

GEM Digest of the Month for October 2011



September 12, 2011 full moon in Manitoba. Photo courtesy of Cindy Murray.

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 of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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Calendar:

- The world's population will reach seven billion people in October 2011.
- 16 October, World Food Day 30th anniversary <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/food/index.html>

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Opportunities

1. Call for Abstracts: Gender in Science Institutions and Knowledge System

<http://genderfoodpolicy.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/gwo2012-call-for-abstracts-gender-in-science-institutions.pdf>

7th international interdisciplinary conference, 27th – 29th June, 2012, Keele, UK

Current understanding of the role of gender in science has evolved from the early and oppositional associations of 'gender' with women and men to gender as an organizing principle for both institutions and scientific disciplines. Yet greater understanding of gender issues and the growing evidence of how they impact on scientific work and quality has arguably failed to accelerate progress on achieving gender equality within science institutions or research.

Growing worldwide competitiveness in research, development and innovation has focused attention of governments and science policy makers on measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the knowledge system. At issue are benefits

of investment in education and research to society. It is of great importance that gender knowledge and expertise is integrated into the discussions about 'modernisation' of research structures, workplace practices and management of the scientific workforce. A wide range of actors play a role in bringing about change: research institutes, industry, funding bodies, learned societies, science publishing - and gender research scholars.

Contributions are welcome in any of the following or related themes:

Institutional processes and practices

Career models and pathways; assessment criteria and processes, applied to people and work; recruitment and appointment, to different roles and at different levels; working conditions for individuals, teams, dual-career couples, parents and carers.

Human capital

Gender issues in the context of how social and intellectual capital within scientific institutions, is organised and deployed: leadership and management styles; selection and performance of committees and panels; composition and performance of research teams; group-work; collaboration, networking, mentoring.

Legislation and compliance

Research that investigates gender issues in the context of the role and impact of regulation and legislation: targets and quotas; internal and external evaluation of institutions; gender mainstreaming strategies and processes; the role and impact of national and European legislation.

Science knowledge making

Research that investigates gender issues in the knowledge production process: gender and the knowledge creation, application and dissemination in science; decision-making within research processes; standards and methods; persuading leaders; gender/sex analysis in training programmes; attitudes to criteria of excellence; negotiating and presenting gender issues in research contents, etc.

Abstracts of approximately 500 words are invited **by 1st October 2011** with decisions on acceptance to be made by stream leaders within one month. All abstracts will be peer reviewed. New and young scholars with 'work in progress' papers are welcomed. In the case of co-authored papers, ONE person should be identified as the corresponding author. Note that due to restrictions of space, multiple submissions by the same author will not be timetabled.

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2. Canada hosts a joint conference with UN Women

<http://unwomen.cida.gc.ca/eng/home.html>

This invitation-only conference, **from October 3-5, 2011 in Ottawa**, will be held in English, French and Spanish, and will bring together approximately 100 participants.

Women play a central role in sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Women work in the traditional labour force and in the informal sector. They own their own businesses, produce food, manage natural resources, care for their family members, and are active in their communities. Yet, despite their high level of participation in all aspects of developing world economies, women still face significant challenges to equality — in the

home, the community, institutions and policies — all of which undermine their economic security and rights. They also face gender discrimination based on cultural and social norms and beliefs.

Overcoming these challenges is essential to reducing poverty, achieving development goals, and creating a strong foundation for sustainable economic growth that will improve the lives of women, their families, and their wider communities.

We already have a wealth of knowledge about legislation, policies, strategies and practices that have had a positive impact on women's successful participation in the economy.

We need to put this knowledge into action globally to empower women farmers who are routinely denied the right to own the land they work, women workers who are paid less than their male counterparts, women in the informal sector who are unrecognized by decision makers, and women entrepreneurs who have difficulty accessing financial services to grow their businesses.

From October 3 to 5, 2011, the Canadian International Development Agency and UN Women will host a joint conference to address these challenges in practical ways. The conference will bring together leading practitioners, development thinkers, policy-makers, entrepreneurs, and representatives of the private and public sectors. Together they will explore and identify concrete ways to support women's economic empowerment and strengthen their economic security and rights.

