

# GEM Digest of the Month for November 2010



Members of the women's organization "Nilwala" in Neelawala, Sri Lanka participate in a compost making and organic agriculture production workshop, led by Soil Science of Sri Lanka members at the Horticultural Crops Research & Development Institute, Gannoruwa. See article for more info. Photo courtesy of S. Maraikar.

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 organizations. 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](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) and I will compile it to re-distribute once a month.

Regards,  
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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## Calendar

## Opportunities

1. **Gender and Climate Change 2011 Conference Call for Papers**
2. **McGill University Postdoctoral Fellowship in Sustainable Agriculture – 2011**
3. **Director, School of Agriculture, University of Manitoba**
4. **Young Scientists Ambassador Program**
5. **A Workshop on Gender and Market-oriented Agriculture 2011 in Ethiopia**

## This Month's Articles:

1. **Opinion: A less visible solution to hunger**
2. **Where There Is Poverty, 'the State Cannot Be Neutral'**
3. **Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations**
4. **CARE Commits \$1.8 Billion to Support Maternal, Child Health**

5. **UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Announces Funding**
6. **Youth Business International**
7. **Organic Production Workshop in Sri Lanka**
8. **Women drawn to small-scale farming**
9. **Stemming girls' chronic poverty**
10. **Inheritance and the intergenerational transmission of poverty**
11. **Global Center for Women's Land Rights**
12. **IFAD Image Bank**
13. **If you want collective smarts, include women in your group**
14. **Women's Executive Network**
15. **Globe & Mail EDITORIAL: Women need their chance to lead**
16. **More women needed in growing green jobs market**
17. **Can Microfinance Help Africa Meet the MDGs?**
18. **Righting two wrongs - Making a new Global Climate Fund work for poor people**
19. **The Global Gender Gap Report 2010**
20. **Gender, Climate Change and Disaster**
21. **Farmers in a changing climate: does gender matter?**
22. **Women's Leadership on Climate Justice**
23. **The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics**
24. **State of World Population 2010**
25. **Rural Women in the Developing World**
26. **How not to die for a meal**
27. **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves**
28. **Stove Camp**

Go to top. ++++++

# Calendar

November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/violence/>

December 1: World AIDS Day <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/>

Go to top. ++++++

# Opportunities

## 1. Gender and Climate Change 2011 Conference Call for Papers

<http://med.monash.edu/glass/conference-2011/papers.php>

The **deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 November 2010. Notification of acceptance of the abstract will be 28th February 2011.**

Gender and Climate Change is an international conference that will seek to bring together the latest research in key areas of gender and climate change, to highlight impacts of climate change on women, and to draw together a body of knowledge for input into the 2011 United Nations Framework Convention (COP 17) and the Earth Summit 2012. ***The conference venue is in Italy.***

The Conference Organisers - Gender Leadership and Social Sustainability (GLASS) Research Unit at Monash University, Australia, in collaboration with Worldwide Universities Network, Gender Justice and Global Climate Change (G2C2) - aim to bring together researchers, advocates, and policy makers, to form a coherent picture of the differential impacts of climate change and to convey that knowledge in formats that assist in policy development. The 2011 conference will highlight links to global poverty, sustainability, policy, and change. The complex couplings between human and natural systems that must be understood to respond to climate change, demands a robustly multi- and interdisciplinary approach to research. Furthermore, attention to the differential gendered impacts and opportunities of climate change requires a deeply intersectional approach in which the relevance of factors such as class and race are considered alongside gender. For this reason, the theme of this conference recognizes the importance of engaging experts from multiple disciplines and engaging local and indigenous knowledges to address critical gender and climate change issues.

Strong partnerships among researchers, policy-makers, and community stakeholders are essential for identifying and implementing promising, sustainable solutions that are relevant to the people who are most affected.

Abstracts should not exceed 250 words. The official language of the conference is English.

Go to top. ++++++

## 2. McGill University Postdoctoral Fellowship in Sustainable Agriculture – 2011

[http://www.cshs.ca/\\_main.html](http://www.cshs.ca/_main.html)

Applications are now being accepted for a 2-year fellowship, valued at CDN\$35,000 per year, tenable in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Macdonald Campus, McGill University. *The competition is intended for new incoming candidates to the university.* The successful candidate will conduct postdoctoral research in the area of sustainable agriculture under the supervision of a professor in one of the Faculty's academic units. The proposed research would address themes such as food quality and safety, nutrition and health, biosciences, bioproducts and biotechnology, bioresource and environmental engineering, conservation and the environment.

Eligibility: Candidates must have completed their PhD within three years prior to commencement of the award.

**Application Deadline:** March 1 (*in the event that March 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline will be the following working day*), for tenure not prior to September, 1, 2011. All applicants will be contacted not later than June 1, 2011.

Go to top. ++++++

## 3. Director, School of Agriculture, University of Manitoba

The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba invites applicants and nominations for the position of Director, School of Agriculture. This is a full-time continuing appointment and is expected to take effect on or about January 1, 2011. For more information, go to [http://umanitoba.ca/cgi-bin/human\\_resources/jobs/view.pl?posting\\_id=85521](http://umanitoba.ca/cgi-bin/human_resources/jobs/view.pl?posting_id=85521).

