

GEM Digest of the Month

January 1, 2019



Native white-tailed deer. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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 the editor.

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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Contents

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Call for Proposals - Education for Women and Girls in Fragile, Conflict and Crisis Situations	2
2. Job Posting - Director of Innovation – FIT.....	2
3. Expressions of Interest for Canada’s Partnership for Gender Equality	2
4. Call for Proposals: Volunteer Cooperation Program	3
5. Upcoming Call: Women as Agents of Change in the Americas	3
6. FARM CREDIT CANADA (FCC) NEEDS Input from Women	3

This Month’s News

1. Canada announces new initiative to empower women and youth in Senegal	4
2. Coalition to drive Deliver for Good campaign in Senegal.....	4
3. Why are we so afraid of gender-based analysis?	5
4. Biodiversity: a women’s business?	5
5. New research chairs program will expand research and innovation in Africa	5
6. Scaling up production of more nutritious yellow potatoes in Colombia.....	6
7. MyAgro Social Enterprise.....	6

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Gender Advocacy Training on Climate Change.....	6
2. Strengthening Impact Assessments for Indigenous Women.....	7
3. Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Issue of “The Keystone Professional”	7

4. What works in Rural Advisory Services?.....	7
5. Governing Land for Women and Men: A Technical Guide	8
6. Annual Report for Energy 4 Impact: PUTTING ENERGY AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT	8
7. Shifting Social Norms in the Economy for Women's Economic Empowerment	9
8. Beyond access: exploring gender-transformative approaches to financial inclusion	9
9. 500 Women Scientists 2018 Annual Report	9

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Call for Proposals - Education for Women and Girls in Fragile, Conflict and Crisis Situations

https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/dismantling_barriers-eliminier_obstacles.aspx?lang=eng

Partnerships for Development Innovation within Global Affairs Canada has launched a call for proposals - Dismantling Barriers and Improving the Quality of Education for Women and Girls in Fragile, Conflict and Crisis Situations. This call will support development assistance projects in fragile, conflict and crisis situations, including in refugee-hosting countries. The call is intended to promote greater coherence between humanitarian actors and host governments and increase access and reduce barriers to quality education for women and girls. Canadian organizations will have until **Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 12:00 p.m. (noon)**, Eastern Time to submit their application. Details about this call, as well as the process to submit an application, are available on the call page. A webinar is scheduled on **Thursday, January 10, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern Time** to review information pertaining to this call page and the application form.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Job Posting - Director of Innovation – FIT

http://mcic.ca/pdf/MCIC_Job_Description_1_-_Director_of_Innovation_FIT_-_FINAL.pdf

http://mcic.ca/pdf/FR_-_MCIC_Job_Description_1_-_Director_of_Innovation_FIT_-_FINAL.pdf

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation MCIC, on behalf of the Inter-Council Network, is launching an innovation initiative named FIT - Fund for Innovation and Transformation/Fond pour l'innovation et la transformation, to test innovative solutions to development challenges. Its purpose is to advance the effective use of and learn from innovative solutions that will improve the lives, equality and empowerment of women and girls, their families and communities in the Global South.

This is a bilingual position to be based in **Winnipeg, Manitoba**. Application deadline is **January 16, 2019**.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Expressions of Interest for Canada's Partnership for Gender Equality

https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/gender_equality-egalite_genres.aspx?lang=eng

On May 25th, 2018, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for International Development launched a call to action to mobilize unprecedented levels of financial resources to support gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of women and girls in developing countries.

Members of the philanthropic community, the private sector, not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations are invited to signal their interest and capacity to design, establish and manage the new Partnership for Gender Equality, a global

platform to address the funding gap faced by women’s organizations and movements working to advance women’s rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in developing countries.

Deadline to apply is 12 p.m. (noon), EST on **January 31, 2019**.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Call for Proposals: Volunteer Cooperation Program

<https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/vcp-pcv.aspx?lang=eng>

Canada launches a call for proposals for its next Volunteer Cooperation Program.

The Volunteer Cooperation Program aims to contribute to the economic and/or social well-being of the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable people, particularly women and girls, in developing countries.