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3. Event: European Gender Summit: Quality Research and Innovation Through Equality

<http://www.gender-summit.eu/>

November 8-9, 2011, Brussels

Knowledge and innovation are key drivers for sustainable growth and prosperity in Europe. Extensive research has demonstrated that the quality of research and development benefits significantly from adding gender as a critical success factor. The first European Gender Summit, to be held in November 2011 in Brussels, will network key players from all sectors to initiate the much-needed changes in the culture of research and innovation. Joint discussions will produce the first ever collective agreement on policy development on gender for innovation, the policy manifesto on "Integrated Action on the Gender Dimension in Research."

The European Gender Summit is held under the auspices of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and is supported by the European Commission through the Science and Society Programme (FP7). The event is supported by a range of high-level partners and patrons from different sectors and backgrounds.

Examples of sessions include:

- **SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP:** Equally valuing talent of women and men
- **GENDERED R&D:** Innovation talent of women and men
- **MOBILISING AND MOBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC TALENT:** Competitive advantage of gender equality
- **GENDER ISSUES IN SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS:** How can editorial policies and writing on gender issues in science be improved to make the assessment and selection of research results for publication sensitive to gender and sex issues?

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4. Conference: “Innovations in Extension and Advisory Services”

<http://extensionconference2011.cta.int/>

An international conference to take stock of current policies, thinking and practice, successes and failures of ongoing and past reforms in extension and advisory services and build a coalition moving forward to specifically address meeting the future needs of small-holder farmers, marginalized communities, women and youth in a sustainable and cost effective manner is being held **November 15 to 18, 2011** in Nairobi, Kenya.

There are four cross-cutting conference themes.

1. Policy
2. Capacity Development
3. Tools and Approaches
4. Learning Networks

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5. Webinars: Equity-Focused Evaluations

http://mymande.org/index.php?q=equity_focused_evaluation&x=c

A series of live webinars on “Equity-focused Evaluations” began in September with the support of UNICEF, UNWOMEN, the Rockefeller Foundation, Claremont Graduate University and IOCE, in partnership with IDEAS, OHCHR, UNEG Task Force on National Evaluation Capacities, UNDP, ILO, IDRC and PAHO. This new series of webinars will address the challenges in evaluating the effects of policies, programmes and projects to enhance equitable development results, with a special focus on the effects to the most excluded, marginalized and deprived groups.

Webinars are *free* and open to interested people. You may attend virtually from your personal or work computer anywhere in the world. You just need a computer, internet connection, speakers and a microphone/headphone. In addition to watching live presentations, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments in real time.

To register and to set up your computer, follow the link before the session begins. These webinars will enable the sharing of good practices and lessons learned. Global-level speakers will contribute international perspectives.

Some upcoming sessions are listed below:

October 4: HOW TO DESIGN, IMPLEMENT and USE EQUITY-FOCUSED EVALUATIONS, 11h30 AM to 12h30 PM New York time. Please check the local time in your own town at <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html>. Welcome and introduction: Colin Kirk, Director, UNICEF Evaluation Office; Marco Segone, Systemic Management, UNICEF Evaluation Office; Michael Bamberger, Independent Consultant; Questions and Answers Moderator: Abigail Taylor, Knowledge Management Specialist, UNICEF Evaluation Office; Wrap-up: Marco Segone.

October 11: CASE STUDY and EQUITY in EVALUATION 1, Tuesday, 11th October 2011, from 9h30 to 10h30 AM New York time, [14h30 PM London time] with Marco Segone, Systemic Management, UNICEF Evaluation Office; Saville Kushner, University of the West of England; Questions and Answers Moderator: Stewart Donaldson, Dean & Chair of Psychology School of Behavioural & Organizational Sciences, Claremont Graduate University; Wrap-up: Penny Hawkins, Evaluation Office, The Rockefeller Foundation.

<p>Marco SEGONE, Systemic Management, Evaluation Office, UNICEF</p> <p>Michael BAMBERGER, <i>Independent Consultant</i></p>	<p>How to design, implement and use equity-oriented evaluations</p>	<p>October 2011</p>
<p>Robert CHAMBERS, <i>Institute of Development Studies</i></p> <p>Saville KUSHNER, <i>University of the West of England</i></p>	<p>Whose voices matter</p> <p>Case study evaluation as an intervention for promoting equity</p>	<p>October 2011</p>
<p>Patricia ROGERS, <i>Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University</i></p> <p>Richard HUMMELBRUNNER, <i>Independent Consultant</i></p>	<p>Program theories and LogFrames to evaluate pro-poor and equity programs</p>	<p>November 2011</p>
<p>Bob WILLIAMS, <i>Independent Consultant</i></p> <p>Martin REYNOLDS, <i>Lecturer in systems thinking and evaluations, Open University</i></p>	<p>Systems approach (CSH) to address ethical issues</p>	<p>November 2011</p>