Go to top. ++++++

## 4. Young Scientists Ambassador Program

<http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~miller/YSAP/>

The Young Scientists from the 2010 Annual Meeting of the New Champions have initiated a Young Scientist Ambassador Program (YSAP). This program will promote the efforts of AMNC Young Scientists to bridge the international scientific gap by facilitating cultural, scientific, intellectual, or educational interactions. The ambassadorship must be *non-traditional*; that is, interaction must occur between two countries that are at different stages of scientific development, or between two countries that historically have had minimal scientific contact. There may be opportunities there to support collaborations and connections in your own discipline with colleagues internationally. Rees Kassen is the Canadian contact.

Go to top. ++++++

## 5. A Workshop on Gender and Market-oriented Agriculture 2011

<http://agrigender.wordpress.com/2010/05/20/agrigender1010/>

A Workshop on *Gender and Market-oriented Agriculture 2011 (AgriGender 2011): Research to Practice* on 31st January-2nd February, 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

This workshop (on Gender and Market-oriented Agriculture 2010: Research to Practice) will bring together researchers, agriculture development practitioners, donors and policymakers working in Africa and other regions to give women greater access to markets and value chains. The global dialogue will have a focus on East Africa, but will bring in relevant experiences from elsewhere in the world. The workshop is organized by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and its Improving Productivity and Market Success of Ethiopia farmers project (IPMS). **Registration deadline is November 15, 2010.**

Go to top. ++++++

## This Month's Articles:

### 1. Opinion: A less visible solution to hunger

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101001/OPINION01/10010328/Guest-column-A-less-visible-solution-to-hunger>

DAVID KAUCK is senior gender and agriculture specialist at the International Center for Research on Women in Washington

“As they gather this month for the World Food Prize Symposium, government leaders, multilateral institutions, civil society and private corporations will again discuss international hunger. Their usual response to this issue is to beef up agricultural production by focusing almost exclusively on expanding markets and developing new technologies, such as improved seed varieties. This is necessary, but insufficient. It would be wise – especially now – for world leaders to consider a novel approach. This is our best opportunity in decades to get it right.

To make a significant dent in chronic hunger *and* jump-start economic growth, global food security strategies must tackle something less tangible than seeds, less visible than tractors: It's time for an approach that addresses the underlying social inequities between women and men that contribute directly to low productivity farming. Members of the G20 and President Barack Obama already recognize the value in this. Obama's Feed the Future Initiative suggests that if women farmers had the same assets as men, economic output would increase and fewer children would go hungry. The message here? Gender inequality is a drag on productivity, and until we do something about it, we'll keep taking two steps back with each step forward.”

Go to top. ++++++

### 2. Where There Is Poverty, 'the State Cannot Be Neutral'

Michelle Bachelet, New Head of UN Women: Where There Is Poverty, 'the State Cannot Be Neutral'

<http://www.thenation.com/article/155028/michelle-bachelet-new-head-un-women-where-there-poverty-state-cannot-be-neutral>

The choice of Michelle Bachelet, the former president of Chile, to develop and then head a new and potentially powerful United Nations agency for women may well be the most important and smartest appointment Ban Ki-moon makes in his tenure as UN secretary-general. The agency will begin functioning in January, combining four under-funded and under-powered existing offices and programs for women.

The problems women face, and the hopes they have, are universal. They want security, equality and dignity, and protection against persistent vulnerabilities. Echoing demands from developing nations for greater attention to economic and social

rights, Bachelet said that human rights must encompass gender and also health, education, culture and even sports. It a government's responsibility to provide what she calls "permanent social protections."

"The state cannot be neutral," she said, in English, one of several languages she speaks. "We need to develop a focus—not only against poverty." While diminishing poverty—which in so many places has a woman's face—it is also important to reduce inherent social weaknesses, she added. "The market has an important place," and the private sector has a role to play, she said. "But the state has to guarantee peoples' rights, especially for the most vulnerable and the people who are living in the most difficult situations."

Go to top. ++++++

### **3. Promoting women's leadership in farmers' and rural producers' organizations**

[http://www.ifad.org/farmer/2010/agenda/e/report\\_women.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/farmer/2010/agenda/e/report_women.pdf)

In most developing countries, women undertake a large part of the agricultural work. Yet women's role in agriculture remains largely unrecognized. Their voices and concerns as farmers are scarcely heard at the national and global levels. One reason is that there are not enough women in leadership positions in rural producer organizations. As one moves from the grassroots to national levels, the trend becomes even more pronounced. The result is a disproportionate mismatch between rural women's voices and decision-making roles and their enormous contribution to agricultural marketing, production and rural livelihoods.

For these reasons the global meeting of the Farmers' Forum at IFAD in 2008 recommended that a special session be held on women's leadership in its 2010 meeting. An important outcome of this decision was the increased attendance by women from producer organizations – they were nearly 40 per cent of the total number of participants (against 10 per cent in the first global meeting in 2006). The final statement of Farmers' Forum urged that this level of participation by women be maintained, and even raised to 50 per cent in future meetings.

Main highlights are:

1. The economic empowerment of women was identified by all working groups as the essential condition to advance the voice and leadership of women in farmers' organizations.
2. Capacity building was critical to all facets of the discussion to promote greater leadership of women within farmers' and rural producers' organizations.
3. Despite difficulties in implementation, applying and maintaining quotas for women's participation was named as a primary action for IFAD and farmer's organizations
4. To increase women's participation, organizations often need to reach out better to women farmers, who are doubly burdened with farm work and family duties.
5. Establishing supportive networks for women and men serves as reinforcement for all efforts made to promote women's leadership in farmers' organizations around the world.
6. Also highlighted was the need for more positive media messages and portrayals of women.

