



GEM Digest of the Month for January 1, 2017

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Papaver orientale and bees. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available [here](#).

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Opportunities and Upcoming Events

1. Online Course on Public Engagement

<http://bccic.ca/sign-up-now-icn-hive-mind-course/>

<http://mcic.ca/news/entry/sign-up-for-hive-mind-a-new-course-from-the-inter-council-network>

<http://www.acic-caci.org/events/2016/11/29/hive-mind-engaging-the-public-for-the-greater-good.html>

Hive Mind: Engaging the Public for the Greater Good is designed as an introductory course for practitioners who would like to explore the key concepts of public engagement, boost their ability to connect with stakeholders in their communities and learn how to build effective partnerships.

The course will provide practical tools for animating the community and connecting with your target audience, with a special focus on reaching students and youth.

This course on public engagement has much to offer as an overview for folks who are new to the sector and those looking to reconnect with the concepts that underpin their work, as well as students passionate about social change and teachers trying to inspire their students to become global citizens. Everything is designed in layers, so there is plenty to delve into if you want to learn more!

This is a flexible, go at your own pace, online program that takes roughly 20 hours to complete. A certificate is offered upon course completion.

***This course is being offered by the Inter-Council network with a January cohort for free for a limited time only.**

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2. Chief Science Advisor for Canada

<https://www.appointments-nominations.gc.ca/slctnPrCs.asp?menu=1&lang=eng&SelectionProcessId=A2E3CD92-9963-40FF-906A-D4550223C164>

The overarching goal of the Minister of Science is to support scientific research and the integration of scientific considerations in our investment and policy choices.

The Government of Canada is currently seeking applications from diverse and talented Canadians from across the country who are interested in the role of advisor to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Science.

Candidates must apply online by **January 27, 2017**. The position is located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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3. Canadian National Fair Trade Conference

<http://cftn.ca/conference>

Canada's 5th National Fair Trade Conference will be held in **Halifax, Nova Scotia from Friday, February 24th to Sunday February 26th, 2017**. Topics include "Fair Trade, Organic Agriculture, and Climate Change", "The Fair Trade Movement & The Co-op Sector in Canada", "Food and Beverage Distribution: Breaking Down Walls", "Trade Policy", and "Aligning Canada's Overseas Development Assistance with Fair Trade".

Fair Trade is an example of the active and inclusive partnerships we need in our pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, SDG 5 (gender equality):

Fair Trade provides opportunities for women in skilled occupations or in leadership positions. Women receive equal pay to men for equivalent work, and fully participate in decisions concerning the use of benefits accruing from production and from Fair Trade relationships.

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4. Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference - West

<http://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2017west/index.html>

The Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference for Western Canada is scheduled for **March 6 and 7, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta**. See the website for information on speakers.

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5. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61)

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017>

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in **New York from 13th to 24th March 2017**.

- Priority theme: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work
- Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)
- Emerging issue/Focus area: The empowerment of indigenous women

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6. AIC Conference: Agricultural Innovation in a Changing Environment

<http://www.aic.ca/conferences-and-events/aic2017/>

Agriculture and the environment are intricately linked within a complex ecosystem; with agriculture both depending on and impacting critical natural resources. Canada’s agriculture sector is an important steward of the environment and has an important role to play in meeting today’s global sustainability and climate-smart goals.

This year’s conference, taking place **April 24-26, 2017 in Winnipeg, MB**, will foster important discussions among policy makers, industry stakeholders, entrepreneurs and the research community about agriculture’s impact on the environment in a changing climate. AIC 2017 will also showcase world-class innovative research taking place across Canada and explore how green growth in the sector can build on a strong scientific, evidence-based foundation.

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7. Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (MCWESTT) Conference

<http://www.apegm.mb.ca/Ingenium/2016/ReportCIPWIE2016.pdf>

The Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's Committee for Increasing the Participation of Women in Engineering is excited to announce the biannual Manitoba Community for Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (MCWESTT) Conference coming **May 2017**.

For more information on the activities of the committee, please see the link to the committee's report.

