



GEM Digest of the Month for June 1, 2017

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Tulips. 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 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. Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/list-of-programs-and-services/agricultural-youth-green-jobs-initiative/?id=1459879253586>

The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative will help fund internships for post-secondary graduates and high school students working in the agriculture industry. These internships would include activities or projects that benefit the environment.

Funding is available through the following two streams:

- Green Farms Stream: Farm operators could receive up to a maximum of \$10,000 per youth intern, 30 years old or younger, including high school students to implement projects that are environmentally beneficial.
- Green Internships Stream: Employers in the agricultural sector but not directly on farm could receive up to a maximum of \$16,000 per post-secondary graduate intern to undertake environmental activities, services or research that will benefit the agriculture sector.

The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative will be accepting applications **starting April 26, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (EDT)**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early.

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2. Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology AGM

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/scwist-annual-general-meeting-and-panel-discussion-on-career-choices-tickets-34386530037>

The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST) invites you to its 2017 Annual General Meeting & Panel Discussion on 'Knowing job opportunities in BC - how will you choose your career?' to be held on **June 2 in Vancouver, British Columbia**.

Join us for an evening of panel discussion followed by an annual review of the activities, election of board members and acceptance of reports.

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3. Bursary for Women Farmers

<http://organicalberta.org/article/bursary-for-women-farmers/?platform=hootsuite>

Through the Government of Alberta's Status of Women Program, Organic Alberta and Young Agrarians are pleased to offer bursaries for the Soil Health Masterclass with Nicole Masters to be held on June 21 & 22 in Ferintosh, AB. Selected bursary applicants will be able to take the course for free! (regular price \$275). **Apply by June 9th**.

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4. Webinar: Gender, climate change and agriculture

https://ccafs.cgiar.org/webinar-gender-climate-change-and-agriculture?utm_source=CCAFS+Global&utm_campaign=ad3f57316d-CCAFS+Global+quarterly+2016+12+15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2aef4a737c-ad3f57316d-246845437#.WStjxmjyIU

The agriculture gender gap means men and women have differing abilities to access resources, participate in decision making, and adapt to climate change. Together, the CGIAR research program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security's Gender and Social Inclusion unit and the CGIAR Collaborative Platform for Gender Research present the webinar "Gender, Climate Change, and Agriculture." Experts will discuss a range of topics related to agriculture and gender, including:

- Closing the gender gap in agriculture
- The interaction of communities and organizations to strengthen adaptive capacity and food security

- Technology and labor-productivity constraints for smallholder women farmers
- Gender-sensitive climate change adaptation technologies

The webinar was developed based on a 2016 special issue of *Gender, Technology and Development*.

Thursday, June 15 2017 13:30 – 15:00GMT

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5. Advancing Women in Agriculture [East] Conference

<http://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2017east/>

The 7th Advancing Women's Conference is being held in **Niagara Falls, Ontario on October 30-31, 2017**. A Wine Tour is being held on Sunday October 29th where we will showcase and learn what the Niagara Wine Country has to offer - wine and vineyards!

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6. Save the Date: Gender Summit is coming to Canada for the first time in 2017

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/ProgramNewsDetails-NouvellesDesProgrammesDetails_eng.asp?ID=849

From **November 6 to 8, 2017**, close to 600 advocates of gender equality policy from science, innovation and development fields will participate in the Gender Summit North America 2017, to be held in **Montréal, Canada**. It is a great honour for Canada to welcome the Summit and its participants for the first time. Those present will have the opportunity to engage in fruitful discussions under the overarching theme of "Pluralism, Ethnicity & Inclusion – Canadian Values in a Global Context".

We invite members from industry, academia, research organizations, businesses, education, and other groups interested in gender equality issues to follow the discussions and participate in the dialogue emerging from the Gender Summit North America 2017.

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This Month's News

1. The role ahead for women in agriculture

<https://www.country-guide.ca/2017/05/02/the-role-ahead-for-women-in-agriculture/51061/>

Unless farm women get more power and a bigger share of the farm voice, Krysta Harden believes agriculture will fail its greatest tests, feeding the globe and reconnecting with consumers.

Today, women make up about half of the agricultural labour force worldwide and are over 60 per cent of graduates from U.S. agricultural schools. Yet those women own and operate a disproportionately small number of farms, says Harden.

