



GEM Digest of the Month for July 1, 2016

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Fair trade baskets hand made from recycled and natural components, available for sale in Canada through Ten Thousand Villages. *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. Free online courses from Wageningen University

<https://www.edx.org/school/wageningenx>

The rapidly increasing demand for nutritious food and its future consequences for the environment call for a much greater understanding of the global food system. WageningenX, by mobilizing a large and international community, addresses this need effectively by offering different massive online open courses (MOOCs) within its domain. Our courses train (future) professionals in sustainable food systems and reach out to consumers to help them make informed choices about what they eat, how it is produced and the impact of their choices on the environment and society.

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This Month’s News

1. Ethiopian Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture Established

Via e-mail

<http://www.ata.gov.et/>

The Women’s Affairs Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR-WAD), with support from the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) and UN WOMEN, recently established the Ethiopian Network for Gender Equality in Agriculture (ENGEA).

At the inaugural meeting held on December 29, 2015 at the Harmony Hotel, 65 participants from government, donors and non- governmental organizations were present to endorse and support the establishment.

The Network’s major objectives are to: create synergies between government, non-governmental organizations, development partners and research partners; develop and implement gender responsive agricultural policies, strategies, programs and projects in the sector; and to create platforms to share information and lessons.

For Further information about the network please contact Ms. Zerthun Seyoum (MOANR-WAD Director) at

zerthun.seyoum@gmail.com or Seblewongel Deneke at Seblewongel.Deneke@ata.gov.et

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2. Promoting Women’s Education and Empowerment in Clean Energy

<http://www.cleanenergyministerial.org/Our-Work/Initiatives/Women-in-Clean-Energy>

The Clean Energy Education and Empowerment (C3E) women’s initiative has worked to fill the underrepresentation of women globally in the clean energy sector since the program launched in 2010. Its goal is to recognize accomplished women working in all aspects of clean energy and identify role models for other female clean energy professionals.

Merran Smith, Executive Director at Clean Energy Canada, was among the Canadians named to the C3E International Ambassador Corps in San Francisco in June 2016. Other new ambassadors for Canada this year are Ilse Treurnicht, CEO of MaRS Discovery District, Marie-Hélène Labrie, Senior VP for Government Affairs and Communications with Enerkem, and Céline Bak, President of Analytica Advisors.

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3. Integrated Functional Vocational Literacy

<http://gtli.us/women-cooperative/>

Less than two years ago, Gueranerama Dasenech had no access to water, no literate adults, and poor linkage to health services. Women spent 100% of their time fetching water, manually grinding grain, walking for days to purchase sorghum, and were often victims of violent abuse. Thanks to projects funded by different donors, lives in the South Omo Zone of Ethiopia have been transformed.

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4. Women Farmers Key to Ending Global Hunger

<http://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/women-farmers-key-to-ending-global-hunger/>

<http://foodgrainsbank.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Womens-paper-April-2016.pdf>

Without a significant boost in financial support for women farmers, there is little hope of one day achieving zero hunger. That’s a key message of a new report from Canadian Foodgrains Bank, *Equal Harvests—How Investing in Agricultural Development Can Empower Women*.

Equal Harvests argues that good investments in agriculture can empower women in the following ways:

1. Improving access to productive resources (land, water, inputs, labour) and services (finance, knowledge, markets) for women.
2. Improving agency—women’s control over assets and their decision-making power should be considered in agricultural interventions. This means working with communities, including men, to better value women.
3. Collective action—agricultural investment should include a strong role for groups, as women can overcome discrimination more effectively when they work together.

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5. US science journal films protocol of researcher

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/agriculture-life-environment-sciences/alesnews/2016/may/us-science-journal-films-protocol-of-ales-researcher>

Whether you're a mechanic or a musician, if you want to learn a tricky technique these days you look for an online video that explains it. Scientists are no different — although their videos demand a higher degree of credibility.

Which is why a videographer sent by the *Journal of Visualized Experiments* in Cambridge, Mass., was filming in soil scientist Sylvie Quideau's lab earlier this month.