7. Participants stressed that funding should go directly to women’s organizations or women’s structures within farmers’ organizations.

Go to top. ++++++

#### **4. CARE Commits \$1.8 Billion to Support Maternal, Child Health**

<http://care.ca/main/index.php?en&pressReleases&newsidnew=159&PHPSESSID=27d662b2744183646d7e11bf13f5c57e>

CARE has announced a \$1.8 billion pledge to expand its maternal, newborn, and child health programs to more than thirty countries by 2015.

The commitment will enable CARE to significantly expand its programs focused on empowering girls and women and gender equity, linking health systems and communities in systems of mutual accountability, and using innovative approaches to reach the world's most vulnerable populations. The humanitarian organization will launch programs in at least ten additional countries and scale-up programs in countries where it already operates, with the goal of helping more than thirty million women and children by 2015.

The funding also will strengthen CARE's commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals aimed at reducing child and maternal mortality by 2015 and will support the UN secretary-general's new global strategy with respect to women's and children's health.

Go to top. ++++++

#### **5. UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women Announces US\$10 Million in Grants to Fund Grassroots Efforts to Protect Women and Girls**

[http://www.unifem.org/news\\_events/story\\_detail.php?StoryID=1178](http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=1178)

UN Trust Fund announced on Oct. 6, 2010 US\$10 million in grants to 13 initiatives in 18 countries.. The UN Trust Fund is the only multilateral grant-making mechanism exclusively devoted to supporting local and national efforts to end violence against women and girls. Established by the United Nations in 1996, the Fund is managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, part of UN Women), on behalf of the United Nations system.

Examples of project funding include:

- In Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda, Acid Survivors Trust International will pilot and upscale groundbreaking strategies for ending acid burning against women.
- In India, Nepal and the Philippines, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) Foundation will build a pool of committed local indigenous women leaders in at least 60 communities in three Asian countries to engage in advocacy and community mobilization to reform local legislation and customary law.
- In China, Beijing Cultural Development Centre for Rural Women will develop protection mechanisms for girls “left behind” and at risk of sexual abuse in the countryside, while their parents pursue work in urban centres.
- UN Country Teams in Belarus, Sri Lanka and Indonesia will support multi-sectoral interventions to enforce national laws addressing violence against women and girls.

Go to top. ++++++

## 6. Youth Business International

**Young Sri Lankan woman wins prestigious entrepreneur competition in Mexico City**

<http://www.youthbusiness.org/media/news/sri-lankan-wins-competition.aspx>

Fathuma Nisreen, owner of a bag and garment making business in Sri Lanka, has been named the winner of an international competition for young entrepreneurs, organized by Youth Business International (YBI). The Sri Lanka business woman was announced as the YBI Entrepreneur of the Year on September 23, 2010 at a prestigious awards ceremony in Mexico City, after being interviewed by a judging panel of experts on business and entrepreneurship.

The award reflects the challenges that Fathuma has overcome as well as the huge potential that she has to act as a role model for other Muslims in her community and inspire other women around the world.

- For more information about Youth Business International, please visit <http://www.youthbusiness.org/>.
- Photos of the award winner Fathuma Nisreen can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/2596eq3>.
- Fathuma Nisreen’s story can be seen and heard on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2PnTRHcl6I>.

Go to top. ++++++

## 7. Organic Production Workshop in Sri Lanka

GEM representative from the Soil Science Society of Sri Lanka (SSSSL) Shifaya Maraikar reports on the one day program held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 on compost making and organic agriculture production at the Horticultural Crops Research & Development Institute, Gannoruwa of the Department of Agriculture. Participants were members of a women's organization called "Nilwala" in Neelawala. This is one of the study sites supported under the SRICANSOL II Project with the Canadian Society of Soil Science. The participants included the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of SSSSL. Participants also completed a questionnaire to identify their roles in family, domestic, and farming activities. This information will assist SSSSL in program planning to meet the needs of the women farmers.

Go to top. ++++++

## 8. Women drawn to small-scale farming

<http://www.leaderpost.com/life/Women+drawn+small+scale+farming/3662336/story.html>

Robin Tunnicliffe, Heather Stretch and Rachel Fisher operate Saanich Organics, a co-operative farm on Vancouver Island near Victoria (British Columbia in Canada). The women grow about 30 different kinds of vegetables and are part of a community-supported agriculture program in which community members own shares of the yield.

"Eighty families pay us up front for a season and they get a share in the harvest each week," says Tunnicliffe. "Each week we deliver a box with eight to 10 items to the member families. The rest we sell at farmers' markets and restaurants."



Thirteen seasons into her farming career, Tunncliffe, who is also working toward a postgraduate degree in food policy at the University of Victoria, is encouraged by the growing numbers of women entering small-scale farming and by what she calls the feminization of farming.

That change has been helped by the growth of organics, says Jennifer Sumner, assistant professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. Women make up more than 30 per cent of organic farmers. Sumner says many women were attracted by the holistic philosophy of organics. Women-only farms are often small, produce organic fruits and vegetables, and 80 per cent have annual receipts of less than \$50,000.

Sumner says two key drivers have pushed the organic movement to the forefront: Consumers who have lost trust in the conventional food system and farmers fed up with having to lay waste to the land to grow crops. Women are key players in both camps.