“Women contributing to farming, to agriculture, isn’t new. It’s how we value their contribution that’s new,” she says. “They have as much to lose as their partners. They’re COOs and CFOs of farm businesses, and yet we call them a ‘Farm Wife?’”

Harden strongly feels that women have to help women. When she gets asked for recommendations, she deliberately only suggests women, explaining that there are lots of male recommendations already.

She tries to empower other women and encourage them to take leadership roles, even though it might come at a cost.

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2. Young farmers are on board and looking ahead

<https://www.country-guide.ca/2017/04/21/young-farmers-are-on-board-and-looking-ahead/50970/>

Boards once dominated by the old boys club are seeking new, young candidates on purpose, with perhaps no better example of how they're doing it than the Future Leaders Development program that emerged in Ontario three years ago as a collaboration supported by Holstein Canada, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, CanWest DHI, and EastGen. Last year the program expanded to Western Canada too. Participants get three intensive days of instruction on the roles and responsibilities of being a board director.

At CanWest DHI, they've recently gone so far as to develop a director succession policy to define what getting the best person for the job really looks like. It specifies how vacancies will be advertised, how applications will be solicited, and what the requirements will be for candidate screening. It will include a skills matrix of the existing board so they can express a preference for candidates who strengthen collective weaknesses.

Endorsed candidates will still be required to run in a general election, but it's their best strategy for getting the best individuals on board, not just people who have a surplus of free time.

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3. Ag census logs more female farm operators

<https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/daily/ag-census-logs-more-younger-and-female-farm-operators>

<https://www.agcanada.com/daily/ag-census-logs-more-younger-and-female-farm-operators>

While people age 55 and over still make up the fastest-growing segment of farmers in Canada, the latest Census of Agriculture shows slightly more producers under age 35 for the first time in five censuses.

Statistics Canada's 2016 Census of Agriculture, released Wednesday, counted 271,935 farm operators — that is, people who make management decisions on an agricultural enterprise — on agricultural operations, down from 293,925 at the previous census in 2011.

Of those, StatsCan said, operators under 35 years of age accounted for an increasing share of total operators and their absolute numbers also rose, from 24,120 in 2011 to 24,850 in 2016, for the first absolute increase in that age bracket of operators since 1991.

Women also accounted for an increasing share of operators in 2016, at 77.970, or 28.7 per cent, up from 27.4 per cent in 2011. Of farm operators aged 35-54 years, women made up 30.7 per cent, followed by age 55-plus (27.7 per cent) and under 35 (26.4 per cent).

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4. B.C. boasts the highest proportion of female farmers in Canada, according to 2016 agriculture census

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-boasts-the-highest-proportion-of-female-farmers-in-canada-according-to-2016-agriculture-census-1.4113669>

British Columbia had the highest proportion of female farm operators (37.5 per cent) in Canada in 2016, according to the latest Census of Agriculture released earlier this week. The number is up from 36.5 per cent in 2011. Nationally, women accounted for 28.7 per cent of all farm operators in 2016. There were 26,430 farmers in B.C. in 2016, according to the census, down 11.7 per cent from 2011.

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5. Ottawa to universities: Improve diversity or lose research chair funds

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-to-pull-research-chair-funding-unless-diversity-issue-addressed-at-universities/article34905004/>

The federal granting councils that award the prestigious Canada Research Chairs say universities must offer up more diverse candidates for the honour or they will lose their funds.

Directors of the program, which sends out \$265-million every year across 1,600 researchers, say new measures unveiled on Thursday would help to address the chronic underrepresentation of women, Indigenous people, those with disabilities and visible minorities among the award's ranks. For example, only 28 per cent of chairholders at large universities are women, and they are more likely to be in the bottom of the program's two funding tiers.

Under the new rules, postsecondary institutions have until Dec. 15 to create an action plan on how to achieve more diversity among their candidates, and then they have another 18 to 24 months to ensure the demographics of those given the awards reflect the demographics of those academics eligible to receive them.

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6. COMMENT: Ottawa's new rules won't close the diversity gap in research chairs

<https://www.ualberta.ca/news-and-events/newsarticles/2017/may/new-rules-wont-close-the-diversity-gap-in-research-chairs?cmp=1>

Voluntary efforts by universities to improve the diversity of the Canada Research Chairs Program (CRCP) have proven to be inadequate. That's why new rules issued by the federal government last week in an attempt to boost representation are welcome news.

