



*Horticulturist Sara Williams being inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon, Aug. 2013. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.*

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

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

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## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. Innovative Leader Sought for AWARD Director Position

<http://www.awardfellowships.org/news-and-events/job-opportunities.html>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is recruiting a Director, who will creatively lead, manage, and advance this ground-breaking, career-development program, empowering innovation across the continent. The Director will be based in AWARD’s office in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which provides services such as finance, IT, and human resources support. AWARD is a CGIAR privileged service provider, and the Director will report to the Director General of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). Application deadline is **October 11, 2013**.

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### 2. Online Discussion: Land Matters on Devex

<https://pages.devex.com/land-matters-food-security.html>

The international development news and business site Devex has launched a new campaign called Land Matters, showcasing innovative solutions to land issues and advancing a conversation that now involves smallholder farmers across Africa and other parts of the world as well as land experts, social entrepreneurs, business executives and government officials.

Through September, Land Matters will explore how land matters for food security, women, the environment, economic development, conflict resolution, and transparency. Authors from IFPRI and CAPRI will be among the contributors, especially on the “Land Matters for Women” and “Land Matters for the Environment” themes.

Visit the Land Matters site, or participate in the conversation by tweeting #landmatters or by sharing, liking, and commenting on the coverage via the Devex LinkedIn, Facebook and Google+ pages.

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### 3. EvalPartners Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive (EFGR) Task Force webinars

[http://mymande.org/Evalpartners-WebinarSeries\\_Promoting\\_equity\\_focused\\_and\\_gender](http://mymande.org/Evalpartners-WebinarSeries_Promoting_equity_focused_and_gender)

The EvalPartners Equity-Focused and Gender-Responsive (EFGR) Task Force is hosting a series of webinars to provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of stakeholders’ experience with EFGR evaluation efforts across EvalPartners core areas of work: enabling environment, institutional development and individual capacity development.

The first of the webinar series was held on 20 August, 2013 and focused on the experience of Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs) from Europe and CIS, and the Americas incorporating EFGR approach into their organizations/networks.

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## 4. New introductory e-Learning programme on Development Evaluation

<http://www.mymande.org/elearning>

The e-Learning programme is free and open to all interested people. You may attend virtually from your personal or work computer anywhere in the world. The course includes online lectures, requested reading material, and simple multiple-choice tests. Participants also have the opportunity to engage in an online discussion forum. At the end of each course, if 80% of the answers on the multiple-choice test are correct, participants will be able to print out a certificate of "virtual" attendance.

The courses will be opened three times per year:

- 23 September 2013 - 19 January 2014
- 27 January 2014 - 18 May 2014
- 26 May 2014 - 17 September 2014

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## 5. Canadian IDRC -- Doctoral Field Research in Developing Countries

<http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Competitions/Pages/CompetitionDetails.aspx?CompetitionID=60>

Canada's International Development Research Center (IDRC) offers doctoral research awards twice a year (April and October) in priority themes that include **agriculture and environment** (among others). The program is open to Canadians, permanent residents of Canada, and nationals of developing countries who are pursuing doctoral studies at Canadian universities. IDRC funds research in all developing countries, with a few exceptions. The award covers expenses for field research up to CA\$20 thousand a year. The next deadline is **02 October 2013**.

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## This Month's News

### 1. NSERC CWSE – Prairies Newsletter

[http://gallery.mailchimp.com/68cc4adf18fdf7789e424d047/files/Newsletter\\_Vol\\_2\\_Iss\\_2\\_September\\_2013.2.pdf](http://gallery.mailchimp.com/68cc4adf18fdf7789e424d047/files/Newsletter_Vol_2_Iss_2_September_2013.2.pdf)

The goal of the NSERC CWSE - Prairies is to develop and successfully lead strategic activities that promote greater opportunities for women, particularly Aboriginal women, in science and engineering across the Prairie Region of Canada. Articles in the recent newsletter include:

- INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE TO TACKLE WATER QUALITY ISSUES

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## 2. Oxfam Gender Justice Summit

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

Oxfam Canada's 2013 Gender Justice Summit brings together people working on the front lines for social justice, women's rights and gender equality. The Summit will provide opportunities for learning, leadership and action. It will raise public awareness and showcase Oxfam's work on gender justice and women's rights.