Go to top. ++++++

## 9. Stemming girls' chronic poverty

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/publications/details/stemming-girls-chronic-poverty>

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) is an international partnership of universities, research institutes and NGOs, established in 2000 with initial funding from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

The CPRC is pleased to announce the release of the CPRC Gender report, *Stemming girls' chronic poverty: Catalysing development change by building just social institutions*. The report intends to feed into discussions on gender, poverty and the MDGs. With a focus on girls, chronic poverty and social justice, it aims to open a wider debate about the changes necessary to reform discriminatory social institutions and end the harm they do to girls and young women, inhibiting the realization of their full capabilities.

"This report addresses this gap by placing girls and young women centre stage, highlighting ways in which five context-specific social institutions inform and determine their life opportunities and agency. Based on the OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), these are: discriminatory family codes, son bias, limited resource rights and entitlements, physical insecurity and restricted civil liberties. We discuss the characteristics of each social institution, its gendered dimensions, its linkages to poverty dynamics and its impacts on girls and young women."

Go to top. ++++++

## 10. Inheritance and the intergenerational transmission of poverty

<http://www.chronicpoverty.org/events/event/20101012-inheritance-and-the-intergenerational-transmission-of-poverty>

*Workshop hosted by the Chronic Poverty Research Centre and Overseas Development Institute in October 2010.*

Asset ownership supports social mobility. It influences a person's ability to move out of poverty, underpins household livelihoods and supports coping strategies and investment. Land is the most important asset in low income developing countries and most people gain access to land through inheritance. However, ownership and control of land is highly gendered and women hold only 1-2% of individually titled land. Women rarely inherit and access land through their fathers,

husbands, sons or brothers. This has implications for women’s agency and well-being and also in their ability to invest in their children with implications for the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

See the links to a number of papers/presentations including:

- A five country study of inheritance policy in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Inheritance, Legal Reform, and Gender Differences in Poverty and Well-Being in Rural Ethiopia
- Livestock or the pen: Is education a route out of poverty for pastoralists?
- How Ghana’s Grassroots Sisterhood Foundation and the Huairou Commission support equitable inheritance
- Conceptualising stigma, gender and generational inequalities in asset inheritance and the intergenerational transmission of poverty for women with HIV and young people with caring responsibilities in Tanzania and Uganda

Go to top. ++++++

## 11. Global Center for Women’s Land Rights

[http://www.rdiland.org/what we do/global center women land/](http://www.rdiland.org/what_we_do/global_center_women_land/)

Providing secure land rights to women isn’t just a good idea – it is essential to addressing poverty and hunger around the world. When women have secure rights to land, they can become investors in their family’s future and can ensure that their children’s needs are met.

Women’s rights to land are at the strategic center of RDI’s work to help the poorest. Women do 60 - 80 percent of the farming in developing countries, yet only 2 percent of the world’s land is owned by women. And women and girls comprise more than 70 percent of the world’s 1.4 billion poor people. When they are empowered to play active roles in society, women and girls improve the health, education and earning power of their families and communities.

Current initiatives include:

- Global Fellowship Program
- e-Library on Women’s Property Rights
- Advocacy and Education
- Girls and Land

Go to top. ++++++

## 12. IFAD Image Bank

<http://photos.ifad.org/asset-bank/action/viewHome>

The IFAD Image Bank is a library containing over 12,000 royalty-free images that put a face on rural poverty. This web tool allows registered users to easily search, share and download any of the 12,000 images collected from IFAD development projects and programmes in rural areas. The IFAD Image Bank is accessible via web browser from anywhere in the world to registered users.

Go to top. ++++++

### **13. If you want collective smarts, include women in your group**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/if-you-want-collective-smarts-include-women-in-your-group/article1736571/>

It is a lesson for everyone from corporate Canada to community halls: The key to “smart” groups may have less to do with brains and more to do with social sensitivity – a trait typically found in women. Researchers in the United States have found that putting individual geniuses together into a team doesn’t add up to one intelligent whole. Instead, they found, group intelligence is linked to social skills, taking turns, and the proportion of women in the group. The findings could be relevant to everything from scientific collaboration to corporate offices and the high-stakes field of military planning. The study is published in the Sept. 30 issue of the journal *Science*.

Go to top. ++++++

### **14. Women’s Executive Network**

<http://www.top100women.ca/>

Women’s Executive Network includes 14,000 members in Canada and 2000 in Ireland working as managers, executives and professionals. The top 100 most powerful women in Canada will be recognized at an awards dinner on November 29, 2010 in Toronto. To date, 460 women across Canada have received the Top 100 Award. 62 extraordinary and noteworthy women, who have received multiple *Top 100 Awards*, have been inducted into *Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Hall of Fame*.

The organization includes a peer e-mentoring program and national breakfast seminars that creates a personal advisory board for professional and personal counsel. Mentoring programs provide benefits to mentors, protégées, and organizations, but not all organizations have programs in place to support the advancement of women. Mentoring ensures learning and knowledge transfer is happening in your organization. Global research shows that mentoring programs ranks as one of the most important criteria for selecting a new employer. *WXN* also provides consulting services to aid in the development of corporate mentoring programs.

Go to top. ++++++

### **15. Globe & Mail EDITORIAL: Women need their chance to lead**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/time-to-lead/women-in-power/women-need-their-chance-to-lead/article1748539/?cmpid=rss1>

Canadians like to congratulate themselves on being more enlightened, and socially advanced, than Americans. We tend to interpret the United States through the funhouse mirror of popular culture. It’s a reckless conceit. Last year, Ursula Burns became the first woman to succeed a woman as CEO of a major U.S. company. Also last year, Hillary Clinton succeeded Condoleezza Rice as U.S. Secretary of State.

