girls (**gender access**);
6. promotes the equal opportunity for those who are directly or indirectly affected by the project to participate throughout the project cycle—from planning to implementation to monitoring and evaluation—including women, marginalized men, and other vulnerable groups, as appropriate; collect data on participation by gender (see "Gender Data"; **gender inputs**);
7. plans project outputs and outcomes that accommodate and respond to the differential needs of men and women, boys and girls (**gender outputs**);
8. considers the differential longer-term impacts of projects and/or IFI-endorsed policies on women and men, boys and girls (**gender impact**).

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

9. Report: A New Instrument to Advance Development Effectiveness: Program-for-Results Lending

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTRESLENDING/Resources/P4R_CN_2-23-2011_SECPO.final.pdf

World Bank's document entitled, "A New Instrument to Advance Development Effectiveness: Program-for-Results Lending" (Revised Concept Note), dated February 23, 2011 is available at the link.

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

10. Critique: The World Bank's Proposed Program for Results (P4R): Implications for Environmental, Social, and Gender Safeguards and Corrupt Practices

[http://www.boell.org/downloads/4-6-11_P4R_Critique-FINAL_\(2\).pdf](http://www.boell.org/downloads/4-6-11_P4R_Critique-FINAL_(2).pdf)

This critique is based on the World Bank's document entitled, "A New Instrument to Advance Development Effectiveness: Program-for-Results Lending" (Revised Concept Note), dated February 23, 2011.

The Bank's new instrument – "Program for Results" or P4R – provides a platform for the institution to pool its resources with those of many other creditors and donors, including corporations, foundations, NGOs, sovereign wealth funds, in order to finance a government expenditure program in a sector or sub-sector of a country. The World Bank states that "platform" is a way of extending its reach.

New bilateral donors with significant resources, such as China, India and Brazil, are now active in their support of infrastructure development in Africa. Sovereign wealth funds and foundations are expanding their outreach and impact...The Bank's role as a partner for other multilateral and bilateral donors has grown to respond to requests for using the Bank's work as a platform for pooled resources.... [Emphasis added.]

The P4R is being launched later this year. It would complement the Bank's other two major lending instruments: the budget support loan/grant ("development policy loan" (DPL)) and the project investment loan. The P4R could replace a significant proportion of project investment loans.

This paper critiques the proposed P4R instrument by examining proposed environmental and social safeguards and fiduciary controls (Part I); effectiveness of proposed mechanisms of accountability (Part II); and the integrity of the consultation process on the proposed P4R instrument (Part III). Part IV presents conclusions.

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

11. Case Study: Women who Go, Women who Stay: Reactions to Climate Change

<http://www.boell.org/web/index-740.html>

Climate change is the biggest environmental problem currently confronting humanity and affecting all socioeconomic sectors in the country and around the world. Its impact, however, is differentiated by gender, economic, social and geopolitical factors. In this case study, interviews with women and men in six communities in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas were conducted.

Although this is not a representative study, but rather a qualitative study conducted in homes and limited to a specific region, the results provide interesting and valuable indications regarding the strategies used by women and by men to adapt to climate change—with some of them including elements for diminishing the inequality gaps between women and men.

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

12. Keynote: Gender - A Key Dimension Linking Agricultural Programs to Improved Nutrition and Health

<http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020anhconfbr09.pdf>

A keynote address from Ruth Meinzen-Dick, Senior Research Fellow, Environment and Production Technology Division, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA at the February 2011 international conference *Leveraging Agriculture for Improving Nutrition and Health*. Excerpts note the following recommendations:

Taking gender roles into account can help **Homestead Food Production** (HFP) programs improve health and nutrition. The following are key strategies:

- Encourage diversified gardens that include high-value crops and small livestock in order to increase dietary diversity, provide sources of additional income, and enable women to accumulate small assets.
- Explicitly address nutrition education and behaviour change and communication in HFP programs.
- Identify gender-specific constraints on participation.
- Foster income generation and better links to markets.

The potential gender disparities of programs **linking smallholders to markets** need to be directly addressed to realize their full benefits for improved health and nutrition.

- Include women producers in contracts and group membership, and make payments directly to women.
- In commercializing food crops or expanding cash crops, ensure that control does not shift from women to men, compromising household food security.
- Integrate health and safety concerns with the introduction of new technologies and markets; ensure that both women and men are trained to minimize exposure to agrochemicals and ensure compliance with biosafety requirements.