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8. Conference: Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes

<http://www.wgsrf.com/>

Public Conference **May 28 – 30, 2017 at Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario.**

Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes is the national professional association for the academic discipline of Women's and Gender Studies in Canada and was established in 1984. The official theme for this year's Congress, "From Far and Wide, the Next 150," celebrates Canada's sesquicentennial, reflecting on the past 150 years and looking to the future.

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9. Atlantic Connections Conference 2017

<http://atlanticconnections.ca/>

The Atlantic Connections Conference provides an opportunity for women in SETT from Atlantic Canada to share their experiences of studying and working in male-dominated fields, to network with others, and to develop action items with the goal of advancing women in SETT. Women and their male colleagues in SETT from a cross-section of industries, education, government, and not-for-profit organizations are invited to attend the conference in **Halifax, Nova Scotia in June 2017**.

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10. Global 4-H Network Summit

<http://global-4-h-network.com/>

The 2017 Global 4-H Network Summit is a summit for 4-H youth, volunteers and professionals from the Americas to Europe to Africa to Asia. Delegates from Canada will be chosen by their representative provincial council. The event will be held **July 11-14, 2017 in Ottawa, Canada**.

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This Month's News

1. 2016 Distinguished Manitoba Home Economist Award

<http://www.homefamily.net/2016/11/04/2016-distinguished-home-economist-award-winner-profile-mona-cornock/>

Mona Cornock of Manitoba is the 2016 recipient of the Manitoba Association of Home Economists [MAHE] Award. The Distinguished Home Economist Award is an award bestowed annually to recognize Professional Home Economists who have contributed significantly to the professional association. The requirements for the Distinguished Home Economist Award are that they have participated in the professional association, have advanced the development of MAHE and have demonstrated leadership and enthusiasm for the human ecology/home economics profession.

Mona has been actively involved with numerous international programs including the Canadian Society of Extension including instrumental work with the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension twinning project, Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society.

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2. IFHE Statement for the 61st Commission on the Status of Women accepted

<https://www.ifhe.org/ifhe-statements>

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in **New York from 13th to 24th March 2017**. The written Statement submitted by International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls" has been accepted. The IFHE demands that women and girls be empowered, that their needs and rights be kept in focus to harness their potential and importance for sustainable development. Among the recommended actions:

- Promote gender equality agenda to improve women's access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology, information, technical assistance and training.
- Women farmers need training in the production of commodity crops, such as cocoa, coffee and cotton so that they can benefit from selling in international markets.
- Strengthen the empowerment of women as key actors for social, economic and sustainable development.

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3. Academia is now incompatible with family life, thanks to casual contracts

https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2016/dec/02/short-term-contracts-university-academia-family?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

"Universities need to move away from thinking that a hyper-competitive, highly-mobile scientific workforce is good for science. Good scientists are not born, but trained and supported by the people and institutions that surround them.

Here is a new idea: let's make science better by supporting the people who conduct it. Let's make rewards and funding to universities dependent on how they treat their staff. Let's make world rankings weighted on how many staff are on

permanent contracts. Let's make Athena Swan awards dependent on low levels of fixed-term contracts. Let's reduce the Research Excellence Framework funding for universities for every staff member who is on a temporary contract.

Because, if anything, the less time and energy a scientist has to spend on searching for the next job, the more time and energy they will have to actually do science. Let's see how much more productive scientists are in making scientific discoveries when they can actually make long-term plans. Let's reward people for the years of education and hard work they have contributed to the university and science with a stable professional and home life.

We want to conduct science for the public good – this surely includes the scientists.”

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4. Nova Scotia farmer sews what she sows processing flax into clothes

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-farmer-patricia-bishop-flax-clothing-1.3884439>

Growing flax and transforming it into linen is one of the oldest ways people made fabric to sew into clothes.

Patricia Bishop, a farmer from the Annapolis Valley, is pioneering the rebirth of the old craft by creating new machines, built in the province.

She has partnered with a Nova Scotia company, Timbertech, to build small-scale flax processing machines and wants to make production a viable economic industry for rural communities across North America.

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5. How can we make the agricultural industry more inclusive?

<https://agwomensnetwork.wordpress.com/2016/12/09/how-can-we-make-the-agricultural-industry-more-inclusive/>

The Ag Women's Network recently asked several people to answer the question, *how can we make the agricultural industry more inclusive?* They've shared their ideas from each of their unique perspectives.

