



Asparagus officinalis from the garden. 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.

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Contents

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. 2019 call for concept notes - Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation.....	2
2. Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program	2
3. Young women in agriculture.....	3
4. Tackling gender norms through media.....	3
5. Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)	3

This Month's News

1. Unlocking the Power of Women.....	4
2. Ministry of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Partnership.....	4
3. Advancing Gender Equality and Diversity.....	4
4. The Paradox of Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women in STEM: A Comparison of Developed and Developing Countries.....	5
5. Wikipedia's Refusal to Profile a Black Female Scientist Shows Its Diversity Problem.....	5
6. Feds announce \$5.3M for diversity and inclusion in academic research.....	5
7. Opinion: Four Tips to Stop Aquaculture and Fisheries Ignoring, Resisting or Eroding Gender Equality	6
8. Building a network can empower women working in agriculture	7
9. Melinda Gates: How I learned to see agriculture (and everything else) as a gender issue	7
10. Agricultural and food sciences alumni at U of Manitoba recognized for service.....	7
11. Benin's Agriculture Has a Good Season, But it Wasn't Easy.....	7
12. Livestock vaccine value chain and women's empowerment	8
13. Pioneer canola researcher to get Manitoba's top honour	8

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Audio: Partner Across the World, Across Genders for Food Change	9
2. Photos: The Nordic woman with the right to roam.....	9
3. Gender in the transition to sustainable energy for all: From evidence to inclusive policies	9
4. Webinar: Local solutions to strengthen women’s voices in land governance	9
5. Research that tackles gender inequality at its roots	10
6. Exploring the intersection between gender and climate change in the Caribbean	10

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

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. 2019 call for concept notes - Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation

https://international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/smo_call-2019-appel_pmo.aspx?lang=eng

The goal of the initiative is to engage Canadian SMOs in international assistance efforts in areas consistent with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy. It seeks to diversify the Department’s partnerships that contribute to international development, improve the capacity and knowledge of Canadian SMOs and their partners abroad to produce results, and strengthen the engagement of Canadians.

Canadian small and medium organizations will have until 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET on **July 10, 2019**, to submit their applications.

The Department will also host a webinar from **1:30 to 3:00 p.m. ET on May 30, 2019**, to review information pertaining to this call page and the application form. One hour will be dedicated to questions and answers. Further details are provided to applicants on the SMO call for concept notes page.

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

2. Sustainable Development Goals Funding Program

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/sustainable-development-goals.html>

In 2015, Canada and all other United Nations Member States, committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to eliminate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity by the year 2030. In November 2018, we launched, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Funding Program to support projects aimed at:

- building awareness of the 2030 Agenda
- increase partnerships and networks
- advance research
- further Canada’s implementation of the 2030 Agenda

We **are currently accepting applications**, on an ongoing basis, from organizations interested in receiving up to \$100,000 in grant funding from the SDG Funding Program for projects that are up to 12 months in duration.

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

3. Young women in agriculture

<https://www.realagriculture.com/2019/05/young-women-feel-stymied-in-agriculture/>

Early results from a four-country study by University of Guelph sociology and anthropology professor Sharada Srinivasan, the Canada Research Chair in Gender, Justice and Development at the university, show that in Ontario young women farmers “feel like they are not part of the conversation,” she says.

And as other research at Guelph has shown, it’s already isolating enough being a farmer, grappling with the mental health challenges that accompany isolation. Tacking gender issues onto that can be overwhelming.

Srinivasan makes these observations after research involving in-depth interviews with nearly 50 randomly chosen young farmers (male and female) in Ontario for her study, sponsored by Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

What programs and policies would help them overcome these gendered barriers? “Our interviews document a general male bias in ag in succession, in markets, in ag boards and organizations, but I would like more information on gendered barriers and support,” she says. Sharada Srinivasan is **inviting young women farmers to contact her through her study’s email address, byf@uoguelph.ca**.