Large-scale agricultural operations can avoid disadvantaging women and communities by being gender-aware as well as by observing environmental safeguards.

- Ensure that employment opportunities—including task allocation, hours worked, wages, and promotion possibilities—are gender equitable.
- Provide appropriate and affordable healthcare and childcare facilities.
- Ensure that new technologies—such as mechanization, new crops and varieties, inorganic fertilizer, and pesticides—are introduced in a gender-sensitive manner.
- Provide appropriate safety equipment and training to both female and male labourers.
- Minimize the negative environmental impacts of plantations on the local community.

See the video from the conference at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKMYcU3Canc>.

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

13. Video: Shea Nut, and Community Fair Trade in Ghana

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4TxTwJ_rlw

See the video about women members of the Northern Ghana Community Action Fund, their story about shea nut processing and fair trade marketing of shea butter to The Body Shop.

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

14. Tool: Land Portal

<http://landportal.info/topic/gender>

The Land Portal, an online platform to find, share, and collaborate on land information, was launched today (April 20) at the annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty.

Created by the International Land Coalition (ILC) and Landtenure.info, the Land Portal aims to improve transparency, land rights monitoring, and the identification of information gaps for better land governance.

“Availability of information on access to land and its close relationship with poverty, food security and rural development is vital for improving national land policies in countries around the world,” said Madiodio Niassé, Director of the ILC secretariat in Rome. “Land information is often scattered, outdated, and difficult to find. The portal provides a single platform for a wide variety of users to find information on the most pressing issues and questions on land.”

The Land Portal is the result of a broad partnership with more than 40 land-concerned organizations. The site is designed to provide information that is useful to a variety of players working in or contributing to economic and social development, including government institutions, civil society leaders, multilateral organizations, social entrepreneurs, philanthropists, academic and research organizations, and media.

The portal enables all users to quickly and easily search multiple databases at the same time; find reliable and updated information by country and theme; customize user and organizational profiles and alerts; and share knowledge by uploading and validating content using a range of formats. The portal also helps people connect and collaborate with a vibrant user community, join thematic working groups and build collective actions.

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

15. Tool: Gender and Land Rights Database

<http://www.fao.org/gender/landrights>

An FAO database helps to understand the factors that prevent women from accessing land. Disparity on land access is one of the major causes for social and gender inequalities in rural areas, and it jeopardizes, as a consequence, rural food security as well as the wellbeing of individuals and families.

Unfortunately gender disparities in land access remain significant around the world. Women’s constitutional rights are frequently jeopardized by conflicting laws or long- standing traditional practices. But as FAO and others say, increasing women’s access to land is crucial to fight hunger and poverty. This Database contains Country level information on social, economic, political and cultural issues related to the gender inequalities embedded in those rights. It offers information about national legal frame, international treaties and conventions, customary law, land tenure and related institutions, civil society organizations and about selected land related statistics.

You can produce three types of reports from the data – full country, topic or comparative.

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

16. Tool: Social Institutions and Gender Index

<http://my.genderindex.org/>

Use the index to identify ranking across regions, countries and by the selected topics of:

- Family Code
- Civil Liberties
- Physical Integrity
- Son Preference
- Ownership Rights

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

17. Report: Women Pastoralists- Summary Report and Action Plan 2011-2013

http://www.cop-ppld.net/fileadmin/user_upload/cop-ppld/items/GGWP%20Summary%20Report%20FINAL.pdf

The Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists, held from 21-26 November 2010 in Mera (Gujarat), India, brought together over 100 women from herding communities scattered across 32 different countries to discuss the myriad problems faced by nomadic and semi-nomadic women pastoralists worldwide, and how, united, they can strive to solve them.

This Action Plan has been designed as a guide for pastoralist women and those who work with these women. Participants at the Gathering developed a list of key issues and top priorities for pastoralist women. With respect to key issues, the women identified: markets; rules and rights; environment; social movement; education; and, health. Top priorities were identified as: representation; communication and networking; education, training and capacity building; advocacy; and, development.

The Action Plan begins with the Mera Declaration, written by an elected team of women pastoralists and later approved by the entire Gathering. The Declaration is meant to be read as a guiding political document to inform and support the development of pastoralist policies. But it goes beyond that to reflect the commitment of these women to live in ways that are environmentally sustainable and that protect biodiversity and common resources for generations to come. The Declaration recognizes the need to work together and to share experiences and knowledge and to ensure enhanced participation by women pastoralists in decision making processes which impact their lives.