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6. 'Where's your husband?': Women in farming still fighting against old boys' club

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/women-agriculture-barriers-1.3878774>

Young Canadian women recognize a world where many say that despite progress, there are barriers that limit the potential for women to become successful farm operators and agribusiness leaders.

Amanda Brodhagen of SW Ontario can easily rattle off a list of barriers. There's the challenge of balancing career and family and trying to break into "the old boys' club" on commodity boards and throughout the agribusiness industry. There's a lack of female role models. In isolated rural areas, it can be hard to find child care.

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council has spent time delving into the subject. One of the top issues to emerge was "a real feeling that there's the old boys' club," says Wright, senior human resources adviser, "that especially in the commodity boards and associations, it's older gentlemen that have been in these roles for a long time and even in some of the senior leadership roles in agribusiness."

Women don't see other women as role models in senior roles, she says, and sometimes may not feel confident enough to put their names forward.

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7. Fighting deforestation with cleaner cookstoves and fuels

<http://cleancookstoves.org/about/news/11-02-2016-fighting-deforestation-with-cleaner-cookstoves-and-fuels.html>

The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) released a new report that showcases some of the impact of cookstoves on forests, while highlighting the role the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (Alliance) and others are leading in the fight against deforestation by providing greater access to clean and efficient cooking technologies around the world.

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8. Antigua and Barbuda to adopt “Lifelong Learning for Famers” model

<http://oasis.col.org/bitstream/handle/11599/2461/CONNECTIONS%20PDF?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Antigua and Barbuda have adopted the Lifelong Learning for Famers model (L3F) in order to stimulate their agricultural sector. Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is working with the Agricultural Extension Division and the Support for Women and Youth in Agriculture Project (SWAP), a joint initiative of the Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs. SWAP uses agriculture as a means of achieving livelihoods for poor and vulnerable women and youths, making it a strong fit with the L3F initiative.

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9. Nicaraguan Women Push for Access to Land, Not Just on Paper

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/12/nicaraguan-women-push-for-access-to-land-not-just-on-paper/>

MANAGUA, Dec 5 2016 (IPS) - A group of women farmers who organised to fight a centuries-old monopoly over land ownership by men are seeking plots of land to farm in order to contribute to the food security of their families and of the population at large.

According to the international humanitarian organisation Oxfam, only 18 per cent of the rural women who work on farms in Nicaragua own land, while the rest have to lease it and pay before planting. One of the members of the Femuprocan [Federation of Nicaraguan Women Farmers Cooperatives] organisation told IPS that there has been no political will or economic financing from the state to enforce the law on access to land. Femuprocan is the only federation in the country solely made up of women farmers: more than 4,200 members organised in 73 cooperatives in six of the country's departments.

In addition to having to lease land, the women who belong to the organisation have in recent years faced environmental problems such as drought, dust storms, volcanic ash and pests without receiving the benefit of public policies that make bank loans available to deal with these problems. The Nicaraguan financial system does not grant loans to women farmers who have no legal title to land.

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10. Newsletter: Youth in Agriculture

<https://www.joomag.com/magazine/perspectives-december-2016/0172491001481210782?short>

The success of today's young agriculturalists will determine our ability to feed and nourish future generations. Read the stories of accomplished producers and more in the current issue of *Perspectives*, an interactive bi-annual publication of IFDC.

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11. Newsletter: Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agriculture Extension Services

http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/ING-Global-Newsletter-2016_12.pdf

This edition includes stories from Sierra Leone, Honduras, and Tajikistan. Note also the Training of Trainers Manual for *Integrating Gender-responsive & Nutrition-sensitive Approaches When Working with Farmer Groups Engaged in Markets* available at http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/Manual-to-Integrate-G-and-N-for-Farmer-Markets-2016_11_18.pdf.

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12. Putting Women Front and Centre in the Development Agenda

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/12/putting-women-front-and-centre-in-the-development-agenda/>

NAIROBI, Kenya, Dec 12 2016 (IPS) - Reengineering the framework of support by bringing in women as new actors in effective development cooperation will play a pivotal role in achieving the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Second High Level Meeting (HLM2) Nairobi meeting brought together over 5,000 delegates from across the globe, and saw a 400 delegation Civil Society Organisations Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) endorse the Nairobi Outcome Document.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta reiterated the need to include all sectors of the population in the development and implementation of the socio-economic agenda.