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

4. Tackling gender norms through media

<https://www.odi.org/events/4628-tackling-gender-norms-through-media>

10 June 2019 14:00 - 15:30 BST. Public event. Streamed live online.

The power of the media to influence gender norms both towards greater equality and reinforcing discriminatory attitudes and behaviour has long been recognised. Through the representation of men and women on television shows, news, social media and advertising, gender norms are demonstrated, negotiated and challenged. Public policymakers and donors support the potential of mass media to educate, and change attitudes and behaviours, investing particularly in edutainment (soap operas) and interactive media such as phone-ins and chat shows.

This panel debate critically analyses the power of media as a space for positive change to gender norms, exploring the merits and limitations of different types of mass media, focusing on:

- Whether one form of media is more powerful than others for challenging harmful gender norms?
- Examples of media influencing campaigns aimed at gender equality back-firing
- Whether a cross-media approach is always best to tackle the complexity of gender norms?
- Who the power for norm change lies with?
- How norm change through media influence can be monitored?

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

5. Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)

<http://fit-fit.ca/>

The Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) is a program of the Inter-Council Network of Provincial and Regional Councils (ICN) made possible through funding from Global Affairs Canada and administered by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC).

FIT is designed to support Canadian small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) testing innovative solutions that advance gender equality in the Global South. The program is open to civil society organizations, social enterprises, post-secondary institutions and the private sector.

FIT will provide successful applicants with \$150K-\$250 K over a 6 to 15 month period to test their solutions in partnership with local organizations. The multi-year program aims to fund 50-70 initiatives overall.

Deadline for concept notes is **July 22, 2019**.

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

This Month's News

1. Unlocking the Power of Women

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/05/unlocking-power-women/>

This June, thousands will flock to Vancouver for a global dialogue on how to accelerate progress for girls and women under the banner of power, progress and change.

At the Women Deliver 2019 Conference, the largest in the world for gender equality, delegates will come together to unlock power at three levels: individual, structural, and collective. They will plan for action around how to pull these levers to drive gender parity, especially with regard to women's economic empowerment.

And not a day too soon. Just last December, the World Economic Forum reported that while the global gender gap is slowly narrowing, the economic participation and opportunity gap stands at 58 percent. Put simply, it will take around 202 years for women to reach economic equality.

The costs of inequality are all of ours to bear. The World Bank estimates that nations leave as much as \$160 trillion on the table when women don't fully participate in national economies.

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

2. Ministry of Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) Partnership

<https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/05/minister-monsef-with-representatives-from-bmo-and-canwach-will-announce-an-innovative-cross-sector-partnership-to-advance-gender-equality-as-part-o.html>

On May 21, the Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality, along with representatives from BMO and the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health, will announce an innovative cross-sector partnership to advance gender equality as part of the Government of Canada's Women Deliver 2019 mobilization efforts.

The Minister will also unveil findings from a new report that note gaps in strategic planning by not-for-profits and ways organizations can further empower women.

Following the announcement, Joanna, Minister Monsef, Julia Anderson, Acting Executive Director of Canadian Partnership for Women and Children, and Habiba Cooper Diallo, an award-winning writer and founder of the Women's Health Organization International will be part of a panel discussion to share their views on what business and government must do to support the advancement of women.

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

3. Advancing Gender Equality and Diversity

<https://www.budget.gc.ca/2019/docs/plan/chap-05-en.html#wbdisable=true>

The Canadian story is one where all people, from all backgrounds, come together for a common good. When everyone can contribute their perspective, skills and insights to the social and economic progress of Canada, the country is enriched. Those shared values of cooperation, fairness and respect for all persons underpin the Government’s commitment to greater equality in Canada. When every Canadian has the opportunity to succeed, all Canadians benefit.

Gender budgeting is a foundational element of the Government’s strategy to improve equality in Canada.

The Department for Women and Gender Equality was also established through legislation introduced by the Government.

