



GEM Digest of the Month for March 1, 2017

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Fairtrade certified roses from Ecuador on display. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis. "Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too."

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. International Women’s Day 2017

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day>

The theme for International Women’s Day, **8 March, 2017**, focuses on “Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030”. Measures that are key to ensuring women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work must include bridging the gender pay gap, which stands at 24 per cent globally; recognizing women’s unpaid care and domestic work and addressing the gender deficit in care work; as well as addressing the gender gaps in leadership, entrepreneurship and access to social protection; and ensuring gender-responsive economic policies for job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable, inclusive growth.

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2. Peer Learning Group on Women’s Economic Empowerment

<http://www.seepnetwork.org/plg-applications-pages-20919.php>

The SEEP Network and Oxfam, in collaboration with BEAM Exchange, invite you to join a Peer Learning Group (PLG) on **Shifting social norms in the economy, at scale**, to help you seize opportunities for collaborative learning in a cost-effective way. The PLG team will identify other experts who are working on issues that matter to you, will convene and facilitate meetings, find external experts when needed, document the collaboration process and raise the profile of your achievements. In other words, we will do the not-so-exciting things so you can focus on what you really love: overcoming

important challenges, innovating with other top-class experts, and promoting sustained WEE through more effective markets development programs. Deadline to apply is **March 10**.

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3. MCWESTT 2017

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

Join us on **May 5th, 2017** in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada for *MCWESTT 2017* - a day-long conference in Winnipeg dedicated to connecting women in engineering, science, trades, and technology, and empowering them to *Create, Foster, and Lead*. MCWESTT 2017 is offering a full day pre-conference workshop on Thursday, **May 4th, 2017** on Effective Communication.

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4. Inspiring Girls Expedition

<http://www.inspiringgirls.org/>

Joanna Young is a PhD candidate who is currently studying the impacts of climate change on Alaska's glaciers. She also helps runs an amazing program called Inspiring Girls Expedition to encourage young girls to get involved in climate science

Inspiring Girls Expeditions leads unique, free, wilderness science education programs for high school girls aged 16 to 17. Each summer a team of 8-9 teenage girls and 3 instructors spend 12 days exploring and learning about glaciers and the alpine landscape or fjord in which the program is based. They conduct scientific field studies with professional glaciologists, ecologists, mountain guides, and artists. Various deadlines.

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This Month's News

1. NSERC Chair for Women in Science and Engineering Prairies Newsletter

http://cwse-prairies.ca/pages/newsletters/cwse_newsletters/16_CWSE_Prairies_February_2017_newsletter.pdf

Inside this issue:

- Prairies CWSE Hosts Susan Eaton to Speak at University of Manitoba
- Prairies CWSE Dr. Farenhorst Was Featured Speaker for University of Manitoba Alumni in Calgary
- Update From the MCWSETT Conference Organizing Committee: Early Bird Registration Opening Soon!
- WISE Kid-Netic Energy's ALL GIRLS Robot Fight Club Kicks-Off for its 2nd Year
- Prairies CWSE Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst Named to Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards

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2. Sustainable Development Goals with Photos

<http://mcic.ca/global-goals/goal/goal-5-gender-equality>

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation prepared a series of photos related to the SDG's to bring awareness about International Development Week in 2017. See the link for **SDG 5** on Gender Equality. Click on the boxes to see photos

from individual member agencies of MCIC. **SDG8 and SDG 14** feature the work of the Tanzania Society for Agricultural Education and Extension in partnership with Manitoba organizations.

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3. Success Stories Can Help Girls' STEM Careers

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/02/no-hidden-figures-success-stories-can-help-girls-stem-careers/>

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 10 2017 (IPS) - What makes a young girl believe she is less intelligent and capable than a boy? And what happens when those children face the 'hard' subjects like science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)? A recent study, 'Gender stereotypes about intellectual ability emerge early and influence children's interests' showed that by the age of 6, girls were already less likely than boys to describe their own gender as 'brilliant', and less likely to join an activity labelled for 'very, very smart' kids.

So, how do we change this, and what should girls learn now that sets them up to thrive in a transformed labour market of the future? The answer is not simply more and better STEM subject teaching. They must also learn that girls have an equal place in that future. This isn't a given. A major and underestimated obstacle for girls in STEM is the stereotype that has been created and perpetuated that boys are better at these subjects and careers.

- See also "Gender stereotypes about intellectual ability emerge early and influence children's interests" at <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/355/6323/389/tab-pdf>

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4. The woman whose mum inspired her to track ethical food

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-38773878>

Provenance <https://www.provenance.org/>

Provenance says it is lighting a fire under the retail world. The company is based around an app which allows retailers and customers to see where a product comes from, from its origins to its point of sale.

"Behind every product is a complex chain of people and places and that's a really important part of why people buy things," Ms Baker explains.

"Provenance is all about making that information transparent to shoppers but also to businesses all along the supply chain."