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6. Event: Salzburg Global Seminar on Transforming Agricultural Development and Production in Africa

http://www.salzburgglobal.org/current/sessions.cfm?IDSpecial_Event=3024

13 Nov - 17 Nov, 2011

Transforming Agricultural Development and Production in Africa: Closing Gender Gaps in Policy and Practice

The UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Salzburg Global Seminar (SGS) are jointly convening high-level stakeholders to examine persistent gaps in policy and practice, identify and share creative practice and successful innovations, and develop implementation strategies to fully integrate women into agricultural development processes. Primary emphasis will be given to strategies to support rural women and agricultural development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Abstract:

As private investors and the world's major donors, from multilateral institutions, national governments, and foundations, focus anew on the role of agricultural development in creating stable and sustainable food supplies and improving national economies, it is critical that the full range of human capital and resources are included in the development process - from the initial planning stage, to establishing policy frameworks, to research, field-level practice and innovation, value chains and decision-making at all levels. **Barriers that disadvantage women need to be addressed if agriculture is to become a more efficient driver of growth and lead to greater food security.** There are new opportunities at this juncture, given attention from donors and, equally important, the private sector in stimulating agricultural production that is sustainable

and responsive to the conditions and needs of vulnerable economies and communities, to modernize systems and processes to ensure women can optimize their contributions as vital economic actors and leaders. To reach the intertwined goals of increased and more stable agricultural yields, address hunger and food insecurity, and spur economic growth and stability, women necessarily have to be part of the equation.

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7. Visionary Conversations Speaker Series

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/about/vc/>

The University of Manitoba is launching a new speaker series hosted by President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. David T. Barnard. The *Visionary Conversations* speaker series will continue throughout the year:

October 18 – Liveable Cities

November 9 – Our Aging Society

December 14 – Our Changing Climate

February 15 – Managing Our Water Resources for the Future

April 11 – Human Rights and Gender Issues

June 13 – The Food We Eat

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This Month's Articles:

1. Resource: New website on gender and agriculture launched

<http://www.genderinag.org/ginag/>

Genderinag.org is built as a knowledge nexus for practitioners to share analytical and advisory services on a wide range of gender-related topics.

In collaboration with colleagues in the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), this e-platform is a "one-stop shop" for agriculture specialists, practitioners and the academic community to exchange creative ideas and improve upon lessons learned in efforts to reducing poverty through sustainable rural development.

The website offers a scope of the basic gender concepts; from a broad overview of rural development to a more narrowed focus on country-specific case studies and project results. The website also responds to how to incorporate gender into projects, compiling good practices and innovative activities for learning.

Genderinag.org was developed thanks to the Gender Action Plan (GAP) plan at The World Bank. GAP was formed in 2007 as a four-year action plan to improve women's economic opportunity by increased access to land, labor, agriculture and financial services, and by ensuring that women's needs for infrastructure are better served.

See the Frequently Asked Questions for a synopsis of key issues, and the Library link for an extensive alphabetical listing of articles.

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2. Report: Women in Senior Management: Where Are They?

<http://www.conferenceboard.ca/documents.aspx?did=4416>

Women in Senior Management: Where Are They? explores the progression of women in senior management positions over the last 22 years. It is based largely on publicly available data and supported by interviews with key leading organizations that have made notable progress in encouraging the advancement of women into senior management positions. The report highlights some of the challenges women still face in the workplace and suggests practices for overcoming these barriers.

The study was funded by The Conference Board of Canada. It is not intended to be an exhaustive study. Rather, it objectively presents the data on women's representation in senior management positions and reintroduces discussion. Its purpose is to generate interest in further exploring the challenges and potential solutions.

The cost of the full report is posted at \$595 (Canadian dollars).

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3. News: Low gender balance in high-tech

<http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/article/1046592--low-gender-balance-in-high-tech>

It is tempting to be smug about the state of gender equality in Canada, particularly when we compare ourselves to a country like Bangladesh.

