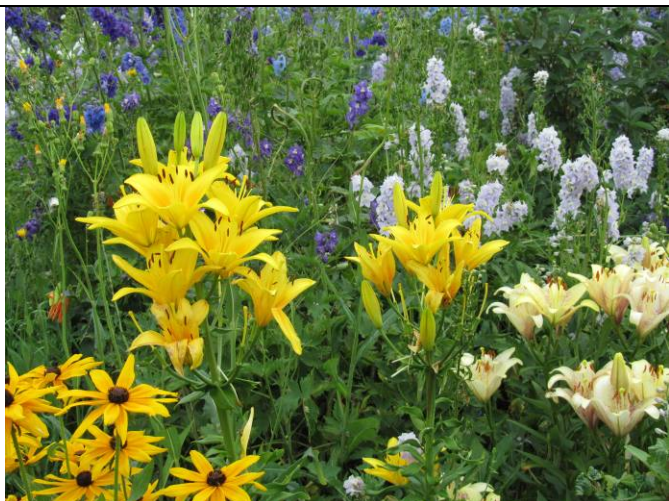


GEM Digest of the Month for September 2011



Perennial flowers in garden (*Rudbeckia*, *Lilium*, and blue *Delphinium*). Photo courtesy of Dinah Ceplis..

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

If you have information to share, please send it to me at dinah.ceplis@gmail.com and I will compile it to re-distribute once a month. Back issues are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

Regards,
Dinah Ceplis, GEM Committee Member

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September 08, International Literacy Day

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Opportunities

1. Survey: Enhancing Women’s Assets to Manage Risk under Climate Change

<http://womenandclimate.ifpri.info/>

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), with partner organizations, is implementing a research project titled *Enhancing Women’s Assets to Manage Risk under Climate Change: Potential for Group Based Approaches*. This project involves both qualitative and quantitative research in 4 selected countries (**Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali**), and includes a survey of practitioners that focuses on the current state of capacity, knowledge, attitudes and practices in development organizations involved in climate change adaptation and climate risk management in the rural sector. The survey will be used to develop a capacity strengthening strategy for the project.

The surveyors are re interested in learning about your experiences and your views toward planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating your projects and programs on climate change. **They would also appreciate if you could forward this survey to your colleagues in your organization and to other organizations that are involved in climate change projects for agriculture and rural livelihoods in these 4 focused countries.** Your responses will be treated confidentially. Survey results and other outputs of the project will be shared with you.

It will take 20-30 minutes to complete the survey. Click here for the e-survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CV6SNW5>

As a token of appreciation for filling out this survey, we are offering to send a data stick or CD of 30 relevant publications on climate change and gender by IFPRI. If you are interested in this, please fill out your mailing address on the last page of the survey.

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2. Women's key demands for Busan and beyond

<http://awid.org/eng/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/Women-s-Organizing-Key-Demands-on-Development-Cooperation-towards-Busan-HLF-4-and-Beyond>

Women's rights organizations and gender equality advocates across regions have joined efforts to draft a series of key demands towards the 4th High Level Forum On Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4, Busan, November 2011) and beyond to transform the international development cooperation framework. The current draft of the Busan outcome document is not acceptable for women's rights groups engaged in the HLF4 process. They are calling on governments and other relevant development actors to consider the following six imperatives:

1. Any new development cooperation framework to be agreed in Busan should be based on human rights, including women's rights.
2. A new equitable development cooperation system for gender equality and women's rights should be under the United Nations.
3. Development effectiveness requires democratic ownership by women and meaningful and systematic participation by civil society, especially women's and feminist organizations.
4. Promote multiple accountability systems for women's rights and gender equality, improving existing monitoring systems.
5. Financing for Development: Gender Equality and Women's Rights must go beyond mainstreaming.
6. Development cooperation to the countries in situations of fragility and conflict must acknowledge the differential and disproportional impact of armed conflict on the lives and rights of women and girls.

The demands were developed by a drafting committee composed of: WIDE, AWID, FEMNET, APWLD, Coordinadora de la Mujer, Action Aid International and Red Activas who received several inputs from other women's rights organizations. However, it is a living document so FEEL FREE TO SEND YOUR COMMENTS AS WELL AS INSTITUTIONAL ENDORSEMENTS. The deadline to send comments and endorsements to aabelenda@awid.org has been extended to **Friday 9 September 2011**. A final version will be released prior to the next meeting of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness in Paris/OECD in October 2011.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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3. Employment Gender Equality Expert for FARA

<http://www.fara-africa.org/>

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is seeking to recruit a gender equality expert to provide technical support, lead and facilitate the process of gender equality mainstreaming at the FARA Secretariat and among its constituents as well as within FARA programmes. The aim is to have a clear gender equality mainstreaming strategy that shall be developed through participatory processes and which will be harmonized with existing gender equality strategies of the SROs (ASARECA and CORAF/WECARD).