Canada welcomes proposals from experienced Canadian organizations that use volunteerism as a key mechanism for delivering development results abroad. Deadline to apply is 12 p.m. (noon), EST on **February 20, 2019**.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Upcoming Call: Women as Agents of Change in the Americas

https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/open_calls-appels_ouverts.aspx?lang=eng

Global Affairs Canada will launch a call for preliminary proposals to enhance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean region. This call will seek projects that focus on up to three areas targeting gender equality by: (i) enhancing women and girls’ participation in public life; (ii) preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence; and (iii) promoting women’s economic empowerment.

Eligibility: Non-governmental organizations or private sector organizations legally incorporated in Canada or in another country. Organizations must demonstrate they have recent experience managing projects valued at \$2 million or more.

Geographic scope: Two or more Official Development Assistance-eligible countries within the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Estimated size of projects sought: \$2 million to \$5 million per project. **Planned month of call launch: February 2019.**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. FARM CREDIT CANADA (FCC) NEEDS Input from Women

<https://kj3605.customervoice360.com/?rc=MzI%3D> (English)

https://kj3605.customervoice360.com/FR?lang_id=17 (French)

FCC is requesting your assistance to help us promote the Vision panel and help us to grow our reach to women in agriculture, increase participation, and increase diversity. The FCC Vision panel is an opportunity for you to share your opinions on a variety of topics related to the agriculture industry and helps to shape the future of the industry and guide our business decisions. For your participation in the short surveys you will receive an incentive which you can redeem for gift cards.

Below is additional information about the panel: Anyone involved in agriculture can join. You do not need to be an FCC customer. We value the input from everyone connected to agriculture.

Typically, you will have the option to complete 1-3 short surveys per month (all optional). We may also offer optional in-person or online focus groups depending on the topic/need.

Every time you participate you will be compensated for your time through a generous points system that you redeem for gift cards of your choice (Tim Hortons, Canadian Tire, Pre-Paid VISA card, etc.).

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

This Month's News

1. Canada announces new initiative to empower women and youth in Senegal

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/12/canada-announces-new-initiative-to-empower-women-and-youth-in-senegal.html>

Adaptation and Valorization of Entrepreneurship in Irrigated Agriculture (\$17.97 million over five years)

Implemented by Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), this initiative will promote the use of innovative technologies and best practices in agriculture to encourage women and youth in Senegal to adopt climate-friendly agricultural and irrigations practices. This will help to improve the economic resilience of as many as 11,025 women and 4,725 youth from farming households, and to benefit 157,000 community members, in the Sédhiou and Tambacounda regions.

The project's activities will include:

- creating public-private partnerships with financial institutions to increase women's and youth's access to funding and with private companies to buy innovative agricultural products;
- developing customized training programs for women and youth in financial management, business planning and adapting to climate change;
- conducting and disseminating market research to agricultural service providers on the needs of farming households led by women and youth; and
- facilitating the development of multi-stakeholder platforms for women and youth to facilitate dialogue around water resources management.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Coalition to drive Deliver for Good campaign in Senegal

<https://www.energy4impact.org/news/siggil-jigeen-and-energy-4-impact-convene-coalition-experts-deliver-good-senegal>

Women Deliver has chosen Siggil Jigeen, an NGO that promotes and protects women's rights in Senegal, and Energy 4 Impact, to convene and lead a coalition of experts to drive the Deliver for Good Campaign in Senegal.

Women Deliver advocates for gender equality, and the health and rights of girls and women, to achieve progress for all. Led by 14 global partners and supported by the governments of Canada and Denmark, the global Deliver for Good campaign is driven by the principle that investing in girls and women creates a positive ripple effect that can lift up entire countries.

Progress towards gender equality and empowerment in Senegal has been slow partly because organisations work in silos rather than forging a coordinated approach. Energy 4 Impact and Siggil Jigeen, are cutting through the silos by bringing a diverse range of experts and decision makers together in a single multi-sector coalition which has the expertise, credibility, and commitment to drive action.

One of the priorities to be addressed is increasing women's access to resources including energy, water and sanitation.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Why are we so afraid of gender-based analysis?