After all, most Canadians endorse statements supporting gender equality and the World Economic Forum ranks Canada in the top quartile of countries globally on gender equity. In contrast, far fewer Bangladeshi agree with principles of gender equality and Bangladesh ranks 82nd out of 134 countries on gender equity. Yet, paradoxically, Bangladesh has been more successful in recent years than Canada on one front in the gender equality battle — recruiting more women into STEM education.

STEM is shorthand for science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. It is an area where women are significantly under-represented. In Canada and the United States, female enrolment in university engineering programs peaked at 19 per cent in 2000, but has declined since to 17 per cent in Canada in 2009.

In contrast, female enrolment in engineering in Bangladesh has risen from 14 per cent in 1999 to over 20 per cent in 2009. Increased female enrolment in STEM fields has also been observed in other Asian countries such as India, China, Taiwan and South Korea.

Educators and policy-makers are concerned about STEM fields because technology is an important driver of economic growth and can play, as we have seen in recent events, a critical role in political change. When these fields are not drawing on one half of our talent, it represents a significant loss to all of us.

There are at least two possible kinds of explanations for the differences we observe between Western and Asian countries — individual choice and the influence of context. Our research suggests that both are relevant.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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4. News: Gender and Food Security Experts' Group Discussion - a Facilitator's Reflections

http://community.eldis.org/carl_wkg/.59b50559/.59f02e0d

In May 2011 Eldis Communities hosted a gender and food security experts' discussion to feed into a new edition of id21's Insights. This really successful online event was sponsored by the BRIDGE programme at the Institute of Development Studies. It was a collaboration with IrishAid.

The success of the Gender & Food Security discussion shows that online debates do work - if they are convened properly. That means engaging with participants several weeks before the event to co-create focal themes for discussion, share biographies and calibrate the tone and duration of the event to participants' needs and capacities.

Three other factors are also important:

1. Invitations to prospective participants need to market both the public good benefit and the individual benefit of joining in (e.g. influencing, professional development).
2. Event sponsors need to engage as equal participants (not leaders or lurkers) during the event and be ready to give back to the participants something of value very soon after (e.g. a rough synthesis of discussions the next day).
3. With good convening beforehand the facilitator should nurture and trust the energy of participants to steer and develop the discussion (i.e. don't chair and do focus on behind-the-scenes match-making and other pastoral care).

As a facilitator, the benefits of collaborating with Eldis Communities as the host for online events comes down to the quality of their technical support, being able to leverage the profile of Eldis to build trust among participants and the ability to easily link to relevant development policy, practice and research knowledge from the Eldis portal.

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5. Key note address by Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane on the occasion of the African Ministers meeting on Climate-Smart Agriculture

<http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/speeches/2011/mash0913.html>

An excerpt:

In order to achieve a balanced outcome in Durban, Parties will need to not only operationalize the Cancun Agreements adopted in December 2010, but also commit to make progress on aspects of the Bali Action Plan and Bali Roadmap that were not resolved in Cancun. A successful outcome will also need to achieve balance between the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention, and between the thematic areas under negotiations.

The Durban outcome must also be comprehensive, ambitious and balanced. The question that we need to focus on therefore is how to deal with the issue of the 2nd Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol. The outcome needs to ensure progress and to get a sense of the legal form under both Kyoto Protocol and the Convention. This is the most pressing issue. However, substantive progress on the means of implementation, especially on the set of finance related issues namely; the design of the Green Climate Fund; the functions of the Standing Committee, as well as sources of funding and the scale of finance needed. To achieve this, progress must be made on the key mechanisms and institutional arrangements agreed to in Cancun, namely; the Adaptation Committee, the Technology Executive

Committee, the Technology Centre and Network, the mitigation registry and the Finance Standing Committee of the Green Climate Fund.

In addition to the above, progress on issues such as long term sources of finance, and the building of greater confidence in the delivery of Fast Start Financing needs to be made.

It is clear that mitigation remains a central issue to the climate negotiations both in the context of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. In Cancun, both the COP and the CMP took note of information by countries on their mitigation objectives or pledges. However, these pledges need to be transformed into economy wide emission reduction targets and you will agree with me that the level of ambition of these pledges needs to be raised as we need to keep the temperature below 2 degrees Celsius and the current level of ambition will not achieve this objective.

We are under no illusion that Durban will be an easy COP. In Cancun some trust was restored in the multilateral system. However, some difficult political issues did not get any attention and it is now left to solve them in Durban, or at least set mechanisms in motion to address these. We therefore count on all of you to assist us to get the credible outcome in Durban that we all aspire to.