The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) is a continent-wide forum of stakeholders engaged in African agricultural research and development. FARA has been mandated by both the African Union Commission and AU-NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) to serve as the Lead Institution for CAADP Pillar IV on agricultural research, technology dissemination and adoption. FARA provides a strategic platform for catalyzing and facilitating continental and

global networking to reinforce the capacities of Africa's national agricultural research systems and sub-regional research organizations. FARA makes this contribution through its Secretariat and the Networking Support Functions (NSFs). FARA is being funded through a Multi-donor Trust Fund (MDTF) which is administered by the World Bank.

The successful candidate will be based at the FARA Secretariat in Accra, Ghana.

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4. Call for papers: Engendering Economic Policy in Africa

http://www.feministeconomics.org/call_for_paper/4/

The special issue of *Feminist Economics*, planned for online publication in 2014 and print publication in 2015, will bring together new research aimed at challenging and improving economic policies in Africa. More generally, the special issue will provide a forum for feminist economists and scholars in relevant disciplines to analyze the interrelationships among macroeconomic reforms, gender inequalities, and the microeconomic channels that affect the well-being of women, their families, and their communities. The special issue will welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions, and analyses that rely on diverse research methodologies, including statistical analysis. *Feminist Economics* especially welcomes submissions from African scholars as well as others from the Global South.

Contributions may cover diverse topics, including but not limited to:

- Gender and poverty dimensions of macroeconomic policy, aid, and/or debt
- **Enhancing food security and reducing livelihood risks using social protection**
- Ensuring equitable growth and development in post-conflict economies
- **Property rights and how they affect the ownership of assets by women and men**
- Microfinance and the debate over its efficacy for women's empowerment
- The care economy and the role of social policy

Please direct queries and abstracts (500 words maximum) to the Guest Editors no later than **1 September 2011**.

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5. European Institute for Gender Equality 2012 Calendar

<http://www.eige.europa.eu/content/women-inspiring-europe-2011-calendar>

The Lithuanian-based European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is seeking nominations of women to include in its 2012 calendar. The Institute continues to encourage nominations from and about women active in all professional spheres, who set positive examples for women in Europe.

A woman can nominate herself or can be nominated based on any of the following:

- How she has managed to break stereotypes about women.
- How she has achieved visibility and recognition by way of her actions.
- How she has contributed to her society and to other women in particular.

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This Month's Articles:

1. News: Governments Need to Reach Out to Rural Women

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56687>

KIGALI, Jul 29, 2011 (IPS) - Governments, especially in Africa, need to have strong accountability measures in place in order to effectively reach women in rural areas through gender responsive budgeting.

This was one of the recommendations in the Global Call for Action plan drawn up at the end of an international high-level meeting on gender responsive budgeting held in Kigali from 26 to 28 July. The meeting was held in conjunction with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (U.N. Women) and the European Union.

Delegates also agreed that there was a need to strengthen the skills, competencies and abilities of local government leaders. In addition, the enhancement of national statistical systems was needed to provide accurate data about various aspects of gender. The document, which is yet to be released, also said that the livelihood of marginalised women in rural areas needed to be improved by increasing their access to land ownership and property rights.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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2. Resource: FEWS Net (Famine Early Warning Systems Network)

<http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>

This site links to current information about agro-climatic monitoring, livelihoods, and provides reports on food security conditions. Maps and satellite imagery are also available for regions experiencing food insecurity, including the Horn of Africa. For nutrition indicators, see the resource for *Acute Food Insecurity Reference Table for Household Groups* at

<http://www.fews.net/ml/en/info/pages/scale.aspx>

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3. News: Economic Development Leaving Millions Behind

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56700>

WASHINGTON, Aug 1, 2011 (IPS) - The Society for International Development (SID)'s triennial World Congress, which concluded Sunday in Washington, drew over 1,000 attendees this year, 40 percent hailing from the global south, making it arguably one of the most influential and far-reaching forums for development experts and organisations in the world today.