But they don't go far enough.

The new federal action plan calls for institutions to develop equity, diversity and inclusion guidelines, and a more open, transparent and equitable recruitment and nomination processes. They highlight the multi-level policy environment, including university hiring policies, collective agreements and provincial equity policies. However, not all provinces have equity policies and, even where they do exist, none have an enforcement mechanism. The guidelines also call for diverse representation on selection committees, training on unconscious biases, improving awareness of the CRCP diversity targets, candidate pools that include women, visible minorities, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, and a more active

role for university equity officers. None of these guidelines are new. And, despite longstanding knowledge of the diversity gaps, the government has permitted universities to delay compliance by two to three years.

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7. U of Manitoba’s School of Agriculture sees large graduate class

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news-opinion/news/local/u-of-ms-school-of-agriculture-sees-large-graduate-class/>

The University of Manitoba’s School of Agriculture has graduated its largest class in more than 30 years. Seventy-five students received their Diplomas in Agriculture at the 2017 convocation of the School of Agriculture held May 5, at the University of Manitoba. This is the largest graduating class since 1986.

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8. Women in ag are underestimated, according to a Brock University researcher

<http://www.farms.com/amp/ag-industry-news/2017/women-in-ag-are-underestimated-according-to-a-brock-university-researcher-572.aspx>

Despite all the work they do on the farm, women aren’t receiving proper credit, according to Wendee Kubik, an associate professor of women’s and gender studies at Brock University.

Kubik studies farm women in 13 countries, including Canada, the United States, Australia and Zimbabwe. She co-authored a book last April, *Women in Agriculture Worldwide: Key issues and practical approaches*, with Amber Fletcher, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Regina.

“We argue that the work of farm women has changed in relationship to the dramatic changes facing agricultural producers, such as industrial agricultural production, climate change, privatization of market relations, globalization and the aging farm population,” Kubik told The Brock News.

More than 80,000 Canadian women identified themselves as farmers in the 2011 Census of Agriculture, according to Stats Canada

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9. Formalising Informal Trade – Good for African Women?

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/05/formalising-informal-trade-good-for-african-women/>

ROME, May 26 2017 (IPS) - Women constitute the largest share of informal traders in Africa—about 70 per cent in Southern Africa and more than half in other parts of this vast continent made up of 54 states, home to over 1,200 billion people.

Informal cross-border trading, in which transactions are not compliant with local tax and other rules, accounts for a large share – between 20 and a hefty 70 per cent– of employment in sub-Saharan Africa, says a new United Nations specialised report.

Africa’s vast but informal cross-border trade can contribute to improving livelihoods and increasing regional integration across the continent, according to the new report *Formalization of informal trade in Africa*.

Putting it on a regular footing can lift sustainable prosperity and markedly improve prospects for women, adds the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) report, which was released on 25 May coinciding with Africa Day.

“It is about harnessing rather than suppressing informal trade, it says, adding that which around half of all intra-African cross-border trade is classified as informal, indicating its large if officially invisible role. “

Simplifying the requirements for a business license, offering incentives to tax payers, and tackling official corruption are among the recommendations aimed to cut informal trade among African countries and boost economic prosperity, particularly for women, the study recommends.

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10. High School Students Experiencing University Life

<http://news.umanitoba.ca/future-indigenous-scientists-from-across-canada-come-to-campus/>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1135801>

A record-breaking 46 Indigenous Grade 11 students from Winnipeg, rural and northern Manitoba, and New Brunswick will experience first-hand the joy of scientific research on the University of Manitoba campus as part of the Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Education Program.

For the sixth year in a row, students representing First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities have come to campus to be mentored by more than 100 University of Manitoba professors, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and research technicians.

The program is now in full swing at the University of Manitoba. We are hosting four stellar grade 11 students in our laboratory this week and CTV dropped by to watch. It is great to watch the clip and see everyone in action to analyze their water samples collected this morning from the Red River and other sources.

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11. Strengthening the Participation of Women in Wheat Production Systems

<http://www.icarda.org/update/strengthening-participation-women-wheat-production-systems#sthash.dNQLH7SN.ynTSAAns0.dpbs>

Challenging the obstacles that rural women face is a key priority of a wheat initiative managed by ICARDA and supported by the African Development Bank and the CGIAR Research Program on Wheat.