<http://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/december-2018/afraid-gender-based-analysis/>

Policy Options Politiques recently completed a report for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, based on a review of over 400 scholarly and community research articles and interviews with seven key informants, about strengthening impact assessments of large resource developments to better understand and consider the experiences of Indigenous women. Our research found that there are both positive and negative — but mostly negative — social, economic, cultural and health impacts for Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) women when a resource development project is situated near their community. These gendered impacts are regularly overlooked in current environmental impact assessment processes.

Using a GBA+ lens involves asking deliberate questions about not only gender but also diversity impacts and outcomes, focusing on who receives most of the benefits and who bears more of the costs in policy planning and decision-making, including decisions about resource development. In this case, it also involves making sure that environmental impact assessment processes seek out and listen to the voices of Indigenous women and other community members whose experiences have historically been overlooked.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. Biodiversity: a women’s business?

<https://www.iied.org/biodiversity-womens-business>

Women are among the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in the world. What role do their burgeoning forest and farm businesses play in safeguarding biodiversity?

At least half of the 1.5 billion people who depend on forests for employment, forest products and livelihood support are women. But in national data sets, women’s economic activities in forest and farm landscapes are for the most part invisible – and often overlooked when it comes to policymaking.

However, awareness of entrepreneurship among rural women is slowly growing. As part of our series of articles exploring women’s role in safeguarding biodiversity, we look at women’s business pursuits in the forest and farm landscape.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. New research chairs program will expand research and innovation in Africa

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/new-research-chairs-program-will-expand-research-and-innovation-africa>

IDRC and South Africa’s National Research Foundation (NRF) are pleased to announce a new research chairs initiative that is set to transform the African research landscape.

The OR Tambo Africa Research Chairs Initiative, named after Oliver Reginald Tambo, the pre-eminent South African leader and advocate of science and technology, will support up to 10 top researchers from across Africa over the next five years.

Through international and regional strategic partnerships, the Chairs will contribute to the development of long-term mutually beneficial research collaborations on the continent. They will focus on world-class research in diverse fields and on training graduate students at leading universities in the 15 sub-Saharan African countries that make up the **Science Granting Councils Initiative** (SGCI), a collaboration between IDRC, NRF, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the UK’s Department for International Development.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. Scaling up production of more nutritious yellow potatoes in Colombia

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/scaling-production-more-nutritious-yellow-potatoes-colombia>

Farmers, breeders, and scientists married scientific knowledge and traditional practices to develop three new yellow potato varieties: Criolla Ocarina, Criolla Sua Pa, and Criolla Dorada. These potatoes yield 15% more than traditional varieties, are twice as resistant to late blight disease, contain double the amount of protein, and have nearly 20% more iron and zinc.

The new varieties have already replaced 16% of the country's yellow potato production area and are proving to be popular with consumers. With a 40% yield increase over traditional varieties, the improved cultivars are available to more than 6.5 million Colombian consumers and expected to reach up to 8.6 million Colombians in 2018. They have boosted the incomes of more than 4,000 farmers by 18% and these varieties have also helped the number of households classified as food secure increase from 19% to 59%.

Building local capacity has been key to the project's sustainability. This includes a sustainable business model for the local production and availability of high-quality seeds that increase yields for farmers, creating new jobs, and improving the health of Colombian consumers, including smallholder farmers.

Family farming schools taught participants practical knowledge for growing the new varieties, as well as for growing fruits and vegetables, preparing food, hygiene, and guidance on gender issues. Leadership training and the development of Community Action Plans have empowered women in their communities, including new savings and credit mechanisms.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

7. MyAgro Social Enterprise

<https://www.myagro.org/campaign/equipandempower/>

Instead of loans, myAgro has pioneered an alternative bank-less savings system that matches how farmers already manage their money. Using a prepaid scratch card model — similar to buying prepaid mobile minutes — farmers can pay in advance for fertilizer, seed and training packages by buying a myAgro card at their local village store (from 50 cents to \$50), depositing their money into a layaway account by texting in the scratch-off code.