Reacting to President Uhuru's sentiment, Memory Kachambwa, Programme Manager for the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), reiterated the need for policymakers to stop viewing women as victims, and rather as agents of change in their own right who should influence the aid agenda.

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13. Maasai Women Development Organization

<http://maasaiwomentanzania.com/>

MWEDO was initiated by three Maasai women founders in 2000 in Arusha, Tanzania. Through experiences of their own struggles, the three founders decided to support other marginalized women to access their rights to education, health and economic rights.

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14. Developing the Capacity to Do and to Not Do

<https://agrilinks.org/blog/developing-capacity-do-and-not-do>

Integrated programs are all the rage, and for good reason: it's clear that real life doesn't happen in neatly separated silos, and the causes and solutions to poverty and food insecurity are similarly interrelated. Yet it is hard to argue that integrating or mainstreaming gender and nutrition into agricultural extension services (AES) will not add more to the workloads of staff who are often overstretched and underpaid as it is.

The decision to deliver integrated programs falls to institutional management. Often, it is in response to a funding opportunity that an organization is motivated to start adding new themes to their activity and competency profile. It may be argued that more specifically addressing gender inequities was triggered or motivated by donors and governments that clearly expect gender to be integrated into programs. In recent years, more and more funding has become available to specifically address nutrition challenges. As gender and nutrition enjoy a greater spotlight than they have in the past few decades, the Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Agricultural Extension Services (INGENAES) project has wrestled to identify ways to make integration feasible and sustainable so that these important issues will become core competencies of institutions implementing AES.

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15. Divine Fair Trade chocolate bar celebrates 'women's empowerment'

<http://www.thegrocer.co.uk/stores/ranging-and-merchandising/divine-chocolate-bar-celebrates-womens-empowerment/546529.article?platform=hootsuite>

<http://www.divinechocolate.com/us/good-stuff/news/2016/3/celebrating-women-cocoa-farming-international-womens-day>

Available from February 2017, the 70% dark chocolate Fair Trade bar will feature stories from female cocoa farmers from Ghana inside the wrapper.

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16. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Newsletter

<http://awardfellowships.org/updates/award-newsletters/>

The 2016 newsletter provides a synopsis of the year in review plus links to upcoming conferences and events. AWARD is a catalyst for innovations with high potential to contribute to the prosperity and well-being of African smallholder farmers. We equip top African women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate agricultural gains by strengthening their research and leadership skills.

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17. Gender Equality "Clear Priority" for New UN Secretary-General

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/12/gender-equality-clear-priority-for-new-un-secretary-general/>

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 13 2016 (IPS) - Achieving gender equality in UN staff appointments will be a “clear priority” for incoming UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, when he takes up the UN’s top administrative role in January 2017.

Guterres who was sworn in as Secretary-General at a ceremony at UN Headquarters on Dec. 12, said that achieving gender parity among UN staff will form an important part of his agenda for his first 100 days in office.

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18. Technology helps women in celebration of the International Day of Rural Women

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/research-highlight/ccafs-highlights-how-technology-helps-women-celebration-international-day-rural#.WGRzB5QzXIU>

One solution to helping women better cope with the realities of climate change is technology. Innovations, including new methods of communication, more efficient energy and cooking methods, and sustainable agricultural practices have the potential to help women adapt to climate change.

The Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security identifies programs in countries of Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Peru, Philippines, Vietnam, and India which provide examples of innovations. These illustrate the potential of technology to improve the lives of women and increase their ability to produce food and provide an income for their families. The International Day of Rural Women [held in October] is a reminder of the contributions that rural women make to their families, communities, and development.

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19. The state of gender responsiveness in Tanzania’s climate change policies

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/state-gender-responsiveness-tanzania%E2%80%99s-climate-change-policies#.WGR1QJQzXIU>

Recently released research from the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) examines gender mainstreaming provisions in fourteen Tanzanian policies related to agriculture and the environment.