While training to be a manufacturing engineer, Ms Baker visited dozens of supply chains to see how different products were sourced and created. But the breakthrough came in 2013, when she was studying for a PhD in computer science and started to look into the emerging blockchain technology.

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5. Women Scientists Advocating for Equality Surge to over 16,000

http://www.climatecentral.org/news/500-women-scientists-equality-21123?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Women%20Scientists%20Advocating%20for%20Equality%20Surge%20to%2014%20000&utm_campaign=October%2025th%20WEDO%20Links

<https://500womenscientists.org/signatories/>

The group, dubbed 500 Women Scientists, was created in response to President Trump and his anti-science, anti-women comments. Its pledge vows to protect the scientific enterprise from his attacks as well as “build a more inclusive society and scientific enterprise.” It is part of a growing movement of scientists pushing back against the rise of what can best be described as a disregard of facts. While Trump’s election was the catalyst, the group is about much more than confronting the president. It’s focused on combating systemic disparities in science.

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6. Energy Access Builds Inclusive Economies and Resilient Communities

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/02/energy-access-builds-inclusive-economies-and-resilient-communities/>

Given the trajectory of development India is currently pursuing, energy access for its rural population could bring dramatic economic improvement. Yet 237 million people — a fifth of its 1.3 billion people, many of them in remote villages with few livelihood options — do not have any access to it.

The Delhi-based research organisation Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) stipulates that if even half of households deemed electrified through the national power grid are not receiving the guaranteed six hours uninterrupted supply, the number of people who are electricity-poor in India totals 650 million.

In this scenario, renewable energy-based mini-grids, particularly in remote villages, are considered the best option to manage local household and commercial energy demand efficiently by generating power at the source of consumption.

Entrepreneurship and new businesses have grown, with 70 percent existing micro-businesses reporting increased number of costumers after connecting to the mini-grids and 80 percent planned to expand.

Nine in 10 household users said their children’s daily study time has increased by two hours since they got the lights. Women said they had increased mobility after dark and theft cases had fallen. Use of kerosene and diesel has fallen dramatically — to virtually zero.

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7. Choose Science

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/013.nsf/eng/home>

The Government of Canada has launched a website aimed at promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics [STEM] to girls, young women and their mentors. It includes activities for teachers.

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8. Integrating gender and nutrition within agricultural extension services

<http://illinois.edu/emailer/newsletter/117073.html>

The February 2017 newsletter is available now. It includes the following:

- Gender and Nutrition Responsive Agro-Enterprise Development Training in Uganda
- Gender and Nutrition Leaders
- Organizational Capacity-Building in Nepal
- Technology Assessment Collaboration with University of Illinois and Njala University Students in Sierra Leone
- Collaborative Research in Tajikistan

- Resources

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9. Pacific women hone climate change negotiation skills

<http://wedo.org/wedo-holds-pacific-women-climate-change-negotiators-workshop/>

Twenty-two women from nine Pacific countries participated in a four-day climate negotiations training workshop that was organized by WEDO in partnership with the Australian Government and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. The workshop focused on developing skills in diplomacy, including on drafting text for interventions, decisions and other written outcomes of the negotiating process, with the aim of strengthening the participants' capacity to participate effectively in the negotiating process.

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10. Valuing Women's Unpaid Work

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/03/valuing-womens-unpaid-work/>

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Mar 2 2017 (IPS) - Women's work remains unaccounted for even though the issue of unpaid work carried out by women is being discussed globally at the policy, academic as well as practitioners' levels. Defined as "unpaid care work," this includes taking care of children, elderly and the sick, cooking and cleaning, plus agricultural activities such as preservation of seeds, thrashing and drying paddy, poultry and cattle rearing, etc.

These discussions are yet to translate into policy changes, leaving most of what women do uncounted and outside the realm of national statistics or GDP of all countries in the world. Economists have not been able to come up with an alternative calculation of the System of National Accounts (SNA) which is determined globally.

This has led to the non-recognition of the work of a vast majority of women around the world, ultimately resulting in their devaluation, lower status discrimination and often violence.

The undervaluation of women's work is a global phenomenon. Research shows that women produce 60-80 percent of basic foodstuffs in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean and perform over 50 percent of the labor involved in intensive rice cultivation in Asia. Women head 60 percent of households in some regions of Africa and meet 90 percent of household water and fuel needs. They also process 100 percent of basic household foodstuffs. However, in spite of these statistics, 500 million women in the world live below the poverty line in rural areas.

What is needed is a fundamental change in the way women are perceived. This can happen through sustained campaigns and education to change negative attitudes and perceptions about women. Women's contributions to families and society should be highlighted and their work in all its dimensions, both paid and unpaid, brought to the attention of families, society and policy makers.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030". The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will also discuss this theme this year.

This means "work" should be redefined to include the work of women, both productive and reproductive, paid and unpaid. If we are serious about the economic empowerment of all women, then their work in all its dimensions has to be recognized, evaluated and accounted for. Unless that happens, the economic empowerment of women will remain just a dream.