Last year, myAgro launched a campaign to provide women farmers with access to a precision planter — a game-changing tool that allows them to plant faster and more effectively, doubling their harvests and growing more food for their families. Before the planting season, myAgro delivered a total of 500 precision planters to 79 villages in Senegal. The planters were delivered to groups of women farmers, who then received agricultural trainings from myAgro field agents on how to use the machine. The women had access to the planters, which they shared amongst themselves throughout planting season.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Gender Advocacy Training on Climate Change

<https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/39652/gender-advocacy-training/>

The Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung in cooperation with GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice and LIFE Environment Education Sustainability launched the project **Not without us!**. It supports selected women activists from Ecuador, South Africa and Indonesia in their attempts to connect their local climate struggles with the international sphere. The idea is to make local struggles for gender and climate justice visible, to support gender advocates in voicing their demands at the international policy sphere and to support networking within the global climate justice movement.

As part of the project activities, a training **Getting ready to advocate for gender and climate justice** has been developed and implemented to support civil society activists getting ready for the upcoming UNFCCC negotiations.

The presentation is structured in the following way: Its first part focuses on refreshing knowledge about the UN Climate Change Negotiations key points including instructions on how to read negotiation language. It will then summarize how gender equality got integrated and framed in this process. The third part looks at the Paris Agreement, highlights relevant agenda items for the COP24 agenda, and specifically focuses on items we have identified as relevant for the adoption of the implementation guidelines, including recommendations to preserve the spirit of the Paris Agreement.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

2. Strengthening Impact Assessments for Indigenous Women

<http://www.criaw-icref.ca/en/product/strengthening-impact-assessments-for-indigenous-women>

http://www.criaw-icref.ca/images/userfiles/files/FINAL_FemNetCEAARReport_Nov14.pdf

This report provides guidance for implementing new requirements in the Government of Canada’s proposed Impact Assessment Act, specifically to consider “the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors” when examining potential social, economic, and health impacts of major projects with a potential for environmental impact (Parliament of Canada, 2018). While there is shared responsibility between different government jurisdictions (federal, provincial, territorial, Indigenous Peoples), the focus here is on the federal government and proponents.

The report draws on Indigenous women’s experiences surrounding resource development and considers how Indigenous Peoples’ knowledges can guide resource-related decisions. Indigenous women often carry different perspectives, backgrounds, and positions, which contribute to different priorities, concerns, and approaches to resource development.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

3. Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba Issue of “The Keystone Professional”

<http://www.enggeomb.ca/pdf/Keystone/18Winter.pdf>

This issue contains several interesting articles that discuss gender within this profession. In particular, see the article on pages 11-13 “Because it’s 2018”.

“When I hear presentations, read articles, and have conversations about female underrepresentation in engineering, it is often about the importance of supporting women’s success via mentorship, networking opportunities, work-life balance, and other undeniably positive things.”

“I have had many conversations with colleagues in the profession whom I deeply value and respect – well-intentioned, thoughtful, equity-minded men who assure me that they “don’t see gender”. This is typically in the context of trying to indicate that their organizations are progressive and that they are one of the ‘good guys’. The statement is often followed by “I hire for fit”. However, we know from an abundance of research on all scales from national to organizational that we naturally gravitate to, and support, people who are just like us.”

*“So, we **need** to see gender. We need to take note of all its subtle and insidious manifestations of unconscious bias. In my mind, this applies especially to men who are senior leaders in the profession who have the social capital and the structural capacity in their organizations to make changes with minimal risk to career or reputation.”*

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

4. What works in Rural Advisory Services?

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2018/12/strengthening-extension-rural-advisory-services-contribute-reaching-2030-development-agenda-works-rural-advisory-services/>

<http://www.g-fras.org/en/1040-what-works-in-rural-advisory-services.html>

ACCRA, Dec 3 2018 (IPS) - In mid-2018 the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) that brings together key development partners and 17 multi-stakeholder Regional Networks and country fora across six continents, published a new book: *What Works in Rural Advisory Services: Global Good Practice Notes*.

This book includes over 30 Notes on a wide range of essential topics for strengthening agricultural extension and rural advisory services, drawing on contributions from the GFRAS family of experts, practitioners, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, facilitate access to know-how and support RAS organisations, managers, and individual field staff with easy-to-understand overviews on key approaches, principles and methods.

It is a unique effort drawing on the experience of more than 90 people involved in agriculture and advisory services drawn from 6 continents.