The program included sessions on building resilience within the food system such as women's rights to land, climate adaptation, and women's access to resources.

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## 3. Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) September Highlights

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

Refer to the newsletter which includes articles on topics such as:

- Why does gender matter in **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)? The question was debated at a brown bag meeting and webinar organized by WEDO and the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (SES) Initiative in Washington DC on August 28th.
- September 2<sup>nd</sup> marked the deadline for Parties and Observers to submit views on ways to advance the goal of gender balance in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. So far, 25 Parties and Observers have submitted their views and recommendations.

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## 4. Educated Indian women still face uncertain future

[http://www.ales.ualberta.ca/ALESNews/2013/September/EducatedIndianwomenstillfaceuncertainfuture.aspx?utm\\_source=Daily%20News%20Email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20News:%20September%2025,%202013&utm\\_content=807498](http://www.ales.ualberta.ca/ALESNews/2013/September/EducatedIndianwomenstillfaceuncertainfuture.aspx?utm_source=Daily%20News%20Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20News:%20September%2025,%202013&utm_content=807498)

The University of Alberta's Sandeep Mohapatra of the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology, and his colleague Martin Luckert, looked at the uncertainty of educational returns in India, one of the world's fastest developing economies. Statistics show the more education Indian women get, the better their wages. But it's not that simple – Indian women face much more uncertainty than men in landing a good paying job after graduation.

*Refer to the link for the full article.*

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## Reports, Publications and Resources

### 1. Key reference material for social & gender issues linked to tackling deforestation

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=65547> or at

This reference list has been collated – as part of a HelpDesk enquiry that was undertaken by the Evidence on Demand team – to peer-review social and gender issues in a business case, relating to forests and climate change. Whilst not exhaustive, this list may act as a useful resource in the development of future business cases.

References are divided into two main categories:

1. Gender issues and forestry

- Gender participation, empowerment and forests
- Gender research and sustainable forestry
- Gender mainstreaming
- Gender and agriculture
- Gender, climate change and forests

2. Social issues and forestry

- Community forestry
- Forests and indigenous people
- Land tenure
- Forests and poverty
- Equity and forests
- Forests, certification and fair trade
- Supply chains and forests
- Forests and working conditions
- Forests and social standards and safeguards
- Forests, climate change and adaptation

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## 2. MDGs and the role of agricultural policies and programmes

[http://www.chronicpoverty.org/component/docman/doc\\_view/51-agriculture-policy-guide](http://www.chronicpoverty.org/component/docman/doc_view/51-agriculture-policy-guide)

Maximising sustained escapes from poverty and preventing impoverishment will accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This policy guide is designed to show agricultural and other interested policymakers how their policies and programmes can benefit chronically poor people, help poor people move out of poverty and prevent the impoverishment of others.

It makes a new case for a shift in the mainstream agricultural paradigm towards a focus on asset accumulation and protection in the context of sustainable agriculture, as well as an emphasis on farm workers as a major constituency for agricultural agencies. It also suggests a more rapid transition to incorporating sustainable agriculture and indigenous technologies in to the agricultural mainstream in a pro-poor systems innovation approach. It supports other work in highlighting infrastructure and pro-poor market arrangements, non-farm economic growth and local institutional development to enable agriculture to have a greater impact on poverty reduction.

*See the Asset Policy Guidance Map on page 52, the Market Policy Guidance Map on page 72, and the Labour Policy Guidance Map on page 85.*

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### 3. Guiding value chain development: Comparing approaches

<http://clippings.ilri.org/2013/09/02/vcd-reviews/>

Value chain development (VCD) is increasingly seen as a way to stimulate economic growth, combat rural poverty and engage smallholders in agricultural development. It aims to facilitate the building of mutually beneficial links between smallholders and other chain actors, such as processors, exporters and retailers, who interact in the production and marketing of a given product. It is a key element in the design and delivery of the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock and Fish.

As VCD has emerged, numerous guides have been published on how to conduct value chain analysis. The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) have just released a timely report that reviews 11 guides for VCD. The authors compare the various concepts and methods and assess the strengths and limitations of the guides.

They suggest three areas where further reflection and debate is needed:

- 1) concepts, methods and tools for addressing the needs of the poor in value chains;
- 2) tools for deepening analysis and addressing variations in the context; and
- 3) mechanisms for mutual learning on the design and implementation of VCD.