On Oct. 31, we will be a world of seven billion, which is sobering to think about," Babatunde Osotimehin, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), said at a panel dedicated to assessing challenges and approaches to achieving the MDGs. "Of this, 1.8 billion will be young people, 90 percent of them in the developing world."

"Half of these will be young women, 50 percent of whom will be in vulnerable situations, living without access to education or health. If these people are going to be the caretakers of the world, then we need to invest heavily in their education, including sexual and reproductive education and access to information and services," he stressed.

While many participants at the congress articulated the importance of increased private sector investment, others urged the need for swift and radical changes in the face of unprecedented ecological and humanitarian meltdowns.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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4. News: Women Parliamentarians Outnumber Men, But Gender Budgeting Still Needed

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56629>

KIGALI, Jul 26, 2011 (IPS) - Rwanda is the first country in the world where women outnumber men in parliament, with women occupying 45 out of 80 seats. However, despite this, experts say that the country still needs a gender equality perspective on how national resources and programmes are implemented.

"The move will help ensure government spending addresses the needs of women and men equitably," said Susan Mutoni, referring to the situation in Rwanda. Mutoni is the project coordinator of gender responsive budgeting in Rwanda's ministry of finance and economic planning.

Since 2009, the country has been part of a three-year pilot programme, the Gender Equitable Local Development (GELD), which is organised by U.N. Women and the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

It is dedicated to improve women's access to resources and services at local level through gender responsive planning and budgeting. GELD runs in four other African countries as well: Mozambique, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

But two years on, despite Rwanda's efforts to make the budget gender responsive, civil society activists say social norms are still affecting gender equality, especially in rural areas.

This includes the ability of rural women to find employment. In many areas communities believe that a woman must only fulfill a domestic role and "give service" to her husband, and should not be employed.

The issue of bringing a gender perspective to how government resources and programmes are implemented was the key focus of an international high level meeting held in Kigali from 26 to 28 Jul. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (U.N. Women) and the European Union.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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5. News: The Shea Butter Economy

<http://newamericamedia.org/2011/07/the-shea-butter-economy-how-moisture-involves-big-money-and-exploitatio.php>

Shea Butter is coveted by global cosmetic companies for its amazing moisturizing properties. As an increasingly sought after ingredient in everything from soothing and nourishing hair and skin care products to lip balms and exfoliating creams - the benefits of shea butter are in high demand across the globe.

The connotation of shea butter however is drastically different among the women of sub-Saharan Africa who harvest the nut of the Karite tree [*Vitellaria paradoxa*], from which shea butter originates. They are among the 1.2 billion people that live in extreme poverty. That equals one out of every five people on the planet living on less than a dollar a day.

To them shea butter is deemed as “Women’s Gold” for the few extra dollars its yield affords. For in this region it is the women who manually collect, sort, crush, roast, grind, separate the oils from the butter and shape the finished product. It’s all done during the scorching late spring early summer arid heat of the savanna. All done with the majority sold at “so-called” fair trade prices.

Rahama Wright, founder of Shea Yeleen International, Inc knows full well the importance of teaching the sub-Saharan women involved in shea butter production how to learn and set the market instead of chasing it.

Shea Yeleen promotes empowerment among women in rural West Africa by teaching them sustainable economic development through organizing and training women owned cooperatives to produce, market, and sell high quality shea butter themselves.

Some complain that Shea Yeleen is driving up local prices through their initiatives; Wright contends their efforts are actually leveling the playing field. Shea Yeleen works with women in cooperatives in Ghana, Burkina Faso and Mali. Currently they are also working on prototypes to try and help automate some of the grueling work involved in shea butter production.

Since the May 2000 signing of the *African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)*, which is like NAFTA for the continent of Africa, the worldwide export of unrefined shea butter has increased from an estimated 8000 to 150,000 tons per year.

As a component of *The Trade and Development Act*, AGOA provides tangible incentives for African countries to increase their efforts to promote open economic development, business investment and build free markets. The Obama administration plans to reauthorize AGOA which is set to expire in 2015, through 2025.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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6. News: Immigrant women in science and technology in Canada

<http://www.scwist.ca/index.php/main/entry/iwis-profiled-highly-educated-female-immigrants-say-canada-isnt-on-their-si/>

If you’re an aspiring immigrant with a science degree, don’t expect to find good work in Canada, say various immigrant women in Vancouver.