Canada does not have a woman in politics or in the boardroom who can compare with either of those two powerful women. What is the horizon for such an occurrence in Canada? Ten years? Twenty? In the U.S., roughly 50 per cent more women run the top 1,000 companies, including Archer Daniels, Kraft and Pepsico. In Canada, fewer women preside over significantly smaller empires. The number of women corporate officers here has grown only by 2.8 per cent since 2002.

To make this charge is not an act of tokenism, charity or correctness, it is a corporate and political challenge. Middle-management ranks of companies are filled with women. To pretend that they cannot lead is a lie, one that harms Canada's competitiveness. It is time for Canadians to stop pointing at the Kim Campbell interregnum as evidence of moral superiority and to show some leadership when it comes to women and leadership.

*The Globe examined the gender disconnect starting Saturday, October 9, 2010. Refer to <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/time-to-lead/women-in-power/> for videos, graphics and articles on women in Canadian business.*

Go to top. ++++++

## **16. More women needed in growing green jobs market**

<http://www.greenwisebusiness.co.uk/news/more-women-needed-in-growing-green-jobs-market-1825.aspx>

The need for qualified technicians and scientists and people with environmental training is growing as European businesses work to become more sustainable – and women are increasingly being sought to fill the gap.

A major European Union (EU) conference in Brussels about green jobs heard in October 2010 how businesses are struggling to find qualified employees for science and technology positions and that there is a need to recruit more women into such positions.

"This is what the youth need to know: if you want to go into green jobs, you have to go into science and technology first," Damien Dallemagne, founder of management consultants Innergic, told the 'Promoting Green Jobs: Ministerial Conference', organised by the Belgian Presidency of the EU in cooperation with the European Commission.

Innergic is working with GreenWin Cluster, which groups businesses and educational institutions to work toward a more sustainable future together. "You have to study engineering, chemistry, physics, or you have no chance of going into green innovation. And that's where the future is," said Dallemagne.

Go to top. ++++++

## **17. Can Microfinance Help Africa Meet the MDGs?**

<http://www.ngopulse.org/article/can-microfinance-help-africa-meet-mdgs>

With only five years remaining until governments are to meet the targets set out by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the sub-Saharan Africa region continues to have the highest poverty rates in the world, with millions of people living on less than US\$1 per day. Certain countries, like Ghana, Cameroon and Uganda, have shown great progress towards decreasing poverty levels, while the rest of the region continues to lag behind on the 2015 deliverables.

However, among a range of seemingly futile poverty reduction strategies, some initiatives, including women-led microfinance projects, show promise and have returned positive results. After emerging in the early 1990s, microfinance Institutions (MFIs) have increased in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, with current records from the 2009 Africa Microfinance Analysis and Benchmarking Report showing that more than 195 active MFIs exist throughout the region. Read more at the direct link to the report at

<http://www.themix.org/sites/default/files/2009%20Africa%20Microfinance%20Analysis%20and%20Benchmarking%20Report.pdf>.

Go to top. ++++++

## 18. Righting two wrongs - Making a new Global Climate Fund work for poor people

<http://www.oxfam.ca/node/2492>

Climate change is already negatively affecting the lives and livelihoods of poor men and women. Yet it is estimated that less than a tenth of climate funds to date have been spent on helping people in vulnerable countries adapt to the impacts of climate change. The poor are losing out twice: they are hardest hit by climate change they didn't cause, and they are being neglected by funds that should be helping them.

Climate finance can and must be made to work from the bottom up, particularly for women smallholder farmers. Starting with the formal establishment of a new Global Climate Fund, decisions on climate finance governance need to set a new direction for a post-2012 era. This paper presents a vision for a new Fund and broader finance system that is effective in meeting the scale of developing country financing needs, and is widely considered – by governments and civil societies – to be legitimate in its decision-making.

Go to top. ++++++

## 19. The Global Gender Gap Report 2010

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2010.pdf>

Through the *Global Gender Gap Reports*, since 2006, the World Economic Forum has been quantifying the magnitude of gender-based disparities and tracking their progress over time. By providing a comprehensive framework for benchmarking global gender gaps, the [334 page] *Report* reveals those countries that are role models in dividing resources equitably between women and men, regardless of their level of resources.

To date, the Global Gender Parity Group of multi-stakeholder communities of highly influential leaders—50% women and 50% men—from business, politics, academia, media and civil society have jointly identified the biggest gaps in each region, based in part on the findings of this *Report*, and have collectively committed to strategies to improve the use of female talent.

There are three basic concepts underlying the Global Gender Gap Index. First, it focuses on measuring gaps rather than levels. Second, it captures gaps in outcome variables rather than gaps in means or input variables. Third, it ranks countries according to gender equality rather than women's empowerment.

The Global Gender Gap Index examines the gap between men and women in four fundamental categories: (1) economic participation and opportunity, (2) educational attainment, (3) health and survival and (4) political empowerment.

According to the report's Index, the level of gender equality in France (46) has sunk as the number of women in ministerial positions has fallen over the past 12 months. The United States (19) closed its gender gap, rising 12 places to enter the top 20 for the first time in the report's five-year history. The climb reflects the higher number of women in leading roles in the current administration and improvements in the wage gap.