The Government’s Gender Results Framework (GRF) was introduced in Budget 2018 as a whole-of-government tool to help guide future policy decisions and to track developments in gender equality and diversity across a number of identified policy priorities.

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

4. The Paradox of Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women in STEM: A Comparison of Developed and Developing Countries

https://scwistca.nationbuilder.com/cooper_the_paradox_of_gender_equality

This article explores the socio-economic factors and implications behind evidence that developing countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa are outperforming advanced, liberal democratic countries in North America and Scandinavia in the advancement of women in STEM.

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

5. Wikipedia’s Refusal to Profile a Black Female Scientist Shows Its Diversity Problem

<https://slate.com/technology/2019/04/wikipedia-diversity-problem-notable-articles-women-underrepresented.html>

Clarice Phelps is the nuclear scientist thought to be the first black woman to help discover a chemical element; she was part of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory team that purified the radioactive sample of berkelium-249 from which the new element, tennessine, was created. But on Feb. 11, in the middle of Black History Month and on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Phelps’ page was deleted. The optics, as they say, weren’t good.

The deletion came after a brief but intense dispute between Wikipedia contributors over whether Phelps met the site’s criteria for notability. The entire spectacle revealed just how much work remains to be done to address the systemic biases that disproportionately keep women and people of color out of Wikipedia’s pages. Wikipedia acknowledges that systemic biases have led to the underrepresentation of women, minorities, and other demographic groups on its pages—and that the problem is particularly acute for biographies of living persons. The site’s own statistics suggest that women make up fewer than 15 percent of active contributors.

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

6. Feds announce \$5.3M for diversity and inclusion in academic research

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/feds-announce-funding-for-diversity-and-inclusion-in-academic-research-1.5129175>

Fifteen post-secondary institutions are receiving \$5.3 million worth of grant money from the federal government to make academic research more inclusive. Federal Minister of Science and Sport Kirsty Duncan announced the funding in Waterloo, Ont., on May 9. Duncan also announced the launch of a pilot program called Dimensions: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Canada.

The program will attempt to deal with barriers faced by groups including women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, visible minorities and members of the LGBTQ community.

The first round of grant funding was made available to small university and colleges, including:

- i. Aurora College
- ii. Cape Breton University
- iii. HEC Montréal
- iv. Lakehead University
- v. OCAD University
- vi. Ontario Tech University (formerly University of Ontario Institute of Technology)
- vii. Royal Roads University
- viii. Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
- ix. Université de Moncton
- x. Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- xi. Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- xii. University of Regina
- xiii. University of Winnipeg
- xiv. Vancouver Island University
- xv. Wilfrid Laurier University

The pilot program is supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

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

7. Opinion: Four Tips to Stop Aquaculture and Fisheries Ignoring, Resisting or Eroding Gender Equality

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/05/4-revolutionary-tips-stop-aquaculture-fisheries-ignoring-resisting-eroding-gender-equality/>

Meryl Williams, Chair, Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries Section of the Asian Fisheries Society.

In fisheries and aquaculture, international gender research has revealed that gender equality is progressing slowly, and may even be resisted or eroding, but many other changes in the sector have transformed fishing and aquaculture and the seafood value chain beyond recognition.

Where does this place the women? In our 2019 International Women’s Day OpEd, eight colleagues and I said that the seafood industry is women intensive but male dominated. Women workers are over-represented in low skilled, low paid, low valued positions while men dominate the power positions. From the poor-quality global statistics available, women are 15% of the primary production workers but rising to 20% in activities in inland water fisheries. Women dominate in the labour-intensive processing industry, perhaps reaching 85% to 90% of the total processing workforce. Sex-disaggregated statistics for aquaculture, that now produces more than half of the fish we eat directly, are poorer than those for fisheries. Women aquaculture workers represent a lower share of the workforce in larger, more capital intensive and offshore operations. The top end of the workforce in fisheries and aquaculture is the realm of men, with 99% CEOs, 90% board members and leaders of professional organizations.