The researchers note that, while Tanzania is indeed making progress towards achieving gender-inclusive policies, there are key areas of improvement that are still needed. For instance, while gender constraints are identified by a number of recent policies, the policy solutions are often not aligned with these issues. Clearer strategies would allow policy-makers to move past the simple recognition that climate change will affect men and women differently and push for policy solutions that substantially close gender gaps.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Mainstreaming Gender Equality into the Program Cycle/ L'intégration de l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes au cycle de programmes

English <http://share.snacktools.com/F69E6859E8C/b7c3wjjh>

French <http://share.snacktools.com/F69E6859E8C/bh9los5n>

PowerPoint slides from a webinar on December 6, 2016 on *Mainstreaming Gender Equality into the Program Cycle*, presented by Linda Gagnon, director at SUCO, and Anne Delorme, CQFD Coordinator at AQOCI, and hosted by the ICN are available at the link.

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2. Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves Annual Report

<http://cleancookstoves.org/resources/reports/2016progress.html>

The report, which includes noteworthy accomplishments from across the clean cooking sector, highlights the increasing momentum as the Alliance's more than 1,600 partners work toward the goal of enabling 100 million households to adopt clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels by 2020.

In 2016, we saw global leaders prioritizing clean cooking as a means of addressing a broad range of global goals, from saving lives to mitigating climate change.

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3. Infographic: Gender and Climate Change

http://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GGCA-Infographic-by-CT-FINAL.jpeg?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=complete%20infographic&utm_campaign=October%2025th%20WEDO%20Links

This series of images provides examples of how climate change is impacting the lives of women in all continents.

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4. Special Issue of *Ambio* on “Gender perspectives in resilience, vulnerability and adaptation to global environmental change”

<http://link.springer.com/journal/13280/45/3/suppl/page/1>

Ambio, Volume 45, Issue 3 Supplement, December 2016

Ambio addresses the scientific, social, economic, and cultural factors that influence the condition of the human environment. This issue includes the following articles:

- i. [Gender perspectives in resilience, vulnerability and adaptation to global environmental change](#)
- ii. [Beyond dichotomies: Gender and intersecting inequalities in climate change studies](#)
- iii. [Gendered medicinal plant knowledge contributions to adaptive capacity and health sovereignty in Amazonia](#)
- iv. [Gendered knowledge and adaptive practices: Differentiation and change in Mwangi District, Tanzania](#)
- v. [The impact of gender-blindness on social-ecological resilience: The case of a communal pasture in the highlands of Ethiopia](#)
- vi. [Gender-specific responses to climate variability in a semi-arid ecosystem in northern Benin](#)
- vii. [Understanding adaptive capacity and capacity to innovate in social–ecological systems: Applying a gender lens](#)

- viii. [Gendered vulnerabilities and grassroots adaptation initiatives in home gardens and small orchards in Northwest Mexico](#)
- ix. [The diversity of gendered adaptation strategies to climate change of Indian farmers: A feminist intersectional approach](#)
- x. [What’s counted as a reindeer herder? Gender and the adaptive capacity of Sami reindeer herding communities in Sweden](#)
- xi. [Some years you live like a coyote: Gendered practices of cultural resilience in working rangeland landscapes](#)
- xii. [Enhancing and expanding intersectional research for climate change adaptation in agrarian settings](#)
- xiii. [A synthesis of convergent reflections, tensions and silences in linking gender and global environmental change research](#)

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5. The Global Hive: Tools for engaging global citizens

<http://globalhive.ca/>

Check out this web site for a range of tools on public engagement, including gender equality.

We understand public engagement as a transformational process – one that leads to societal change. This tool will allow public engagement practitioners to see a broad view of the large process of societal change and identify how they fit into the cycle. It is a model where organizations may work exclusively within one or several spheres of change, and that not all organizations need to work at all levels.

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6. Cultivating Community Podcast: “If You Get Hail, Make Ice Cream”

<http://www.harvestmoonoh.com/podcasts/>

Clearwater, Manitoba has had a long vibrant history of volunteerism with organizations such as 4H, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Women’s Institute. The Clearwater W.I. is nearly a century old and still active, offering rural educational programming and activities for the community. Clearwater Women’s Institute members talk about the history of the Clearwater Women’s Institute, the activities of group and the importance of the W.I.’s legacy.

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