**Sri Lanka** (16) is distinctive for being the only South Asian country in the top 20 for the fourth consecutive year. Sri Lanka's performance remains steady as it maintains the same rank as 2009. In addition to higher-than-average performance in education and health, Sri Lanka continues to hold a privileged position regarding political empowerment. (pg. 27)

**Canada** (20) gains five places in the rankings and shows improvement on all four sub indexes. Like the United States, Canada's strength lies in educational attainment and economic participation. Women's labour force participation rate is 75% while men's is 83%. The estimated earned income gap places Canada at 33rd in the world for this indicator; the perception of the wage gap for similar work places Canada at 18th in the world for this variable. Thirty-six percent of legislators, senior officials and managers and 57% of professional and technical workers positions are occupied by women. (pg. 26). Other rankings:

Country	2010 Rankings	2009 Rankings	2008 Rankings	2007 Rankings	2006 Rankings
Iceland	1	1	4	4	4
Sri Lanka	16	16	12	15	13
Canada	20	25	31	18	14
Tanzania	66	73	38	34	24
Ghana	70	80	77	63	58
Vietnam	72	71	68	42	n/a
Nepal	115	110	120	125	111
Ethiopia	121	122	122	113	100
Yemen	134	134	130	128	115

Go to top. ++++++

## 20. Gender, Climate Change and Disaster

<http://www.gendercc.net/fields/disaster.html#c138>

Climate change is already increasing the intensity and magnitude of such natural hazards as floods and storms, droughts and other severe weather events. These impacts are expected to further deteriorate in the future. Sea levels may rise, low-lying delta areas might be flooded and salt-water intrusion may increase. Although natural disasters happen all over the world, they have a much greater impact on developing countries than on industrialised ones. Their economies are less powerful and therefore less able to prevent disasters or to cope with the losses.

This holds true in particular for those parts of the population which lack the ability to prepare for the impacts because of economic limitations or cultural factors. Extreme weather events, including hurricanes and floods, such as Hurricane Katrina which hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast of the United States in 2005, indicate that in industrialised countries it is again the poor parts of society that are most affected by natural disasters.

For example, a report from the field from Pakistan

[http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/Topics/Gender Pointers.pdf](http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/Topics/Gender_Pointers.pdf), identifies the following:

Heavy rains in the last week of July 2010 caused extreme flooding in the vast network of rivers along with hill torrents which has severely affected millions of people in nearly 79 districts in Pakistan. According to the preliminary estimates by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 1,754 people died due to floods, 2702 were injured and more than 20

million people are directly affected by the floods. The infrastructure and agriculture losses run into billions of dollars and millions of people have been made homeless.

According to some preliminary data from the field (KPK and PUNJAB), the hardest hit were the most vulnerable i.e. women, children, disabled, elderly etc. The disaster response which was to a large extent gender insensitive, has further added to their already existing vulnerabilities.

Go to top. ++++++

## **21. Farmers in a changing climate: does gender matter?**

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1721e/i1721e00.pdf>

This report presents the findings of research undertaken in six villages in two drought-prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, India, Mahbubnagar and Anantapur. The study, carried out by an international team led by FAO, used gender, institutional, and climate analyses to document the trends in climate variability men and women farmers are facing and their responses to ensure food security in the context of larger socio-economic and political challenges to their livelihoods and well-being.

The report's findings confirm that there is a strong gender dimension to the way in which climate variability is experienced and expressed by farmers in their coping strategies to ensure their livelihoods and food security. It also demonstrates that gender analysis enhances our understanding of what farmers perceive as risks and how they respond to climatic changes. Finally, it makes some recommendations for future research and for incorporating gender issues into adaptation to long-term climate change.

Go to top. ++++++

## **22. Women's Leadership on Climate Justice**

[http://www.mrfcj.org/pdf/Meeting\\_Report\\_Womens\\_Leadership\\_on\\_Climate\\_Justice\\_17Sep2010.pdf](http://www.mrfcj.org/pdf/Meeting_Report_Womens_Leadership_on_Climate_Justice_17Sep2010.pdf)

In an effort to build a network, the Mary Robinson Foundation recently brought together female climate leaders to discuss "Women's Leadership on Climate Justice: Planning for Cancun and Beyond".

The goal of the discussion was to facilitate coordination and interaction of activities in a way that would complement and bolster existing activities, while identifying strategic issues. In a round-table discussion the participants talked about various aspects of Climate Justice such as financing, NAPAs and REDD as well as Gender and Climate Change.

Key messages to come out of discussion at the meeting included:

1. Climate justice must be linked with development, including issues such as food security, health (especially malaria), energy, income, water and sanitation. There need to be greater connections made between climate change and the MDGs, and between NAPAs and PRSPs.
2. The gender dimension must be explicitly included and considerably strengthened within sub-topics of climate change policy such as financing (including climate funds), NAPAs and REDD.
3. Women need to have a stronger voice and greater representation, particularly within national and international policy arenas on climate change. Women have developed solutions and are taking action, but this is not sufficiently recognized. Women can and do make a difference, and are not solely 'victims' affected by climate change, as they

are often represented. In developing countries, women are particularly active as leaders within their families, communities and schools. Women have a right to be involved in decision-making and directing action on climate change, and it is also smart to involve them.

