



# GEM Digest of the Month for October 1, 2015

176 Gloucester Street, Suite 320, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A6, [www.aic.ca](http://www.aic.ca)



*Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba. For more info, see <https://humanrights.ca/>. Photos 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, organizational development and international 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/publications/gender-equality-mainstreaming-digest/>.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGHIH, FAIC  
GEM Committee Member (Volunteer)

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## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. Gender Advising Assistance Available

<http://dev.ingenaes.illinois.edu/>

<http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=920b572c17567de187a98ec6f&id=a58a5522c1&e=a7401a1062>

The Integrating Nutrition and Gender within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project intends to help you to address the unique challenges specific to your organization and context – through confidential advising assistance targeted specifically to your organization.

These plans could involve new or revised approaches to gender and nutrition, such as:

- Strategy design
- Workplan development, review
- Tools and approaches with various technology adopters
- Beneficiary (household or individual) selection
- Evaluation metrics and methodologies
- HR policies and practices
- Telling the story and reporting progress
- Using IT to achieve gender and nutrition outcomes

To apply to receive INGENAES advising services, please complete the survey by **September 30**. If you have questions about the program, please address them to Nikki Grey Rutamu at [ngreyrutamu@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ngreyrutamu@ucdavis.edu).

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## 2. CGIAR announces a 2nd call for gender postdoctoral fellowships

<http://www.cgiar.org/265781/gender-and-inclusive-growth/>

CGIAR announces a 2nd call for gender postdoctoral fellowships (2016-2017) to integrate gender in technical areas with an emphasis on plant and animal breeding.

**Deadline for submissions: September 30, 2015.**

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## 3. CIFOR seeking post-doctoral fellow for gender and agribusiness research

<http://www.cifor.org/career/98/gender-post-doctoral-fellow-globalized-trade-and-investments/>

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is seeking a qualified, committed and collaborative post-doctoral fellow to undertake research on gender and agribusiness expansion in tropical countries. The successful candidate will document the mediating factors that affect rural women and men in the process of agribusiness expansion, and assess how different outcomes can be realized under smallholder-inclusive investment models. The post-doctoral fellow will be a part of the CGIAR Research Consortium on Forest, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP FTA), and work closely with researchers at CRP Policy Institutions and Markets (PIM) and CRP Water Land and Ecosystems (WLE), focusing on the gender differentiated impacts of large-scale land and water acquisition.

The application deadline is **30 September 2015**.

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## 4. 2015 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium: Empowering Women and Girls through STEM Education

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2015-borlaug-dialogue-and-global-youth-institute-oct-14-17-registration-17177369976>

[http://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/borlaug\\_dialogue/2015\\_borlaug\\_dialogue/2015\\_borlaug\\_dialogue\\_speakers/](http://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/borlaug_dialogue/2015_borlaug_dialogue/2015_borlaug_dialogue_speakers/)

Join us **October 14-16, 2015 in Des Moines, Iowa, USA** as we celebrate the 101st Anniversary of the birth of our founder, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug.

To celebrate the 101st anniversary of the birth of our founder, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, and in view of the unprecedented challenge we face to sustainably and nutritiously feed the 9 billion people who will inhabit our planet by the year 2050, our 2015 conference will gather an outstanding "faculty" of international leaders, experts and scientists for Borlaug 101, a 3-day "course" on The Fundamentals of Global Food Security. The 2015 Borlaug Dialogue will include a focus on the importance of educating girls, especially in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to eradicate hunger.

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## 5. International Forum for Women's Food Leadership

<http://womensfoodleadership.com/>

This event is organized by the Women’s Food Leadership Initiative in collaboration with the Global Gender Program of George Washington University for **October 27-28, 2015 in Washington DC.**

This two-day public event brings together women food leaders from Latin America and Africa, food policy professionals, and academics to discuss what works in promoting women’s agricultural entrepreneurship. Panelists will address successful strategies for starting, growing, and managing agribusinesses. Keynote speakers will offer perspectives based on grounded experience and point the way forward.

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## **6. Call for Posters on Conference on Nutrition, Health, and Gender in Sub-Saharan Africa**

<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/nhg-conference/>

This two-day international conference on **November 12-13, 2015** at **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA** will explore from a range of disciplinary perspectives the relationship between gender and health in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular emphasis on nutrition and the role of agriculture.

