

GEM Digest of the Month for February 1, 2018

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SDG#5: See progress update for 2017 for all Sustainable Development Goals at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg5>.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered 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, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse 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 to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Online course: "Gender-Sensitive Value Chains"

<http://gender.unitar.org/>

Course Title: FAO-UNITAR online course on "Gender-Sensitive Value Chains". Course Dates: February 12 to March 9, 2018. Language: The online course will be conducted in English language only. **Registration Deadline January 26, 2018.** The course is offered free of charge. Limited slots are available and will be subject to a selection process conducted by FAO. Please register early to be considered.

By the end of the course, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize the role women play in value chain and enterprise development and on the potential they represent in economic and social terms;
- Explain gender goals and objectives for value chain development distinguishing between ‘do no harm’, gender inclusion, women’s empowerment and gender transformation;
- Apply the tools and knowledge to analyse value chains from a gender perspective;
- Implement the tools and strategies for gender-specific value chain development strategies and policies;
- Describe the role of the public sector in developing policies and incentives to promote gender-sensitive value chain development and women entrepreneurship;
- Translate gender-sensitive value chain development and women entrepreneurship in to programme and projects.

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2. Webinar: Gender, Age, and other influences on Traditional Ecological Knowledge Research in the North

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qXYNOrhgRRUnImQKLJcPOA?platform=hootsuite

Monday, JANUARY 29, 2018, 1:00 pm Central CST. Please register in advance.

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is widely discussed in academic research as having value for understanding how ecosystems are changing because of climate change. Some scholars have noted that TEK, especially when brought into discussions of environmental planning and management, takes on a distinctly political character, one that can be either disruptive to or coopted by existing systems of colonial power and exploitation of indigenous peoples. Yet, there has been little critical evaluation of research on TEK and climate change, to explore whose voices in this research are being privileged or marginalized.

In this webinar, we report on a systematic literature review to explore the role of such factors as gender, age, and the social construction of scientific research in TEK research on climate change. Our emphasis is on the North, and specifically the North American Arctic and Subarctic regions, though we also note evident parallels in TEK research elsewhere. We discuss our findings and conclude with some notes on steps for moving the literature forward, discussing the challenge of defining expertise and the need to allow communities to self-determine through defining who the experts are, while also not marginalizing important voices.

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3. Free Course: The Challenges of Global Poverty

<https://www.edx.org/course/challenges-global-poverty-mitx-14-73x-7>

This is a course for those who are interested in the challenge posed by massive and persistent world poverty, and are hopeful that economists might have something useful to say about this challenge. The questions we will take up include: Is extreme poverty a thing of the past? What is economic life like when living under a dollar per day? Are the poor always hungry? How do we make schools work for poor citizens? How do we deal with the disease burden? Is microfinance invaluable or overrated? Without property rights, is life destined to be "nasty, brutish and short"? Should we leave economic development to the market? Should we leave economic development to non-governmental organizations (NGOs)? Does foreign aid help or hinder? Where is the best place to intervene? Starts on **February 5, 2018** with Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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4. International Development Week (IDW)

<http://international.gc.ca/gac-amc/campaign-campagne/idw-sdi/index.aspx?lang=eng>

From **February 4 to 10, 2018**, Global Affairs Canada, individuals and organizations across the country will take part in International Development Week (IDW) and celebrate Canadian contributions to poverty reduction and international humanitarian assistance in the developing world. IDW is also a chance to engage others in learning about—and contributing to—those efforts.

Established in 1991, IDW is a uniquely Canadian tradition. The **theme for IDW 2018, 'Partners for a Better World'**, encourages all Canadians to be partners in building a better, more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous world. The efforts of

Canadians, whether collectively or as individuals, play an important role in achieving sustainable development at home and around the globe.

Share your international development experiences and activities using the [#IDW2018](#) hashtag, or find out more about how you can participate in IDW by visiting www.canada.ca/idw.

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5. Scholarship: Nellie McClung Trailblazer

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/msw/>

The Manitoba government is promoting gender equality and highlighting women’s achievements in the province by proclaiming the third week in January as Women’s Equality Week, Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for status of women, announced January 15, 2018.