4. The capacity for individual women, and women's organizations, to engage on climate justice needs to be strengthened. Institutional capacity is a core problem. Concrete support, including funding, training and information, is required to allow women to engage. Getting grassroots women more involved is particularly important.
5. It is helpful to provide examples of good practices, local and national solutions and promising initiatives. Increased sharing of such examples, including on-line and through databases, would be useful.
6. There was a strong call for positive messages on climate change, rather than the 'doom and gloom' that still dominates media reporting and, sometimes, civil society campaigning. There was a determination to reframe the climate change story. For example, rather than political will, which can become political 'won't', emphasize political 'can', what can be done. It is also important to avoid giving excuses for inaction or for cutting funding.
7. There was a need for community knowledge, local leaders, stories, case studies and locally-generated solutions to be brought to the attention of other local groups (including those geographically distant), national policy-makers, business, and international policy-makers.
8. Developing countries have knowledge of the real and likely effects of climate change and its impacts and are already generating solutions. The experience and knowledge from developing countries needs to reach the international policy space with greater impact than it has so far.
9. Technology for women needs to provide answers for what are often unrecognized and unmet needs.
10. The importance of research with a strong evidence base was repeatedly emphasized. There is a need for more research and knowledge generation in some areas where there is an information gap and a need for greater care in the use of existing information so as not to undermine arguments, such as the effects of environmental degradation versus climate change.
11. Messages on climate justice need to be simple, unified, and positive. There is an opportunity for large networks and groups to get behind a single 'manifesto'. In developing countries, relatively strong national civil society organizations tend to be focussed on national climate change issues, but insufficiently networked with international civil society and global policy; while in developed countries, national and international NGOs often tend to focus on global policy while remaining disconnected from less-recognized domestic organizations working on local environmental issues.
12. Ensuring survival for extremely vulnerable countries, such as small island states, can also include addressing the gender dimensions of climate change, simultaneously and in a complementary fashion. However, trying to address both can place severe strains on the capacity, resources and population of small countries, and this needs to be addressed.
13. Consumption, in both developed countries and among the wealthier developing countries, needs to be mentioned more and addressed directly in climate change discussions. Differences may be less between global North and South than between rich and poor around the world.



14. Greater solidarity between countries and individuals was encouraged, and a sense of shared responsibility and mutual support, rather than allowing a politics of division to succeed. Highlight what we have in common, and share in one another's successes.
15. Mitigation and adaptation need to be balanced in terms of attention and funding, as currently the vast majority of both go towards mitigation. It also needs to be understood that mitigation is part of the climate justice approach alongside adaptation.
16. More efforts should connect to the national level - in terms of international policy recognizing national needs, while also having international policy translated into real national actions, and in terms of local and community needs and civil society inputs being taken into account at national level. Need to build both 'ground up' and 'top down' bridges.

Go to top. ++++++

## 23. The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010pub.htm>

*The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics* is the fifth issue of *The World's Women* and is being produced to coincide with the first-ever UN World's Statistics Day, 20.10.2010. The current issue highlights the differences in the status of women and men in eight areas – (1) population and families, (2) health, (3) education, (4) work, (5) power and decision-making, (6) violence against women, (7) environment and (8) poverty. Analyses are based mainly on statistics from international and national statistical sources.

*The World's Women 2010* shows that progress towards gender equality has been made in some areas, such as school enrolment, health and economic participation. At the same time the report shows that much more needs to be done to close the gender gap in critical areas such as power and decision-making and violence against women.

### Key Findings from Chapter 7 – Environment (graphs are also available):

- More than half of rural households and about a quarter of urban households in sub-Saharan Africa lack easy access to sources of drinking water, and most of the burden of water collection falls on women.
- The majority of households in sub-Saharan Africa and in Southern and South-Eastern Asia use solid fuels for cooking on open fires or traditional stoves with no chimney or hood, disproportionately affecting the health of women.
- Fewer women than men participate in high-level decision-making related to the environment.

Go to top. ++++++

## 24. State of World Population 2010

<http://www.unfpa.org/swp/>

The report from the United Nations Population Fund *State of World Population 2010* will show what has been accomplished in places affected by ongoing conflicts or by military occupation. It will also show the special challenges of countries that have endured both political instability and natural disaster.

Ten years ago, the United Nations Security Council passed a landmark resolution calling on governments to protect women from rape during war time and to tap the power of women to keep the peace and rebuild societies once the fighting has stopped. Has the resolution made any difference in the struggle against gender-based violence? Are women in war-torn countries faring any better today than they were a decade ago? Do women finally have a place at the table in peace negotiations and in reconstruction?

Go to top. ++++++

## 25. Rural Women in the Developing World

<http://fivebooks.com/interviews/khushi-kabir-on-rural-women-developing-world>

Khushi Kabir has been working to improve the lives of the rural poor in Bangladesh for almost 40 years. Since 1980 she has acted as head of Nijera Kori (We Do It Ourselves), an NGO which promotes self-reliance through mobilisation and rejects the concept of micro-credit. She is also a longstanding member of SANGAT, the South Asian Feminist Network.

Khushi Kabir, the Bangladeshi campaigner for lifting women out of poverty, says village life has been wrongly idealised. It is not a harmonious whole with the elders looking after the interests of all the villagers alike, without prejudices of class or gender. Things are improving for women and girls, she says, but there is a long way to go. She chooses five books that might help. The five books are:

1. *Jhagrapur: Poor Peasants and Women in a Village in Bangladesh* by Jenneke Arens and Jos Van Beurden.
2. *Reversed Realities: Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought* by Naila Kabeer.
3. *Agunmukhar Meye* by Nurjahan Bose
4. *A Quiet Violence: View from a Bangladesh Village* by Betsy Hartmann and James K Boyce.
5. *Surja Dighal Bari (The Ominous House), made into a film by Masihuddin Shaker and Shaik Niamat Ali.*

Five Books is a website where every day an eminent writer, thinker, commentator, politician, academic chooses five books on their specialist subject.