From our collective experience, therefore, we found four revolutionary tips that can energise the system for a change to gender equality.

- First, women need to work together for their rights
- Second, gender experts have an ongoing job advocating why equality matters, and how.
- Third, training and capacity building are sorely needed to enable a shared gender equality vision.
- Fourth and finally, a progressive environment of gender equality is not a “women only” realm but one that requires and invites men’s engagement, benefiting all in the transformation

8. Building a network can empower women working in agriculture

<https://www.grainews.ca/2019/04/29/building-a-network-can-empower-women-working-in-agriculture/>

While strides have been made over the years to improve inclusivity in agriculture, it’s important to build on that momentum. Building women up in agriculture can lead to improved health and safety measures and enhanced decision-making across the industry.

And that’s just what Ag Women Manitoba hopes to contribute to, says Pam Bailey, chair and co-founder of the group.

9. Melinda Gates: How I learned to see agriculture (and everything else) as a gender issue

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/23/perspectives/melinda-gates-gender-bias-farming/>

“Why does this gender gap exist? It's not that men are inherently better farmers. It's that a successful farmer requires a lot of things — including good land, good seeds and animals, helping hands, tools, time and know-how — and most women farmers don't have equal access to any of them.”

“All of these learnings were a revelation for Bill and me. We'd started out thinking that better technology was the best way to help farmers increase their yields. But the potential for a farming revolution wasn't just in improving inputs like seeds; it was in the power of the women who plant them. Therefore, our efforts would need to put them at the center.”

“My new book, "The Moment of Lift," makes a case for prioritizing gender equality around the world. I believe that when we lift up women, we lift up humanity. And as Patricia's story demonstrates so powerfully, sometimes, all that's needed to lift women up is to stop pulling them down.”

10. Agricultural and food sciences alumni at U of Manitoba recognized for service

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/agricultural-and-food-sciences-alumni-recognized-for-service/>

Roberta Galbraith and Bill Toews received Certificates of Merit from the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the recent School of Agriculture convocation in recognition of their leadership with agricultural organizations and outstanding service to the community at large.

11. Benin’s Agriculture Has a Good Season, But it Wasn’t Easy

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2019/04/benins-agriculture-good-season-wasnt-easy/>

Despite being mostly a subsistence sector, agriculture contributes about 34 percent to this West African nation’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Almost 80 percent of Benin’s 11.2 million people earn a living from agriculture, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) says. FAO adds that the country’s farmers face challenges such as include poor infrastructure and flooding, which can wipe out harvests and seed stocks.

“Research is one of the main links leading to innovation. Many studies have reported that communities living near the research centre are more informed, exposed to the innovations and more supervised by scientists. Therefore, their willingness to adopt innovation is very significant. So IITA-Benin is more present on fields through several on-farm-

innovation testing managed by scientists,” Dr Tamo Manuele, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Benin country representative, says.

The IITA has been reaching out to various communities. In Benin it launched a jatropha-based biofuel project in 2015. This involved the development of a biofuel chain to create profitable and viable small businesses. Since the start of the project some 2,050 producers, including 538 women, have benefitted.

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

12. Livestock vaccine value chain and women’s empowerment

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/63-million-announced-new-lvif-research-womens-empowerment>

The Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund (LVIF) is pleased to announce CA\$6.3 million in research funding for four new projects.

Livestock vaccine research for development has predominantly focused on the technical aspects of vaccine development, distribution, and adoption. There have been many successes in these areas, but few women have enjoyed the benefits of this research. Social, cultural, and economic factors have contributed to gender inequalities that limit women’s agricultural and livestock productivity.

The new LVIF-funded research projects focus on empowering women so that they can fully benefit from livestock vaccines as users, as entrepreneurs, and as service providers. The research will target women’s participation in the livestock vaccine distribution and delivery chain with a focus on how women can increase their livestock productivity while improving household food security.