The range of topics for posters to explore is broad, including but not limited to the following:

- Access and equity in agriculture and agricultural services
- The role and impact of micro-finance
- Post-harvest loss
- Women’s empowerment in agriculture
- Opportunities for big data
- Maternal-child health
- Gender-based violence

You are invited to submit an abstract for a poster to be presented at a conference dealing with various aspects of nutrition, health, and gender in Sub-Saharan Africa with a particular emphasis on nutrition and the role of agriculture. This conference will explore from a range of disciplinary perspectives the relationship between gender and health in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Deadline to submit is September 25, 2015.**

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## **7. Schlumberger Foundation's “Faculty of the Future”**

<https://www.fff.slb.com/>

Schlumberger Foundation's “Faculty of the Future” supports women in developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD and post-doctoral studies at the international level. Grants are in the physical sciences, engineering, and related fields -- including past grants in subjects such as ecology and environment. **The deadline for renewal applications is 06 November 2015. The deadline for new applications is 13 November 2015.**

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## This Month's News

### 1. New Opportunities to Utilize the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index

<http://feedthefuture.gov/lp/womens-empowerment-agriculture-index>

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) is the first comprehensive and standardized measure to directly capture women's empowerment and inclusion levels in the agricultural sector. Since its launch in 2012, the WEAI has evolved as global partners have adapted and utilized the Index in diverse ways to design and implement interventions that address the constraints and barriers women face.

September's Ag Sector Council seminar will trace the evolution of the WEAI and discuss why women's empowerment is an essential evaluation component when integrating gender into agricultural programs. The speakers will then outline the next stages of the WEAI's development—the introduction of the Abbreviated WEAI (A-WEAI), a streamlined and modified form of the original Index, and a project-level WEAI (Pro-WEAI), designed to be applicable for use by agriculture and food security projects and activities. Lastly, the speakers will share details about opportunities for activities to receive support to pilot and validate the Pro-WEAI indicators and methodology, as well as to join the WEAI Community of Practice.

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### 2. The role of agricultural extension in improving nutrition

<http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/discover/country-studies-2/zambia-2/>

What are the most important roles for agriculture extension in reducing under nutrition, and how can extension target messages to the right people without moving too far from one of its primary goals of improving agricultural productivity? The Ministry of Agriculture (MAL) of Zambia is facing these important questions regarding the role of agricultural extension in improving nutrition as MAL and the Scaling Up Nutrition movement, which is beginning to implement direct nutrition interventions in 14 districts based on the national nutrition infrastructure they created and have strengthened over the past five years.

The Integrating Nutrition and Gender within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project aims to better understand how agricultural extension can contribute to improved nutritional outcomes. One pathway that INGENAES will explore with Zambian partners is how men can be better targeted with nutrition messages, such as how to ensure diversity in the diet of household members through production diversity and intra-household diversity. INGENAES also intends to work with Feed the Future partner, ASNAPP-CASH, to document how production and marketing African indigenous vegetables can improve local diets.

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### 3. Post-2015 Women's Coalition's Response

**Post-2015 Women's Coalition's Response to the outcome document "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**

<http://www.post2015women.com/response-to-outcome-document/>

On the occasion of the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Post-2015 Women's Coalition, reiterates our concern that the Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Means of Implementation continue to fall short of a global

agenda that addresses systemic imbalances, inequalities, and discrimination, rooted in gender equality principles that deny the basic human rights of women and girls.

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## Reports, Publications and Resources

### 1. Market imperfections exacerbate the gender gap: the case of Malawi

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/06/24611445/market-imperfections-exacerbate-gender-gap-case-malawi>

#### **Abstract**

This paper hypothesizes that labor and credit market imperfections—by discouraging off-farm income-generating activities and restricting access to inputs, respectively—affect female farm productivity more deeply than male productivity. The paper develops a theoretical model that decomposes the contribution of various market imperfections to the gender productivity gap. The paper shows empirically that agricultural labor productivity is on average 44 percent lower on plots managed by female heads of household than on those managed by male heads. Thirty-four percent of this gap is explained by differences in labor market access and 29 percent by differences in credit access.

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### 2. Closing the gender gap in climate-smart agriculture

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/closing-gender-gap-climate-smart-agriculture#.VgVn7TOFPIU>

“Climate-smart agriculture” (CSA) has become a central concept shaping action and bringing together constituencies at the global level on agriculture and climate change. In essence, climate-smart agriculture pays explicit attention to how interventions in agriculture and food systems affect each of three key outcomes: food security, adaptation and mitigation (FAO 2013). The climate-smart agriculture movement is not prescriptive about how best to achieve these outcomes, nor how to manage the inevitable trade-offs – the idea is that locally appropriate priorities and solutions will be generated. A key question arises as to the winners and losers from these processes, in terms of gender as well as other social dimensions, and whether climate-smart agriculture help transform agriculture and rural development in ways that achieve major gains for gender equity.

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### 3. Supporting women farmers in a changing climate: five policy lessons

[https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/supporting-women-farmers-changing-climate-five-policy-lessons#.VgVo\\_iOFPIU](https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/supporting-women-farmers-changing-climate-five-policy-lessons#.VgVo_iOFPIU)

Climate change demands new approaches to agriculture: farmers’ practices will need to change in order to adapt to and mitigate changing conditions. This is also a gender issue: in the least developed countries 79% of economically active women report agriculture as their primary economic activity (FAOSTAT, cited in Doss 2011). Agriculture is a fundamental part of women’s livelihoods, especially in least developed countries and more women are moving into agriculture as men move out to seasonal or paid labour elsewhere. At the same time we know that women farmers have less access to productive inputs and resources for farming across the globe – FAO etc. Policies and practices to help farmers develop new approaches to combat climate change will need to recognize these demographic changes, and produce results for women farmers as well as men. This brief provides five policy lessons to support this process.