Go to top. ++++++

## 26. How not to die for a meal

<http://www.cbc.ca/dispatches/2010season/2010/10/21/october-21-24-2010-from-palermo-sicily---los-angeles---new-york--kandahar---phnom-penh-cambodia/>

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) Radio's program *Dispatches* (for Thursday October 21, 2010) provides a podcast on how designing a smokeless stove is capturing some creative imaginations. [Scroll down the CBC web page to find the links to the audio sections.]

Back in the 1600s, stovemakers in England tested their prototypes by soaking a chunk of coal in cat urine, and throwing it on the fire. If the stink went up the stank, well, it was good to go. But if it stunk the joint out; back to square one.

Four hundred years later, that same quest draws a group of men to the Oregon woods for the annual pilgrimage known as Stove Camp, aiming to come up with a cheap and efficient stove to feed the Third World.

As it is, smoke-related illness from cooking fires is killing over a million people a year. And it's the second-biggest source of global warming, so it's also attracting some high-tech commercial interest. The quest just got a big boost from a sixty-million-dollar initiative recently announced by U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.

Go to top. ++++++

## 27. Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

<http://cleancookstoves.org/>

News release at <http://cleancookstoves.org/blog/release-secretary-clinton-announces-global-alliance-for-clean-cookstoves/>

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced on September 21, 2010 the formation of the *Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves*, a more than \$60 million dollar public-private partnership to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women and combat climate change by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. Exposure to smoke from traditional stoves and open fires – the primary means of cooking and heating for 3 billion people in developing countries – causes almost 2 million deaths annually, with women and young children affected most. That is a life lost every 16 seconds.

Announced during the Secretary's remarks at the Clinton Global Initiative forum, the Alliance's goal is for 100 million homes to adopt clean and efficient stoves and fuels by 2020. The Alliance, led by the United Nations Foundation, will bring together leading foundations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, corporate leaders, governments and UN agencies to help overcome current barriers and stimulate a thriving global market for clean cookstoves.

"Today we can finally envision a future in which open fires and dirty stoves are replaced by clean, efficient and affordable stoves and fuels all over the world — stoves that still cost as little as \$25," said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. "By upgrading these dirty stoves, millions of lives could be saved and improved. Clean stoves could be as transformative as bed nets or vaccines."

Cookstove smoke contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as early childhood pneumonia, emphysema, lung cancer, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease and low birth weight.

The smoke from inefficient stoves continues to contribute to global climate change by producing harmful greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane, and aerosols such as black carbon. Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating also increases pressure on local natural resources and forces women and children to spend many hours each week collecting firewood – an especially dangerous task for women and girls in refugee camps and conflict zones.

The use of efficient cookstoves can dramatically reduce fuel consumption and exposure to harmful smoke. Recent scientific evidence confirms that the greater the emissions reductions, the greater the health benefits. More efficient stoves also reduce the time people (usually women and girls) have to spend collecting fuel, and since stoves last for several years, the accumulated savings in time and cost can be invested back into families, communities and economies.

The reductions in emissions achieved by clean cookstoves have the potential to create revenues from carbon credits. Stove companies can use this revenue to reduce stove prices or expand into new markets. More broadly, the entire clean cookstove supply-chain should be a source of economic opportunity and job creation at the local level.

To achieve its ‘100 by 20’ goal, the Alliance will establish industry standards; spur innovative financing mechanisms; champion the cause across the donor and development communities; develop indoor air quality guidelines; address global tax and tariff barriers; field test clean stoves and fuels; and develop research roadmaps across key sectors such as health, climate, technology and fuels.

A thriving global industry for clean cooking solutions will provide a range of long-term benefits for the entire world – from improving global health to combating climate change.

Go to top. ++++++

## 28. Stove Camp

<http://www.aprovecho.org/lab/>

StoveTec was created in the fall of 2008 as a not-just-for-profit entity to act as the technology transfer recipient for the Aprovecho Research Center, in Oregon, USA. ARC has worked for 30 years to design and build improved cook stoves and has completed over 100 projects in 60 countries. ARC designed StoveTec stoves with cooks to assure that cooks all over the world would love the stove.

Every year since 2000, cook stove experts and enthusiasts gather at ARC for one week in early August. They hold classes, have discussions, build stoves, conduct experiments, share knowledge, and work together to move the industry forward. Many participants camp at the 4-acre campus, and good times and merriment are always available. Current technologies designed by ARC and represented by StoveTec include Improved Rocket Cook Stoves, the Portable Emissions Measurement System (PEMS) and the Indoor Air Pollution/Exposure Meter (IAP Meter).

For information on the activities and results of previous years, please follow the links.

A video of the stoves is available at <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/tny/2009/12/video-scenes-from-stove-camp.html>. In this video, three veteran stove makers demonstrate their prototypes at Stove Camp. The first is Dean Still, the founder of the camp, with an institutional stove made from an old oil drum. The second is Peter Scott, a stove maker who has built or designed nearly half a million stoves in Africa, with a prototype for making Ethiopian *injera* bread. The last is Elder Mendoza, from Honduras, with a “rocket” tortilla stove.

Go to top. ++++++