The week kicks off with the launch of the Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarship, which supports women and girls pursuing education and careers in under-represented occupations with a particular focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), business and trades. Two categories of awards are being offered to Manitobans:

- Grade 12 students: Five awards of \$1,000.00 will be granted to female students in grade 12 who have demonstrated an aptitude in an area of study that could lead to further education and/or careers in STEM, business or underrepresented trades.
- Post-secondary students: Five awards of \$1,750.00 will be granted to female students who are in their first year of post-secondary study in STEM, business or underrepresented trades programs.

Completed applications must be received by the Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat by 4:30 p.m. CST on **February 9, 2018**.

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6. Conference at BCCIC: Science, Sex and Solutions (to global and local problems)

<https://bccic.ca/international-development-week-conference/>

Coinciding with IDW proper, the International Development Week Conference hosted in **Vancouver on Saturday, February 10, 2018**, will be a jam-packed day of dialogue and participation that will connect and engage youth with community leaders and global changemakers.

The Society for Canadian Women in Science & Technology [SCWIST] will be presenting. This 10-minute TED-like talk will explore benefits of diversity from scientific perspective, and will offer the evidence for economic benefits of diversity. The talk will be followed by a workshop, looking at what people can do to start “diversity conversations” and what can be done to get men engaged. The workshop will be an interactive event to collect ideas from attendees.

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7. Conference: 2018 Women in Agriculture in Nebraska, USA

<https://ianrnews.unl.edu/registration-opens-2018-women-agriculture-conference>

Women in the agricultural industry looking to increase their business management skills are encouraged to register for the 2018 Women in Agriculture Conference organized by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. The annual conference will be held **Feb. 22 – 23, 2018 in Kearney, Nebraska.**

The Women in Agriculture Conference is one of the longest-running women’s conferences of its kind in the country that allows women to build relationships with each other, attend workshops and gain valuable knowledge that will help them support their own farms and ranches. The theme for this year’s conference is, “Growing our future, valuing our traditions.”

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8. Call for Papers for 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference and Arctic Science Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

<http://saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/call-for-contributions/>

<http://saskatoon2018.crrf.ca/2018-arctic-science-conference/>

The 2018 Arctic Science Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held **October 9th in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.** The meeting is being held in tandem with the **Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF)’s annual meeting, which runs from October 10-12.** The conference theme is *Health and Shared Prosperity in the North.* Abstracts for contributed talks will be open on **February 15, with an initial deadline of April 30.** Registration for both meetings opens in February 2018.

The theme of the meeting reflects the idea that health, of both people and ecosystems, and prosperity, of both human and more-than-human arctic residents, are inexorably intertwined. This reality is at the core of Indigenous world views and lifeways, and increasingly, is being acknowledged by research and policy. At this conference, we seek to further advance the discussion of health and prosperity as a focal point for sustainable communities and development policies. Conference topics include traditional scientific disciplines, science education, arctic social sciences, biomedical research, and artistic interpretation of health in the North. Information about CRRF and the full, joint program will be released soon at this website.

The 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference is all about bringing together practitioners, policy makers, community leaders, and researchers interested in rural issues. This conference is a unique opportunity to share your own successes, learn from a diverse group of individuals, and hear the latest on issues that matter to communities and people who call rural Canada home.

The conference organizing committee is accepting abstracts for oral presentations, panels, capacity building sessions, and posters for the upcoming conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan from October 10-12, 2017. This year’s theme is Health and Shared Prosperity. With subthemes including:

- **Feeding Success:** Food sovereignty and food security are not experienced uniformly across communities in Canada. What can be done to ensure greater food security, more supportive policy, and greater access to sustainable food systems for more rural communities in Canada?
- **Eco-Health:** Our environment provides critical services to our communities. These services come in the form of daily needs like clean air and water, resources that serve our economy, places for recreation, the list goes on. Rural and remote places are often at the forefront of seeing changes in our environment (e.g., climate change). These same places are increasingly part of the forefront for innovative and creative solutions and policies for protecting our

environment. Please share stories of project or ideas implemented in your community and how these can inspire action in other places.

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9. Conference: Canadian Fair Trade Network

<http://cftn.ca/conference>

The 6th annual CFTN conference takes place in **Vancouver on March 2 to 4, 2018**, with pre-conference tours to Ethical Bean Coffee and Discovery Organics on **March 1**. Program topics include Supply Chains, the Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Justice, and Gender and Canada’s Newly Launched Feminist International Assistance Policy.