The journal, also called JoVE, was founded in 2006 to publish peer-reviewed scientific research in a visual format to help researchers learn new experimental techniques, while also helping to ensure they are applied in a standardized fashion, worldwide.

"This is absolutely the way science is moving forward," said Quideau, a professor of soil biogeochemistry in the Department of Renewable Resources at the University of Alberta.

In Quideau's case, JoVe filmed her protocol for extracting phospholipid fatty acids (PLFAs) from soil samples in order to learn about the overall structure of the soil's microbial communities. The PLFAs provide an index of soil quality and how soils respond to disturbances.

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6. Women lag in agriculture leadership roles

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/news/report-shows-women-lag-in-agriculture-leadership-roles/>

While many women work in the agri-food sector, few reach decision-making positions, says a report by the Canadian Agriculture Human Resources Council (CAHRC).

Of 65 national and provincial associations reviewed to date, only eight have a woman as their board chairperson or president, and another eight have a woman in the second-in-command role of vice-president or vice-chair.

The CAHRC report says there are ways to boost female participation, but setting quotas isn't the way to go. Instead it recommends building awareness by expanding the recruitment pool and having diversity policies.

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7. Unleashing the potential of Vietnamese women farmers as change agents

https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/unleashing-potential-vietnamese-women-farmers-change-agents?utm_source=CCAFS+Global&utm_campaign=ccbdbabcf2-CCAFS_Quarterly_June_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2aef4a737c-ccbdbabcf2-246845437#.V3P6J1NTHIU

According to the World Bank (WB), the ratio of males to females involved in agriculture is nearly equal in various Southeast Asian countries, such as Vietnam and Thailand; whereas, in other countries like Rwanda and Mozambique, the number of females involved in agriculture exceeds that of the males.

In this age when men flock to the cities in search of higher incomes, the wives are left to tend the farm. Although women have the first-hand experience in farming, still, they are not regarded as ‘farmers’, who, like their male counterparts, should be entitled to attend training programs and learn various technologies to help them improve agricultural productivity and increase resilience against climate risks.

Gender equality is a key factor for improving farm productivity; recognizing and valuing women’s catalytic role will be necessary for broader agricultural development.

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8. Newsletter: Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

<http://cleancookstoves.org/>

The June 2016 newsletter of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves includes an article about *The Alliance Focusing on Gender Informed Approaches at the Asia Clean Energy Forum 2016*.

Bangladesh Market Manager Asna Towfiq focused on why it is important to have gender informed approaches and what are some key challenges in implementation to reach the last mile. She also shared the Alliance’s work to ensure gender-informed approaches and women’s entrepreneurship are central to the global strategy to scale adoption of clean cooking solutions. Asna highlighted some examples from Bangladesh including how women in the value chain can increase sales, customer satisfaction, and adoption, as was seen in several research studies commissioned by the Alliance.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Gender needs and roles in building climate resilience

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10780IIED.pdf>

This working paper examines gender roles in building climate resilience in Hue City. We conducted participatory research in 12 wards using the City Resilience Framework (Arup, 2014) to engage with local authorities, people and city planners. Hue City has its own special identity that significantly influences its resilience to climate change: health and well-being have been improved by investment in healthcare. The society and economy of Hue is more stable than many other cities. The municipal government has taken some action to improve climate change resilience while the infrastructure and environment have been considerably upgraded, contributing to better resilience.

In relation to gender roles, our study found that men and women at a grassroots level have different vulnerabilities and contribute differently to building climate resilience in Hue City. Women play key roles in sustaining and enhancing the health and well-being of people within their community, and accruing funds for households, communities and society. They also take part in organising mutual support for each other during times of disruption. By comparison, men are more engaged in activities relating to safety, security and other continuity plans within their communities.