The UNFCCC Secretariat has reported that Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, will be proposed as President-Designate of the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 7).

Nkoana-Mashabane was appointed Minister of International Relations and Co-operation of the Republic of South Africa in May 2009. During the 1980s, she was an active member of the African National Congress (ANC) underground structures. After the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, she served the party in various structures. COP17 and COP/MOP 7 will take place from 28 November - 9 December 2011, in Durban, South Africa.

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6. Report: Gender and climate change adaptation in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh: a preliminary analysis

<http://www.bioforsk.no/ikbViewer/Content/81827/Report%20No.%201%20Gender%20and%20climate%20change%20adaptation,%20preliminary%20analysis.pdf>

This report outlines important gender issues in climate change adaptation and agriculture, presenting preliminary findings of an analysis carried out in India. General findings include:

- Women's traditional role as the primary users and managers of natural resources mean that they are involved in and dependent on resources that are put most at risk by climate change.
- Women lack rights and access to resources and information vital to overcoming challenges posed by climate change; therefore, they are likely to be disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of these change.
- Nevertheless, women possess valuable knowledge of natural resources and when given the opportunity, they can give valuable inputs to adaptation strategies.

Concerning India, findings are that:

- women's involvement in agricultural work is most common in India

- responsibility for adaptation is likely to fall on women's shoulders, including finding alternative ways to feed their family
- climate changes are affecting women's labour as they go without employment for longer periods and in some years are forced to migrate to nearby cities for employment
- change in cropping patterns due to climate changes is altering the roles and responsibilities of women farmers; the degree of change differs depending upon the new patterns

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7. Report: Gender Equality Boosts Development: World Bank

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2011/09/19/gender-equality-boosts-de_n_969469.html

Gender equality is shrewd economics as well as a human right, the World Bank said on Monday [Sept. 19, 2011] in a report that showed countries with better opportunities for women and girls can boost productivity and development. The most glaring disparity is the rate at which girls and women die relative to men in developing countries, according to "The World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development."

Blocking women and girls from getting the skills and earnings to succeed in a globalized world is not only wrong, but also economically harmful," said Justin Yifu Lin, World Bank chief economist. "Sharing the fruits of growth and globalization equally between men and women is essential to meeting key development goals."

The report cited the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization's estimates that equal access to resources for female farmers could increase agricultural output in poorer countries by up to 4 percent.

It also said eliminating barriers preventing women working in certain occupations would cut the productivity gap between male and female workers by a third to a half, and increase output per worker by 3 to 25 percent in some countries.

"We need to achieve gender equality," said World Bank President Robert Zoellick. He said that over the past five years the World Bank has provided funds to support girls' education, women's health, and women's access to credit, land, agricultural services, jobs, and infrastructure. "This has been important work, but it has not been enough or central enough to what we do. Going forward, the World Bank Group will mainstream our gender work and find other ways to move the agenda forward to capture the full potential of half the world's population."

Significant gains in gender equality have been made in recent years. Women now represent 40 percent of the global labor force, 43 percent of the agricultural labor force, and more than half of university students, according to the report. Over half a billion women have joined the workforce in the last 30 years, it added.

A link to the report can be found at the bank's website go.worldbank.org/

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8. The World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development

<http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2012/0,,menuPK:7778074~pagePK:7778278~piPK:7778320~theSitePK:7778063~contentMDK:22851055,00.html>

The **2012 World Development Report on Gender Equality and Development** finds that women's lives around the world have improved dramatically, but gaps remain in many areas. The authors use a conceptual framework to examine progress to date, and then recommend policy actions.

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9. Update: Women in University Research

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

The Canadian Minister of Industry has asked the Council of Canadian Academies to examine which factors influence the career trajectory and statistical profile of women researchers in Canadian universities.

Progress Report:

The Expert Panel on Women in University Research held its third meeting in Montréal, on August 2-3, 2011. The writing of the report is underway and evidence gathering is ongoing. The next panel meeting is scheduled for mid-November. Following this, the report will undergo a formal report review before being published in 2012.