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10. Conference: AIC - Education in Agricultural Science and Technology

<http://www.aic.ca/aic2018/>

AIC’s 2018 conference will discuss new ways in which the Canadian agricultural innovation system can help address highly-skilled technical and professional shortages and support the future generation of researchers and innovators in the agri-food sector. The AIC 2018 Conference will cover four themes:

- Envisaging Future Graduate
- Who are the Future Students?
- Identifying the Educational Challenges
- Pathways to Transformation

AIC 2018 will also explore the latest trends in curriculum and program design across Canada, setting the stage for a cross-sectoral dialogue on workforce needs. **April 23-24, 2018 in Guelph, Ontario**. Early bird registration rate is available until February 2nd.

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11. Conference: 2018 Emerging Technologies for Global Food Security

<http://conference.gifs.ca/>

The theme of this year’s conference of the Global Institute for Food Security is “Mobilization to the Developing World”. It is being held **June 19-21, 2018 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada**. One of the keynote speakers includes Her Excellency Ameenah Gurib-Fakim who was sworn in as the 6th President and First Female President of the Republic of Mauritius in 2015. As a Founding Member of the Pan African Association of African Medicinal Plants, Ms. Gurib-Fakim co-authored the first ever Africa Herbal Pharmacopoeia.

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This Month’s News

1. New Gender Guidelines to Take Effect in 2018

<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/new-gender-guidelines-to-take-effect-in-2018/>

With the year 2017 closing with heightened awareness of gender issues, IISD was drawn to the news that three intergovernmental bodies recently adopted gender guidelines.

- The 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UNFCCC adopted a gender action plan, under the Lima work programme on gender.
- The 53rd meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council adopted a Policy on Gender Equality, which will come into effect on 1 July 2018.
- And the 53rd session of the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC-53) and associated Committees sessions adopted the International Tropical Timber Organization’s (ITTO) Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women.

The new policies were developed in some cases to update or align with existing policies, while the policy adopted by the UNFCCC COP 23 represents a new policy area. This policy brief presents highlights from each set of guidelines.

A non-binding Declaration on Trade and Women’s Economic Empowerment was agreed at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Canada recently announced that one of the five themes that will guide discussions during its Presidency of the G7 in 2018 will be, ‘Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment’. In addition, each ministerial meeting ahead of the Leaders’ Summit will “integrate a gender-based analysis and will include a focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment,” the Prime Minister’s office said.

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2. Empowering Women Could Reduce Climate Change

https://impact.vice.com/en_us/article/43qnwm/empowering-women-could-reduce-climate-change

The UN's new Gender Action Plan focuses on women achieving equal representation in government across the world by addressing climate change issues.

The United Nations’ new Gender Action Plan (GAP), finalized by UNFCCC member states at COP23, aims to recognize the adverse effects of climate change on women. It also recognizes they’re key to their communities’ long-and-short-term survival, and aims to ensure disenfranchised women can help spearhead solutions - both at global policy making and local grassroots levels.

What makes this GAP different is it gives women’s organizations an opportunity to make sure UNFCCC decisions are implemented through it’s five key themes which, unlike previous years, will be measured and tracked by women’s groups at COP25 in 2019.

These themes are designed to ensure grassroots women and girls are key decision-makers both globally and locally; to improve gender-responsive climate policy at the national level; to gain a greater understanding of how women are affected by climate change; and to examine how climate finance is designed and effectively responds to women’s needs.

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3. Why Gender Is Key to African Off-Grid Solar Energy Sales

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/why-gender-is-key-to-african-off-grid-energy-sales>

Gender equality could have a significant impact on rural electrification moves in sub-Saharan Africa, new data suggests.

Fenix International, which sells off-grid solar kits in Uganda and Zambia, has uncovered a gender difference: Although only 20 percent of its kits are purchased by women, they bring in more new clients than men.

While the men like to be seen as the main decision-makers in many sub-Saharan African off-grid families, it is actually the women who are pulling the strings and spreading the word about the benefits of solar. This may be because women have greater need.

A report published a year ago by the African Development Bank Group said: “In rural and peri-urban areas, women and girls are mainly responsible for procuring and using cooking fuels; they are disproportionately affected by the negative effects of limited access to energy.”