See **NOTE 4: Integrating Gender into Rural Advisory Services** at <http://www.g-fras.org/en/good-practice-notes/integrating-gender-into-rural-advisory-services.html>

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

5. Governing Land for Women and Men: A Technical Guide

<http://www.fao.org/policy-support/resources/resources-details/en/c/522497/>

Gender equality is one of the ten core principles of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. This FAO technical guide published in 2013 aims to assist in its implementation through the achievement of responsible gender-equitable governance of land tenure. The guide focuses on equity and on how land tenure can be governed in ways that address the different needs and priorities of women and men. Gender-equitable governance of land tenure ensures that women and men can participate equally in their relationships to land, through both formal institutions and informal arrangements for land administration and management. The guide provides advice on mechanisms, strategies and actions that can be adopted to improve gender equity in the processes, institutions and activities of land tenure governance.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

6. Annual Report for Energy 4 Impact: PUTTING ENERGY AT THE HEART OF DEVELOPMENT

<https://www.energy4impact.org/file/2070/download?token=dVkuY0Zz>

Some highlights:

- Throughout East and West Africa, we supported 800 businesses to use electricity and electrically powered equipment to increase productivity. These include welding, carpentry, food services, shops, agro-processing, refrigeration, clean water kiosks, water pumping, tailors and hair salons. Of these businesses, 331 are owned by women. A further 122 are run by women's groups, with 6,442 members.
- In Kenya, Tanzania and Senegal, we supported 436 women entrepreneurs and 108 women's groups (with around 6,000 members) to capitalise on the livelihood opportunities offered by growing energy access markets. They received technical assistance, mentoring, advice on advanced cookstove technologies, and access to capital. Their work provided 735,000 people with access to energy.

Future concerns:

- Gender equality. In sub-Saharan Africa, just 14% of women on average are in full-time formal employment, compared with 33% of men, according to the Overseas Development Institute. As UN Women states, reducing the gap between women's and men's participation in the labour force will result in faster economic growth.

See the chapter on "Empowering Women", pages 23 to 27.

7. Shifting Social Norms in the Economy for Women's Economic Empowerment

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Shifting-Social-Norms-in-the-Economy-for-Women-s-Economic-Empowerment>

<https://seepnetwork.org/files/galleries/Shifting-Social-Norms-FINAL.pdf>

This document is a summary of the process and insights from the participants of a 2017 Practitioner Learning Group (PLG) on “Shifting Social Norms in the Economy to Create Change at Scale,” hosted by The SEEP Network and Oxfam’s Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) in Agriculture Knowledge Hub. It provides an introductory overview to social norms and their relationship to women’s economic empowerment. It also highlights practical tools, approaches and frameworks that practitioners and researchers can use to diagnose, measure and change social norms. Finally, it calls for more systematic collaboration and learning, as addressing social norms change as part of WEE is still a new area of exploration.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

8. Beyond access: exploring gender-transformative approaches to financial inclusion

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/handle/10625/57156?locale-attribute=en>

Abstract: A range of current policies and programs target greater inclusion of the poor and marginalized—including women—in financial systems and services. Debate and effort have largely focused on widening access to products and services for these groups. But little is known about whether and how such efforts may be benefiting women, and whether improving access alone is sufficient to transform the underlying social and economic structures that constrain women’s livelihood and business success. This scoping paper explores available evidence on how ‘gender-transformative’ approaches can be integrated with financial inclusion efforts to empower women in the economy. It points to current knowledge gaps, and suggests areas for further research to deepen our understanding and inform policy and practice in this area.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

9. 500 Women Scientists 2018 Annual Report

<https://500womenscientists.org/updates-news/>

Over 20,000 women of STEM and supporters from more than 100 countries have signed in support of 500 Women Scientists, pledging to build an inclusive scientific community dedicated to training a more diverse group of future leaders in science and to use the language of science to bridge divides and enhance global diplomacy.

From an open letter to a global grassroots organization, our journey has gone well beyond our initial response to the 2016 American election. What was true in November 2016 still resonates today: scientific institutions must grapple with the long history of inequity, misogyny, racism, and exploitation. We must face that history, learn from it, and fundamentally transform scientific institutions to be truly inclusive and serve the public good.

Plans for 2019 include the following:

- Request a Woman Scientist
- Fellowship for the Future
- Fertility, Pregnancy, and Breastfeeding Project
- Young women in science - outreach and mentorship
- International reach
- Conference meet-ups
- Partnerships

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++