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10. Book: Successful STEM Education: A Workshop Summary

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13230&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Academies%20Press&utm_campaign=NAP+mail+9.20.11&utm_content=&utm_term=#description

From the National Academies Press:

What students learn about the science disciplines, technology, engineering, and mathematics during their K-12 schooling shapes their intellectual development, opportunities for future study and work, and choices of career, as well as their capacity to make informed decisions about political and civic issues and about their own lives. Most people share the vision that a highly capable STEM workforce and a population that understands and supports the scientific enterprise are key to the future place of the United States in global economics and politics and to the well-being of the nation. Indeed, the solutions to some of the most daunting problems facing the nation will require not only the expertise of top STEM professionals but also the wisdom and understanding of its citizens.

Although much is known about why schools may not succeed, it is far less clear what makes STEM education effective. *Successful STEM Education: A Workshop Summary* discusses the importance of STEM education. The report describes the primary types of K-12 schools and programs that can support successful education in the STEM disciplines and examines data and research that demonstrate the effectiveness of these school types. It also summarizes research that helps to identify both the elements that make such programs effective and what is needed to implement these elements.

Download the book for free.

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11. Publication: Environmental and Gender Impacts of Land Tenure Regularization in Africa

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2011/08/18/000158349_20110818104704/Rendered/PDF/WPS5765.pdf

Although increased global demand for land has led to renewed interest in African land tenure, few models to address these issues quickly and at the required scale have been identified or evaluated. The case of Rwanda's nation-wide and relatively low-cost land tenure regularization program is thus of great interest.

A new working paper by the World Bank (Authors: Daniel Ayalew Ali, Klaus Deininger, and Markus Goldstein, August 2011) evaluates the short-term impact (some 2.5 years after completion) of the pilots undertaken to fine-tune the approach using a geographic discontinuity design with spatial fixed effects. Three key findings emerge from the analysis.

1. First, the program improved land access for legally married women (about 76 percent of married couples) and prompted better recordation of inheritance rights without gender bias.
2. Second, the analysis finds a very large impact on investment and maintenance of soil conservation measures. This effect was particularly pronounced for female headed households, suggesting that this group had suffered from high levels of tenure insecurity, which the program managed to reduce.
3. Third, land market activity declined, allowing rejection of the hypothesis that the program caused a wave of distress sales or widespread landlessness by vulnerable people. Implications for program design and policy are also discussed.

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12. News: In Kenya, Survey of Female Farmers Uncovers Challenges

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22997431~pagePK:64257043~piPK:437376~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

A World Bank survey in Kenya that seeks women's input and data to inform agricultural policy shows that female farmers have limited access to water, energy and finance, and few women own property they can use as collateral for loans. As agriculture becomes 'feminized' and men abandon farms to work in cities, policies must change to meet women's needs.

Farming has lost its lustre for increasing numbers of young men, who have left for the cities while women "eke out a living" in rural areas, says Professor Wangari Mwai, who speaks frequently on gender issues. Just as agriculture has become feminized, policies and assistance must change to meet the needs of women, she says.

World Bank Senior Agriculture Economist Andrew Karanja says the survey will help the Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Project better serve women. The survey's findings will have implications for technology development. Agricultural extension services, too, might change substantially, he says.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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13. Report: Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/files/Studies_Publications/TaskForcesandStudies/GirlsRuralEconomies/Release_Event_Information.aspx

An upcoming report by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, *Girls Grow: A Vital Force in Rural Economies* will evaluate the role of adolescent girls in the developing world and identify opportunities for national governments and bilateral donors to equip these girls to be agents of economic and social change. This report serves as the next volume of the *Girls Count* series. *Girls Count* provides some of the first critical research specifically focused on adolescent girls in the developing world. It demonstrates how providing support to girls ages 10-18 dramatically improves their lives – and also results in significant benefits for society as a whole. A launch event for this publication is scheduled for early October in the United Kingdom.

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14. News: Finding Opportunity in a World of Seven Billion

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105123>

UNITED NATIONS, Sep 15, 2011 (IPS) - Next month, the world's population will reach seven billion people, a landmark that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is hailing in its drive to raise awareness about the need for global cooperation to solve issues of development.

Empowerment of and investment in women and girls was, is, and will continue to be possibly the most critical element of efforts and initiatives for countries' development, the panellists agreed.