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11. “Women in the UN Working Together to Improve the Lives of Women Worldwide”

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/03/women-in-the-un-working-together-to-improve-the-lives-of-women-worldwide/>

ROME, Mar 2 2017 (IPS) - This International Women’s Day we celebrate women in the changing world of work, recognizing the need to fully realize women’s working potential in order to achieve Agenda 2030. We know that when women earn money, they spend it on feeding their families and educating their children. It is estimated that if women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry people in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million.

Women worldwide carry the double burden of domestic labor and income-generating work outside the household. Despite working typically 12-13 hours per week more than men in developing countries in Africa and Asia, working women usually go unrecognized. Women in rural areas spend more of their time on domestic chores such as collecting water and firewood, preparing food, transporting goods and caring for children, the elderly and sick. They also work on family farms – spending on average three hours more per day than men on unpaid agricultural work. Equitable access to decent employment opportunities for women is critical to the well-being of their families and communities. Yet most rural women are either unpaid family workers, self-employed or hold precarious jobs for low pay.

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12. Newsletter of Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

<http://cleancookstoves.org/>

See this month’s issue for the following articles:

- WEEW2017: Advancing energy entrepreneurship and women’s empowerment
- PBS NewsHour highlights emerging health benefits of clean cooking in Ghana
- Study identifies low-cost, corrosion-resistant metals for cookstoves

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Reports, Publications and Resources

1. Promoting Gender Equality in Foreign Agricultural Investments

Promoting Gender Equality in Foreign Agricultural Investments: Lessons from voluntary sustainability standards

<http://www.iisd.org/library/promoting-gender-equality-foreign-agricultural-investments-lessons-voluntary-sustainability>

This report analyzes the gender-related content of five major global agricultural sustainability standards and five principles for responsible investment in agriculture.

The report answers the question: Do the global principles and standards improve gender equality? It also examines how to build on the successes and failures of these initiatives to improve gender equality in agricultural investments. The experiences of the sustainability standards are used to provide guidance for responsible investment.

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2. Recorded Webinar: Beyond Production: Innovation and Opportunity for Women's Economic Empowerment in Agricultural Market Systems

<http://www.seepnetwork.org/blog/production-innovation-opportunity-womens-economic-empowerment-agricultural-market-systems>

Women living in poverty occupy a large and growing role in agricultural production in developing countries, leading many development practitioners to focus interventions targeting women on production-related activities where scale can more easily be achieved. However, with the spread of the market systems development approach, practitioners are identifying innovative ways to address market constraints and catalyze women's economic empowerment through new entry points. Examples include interventions that promote roles for women as traders and intermediaries, as key providers of extension or veterinary services, or in marketing and retail sales.

This webinar followed the recent publication of a BRIEF supported by the Leveraging Economic Opportunities (LEO) project, which seeks to enhance USAID programs, projects, and activities focused on creating inclusive market systems. Building on examples provided in the brief, which outlines strategies and entry point for promoting women's roles beyond production, presenters provided learning from a range of innovative strategies for expanding how women can benefit more fully from market systems development.

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3. The future of food and agriculture: Trends and challenges

<http://www.fao.org/publications/fofa/en/>

The report sheds some light on the nature of the challenges that agriculture and food systems are facing now and throughout the 21st century, and provides some insights as to what is at stake and what needs to be done. What emerges is that "business as usual" is no longer an option but calls for major transformations in agricultural systems, in rural economies and in how we manage our natural resources.

The report was undertaken for the quadrennial review of the FAO Strategic Framework and in preparation for the Organization's Medium-Term Plan 2018-2021.

For some key points related to gender, see Trend 11 on Migration and the Feminization of Agriculture. "Women can improve gender inequality but only if they have a greater say in decision-making and in the control of household resources." (Page 34).

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4. Gender Equitable Programming

http://www.coopscanada.coop/en/international_dev/expertise/gender

The Canadian Co-operative Association provides expertise in gender and agriculture. See the link for resources. CCA's gender equality and women's empowerment strategy looks at programming from three levels:

- Promoting women's empowerment and leadership in decision-making processes;
- Ensuring equitable access to and control over the resources and benefits of co-operative development;
- Providing gender responsive capacity building for partners and co-operative networks.

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5. Addressing Gender Issues in Agricultural Value Chains - Facilitator's Guide

http://ingenaes.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/ING-Facilitator-Guide-2016_07-Addressing-gender-issues-in-agricultural-value-chains-Manfre-et-al.pdf

Value chains are a widely used organizing framework for agricultural programs because they facilitate linkages between farmers and other actors involved in moving crops and livestock by-products from the field to the market. These linkages are critical for developing extension systems that facilitate the exchange of information and technologies about, to, and from farmers and other actors. Value chain practitioners are often aware of the importance of addressing gender issues but are sometimes unable to identify practical, actionable, and evidence-based interventions to address them. This workshop will aim to fill this gap with classroom and field-based activities.

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