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2. Building a resilient city for whom? Learning from street vendors’ gendered responses to urbanisation

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10787IIED.pdf>

In Hanoi, agricultural production and trading systems have changed since the macro-economic reform in the late 1980s, and the subsequent urbanisation of the city affected livelihoods of smallholders from both peri-urban and rural areas. However, the impacts of change are unevenly distributed among urban populations. Some smallholders took advantage of the socio-economic changes as great economic opportunity, while others had few options in their adaptation strategies. People's different responses to change then influence the city's social structures through processes such as urban-rural migration and the marginalisation of the poor in informal food systems. Drawing upon examples of street vendors in Hanoi, this study explores the different ways in which male and female street vendors respond to change and how their responses shape current informal food systems in Hanoi.

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3. Cultivating climate resilience: the Shea value chain

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10508.pdf>

Shea production and processing is a predominantly female industry, and it provides an income for about 500,000 women in Burkina Faso. Shea butter is a non-timber forest product and one of the few economic commodities in Burkina Faso that bring women significant income, and for many it is their only source of income.

Overall, climate change presents a 'threat multiplier' to the Shea value chain, interacting with other non-climate factors characterising the wider Burkinabe environment, economy and society. The Shea tree is considered a vulnerable species that is deemed to be more at risk from human practices than climate change.

This paper examines the likely impact of climate change on communities engaged in Shea production and trading in Burkina Faso. It presents the results of a climate-resilient value chain analysis that looks at the benefits for local communities of increased Shea production, including the resilience of the value chain to climate change impacts.

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4. A Gender-responsive approach to Climate-Smart Agriculture

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/73049/CSA%20Practice%20Brief%20Gender.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

A new FAO-CCAFS practice brief, *A Gender-responsive approach to Climate-Smart Agriculture: Evidence and guidance for practitioners*, was developed under the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and is one of a series.

Focus of the brief

The brief calls for recognizing and addressing women's and men's needs, priorities, and realities in climate-smart agriculture (CSA) design and implementation to ensure they equally benefit. It focuses on CSA practices, but recognizes the need for a holistic gender-responsive approach at different levels (e.g. research and evidence-building; policy formulation; development of financial instruments, institutional change) to enhance the field of CSA.

Table 2. Potential gender considerations of various CSA-sensitive practices (Source: World Bank, FAO and IFAD, 2015; modified by authors of this brief)

CSA-sensitive practices	Gender impact	Requirements for adoption of practice					
	Women's control of income from practice	Relative amount of time until benefits are realized	Potential for women to benefit from increased productivity	Female and youth labour availability	Female access to and control of land	Female access to water for agriculture	Female access to cash and ability to spend it
Conservation agriculture	Low	High	High	Low-Medium	High	Low	Low
Improved home gardens	High	Low	High	High	High	High	High
On-farm tree planting	Low	High	Medium	High initially; Low later	High	High	Medium
Small-scale irrigation	Low-Medium	Low	High	Medium	High	High	Medium
Livestock genetic improvement	Low-High	High	High	Low-High	Low	High	Medium

Key messages

The practice brief shares three messages:

- The gender gap in agriculture affects how men and women access and benefit from CSA.
- A gender-responsive approach to CSA addresses this gap by recognizing the specific needs and capabilities of women and men.
- Site-specific CSA practices that are also gender-responsive can lead to improvements in the lives of smallholder farmers, fishers and foresters, as well as more sustainable results.

What does the brief provide?

- A number of different issues are covered in the practice brief, including:
- Criteria for evaluating whether CSA-sensitive practices are following a gender-responsive approach.
- Challenges to adopting a gender-responsive approach.
- Gender-sensitive indicators of CSA performance.
- Case studies that have applied a gender-responsive approach to introducing CSA-sensitive practices.

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5. SDG Progress in Latin America and Caribbean

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10645.pdf>

This research explores the progress Latin America and the Caribbean is projected to make on the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 if current trends continue.

SDG 5 Gender: Target 5.3 is End Child Marriage. Indicator is: Share of women aged 20-24 who were married before 18.

The scorecard of projections for the year 2030 is C for Caribbean, D for Central America, E for Latin America and F for South America.

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