Women produce half of the world's food and perform 66 percent of the world's work, yet earn just 10 percent of the world's income and own one percent of its property, says the agency UN Women.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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15. Article: Engendering the Green Climate Fund: An Opportunity for Best Practice

<http://boell.org/web/index-824.html>

Gender considerations are currently not systematically addressed in existing climate financing instruments; where gender appears, it is in bits and pieces. Probably the main reason for that is that gender was not integrated into the design and the operationalization of these financing mechanisms from the very outset – as is the case for the World Bank’s Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) as well as for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) or the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) administered by the Global Environment Facility, and even the Adaptation Fund, which only started project funding last year. This is where the Green Climate Fund, currently designed by the 40 members of the Transitional Committee, has a chance to do better: It has an opportunity to be truly transformative and distinguish itself from existing funds by being the first to integrate a gender perspective from the outset. Gender as a cross-cutting issue must guide the discussions about the scope, the governance and operational guidelines of the Green Climate Fund in the Transitional Committee.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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16. Publication: Governing Climate Funds: What Will Work for Women?

<http://www.wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/rr-governiing-climate-funds-for-women-120911-en.pdf>

As the international community mobilizes in response to global climatic changes, climate funds must ensure the equitable and effective allocation of funds for the world’s most vulnerable populations. Women and girls, disproportionately vulnerable to negative climate change impacts in developing countries have largely been excluded from climate change finance policies and programmes. A report by Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and partners examines four funds –climate funds and non-climate funds, to draw out the lessons for gender integration in global finance mechanisms. Women and girls must not only be included in adaptive and mitigative activities, but also recognized as agents of change who are essential to the success of climate change interventions.

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17. News: Canadian teens ambivalent about gender equality

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadian-teens-ambivalent-about-gender-equality/article2177091/>

Canadian teenagers may talk the talk on gender equality but they also harbour some markedly stereotypical views of appropriate roles and behaviours for men and women.

That’s one conclusion drawn from a report released Thursday that surveyed 1,000 young Canadians, as well as nearly 4,000 teens from India, Rwanda and the United Kingdom.

While 90 per cent of Canadian youth said they agree gender equality is good for both men and women, nearly 45 per cent agree that “to be a man you need to be tough.” By comparison, only 13 per cent of youth in the U.K. and 26 per cent in Rwanda hold similar tough-guy notions, the survey shows.

“We thought our numbers would be closer to U.K.,” said Rosemary McCarney, president of Plan Canada, an anti-poverty development group that produced the report for its “Because I am a girl” campaign. “But they were actually closer to Rwanda, and our reaction was, how does that happen?”

The survey also revealed that 31 per cent of Canadian boys think a woman’s most important role is to take care of her home and cook for the family. In the U.K., only 15 per cent of young boys think the same, while the number is 74 per cent in India.

The way the Canadian respondents tell it, they feel pressure to conform to traditional stereotypes of male and female roles. Some 66 per cent say they feel peer-pressured; 46 per cent say the pressure comes from the media, and 35 per cent from family.

Margaret Capelazo, senior gender adviser at CARE Canada, works mostly with men in developing countries such as Vietnam, Pakistan and Kenya. Usually men work on cash crops, while women work on food crops, but CARE encourages the men to let their women counterparts also take in agricultural training.

“That way, both women and men get training,” she said. “Everybody eats and everybody has money, and there is generally a lot more satisfaction.”

Refer to the link for the full article.

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18. Paper: Gender Responsive Strategies on Climate Change: Recent progress and ways forward for donors

<http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/home&id=58722&type=Document&langid=1>

Gender equality is an important precondition for successful climate change adaptation, and transition to low-carbon alternatives in developing countries. In order for this transition to be effective, climate change adaptation and low-carbon efforts need to be gender responsive, taking into account the specific needs of men and women and the gendered inequalities that may compound the impacts of climate change.

This paper focuses on the role of donors in this process, and is targeted at those working on climate change in donor agencies. It outlines a rationale for improved integration of gender and proposes key principles which should premise climate change policies and programmes. Some of the principles outlined include the ideas that neither the impacts nor responses to climate change are ever gender-neutral, addressing gender is about addressing unequal power relationships between women and men, and gender relations are context-specific, and change over time. The paper also offers recommendations for donors which include:

- Taking a stronger lead on gender equality in the climate change arena by promoting gender-inclusive policy dialogue.
- Creating enabling organisational environments for effective gender mainstreaming by addressing 'mainstreaming fatigue' and providing gender and climate change tools covering the entire project or programme cycle.
- Filling knowledge and best practice gaps in participatory ways that capture men's, women's and young people's ideas and knowledge, particularly in areas where the gender dimensions of climate change impacts and responses are not immediately obvious, such as transport and infrastructure.