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## 4. What do rural women in Colombia really need?

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/67364>

### Available in Spanish

The new brief explains the situation of rural women in the context of Colombia's internal armed conflict. Correspondingly, it reports on Colombia's agricultural sector and on rural women's role as agricultural producers, access to productive resources, and mechanisms of political participation.

The analysis takes into account various factors surrounding a war of over sixty years and the effects it has brought to rural areas in environmental and agricultural terms.

The brief also contains the following highlights: gender gaps in labor and poverty, land rights formalization as a means of empowerment, successful cases of policymaking influenced by rural women, and the state of gender inclusion in climate change policies.

The analysis emphasizes that agricultural and climate change policies need to consider the local effects of the armed conflict. This will enable policies to be truly committed to the promotion of the needs and interests of rural men and women. Similarly, policy makers must take into account the new situation of Colombia's rural areas and integrate a gender perspective in all development initiatives. This is particularly critical for successful adaptation strategies and mitigation actions.

Finally, the Brief presents recommendations for integrating the needs and interests of rural women in the formulation of agricultural sector public policies focused on adaptation and mitigation. Women still lack knowledge of their rights in some cases, and there exist limited access to education and training for women, insufficient means of participation in decision-making processes, and critical barriers to productive resources.

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## 5. How resilient are farming households and communities to a changing climate in Africa? A gender-based perspective

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378015000825>

### Abstract

In this paper we examine conditions that underlie vulnerability and resilience possibilities for households and communities that face and respond to climate- and other changes, in nine East and West African countries. We base our analysis on a unique integrated qualitative and quantitative dataset composed of household surveys and village focus group studies carried out across a wide range of environments and agricultural systems. We identify human population growth, commercialization of the economy, and natural resource use policies, in addition to weather, as key drivers of change. We compare the agricultural and livelihood systems of male and female respondents, as well as their productive resources, organization and access to services. Women have less access than men to common property resources, as well as to cash to obtain goods or services. Women control less land than men, the land they control is often of poorer quality, and their tenure is insecure. Women engage in mutual insurance and risk-sharing networks, and benefit from non-agricultural services provided by social support institutions external to the village. Formally registered, public and private external organizations that foster agriculture and livestock production have tremendous anti-women biases, and tend to provide support primarily to men. Policies and strategies are needed to eliminate those prejudices so that men and women increase their resilience and manage well their changing environments.



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## **6. Making it count: integrating gender in climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

Available online at: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=73485>

<http://careclimatechange.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Making-It-Count-EN.pdf>

This guide gives suggestions on how to practically address gender and women's empowerment in climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects, or projects which have integrated climate change and DRR considerations. It has a focus on Vietnam.

It has been developed for use during design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate change and disaster risk reduction activities. The guide highlights that the impacts of climate change and natural hazards are felt nationwide across Vietnam, but the specific effects of these issues affect women and men differently. The different roles that men and women occupy in society also influence the nature and capacity of their involvement in climate change adaptation and DRR.

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## **7. Empowering African Woman Scientists**

[http://awardfellowships.org/Award/?utm\\_source=AWARD+News&utm\\_campaign=1083a95c15-Empowering\\_African\\_Women\\_Scientists&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b0581233e8-1083a95c15-307820253](http://awardfellowships.org/Award/?utm_source=AWARD+News&utm_campaign=1083a95c15-Empowering_African_Women_Scientists&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b0581233e8-1083a95c15-307820253)

The publication, Empowering African Woman Scientists, is not just about AWARD, but about the amazing African women scientists who want to change their lives, science and, in particular, the agricultural sector.

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## **8. UN Women flagship report, Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights**

<http://progress.unwomen.org/en/2015/>

The UN Women's flagship report, *Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights* draws on promising experiences from around the world, proposing a comprehensive agenda for key policy actors-including gender equality advocates, national governments, and international agencies-to make human rights a lived reality for all women and girls. A frequent WBG partner on a range of issues, UN Women has released this report at a pivotal moment for global development, 20 years after the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and ahead of the adoption of new global Sustainable Development Goals.

*Progress of the World's Women* finds that despite some significant advances toward gender equality, persistent gaps between males and females remain-hindering efforts to end poverty and preventing individuals and economies alike from achieving their full potential. Embedded in a framework of substantive equality, the report focuses on three interrelated challenges: transforming paid and unpaid work for women's rights; making social policy work for women; and creating an enabling macroeconomic environment.

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