Action research to integrate women beneficiaries into the SARD-SC project in Sudan, Nigeria, and Ethiopia has helped identify actions and approaches that can be applied more widely to enhance women’s integration within diverse wheat production systems.

The main objectives were: increasing women’s income generation and contributions to food security, while addressing structural inequalities in access to inputs and services such as information, training, and microcredit.

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12. As droughts worsen, phones and radios lead way to water for Niger's herders

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-niger-climatechange-weatherservice-idUSKBN18500E?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email

A project to involve the region's semi-nomadic people in the production of locally-specific, real-time weather forecasts - and provide them with radios and mobile phones to receive and share the information - is transforming the lives of tens of thousands of Nigeriens. A lack of weather stations across Africa means that forecasts, produced by national meteorological agencies, tend to be too broad to be of much use at a local level.

The BRACED project has helped communities by acting as a broker between them and meteorological agencies, and ensuring agency partners are trained to interpret climate data, translate it into local languages and help people to make sense of the forecasts.

The project also connects local people who collect rainfall data, as well as other farming and pastoralist leaders, with community radio stations to share real-time information daily.

The mobile phones and radios used are powered by solar cells, enabling pastoralists to get forecasts while on the move. They are given to both male and female community chiefs to ensure women have equal access to the information.

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13. Solar Energy Brings A Ray Of Hope To Salt Farmers In Gujarat

http://www.huffingtonpost.in/frances-beinecke/solar-energy-brings-a-ray-of-hope-to-salt-farmers-in-gujarat_a_22092728/

Most India's salt comes from Gujarat's Little Rann of Kutch desert. Here, about 43,000 salt farmers, mostly women, work in brutal heat to produce salt from briny tidal water.

The Agarias use the power of the sun to help dry the salt— but today, they can also use it to operate their pumps, avoiding the expense and pollution of diesel. Over the past three years, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), working closely with India's Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and other partners, has helped design a program to bring more than 500 solar-powered water pumps to salt farming families.

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14. Integrating gender and nutrition within agricultural extension services

<http://illinois.edu/emailer/newsletter/131395.html>

The recent newsletter from INGENAES features many resources.

Key Resources

Key Publications: [All the best INGENAES publications in one place!](#)

Review: [Integration of Nutrition in EAS in Africa](#)

Video: [Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Projects: Demystified](#)

Report: [Promoting Female Headed Households Farmers’ Economic Empowerment for Securing Nutrition](#)

Report: [Women in Post-harvest Activities: Understanding their Health and Nutrition Behaviour](#)

Report: [Women’s Empowerment and Child Nutrition: Reducing the Gap with Dairy Cow Rearing](#)

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15. Growing Unemployed Youth in Africa a Time Bomb

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/05/growing-unemployed-youth-in-africa-a-time-bomb-but/>

AHMEDABAD, India, May 29 2017 (IPS) - There are nearly 420 million young Africans between the ages of 15 and 35 today. And it is estimated that within ten years, Africa will be home to one-fifth of all young people worldwide.

These millions of young people could be a source of ingenuity and engines of productivity that could ignite a new age of inclusive prosperity. But there are no guarantees. Although the continent has shown consistent economic growth in the last decade, it has failed in creating the number of quality jobs needed to absorb the 10-12 million young people entering the labour market each year.

Experts here agreed that transforming Africa’s agriculture requires a business approach that would incentivize youth who still see farming as way of life for the poor.

While ICT is usually seen as a sure way of getting youth involved, there is another door to young people’s hearts which agricultural policy makers and implementers have not paid attention to—the film industry. In Africa, the movie industry is dominated by young people and is emerging as an important contributor to gross domestic product and employment in countries like Nigeria.

However, the entertainment industry—especially the film industry—too often offers unflattering narratives of agriculture and the rural life, showing that real economic opportunities are only found in big cities. Such negative portrayal perpetuates the perception that agriculture is simply a way of surviving for the poor.

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16. Women Small-Holder Farmers, Key Drivers for Sustainable Production

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/06/women-small-holder-farmers-key-drivers-for-sustainable-production/>

HARARE, Jun 5 2017 (IPS) - The shouts can be heard from a distance as one approaches Domboshawa, 30 kilometres northeast of the Zimbabwean capital, Harare.