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4. The Data Revolution Should Not Leave Women and Girls Behind

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/01/data-revolution-not-leave-women-girls-behind/>

OTTAWA, Canada, Jan 9 2018 (IPS) - If there is one political principle that has been constant throughout the history of human civilization it is the fact that land is power. This is something that is particularly true, and often painfully so, for women who farm in Africa.

Though women in Africa are far more likely to farm than men, they are also much less likely to have secure rights to the land where they cultivate crops and they typically hold smaller plots of inferior quality.

But as I delve deeper in to the issue, I frequently encounter another political constant, which is the fact that information is power. And one manifestation of the chronic neglect of women in agriculture is the lack of data that would help illuminate and address their plight.

Globally, there is still no available data on how many women own customary land. One challenge is that the rules, norms, and customs which determine the distribution of land and resources are embedded in various institutions in society— family, kinship, community, markets, and states.

International agencies and governments must commit to investing in collecting more data on women and girls. Closing this gender data gap is not only useful for tracking progress of where we are with the SDGs, but it can also point to what interventions are working, and what needs to be done to accelerate progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Jemimah Njuki is an expert on agriculture, food security, and women’s empowerment and works as a senior program specialist with IDRC. She is an Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow.

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5. Number of female farmers has risen in Canada since 2011

<https://www.producer.com/2018/01/number-female-farmers-risen-canada-since-2011/>

According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, the number of female farmers in Canada has risen by 1.8 percent since 2011 to 28.7 percent, or 77,970. These statistics have been widely reported, and in most cases, celebrated. But the celebration can be problematic.

Females still only make up just over one-quarter of all farm workers. As well, the statistics don't address the fact that females have been farming partners for as long as farming has existed — they just are rarely identified that way. The numbers are increasing now because women are beginning to identify as farmers and they're redefining what it means to be a farmer. The proportion of females operating horse, goat, and mixed vegetable farms, on their own or with a counterpart, was significantly higher than other types of agriculture, including beef cattle and feedlots.

As well, more young women are taking on the risk alone. The number of farms operated solely by females under age 35 rose by 113.3 percent, compared with a 24.4 percent increase in male operators younger than 35.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Male Farmers' Willingness to Pay to Watch Rice Training Video

[https://www.accessagriculture.org/sites/default/files/university-theses/Consentement des Agriculteurs a Payer formation video Benin Itoo 2016.pdf](https://www.accessagriculture.org/sites/default/files/university-theses/Consentement_des_Agriculteurs_a_Payer_formation_video_Benin_Itoo_2016.pdf) [Thesis in French language.]

Extension funding problems have highlighted the durability of extension programs. As the states get out of extension and the private sector fills some of the void, it is time to ask if farmers will pay for extension.

This study focuses on the willingness to pay for agricultural training through video in the Oueme valley (Benin). A field survey based on the contingent valuation method (CVM) was conducted among 173 farmers in six villages in Dangbo and Adjohoun. A projection training session videos on rice production was organized in each study village. At the end of each session, the willingness to pay to follow the video shown was collected. Then, semi-structured interviews were conducted using an interview guide with thirty farmers to explore their perceptions of farmer's participation in the costs of agricultural training. The CAP collected analysis is done through descriptive statistics and using a censored Tobit model. The Tobit model identified socio-economic factors affecting willingness to pay agricultural training through video.

Results revealed that farmers are willing to pay on average 250 F CFA to attend video screening on rice production. But most (41%) of farmers are willing to pay 100 F CFA. Male sex, education level, frequency of visits of farmer's fields by supervisors, the fact that the farmer has received a loan from a moneylender during the crop year, membership in a Farmers' Organization and the number of years of agricultural practice positively affect farmers' willingness to pay for agricultural training through video whereas the village of the farmer negatively affects it.

The perception study reveals that farmers already contribute to the financing of agricultural training they receive; this contribution is not formal. The interviews' analysis shows that 60% of farmers prefer to contribute to the financing of agricultural extension services through member's contributions (monthly or annual) in farmers' cooperatives.

It is therefore important to think of ways farmers could help pay for the advice they need. These findings could open the door to self-financing of agricultural extension services and the emergence of private extension services.

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2. Gender, vegetable value chains, income distribution and access to resources: insights from surveys in Tanzania

<https://www.pubhort.org/ejhs/82/6/7/index.htm>

https://www.pubhort.org/ejhs/82/6/7/82_6_7.pdf

From the European Journal of Horticultural Science comes this article.