It calls on governments, governing agencies of the United Nations, other relevant international and regional organizations, research institutes and our own customary leaders to support pastoralist women through specific actions clearly articulated in 23 points. The Declaration is presented as the first section of this report: it sets the tone and reminds us of our mandate and our objectives.

The idea for the gathering was developed by MARAG, a voluntary organization established in 1994 which works to educate, organize and empower the Maldharis – a marginalized pastoral community from Gujarat in India. MARAG is supported by: International Union for Conservation of Nature – World Initiative for sustainable Pastoralism (IUCN-WISP), International Land Coalition (ILC), The World Alliance for Mobile Pastoralists (WAMIP) and the League for Pastoral Peoples (LPP).

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

18. Event: The Hidden Role of Gender in Food Security & Value Chain Development

<http://sidwgid.ning.com/>

The Society for International Development Washington Gender in Development (SID-GID) Workgroup held a panel discussion on "The Hidden Role of Gender in Food Security & Value Chain Development" on April 22.

Investing in agricultural development has long been recognized as one of the best ways to reduce poverty in the long term, whether the goal is to feed individual families or to help economies grow. In addition, research has shown that women in developing countries carry out much of the work with agricultural crops and production. Women are also more likely to use income from these activities for food, healthcare and education for their children, helping lift entire communities out of poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth.

This panel will focus on successful value chain strategies, particularly those involving women, to boost income and achieve food security. Specific interventions, success stories and private sector alliances will be discussed in the context of capacity building, access to markets, quality standards and post-harvest handling.

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

19. Publication: Women, marriage and asset inheritance in Uganda

http://www.chronicpoverty.org/uploads/publication_files/WP184%20Doss-Truong-Nabanoga-Namaalwa.pdf

Using a unique dataset from Uganda, which collected individual-level asset ownership data and women's life histories regarding assets, this paper from the Chronic Poverty Research Centre examines the relationships between inheritance, marriage and asset ownership. Land is the most important asset in rural Uganda.

Patterns of ownership, inheritance and rights over assets are all embedded in household and community relationships. They are also affected by property law and marriage law, both statutory and customary. The legal pluralism in Uganda results in complex patterns of rights and ownership, especially of land.

The majority of couples (both married and those in consensual unions) report owning land jointly. Men who report owning a parcel of land are much more likely than women to say they inherited the land. A relatively high proportion of women who are widowed in our sample reported owning land. But this does not tell us what happens to women when they are widowed. Those who follow the traditional pattern of marrying their brother's husband would report themselves as married rather than widowed. And those who are disenfranchised and kicked off the land once their husband dies would probably not appear in the sample. Thus, to understand the situation of women who are widowed, different data collection methods need to be used.

Women do inherit land, both from their fathers and from their husbands, although it is more common for men to inherit land. A total of 27 percent of the women who are landowners said they had acquired the land through marriage. Yet, the rights that many of these women have depend on the stability of their marriage. They risk losing it in the event of divorce or on the death of their husband. Strengthening women's property rights in the face of the dissolution of their household should be a key policy goal.

Very few other assets are acquired through inheritance or through gifts and transfers. Instead, other assets, including livestock, consumer durables, agricultural equipment and business assets are primarily purchased.

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

20. **Joto Afrika: Women as Key Players in Climate Adaptation**

<http://www.alin.or.ke/Joto%20Afrika>

Gender often dictates who gains and who loses in environmental disasters. For instance, where women lack basic rights, more will die from natural disasters than men; where they enjoy equal rights, the death rate is the same.

The sixth edition of the briefing series *Joto Afrika* highlights ways to improve gender analysis and increase representation in climate adaptation, contributing to global discussion on the need to mainstream gender into climate change analysis, particularly as women provide up to 90 percent of rural poor people's food and produce 60-80 percent of the food in most developing countries. Despite this, women are insufficiently represented in decision-making processes on climate change; their different perspectives and experiences must be included.

Drawing on case studies and local action in countries across Africa (South Africa, Togo, Cameroon, Namibia, Kenya and Tanzania), the articles emphasise the need to:

- work with, and build the capacities of, existing women's organisations
- invest in communicating both research and policy
- improve gender analysis to develop and deliver relevant and responsive adaptation programmes, taking local contexts into account
- prioritise democratic and participatory approaches which ensure women's involvement, while making sure to avoid overburdening women.