Learn more about LVIF’s four new research projects:

- Action research to support women’s agency and empowerment in livestock vaccine distribution, delivery and use in Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya
- Advancing women’s participation in livestock vaccine value chains in Nepal, Senegal, and Uganda
- Gender inclusive vaccine ecosystem: enhancing distribution and delivery systems among smallholder farmers in Kenya
- Transforming the vaccine delivery system for chickens and goats in Ghana: what approaches and what benefits for women?

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

13. Pioneer canola researcher to get Manitoba’s top honour

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/country-crossroads/pioneer-canola-researcherto-get-provinces-top-honour/>

Canola research pioneer Vivian Bruce will receive the province’s highest honour for her work establishing the health benefits of the oilseed. Bruce, a retired nutrition and food science professor, and 11 others will receive the Order of Manitoba, Lt.-Gov. Janice C. Filmon announced on May 12. Bruce and co-researcher, the late Bruce McDonald, demonstrated the nutritional qualities of canola oil and its effectiveness in lowering blood cholesterol, said Michael Eskin, a former colleague of Bruce’s and a professor of nutrition sciences at the University of Manitoba.

Bruce will receive the Order of Manitoba in a ceremony on July 18.

In 2018, Manitoba seeded about 3.4 million acres of canola, according to Manitoba Canola Growers. Across Canada, canola adds about \$26.7 billion in economic activity to the economy.

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

1. Audio: Partner Across the World, Across Genders for Food Change

<https://foodtank.com/news/2019/05/riana-lynn-partner-across-the-world-across-genders-for-food-change/>

On “Food Talk with Dani Nierenberg,” Riana Lynn, founder of Journey Foods and the former Foodtrace Inc., talks about how technology, data, and automation can connect key players in the food system.

As part of the founding team of Women Tech Founders, a collaborative organization that empowers women in technology by connecting them to advisors, investment opportunities, and support networks, Lynn believes women-led companies are key to solving their community’s problems. “We women have very good ideas and we can run very efficient, fast-growing companies,” says Lynn. Yet in Chicago, women founded 30 percent of companies but receive less than five percent of venture capital to grow and support their companies. “Supporting one another is so valuable to make sure we’re making change within our communities and for the future of creativity,” says Lynn.

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

2. Photos: The Nordic woman with the right to roam

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/gallery/20190507-the-nordic-woman-with-the-right-to-roam>

The right to roam is called *allemansrätten* in Swedish, which means ‘everyone’s right’. The law dates to medieval times but was formally enshrined in the Swedish constitution in 1994, and allows Swedes and foreign visitors alike to hike, cycle, ride, skate or ski on almost any land in Sweden; very few trails or beaches are private. You can also camp anywhere, as long as you stay at least 70 m away from the nearest home.

Sweden is a safe country by global standards and champions gender equality, which means that many women are inspired to embrace the right to roam and spend their free time outdoors.

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

3. Gender in the transition to sustainable energy for all: From evidence to inclusive policies

https://www.energia.org/cm2/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Gender-in-the-transition-to-sustainable-energy-for-all_-From-evidence-to-inclusive-policies_FINAL.pdf

Newly released report contains the results of the research on the benefits to take into account a gender approach into the energy access interventions and provides recommendations for energy policies. The five-year research programme of ENERGIA explored the areas of electrification, productive use of energy, energy sector reform, role of the private sector in the energy access, the political economy of energy policies and women's energy entrepreneurship to prove that including gender mainstreaming in the energy policy is indispensable to improve the living conditions for women* and girls. The conclusion of the report states that the engagement of women and men in the design, implementation and monitoring of energy policies are needed, as well as involving women in energy-system value chains and increase women's ability to afford energy services through innovative financial mechanisms.