They conclude with various recommendations for guide authors and donors that support VCD.

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### 4. Building the evidence based roadmap for women's economic empowerment

[http://www.womeneconroadmap.org/sites/default/files/WEE\\_Roadmap\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.womeneconroadmap.org/sites/default/files/WEE_Roadmap_Report_Final.pdf)

THE RESEARCH QUESTION: Expanding women's economic opportunities benefits both women and society. Documented benefits include greater investments in children, reduced poverty for all and, perhaps most consequentially, enhanced aspirations for the next generation of girls and women. While these many benefits are well understood, much less is known regarding the most effective development interventions to empower them economically. To put it more simply, what works best to increase women's productivity and earnings in developing countries?

This report provides a significant step forward in making sense of the rapidly growing evidence base on what works and what does not for gender equality.


The Roadmap for Action is presented for each of the country scenarios. The table includes:

- A summary of the main features and challenges of the particular scenario
- A list of interventions, shaded to indicate their associated ratings, based on the women most likely to be working or seeking work and the types of jobs most likely to be available in the particular country scenario
- Suggested complementary interventions for each scenario

Since the Roadmap for Action is focused on program interventions that deliver results in the short term, it does not include policy and legal reforms (although selected ones are mentioned in the text of the overview), nor does it mention long-term investments in girls' and women's health and education, which are well-known to empower them economically.

The Roadmap identifies nine proven and nine promising interventions to increase women's productivity and earnings in developing countries.

The major lessons learned from the empirical evidence for the four major categories of interventions. These lessons provided the basis for the recommendations made in the Roadmap for Action.

 <p><b>FARMING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Formal ownership and control over farmland improves women's productivity and economic security. But the success of land tenure interventions depends on paying attention to social and local contexts.</li> <li>9 Farmer groups and collectives can provide individual women producers with access to markets and help overcome constraints in meeting demands of agricultural supply chains.</li> <li>10 An integrated suite of services, which target both production and marketing and address social constraints, is the main feature of agricultural projects that succeed in raising the productivity of small-scale women farmers.</li> <li>11 Single agricultural services, rather than a full suite, may be enough to increase productivity of women with larger sized farms, more assets, and more control over those assets.</li> </ul>	<p><b>FARMERS AND RURAL ENTREPRENEURS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Access to electricity increases rural women's productivity and earnings. Access can be increased by providing targeted loans or subsidies for connection costs to existing grids.</li> <li>13 Mobile phones help increase earnings of women farmers and rural entrepreneurs by providing access to market information.</li> <li>14 Female autonomy is an important determinant of rural women's earnings and influences the success of interventions targeting women farmers and rural entrepreneurs.</li> </ul> <p>Source: Executive Summary of <i>A Roadmap for Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment</i>.</p>
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## 5. Maximizing the impact of youth entrepreneurship support in different contexts

<http://www.odi.org.uk/projects/2557-maximising-impact-youth-entrepreneurship-support-different-contexts>

<http://ybiproject.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/ppa-contexts-framework-consultation-document-final-version.pdf>

The global youth population is the largest in history. Of the world's 3 billion people estimated to be under the age of 25, approximately 1.3 billion young people are between the ages of 15 and 24, making up a quarter of the world's working population, but representing half of the world's unemployed. Just under half live on less than \$2 a day, as estimated by the United Nations.

Most young people in the developing world face little prospect of obtaining a job in the formal sector; for many, self-employment is the only option. **Helping young people to earn a living through entrepreneurship can make a crucial contribution to poverty reduction.**

In addition, future innovation and economic growth will depend on future leaders with entrepreneurial skills and attitudes. Youth entrepreneurship is a key tool to develop the human capital necessary for the future, unleash the economic potential of youth, and promote sustainable growth.

Many different initiatives exist to promote youth entrepreneurship, from providing training to young people who want to start their own business to venture capital funds helping to promote these businesses, yet little is known about what works best – and in particular what works best in different contexts. Operating context is critical to impact, yet there exists very little understanding or guidance about how context affects impact in practice, or how interventions should be adapted to maximize impact, especially in the youth entrepreneurship sector.

Given this global context, ODI was commissioned by Youth Business International (YBI), Restless Development and War Child to conduct a study about ‘maximizing the impact of youth entrepreneurship support in different contexts’.

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