In June, *The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST)* hosted an event at a local Vancouver pub to provide an opportunity for women in the sciences to exchange industry news and meet familiar faces. It helped women like Jayashree Shrivastava, a 38-year-old environmental scientist from India, learn about opportunities and offered a supportive place for the women to express their apprehensions.

With Gordana Pejic’s insights as an immigrant who is trying to get a break in the field, she has taken on the role of director of Immigrating Women in Science Project (IWIS). A not-for-profit organization with no formal funding, IWIS is a program of the Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology and hosts three events per year, providing much needed support to female newcomers.

Johanne Nadeau, communications advisor for the B.C. and Yukon Region, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, responds to the concerns that highly skilled immigrant women are unable to supply the Canadian job market with their years of education and knowledge.

As part of the government’s ongoing efforts to increase the likelihood that immigrants will find a job in their trained occupation, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, through the Canadian Immigrant Integration Program (CIIP), run by the

Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC), offer services abroad to skilled immigrants before they arrive to Canada.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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7. News: Women Atop Their Fields Dissect the Scientific Life

<http://www.scwist.ca/index.php/main/entry/women-atop-their-fields-dissect-the-scientific-life/>

Elena Aprile, Joy Hirsch, Mary-Claire King and Tal Rabin are members of a rare breed — women scientists at the top of their fields.

- Dr. Aprile, a professor of physics at Columbia University, is searching for dark matter.
- Dr. Hirsch, a professor of neuroscience at Columbia University, maps brain processes.
- Dr. King, a professor of medical genetics at the University of Washington, studies the genetic basis of common complex medical conditions like breast cancer and mental illness.
- And Dr. Rabin is a cryptography researcher at I.B.M.

All four were in New York for the World Science Festival, and were invited to a 30-minute round-table discussion at *The New York Times* on June 1, 2011. They talked about their lives as scientists, the joys and struggles of research, and the specific challenges women in science face.

Refer to the link for the condensed and edited transcript of one part of the discussion.

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8. Resources: Food Security and Gender

<http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/food-security/food-security-and-gender>

Women in their roles as producers and managers of household food security often bear primary responsibility for maintaining household consumption and nutrition in the face of mounting costs. However they are often impeded in their efforts by limited access to assets, traditional norms, and the challenges posed by their often competing roles.

The Irish Aid-funded *Hunger Task Force* (2008) highlighted the need for a more gender sensitive response to hunger. The myriad linkages between food security and gender are rarely well understood. ELDIS has collated resources around four key themes:

1. Gender, Agriculture and Food Security
2. Gender, Access and Control of Food in the Household
3. Gender and Nutrition
4. Disaggregating Gender within Food Security Initiatives – Tools and Methodologies

There are currently 50 documents available at this site. For example, see the following:

- *Is the nutritional status of males and females equally affected by economic growth? Evidence from Vietnam in the 1990s*

- *A row to hoe: the gender impact of trade liberalization on our food system, agricultural markets and women's human rights. Bringing women into policy discussions on food and agriculture*

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9. News: Improved Wood Stoves Save Health & Environment in Nepal

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56785>

A report published this year by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank – *Household Cookstoves, Environment, Health, And Climate Change: A new look at an old problem* – says developing countries annually burn about 730 million tonnes of biomass fuel for household use, releasing several GhGs.

In areas close to ice and snow accumulations like the Himalayas, the study says, there is evidence that soot from cooking stoves is accelerating the melting of glaciers. Soot is suspected to be behind shifts in rainfall patterns in India and China.

Global inventories have found that traditional stoves account for nearly one-fourth of soot emissions. These stoves also consume vast quantities of firewood, leading to rapid forest degradation which, if unchecked, could lead to deforestation.

In 2008, the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPIC), under Nepal's environment ministry, commissioned a study that found indoor air pollution (IAP) to be the fourth most important health risk factor after malnutrition, unsafe sex and unsafe drinking water and sanitation.

A beginning was made in the 1980s when Nepal included improved cooking stoves (ICS) in its planning, and the research centre for applied science and technology under Tribhuvan University developed a model based on local materials. By June 2011, almost 480,000 stoves have been set up. They reduce fuel consumption by at least one-third and eliminate health hazards, and provide a source of income to those who produce the stoves, install them and train others.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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10. Resources: Agfax radio service – Reporting Science in Africa

<http://www.agfax.net/>

Free to download for personal listening, training or radio broadcast, Agfax interviews and features provide up-to-date coverage of agricultural and rural development in Africa. From laboratories and crop trials to community-based initiatives and individual businesses, our team of leading African journalists bring you the stories that matter.