Summary: In sub-Saharan countries, male farmers are frequently seen as producers of cash crops and marketable vegetables, while female farmers are perceived as producers of food crops for home consumption. Few authors have tried to validate this perception of gender in the production of traditional vegetables, and gender differences in access to resources and markets remain underexplored. The same holds true for traders of traditional vegetables who share the same value chain. The few studies available have tended to focus either on the household (as the unit of production) or on the market (for trade), neglecting interrelationships between the two. This knowledge gap must be addressed if men and women are to benefit equally from interventions to counteract poverty. A survey of 360 smallholder farmers and 82 vegetable traders in Tanzania was conducted under the “Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation” program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Its objective was to examine gender relationships within production and within trade, as well as between the actors in both groups. Research foci were on production activities and income, market performance and access to resources as important areas of gendered value chain analysis. Results show no pronounced gender division in the production process, with the exception of pest and disease management, input purchase and seed selection (all predominantly carried out by men). Clear differences between male and female farmers emerged in the allocation of income from various crops. An exploration of why leafy vegetables are grown revealed that the juxtaposition of food crops and cash crops in relation to gender needs to be rethought. Market performance of female producers of leafy vegetables was weaker than that of their male counterparts and that of female traders. Both male and female traders rated their decision-making power as high in relation to the income generated through vegetable sales. For female smallholders, access to land constituted a major constraint. Women in male-headed households had the least contact with extension officers and training. Without careful consideration of these and other results of gender analysis in value chains, interventions are at risk of failing to improve the livelihoods of producers and traders.

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3. Irrigation, food security and poverty – Lessons from three large dams in West Africa

<http://pubs.iied.org/17610IIED/?p=1>

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17610IIED.pdf>

In recent years, the governments of the Sahel have committed to combat poverty and food insecurity through a significant increase in the development of irrigable areas. For GWI West Africa, this has presented a timely opportunity to analyse, alongside the relevant ECOWAS guidelines, the socio-economic results achieved on irrigated schemes associated with large dams in the West Africa region.

From 2013 onwards, GWI has carried out retrospective studies on three existing dam and rice field sites: Sélingué in Mali, Bagré in Burkina Faso and Anambé in Senegal. The aim of these micro and macro-economic studies was to analyse the financial and economic viability of water infrastructure projects and opportunities for improving the living conditions of smallholder farmers after the construction of dams.

This report summarises the results of four years of research and identifies parallels between the different sites that provide wider lessons for the West Africa region. Based on field data, policy dialogue and collective learning, the report concludes on the cost-effectiveness of the schemes, the quality of their management and the persistence of poverty and food insecurity. It also makes recommendations for action and for the better alignment of public policy objectives with the interests of a diverse set of smallholder farmers, from making better use of existing systems to improving the design of future projects.

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4. Gold Standard Launches Gender Equality Framework

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/gold-standard-launches-gender-equality-framework/>

15 January 2018: Gold Standard, a certification body for climate action, has released a framework to assess contributions of climate action to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) that enables developers and funders of climate projects to maximize contributions to empowering women and girls.

The Framework lays out gender-sensitive requirements and guidelines to ensure that gender equality is a core feature of project design, assess gender impacts, and incentive projects that pro-actively address gender gaps. The framework will enable developers to access funding from a growing number of “gender-lens” investors by quantifying and certifying gender impacts based on best practices.

The Framework’s guidelines address key steps and tools to ensure gender equality in project design and implementation, including: consultations; safeguards assessments; gender baseline analysis; and measurement of progress towards goals. It also provides examples of possible gender targets, such as: increasing girls’ school enrollment and graduation rates; increasing income generation opportunities for women and equal pay; or improved access to financial mechanisms for women.

The Gender Equality Framework becomes part of the ‘Gold Standard for the Global Goals,’ a certification standard that aims to ensure that climate action projects also contribute to the SDGs. Gold Standard is a certification body established by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and other NGOs in 2003 to catalyze more ambitious action for climate security and sustainable development.

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5. Provincial Agricultural Reports

<https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/programs-services/agrilmi/provincial-data>

Top solutions to agriculture’s labour challenges include:

- Improve access to foreign workers
- Attract more domestic workers
- Increase awareness of agricultural careers
- Enhance worker knowledge and skills
- Align training with workplace needs
- Improve human-resource management

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