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19. News: Professor Wangari Maathai 1940 - 2011

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105245>

<http://www.ips.org/institutional/celebrating-the-legacy-of-wangari-maathai/>

NEW YORK, Sep 26, 2011 (IPS) - Last night, Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize, died. Most people think of Ms. Maathai as an environmentalist, planting trees. In reality, her environmental activism was part of a holistic approach to empowering women, advocating for democracy, and protecting the earth.

Wangari Maathai was Kenya's foremost environmentalist and women's rights advocate. She contended that women have a unique connection to the environment and that human rights violations against women exacerbate environmental degradation.

Throughout Africa, as in much of the world, women are responsible for tilling the fields, deciding what to plant, nurturing the crops, and harvesting the food. They are the first to be aware of environmental damage that harms agricultural production. If the well goes dry, they are the ones who are most concerned about finding new sources of water and the ones who must walk further to fetch it.

In recognition of this, Ms. Maathai founded the "Green Belt Movement". On Earth Day, 1977, she launched a one-woman

campaign to reforest Kenya. She hoped to help stop soil erosion and to provide a source of lumber for homes and firewood for cooking. She distributed seedlings to rural women and set up an incentive system for each seedling that survived. She encouraged farmers, 70 percent of them women, to plant protective "green belts" to stop soil erosion, provide shade, and become a source of timber and fuel. The Green Belt Movement has planted more than 30 million trees in Africa, helping 900,000 women. The Green Belt Movement has spread throughout the world, from Africa, to the United States, to Haiti, and beyond. It was a simple concept and it was vastly successful.

Refer to the links for many articles.

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20. **Commentary: Women are agriculture’s best hope**

<http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Commentary-Women-are-agricultures-best-hope-130590893.html>

It seems there is a renewed interest in Africa in recent months. PepsiCo recently announced its plans to help develop improved chickpeas for growing in Africa to provide a more stable source of protein. PepsiCo’s investment is no small matter. In addition, over the summer the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced funding of other biotech crops to help feed Africa’s population.

But what seems to be the most significant factor that could help African farmers is the support of improved agricultural technologies for women farmers. The United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization released a report last week, “FAO at Work: Women—key to food security,” which was written by Jacques Diouf, director-general, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

“FAO’s research shows that women farmers are 20-30 percent less productive than men, but not because they manage their farms less well, or work less hard. The main reason for the gap between men’s and women’s performance is that the former have access to resources seldom available to female farmers – including land, financing and technology, among other things. In addition, women do not share fairly in benefits such as training, information and knowledge,” according to the report.

“But if women had the same access to those resources as men, they would produce 20-30 percent more food, and their families would enjoy better health, nutrition and education. If women had equal access to agricultural resources and services, food security would be greatly improved and societies would grow richer, and not only in economic terms.”

The report goes on to explain the challenges faced by women farmers. It also said closing the gender gap in agriculture is a top priority both today and tomorrow.

Improving women’s access to technology, land and resources would help feed Africa. Unfortunately, maintaining status quo culturally will continue to keep Africa hungry. If Africa could embrace educating women and allowing them to own land, women, who are nearly half of the world’s population, could help feed the world.

Where is the support and resources for empowering women? Research and sharing wealth is important, but it’s only a piece of the puzzle in poor countries.

“Feeding a world population set to grow to more than nine billion in the next four decades means harnessing all our energies and resources,” according to the report. “Only the full and equal participation of women – more than half of the world’s population – will set the ground for a world free from hunger.”

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21. Report: FAO at Work: Women—key to food security

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am719e/am719e00.pdf>

an excerpt

Investments in agriculture in developing countries need to increase by 50 percent by 2050 to feed growing populations. But in order to help effectively achieve greater food security, investments need to take into consideration the specific needs of women in agriculture. Indeed, all policies in the agricultural sector need to be gender sensitive and take into account the particular needs of men and women.

There is no one single way to achieve this, but with the political will to address gender inequality, policies can be shaped to ensure that discrimination against women ceases, that they have equal access to resources and that agricultural policies and programmes support them. The participation of women in decision-making on issues that affect their productive lives is essential.

Closing the gender gap in agriculture is a top priority both today and tomorrow. Feeding a world population set to grow to more than nine billion in the next four decades means harnessing all our energies and resources. Only the full and equal participation of women – more than half of the world’s population – will set the ground for a world free from hunger.

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