Under the theme of Gender, listen to stories about diverse topics such as shea butter, beekeeping, widows' right to land, and fruit preservation. See the other themes such as Climate Change, Diversification, and Farm Business.

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11. News: Communities in South Sudan war over a precious commodity – cattle

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=104857>

JUBA, Aug 23, 2011 (IPS) - Thousands of women and children are being abducted and over 1,000 people have died this year as communities in oil-rich South Sudan war over a precious commodity – cattle.

In the newly independent country, which produces about 385,000 barrels of oil a day, inter-ethnic clashes over cattle have long prevailed. Here, owning many cattle is a sign of wealth. However, in recent times the cattle raids have become more frequent and deadly.

There are growing calls for the South Sudanese government to address the underlying causes of these clashes. Many are concerned that unless the issues behind the violence are resolved, insecurity will continue to hinder stability and development in the new country.

The conflict is being attributed to the easy availability of arms and cultural norms that portray the ownership of cattle as a sign of success.

Following the end of the country's 21-year civil war in 2005, the value of cattle has rapidly risen as many men now hope to marry. It is common for people to pay a bride price or dowry in cattle. A bride could cost as much as 100 head of cattle.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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12. News: Biofuel Production - Local Development or Social Breakdown?

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=104818>

FORTALEZA, Brazil, Aug 18, 2011 (IPS) - Biofuels are an alternative energy source that can drive local development by generating jobs, know-how and technology. But they can also cause social damage, as locals fear in the case of industrial-scale exploitation of babassu palm trees, which grow abundantly in the wild in central and northern Brazil. Some 400,000 women and their families living on the eastern edge of the Amazon jungle depend on the babassu palm (*Orbignya phalerata*) for a livelihood. The women are known as "quebradeiras" (breakers) because they collect and break the coconuts.

These subsistence-level households sell the coconut kernels, from which the oil is extracted and used as vegetable oil and in the soap and cosmetic industries, for cash. They also use the starch-rich fruit to produce a kind of flour, and the rest of the coconut is used for animal feed and charcoal. The traditional quebradeira communities also use the leaves of the tall babassu palm tree for roof thatch, woven house walls, and basket-making, while the trunks can be used as building materials.

Tecbio, a biofuel technology company based in Fortaleza, the capital of the northeast state of Ceará, near the areas where the babassu palm tree grows wild, has developed and is trying to sell a system of industrial processing that would replace the quebradeiras.

The coconut breakers do their work manually, breaking the hard- shelled coconut with an upturned axe blade and a wooden stick used as a kind of hammer. Several small machines have been invented to make the work less dangerous, but none of them have been approved by the quebradeiras themselves.

Tecbio, founded by Brazilian biodiesel inventor Expedito Parente, has designed a plant to produce ethanol from the babassu coconut. According to the company's literature, it will produce 80 litres of ethanol per ton of babassu coconut.

The company has also developed a machine to produce compact briquettes from the coconut shell, whose density increases the heating capacity, Rodrigues said, adding that "a large company" has expressed an interest in the charcoal substitute.

The babassu coconut kernels can also be used to produce biodiesel and bio-kerosene as aviation fuel that has the advantage of functioning well at low oxygen levels, he explained while attending the All About Energy 2011 fair on renewable energy sources held in July in Fortaleza.

The quebradeiras have been recognised as one of the "traditional populations" that enjoy protection under Brazil's environmental laws. These groups also include the "seringueiros" - Amazon jungle rubber- tappers - and small-scale fishing communities.

The Brazilian government guarantees the coconut breakers a minimum price for their kernels.

The challenge is to incorporate the quebradeiras into larger-scale mechanised harvesting systems, enabling them to benefit from a leap in productivity and profits as the bioenergy industry grows.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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13. News: Adapting to Climate Change Can be Simple

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=56878>

KATHMANDU, Aug 17, 2011 (IPS) - Saraswoti Bhetwal's terraced fields stand out in the sub-Himalayan Lamdihi village as a mosaic of shapes and colours formed by beans, bitter gourd, chilly, tomato, lady's fingers and other crops. The reason for this abundance is simple. She took the training offered at a watershed management project run by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu seriously.

Nepal's farmers felt the impact of climate change worst during the 2008-2009 winter drought when most of the country received less than 50 percent of normal rainfall while average temperatures were one to two degrees Celsius above normal. With wheat and barley production dropping by 15 percent and 17 percent respectively and maize severely affected, the World Food Programme (WFP) has had to step up aid.