Scores of women and children carrying bundles of vegetables, sacks of sweet potatoes and containers full of farming produce shout above the din of moving vehicles, trying to sell their produce for a meagre profit.

Women’s Farming Syndicate, an organization that supports women smallholder farmers in Domboshaw, explains how the lack of skills to make use of technology and limited time for training for women – compounded by climate change – has worsened the plight of women in the area.

According to the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Gender and Community Development (MWAGCD), in Zimbabwe, women make up 70 percent of the rural population and 86 percent of women are involved in farming. Of the smallholder farmers

who benefited from the government’s land reform program, only 18 percent are female; for commercial land, women constitute just 12 percent.

The United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) funded 72 million dollars to implement the Livelihood and Food Security Program (LFSP) to increase agricultural productivity and incomes, improve food and nutrition security, and reduce poverty in rural Zimbabwe. The LFSP promotes labour-saving technologies such as mechanised conservation agriculture, mechanised groundnut shellers, mechanised water abstraction technologies and more efficient wood stoves. The project covers eight districts in Zimbabwe.

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Gender and climate finance

http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-and-climate-finance.html?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Gender%20and%20Climate%20Finance&utm_campaign=October%2025th%20WEDO%20Links

As the Earth’s average surface temperatures rises, so do the associated costs. Because marginalized communities and groups (e.g., women, immigrants, the elderly, the disabled) are more exposed to climatic risk, the costs of climate change are more difficult for them. Women are structurally vulnerable, and climate change can worsen existing gender-based inequities that keep them impoverished and marginalized. Climate finance (‘financial flows mobilized by industrialized country governments and private entities that support climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries’) can catalyse the much-needed transition to zero-carbon and climate-resilient development while also fostering equitable social policy, including gender equality and women’s empowerment. While the recent integration of gender considerations into key multilateral climate finance mechanisms, including the recently operationalized Green Climate Fund, are steps in the right direction, gender considerations have yet to be effectively mainstreamed in ongoing climate change programmes and activities, and national planning. To enhance the efficacy of supported actions and ensure their long-term viability, hence maximizing the impact of climate finance, existing funding mechanisms across scales need to tackle deeply rooted structural inequities

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2. Book: Understanding Climate Change through Gender Relations

<https://www.routledge.com/Understanding-Climate-Change-through-Gender-Relations/Buckingham-Masson/p/book/9781138957671>

This book, edited by Susan Buckingham and Virginie Le Masson, explains how gender, as a power relationship, influences climate change related strategies, and explores the additional pressures that climate change brings to uneven gender relations. It considers the ways in which men and women experience the impacts of these in different economic contexts. The chapters dismantle gender inequality and injustice through a critical appraisal of vulnerability and relative privilege within genders. Part I addresses conceptual frameworks and international themes concerning climate change and gender, and explores emerging ideas concerning the reification of gender relations in climate change policy. Part II offers a wide range of case studies from the Global North and the Global South to illustrate and explain the limitations to gender-blind climate change strategies.

This book will be of interest to students, scholars, practitioners and policymakers interested in climate change, environmental science, geography, politics and gender studies.

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3. Study reveals the gender gap in Tanzania, Uganda climate policies

https://theconversation.com/study-reveals-the-gender-gap-in-tanzania-uganda-climate-policies-72638?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Study%20Reveals%20the%20Gender%20Gap%20in%20Tanzania%2C%20Uganda%20Climate%20Policies&utm_campaign=October%2025th%20WEDO%20Links

Uganda and Tanzania have for years demonstrated their commitment to gender equality through legal and constitutional means. For example, Tanzania’s constitution was amended in 2005 to increase women’s participation in the National Parliament and local authorities.

In more recent years, they have translated these commitments into their agricultural and climate change policies. However, a lot still needs to be done. Allocation of resources and better planning of activities and strategies for gender transformation will be key. This in turn will contribute to efforts to reduce poverty and achieve economic growth in an equitable manner.

These are the findings of the latest research from the Policy Action for Climate Change Adaptation. The analysis of national and local policies and institutions will better equip governments to adapt and mitigate against climate change.