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

4. Webinar: Local solutions to strengthen women’s voices in land governance

<https://www.iied.org/local-solutions-strengthen-womens-voices-land-governance>

The question of how to strengthen women’s voices in decisions relating to land allocation and management was central to a recent IIED webinar in which partner organisations from Tanzania, Senegal and Ghana shared their experiences.

While natural resources investments can potentially provide local benefits, they often result in communities losing their land. Vulnerable groups and women tend to be more negatively affected. They can be excluded from decisions that determine land allocation. And with weaker tenure security, the land that provides their main source of livelihood is more easily taken away.

Mary Richard, head of programs, Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA); Fati Alhassan of the Grassroot Sisterhood Foundation, Ghana; Mamadou Fall, director, IED Afrique in Senegal; and Philippine Sutz of IIED all gave presentations, outlining the situations they have faced and the solutions they have worked out with local communities.

Each of the individual PowerPoint and video presentations can be viewed using Google Slides from the links at the web site.

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

5. Research that tackles gender inequality at its roots

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/its-about-time-research-tackles-gender-inequality-its-roots>

Gender-transformative research promotes women’s empowerment, including shared control of resources and decision-making. It unpacks social inequalities, provides space for women, men, and non-binary genders to learn, and engages with people across the socio-economic spectrum to change the norms that enable inequalities.

A research project is “gender-transformative” if these considerations are addressed in its rationale and methodology and if it includes a rigorous analysis of root causes, gender power relations, and intersectionality (multiple vulnerabilities experienced by individuals or groups, such as race, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity, alongside gender). This approach to research is important because it tackles inequalities in ways that reflect the lived experiences of real people and it promotes sustainable solutions that address root causes.

IDRC recently commissioned an international consulting group called Sisters Ink to evaluate its gender programming in order to gain insights and share lessons learned about gender-transformative research. The study’s findings are published in **Transforming gender relations: Insights from IDRC research.**

Sisters Ink reviewed 10 years of IDRC’s gender programming (from 2008 to 2018) before conducting a deeper exploration of gender-focused research projects over the past decade.

A sampling process identified 219 research projects, of which 42 were randomly selected and then assessed for their ability to challenge and change social, cultural, and gender norms. The consultants identified 16 of these projects as gender-transformative and chose six for further study. They explored the objectives, rationales, methodologies, and outcomes of these projects to uncover common patterns, findings, and lessons.

The six projects explored challenges to gender inequality experienced in different regions, different sectors, and by different groups. Based on its analysis of these six case studies, the paper found that gender-transformative research shares four key qualities:

- it addresses the root causes of inequality;
- it recognizes multiple vulnerabilities and identities (since gender can intersect with race, ethnicity, ability, age, religion, caste, and other factors);
- it builds trust and meaningfully engages stakeholders; and
- it leverages and amplifies local thought leaders and institutions

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

6. Exploring the intersection between gender and climate change in the Caribbean

<https://commonwealthfoundation.com/events/understanding-the-intersection-between-gender-and-climate-change/>

The Commonwealth Foundation, in partnership with the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), Mona Campus Unit, at the University of the West Indies hosted a dialogue with 23 representatives from Caribbean civil society and other key stakeholders, which aims to enhance the region’s capacity to apply gender intersectionality to its climate change programming. The dialogue is part of the Foundation’s Participatory Governance and Gender Programme.

The Jamaica dialogue is a follow up to an initial exploratory conversation in Barbados in June 2018. The first conversation explored how power imbalances in the Caribbean context creates disproportionate climate change impacts on women and vulnerable communities. At this second dialogue, IGDS will finalise a gender guidance tool, which has been designed based on the learning from the Barbados conversation and a participants’ needs assessment.

Another key element of this second conversation is the exploration of possible spaces for engagement of civic voices in policy making processes at national and regional level. Participants will discuss with government representatives how joint efforts could make Caribbean voices louder in global climate change policy negotiations.

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