Sarswoti swears that she has survived as a farmer only because she switched over to the integrated farming methods she picked up from ICIMOD's watershed management project.

The technologies she learned included roof water harvesting, collecting surface run-off in ponds with plastic lining, drip irrigation, levelling terraces, planting grass and trees on the risers, composting and tapping ground water. "Earlier, I could grow just one maize crop a year in the rainy monsoon season and had to leave the land fallow for the rest of the year. But now I grow three crops a year using drip irrigation, water harvesting and other simple technologies." Saraswoti's 0.7 hectare of red-soil terrace lies at an altitude of about 860 metres with the sub-tropical climate and average annual rainfall of 1,200 mm conducive to agriculture, provided the rains do not play truant.

Refer to the link for the complete article.

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14. Publication: Two Faces of Change: The Need for a Bi-Directional Approach to Improve Women’s Land Rights in Plural Legal Systems

<http://www.idlo.int/Publications/WP2Mozambique.pdf>

From the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), this paper reports on the following:

The complex relationship between law, land rights and customary practices is increasingly recognized as foundational to formulating successful development policies. Similarly, the essential role of women’s economic participation in development and the current trend of gender discriminatory land and inheritance customary practices have prompted domestic civil society organizations in developing countries to use statutory provisions guaranteeing gender equality to improve women’s land tenure security. This chapter examines the particular need for secure land rights for women in the African pluralistic development context, and the mixed results of targeting law reform as a mechanism for change. Relying on primary research conducted in **Mozambique** and the United Republic of **Tanzania** on land practices as experienced by divorced and widowed women, it evaluates strategies employed by domestic non-governmental organizations to enhance women’s access to justice and land tenure security. In particular, the chapter analyses whether initiatives to disseminate and use statutory law (rather than customary law) are overcoming the lack of knowledge, application and enforcement that have previously limited the effectiveness of rights-affirming legislation. Specific and general conclusions are drawn from the data to generate recommendations for donors, governments and development institutions.

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15. Gender and Climate Change Newsletter

<http://www.gendercc.net/>

GenderCC – women for climate justice is the global network of women and gender activists, and gender experts from all world regions working for gender and climate justice. Welcome to the August 2011 GenderCC-Newsletter, aiming to keep the Gender & Climate Change community up-to-date on our activities and provide the latest news from the gender and climate change community as a whole. This edition of the GenderCC newsletter further deals with financing mechanisms and the dissatisfaction of the climate community with the integration of gender aspects and women’s perspectives.

For example, contents of the newsletter include Activities of the Gender and Climate Change Community:

- Gender and climate change – workshop and discussion outcomes
- Declaration of young feminists
- Gender in European countries climate policy
- Women excluded from climate change projects in Africa
- Changes in Nigeria for women farmers
- Gender matters in forest management

Links to recent publications on gender and climate change and a list of upcoming events are available.

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16. News: Engendering the Green Climate Fund — An Opportunity for Best Practice

<http://climatequity.org/2011/07/18/engendering-the-green-climate-fund-an-opportunity-for-best-practise/>

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 full article.

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17. News: FAO’s 37th Biennial Conference: A commitment to women in agriculture at the highest Level

[http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-news/gender-newsdet/en/?dyna_fef\[uid\]=81923](http://www.fao.org/gender/gender-home/gender-news/gender-newsdet/en/?dyna_fef[uid]=81923)

The vital role of women in agriculture and rural development was the theme of the thirty-seventh session of the biennial Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Governing Conference (25 June-2 July 2011).

The Conference, which brings together FAO’s Member Country Representatives including Heads of State, Ministers and Ambassadors, emphasized that pervasive gender inequality in agriculture has severe negative implications for the agriculture sector, food security, nutrition and society as a whole, endorsed the recommendations of FAO’s State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2010-11 “Women in Agriculture: Closing the gender gap for development,” and committed to strengthening support to women in agriculture and to closing the gender gap in access to agricultural inputs, services and opportunities in order to increase economic growth and global food security.

The Conference also urged the elimination of all forms of legal and customary discrimination against women, particularly in access to land, financial services, rural employment, agricultural technology and extension services. It called on countries, donors and civil society to ensure that all agricultural programmes and projects take account of the different roles and responsibilities of men and women and the constraints they face in agriculture and rural employment, and recommended that gender be mainstreamed throughout FAO’s work.

Refer to the link for the full article.

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