Joto Afrika is a series of printed briefings and online resources about adapting to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. The series helps people understand the issues, constraints and opportunities that poor people face in adapting to climate change and escaping poverty. The series are produced in both English and French.

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

21. **News: Malawian Cotton Farmers Ecstatic Over High Prices**

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55049>

LILONGWE, Mar 29, 2011 (IPS) - An ardent listener to the radio, small-scale cotton farmer Mercy Kaduya from Chikhwawa in Nsanje in southern Malawi has just heard on the international news segment that cotton prices have hit a record high on the international market.

"I am very excited. I am looking forward to selling my cotton produce this year. I am also patting myself on the back for not giving up on the crop in 2009 when prices were bad," Kaduya told IPS.

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) announced in early March that world cotton prices had reached a new record of two dollars per pound (0.5 kg) in February. ICAC is a global body representing governments, which raises awareness and promotes cooperative action on issues of cotton worldwide.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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

22. News: Police disperse Bangladesh protests against women's rights

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12956907?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

In April 2011, police in Bangladesh broke up angry protesters blocking a main highway in the capital Dhaka, over a new law giving women equal property rights.

Bangladesh has a secular legal system, but in matters relating to inheritance it follows Sharia law. Under Bangladeshi law a woman normally inherits half as much as her brother. But under the new rules, every child would inherit an equal amount.

The BBC correspondent says the proposed law has been welcomed by women's rights groups. They say the policy has the support of the majority of people in the country.

Refer to the link for the full story.

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

23. News: Women Key to Greening the Economy

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55359>

Earth Day celebrated its 41st year Friday (April 22) with the slogan 'A Billion Acts of Green'. The grassroots demonstration is said to have inspired the modern environmental movement, and continues to inform and promote green economic policies worldwide, while attracting over a half billion people every year.

This year, one of the main elements of the Earth Day campaign is the Women and the Green Economy (WAGE) campaign focusing on engaging women leaders in the advancement of a global green economy.

Originally launched in December 2010 at the 16th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in Cancun, Mexico, the WAGE Campaign intends to promote leadership amongst women, in order to create a sustainable green economy and alleviate climate change....

According to the Earth Day Network, educating women about environmental issues is essential, not only because women constitute more than half of the world's population, but also because they are responsible for over 85 percent of all consumer choices.

Refer to the link for the full story.

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

24. Women Breaking Through Trade Barriers

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=55326>

For 12 years now, the women around Tsangano in Malawi's southern district of Ntcheu have put together their tomato harvest, selling some 20 tons at the outdoor markets that abound in Lilongwe, the capital. But they have very little to show for their hard work.

Ntcheu and its neighbouring districts, Dedza and Salima, have many smallholder farmers with large gardens overflowing with tomatoes and other vegetables such as cabbages, onions, carrots, green pepper and lettuce. These districts are the major producers of tomatoes in Malawi.

"We use most of the money from the tomato sales for the upkeep of our households. Some of the money goes towards paying school fees," Virginia Kandiado, a member of the Tsangano agricultural cooperative, told IPS.

Kandiado and her 29 colleagues in the cooperative also own nurseries where they produce tomato seedlings, which they sell to other farmers in the district.

But now the members of the Tsangano cooperative want to go further and diversify from selling to processing vegetables. They think they could earn more if they canned the tomatoes and made jam and juice. "We could make more money if we processed the produce. We are now working on securing a bank loan which would allow us to buy machinery for our new venture," enthused Kandiado.

The members of the cooperative are not alone in this dream. The Malawian government is working on assisting women like Kandiado. At the end of March 2011, the country hosted a regional consultative meeting aimed at integrating women into trade activities in the agriculture sector as a way of improving production and enhancing food security within the region. The Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM), an umbrella body of businesswomen, and the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) organised the meeting.

ACTESA coordinates the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa's regional agro-inputs programme (COMRAP) and works with FEMCOM to ensure appropriate gender mainstreaming in these initiatives.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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

25. Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM)

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

Federation of National Associations of Women in Business in Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (FEMCOM)'s main objectives were to promote programmes that integrate women into the trade and development activities in Eastern and Southern Africa. It also serves as a representative body and link between the women and the policy organs of the COMESA [Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa] member States, regional organizations, and international organizations whose aim is to promote trade and development.

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