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4. 2017 Facilitators Guide Book for Farmers Field Schools

<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7110e.pdf>

This publication from FAO offers facilitators technical guidance to manage field farm schools to support local famers in all aspects of rice crop management.

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5. Identifying gender-inclusive climate change policymaking processes in Latin America

https://ccafs.cgiar.org/news/identifying-gender-inclusive-climate-change-policymaking-processes-latin-america?utm_source=CCAFS+Global&utm_campaign=ad3f57316d-CCAFS_Global_quarterly_2016_12_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2aef4a737c-ad3f57316d-246845437#.WStikWjyviW

A new publication analyzes the current state of gender-inclusion in policies related to climate change, agriculture and food security in seven target countries in Latin America.

In order to shed light on challenges and opportunities for developing more gender-inclusive climate change policies, a recent policy brief by CCAFS presents a review and analysis of the current state of gender-inclusion in policies related to climate change, agriculture and food security in seven target countries in Latin America. This is timely, given the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and current initiatives to develop adaptation plans and mitigations actions, from several governments in the region, like Colombia and Costa Rica.

Findings from the review show that climate change policies refer to gender minimally, across countries. Almost all of the national policies, strategies and plans on climate change reviewed did not take into account gender at all or they did so only minimally.

However, policies from the agricultural sector, particularly those from Central America, addressed gender considerations more significantly. Half of the policies reviewed from this sector at least included gender equality in their objectives and several even incorporated a gender focus in their action plans. The review highlights, though, that when these policies targeted climate change specifically, they consistently failed to address gender aspects.

Based on the results of the review, one of the key recommendations that the brief makes is for greater inter-sectorial coordination. In particular, coordination between the agricultural sector and those institutions responsible for national level climate change policies will be important in order to promote more gender-inclusive policymaking processes on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Such institutional changes are critical in order to ensure that climate change policies do not exacerbate gender inequalities, but rather reduce them.

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6. Aflatoxins and Extension in Zambia

<https://www.slideshare.net/INGENAES/aflatoxins-and-extension-in-zambia>

On April 26, 2017, Dr. Alyson Young (University of Florida) led the discussion on this topic:

- What are the household-level factors that constrain Zambian women farmers' ability to mitigate aflatoxin contamination of groundnuts?
- What is the potential role of agricultural extension services (AES) for helping women decrease household mycotoxin exposure?

Aflatoxin contamination of staple crops poses an important risk to nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa. Reducing aflatoxin contamination is complicated by its ubiquity in staple foods and the need for multisectoral approaches to address contamination issues.

This presentation is an overview of research on women's knowledge and practices regarding aflatoxin contamination from household interviews in Eastern Province, Zambia in 2015 and 2016. Interviews focused on knowledge and perceptions of aflatoxin-producing fungi and food contamination and groundnut production practices. The study found that gender disaggregated data on ownership and control over production strategies is important for understanding the mechanisms that create variation in household exposure to aflatoxins. Local perceptions of short and long-term health influence the relationship between knowledge about aflatoxins and practice. Including the social context of decision-making into aflatoxin risk assessment and mitigation helps strengthen intervention efforts

The presentation concludes with a discussion of the ways in which agricultural extension services can help support gender and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices at the household level and minimize aflatoxin exposure and contamination.

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7. Mapping Relationships

<https://kumu.io/>

The innovative app, Kumu, is ready to help you take complex information and turn it into an interactive map. INGENAES used the participatory mapping tool to map organizations, projects, themes, wisdoms, and commitments to action made during the INGENAES Global Symposium in January 2017. 156 individuals came together in Lusaka and represented 30 countries, so it was important to understand how different organizations and projects relate to and interact with others in the field of integrating gender and nutrition in agricultural extension (view map at <https://kumu.io/ingenaes/2017-ingenaes-global-symposium>).

Several organizations are planning to also use Kumu mapping. SANE in Malawi (Feed the Future, AgReach) is using the app to improve collaboration, colocation, and coordination among extension service providers and related organizations in 10 districts in Malawi. An INGENAES partner in Asia will potentially use Kumu to map organizations to which their 9,000 members belong. This tool would help them to understand the common themes and specializations across this wide range of practitioners. Intrigued? Set up a free map of your own at <https://kumu.io> or contact Aldo DeMoor (ademoor@communitysense.nl) to help you develop one.

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