

# GEM Digest of the Month for November 1, 2017

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*Image from Transformations display by Ontario Council for International Cooperation. Transformations is an award-winning collaborative photojournalism project intended to increase dialogue and further understanding of international partnerships that address complex global challenges. See below for more info.*

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](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month. Back issues of the GEM Digest are available at <http://www.aic.ca/gender/resources.cfm>.

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(Volunteer)

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## Opportunities and Upcoming Events

### 1. New e-learning course on ‘Open Data and Research Data Management in Agriculture and Nutrition’

<http://www.godan.info/pages/open-data-and-research-data-management-agriculture-and-nutrition>

The GODAN Action network will soon be delivering a new e-learning course on ‘Open Data and Research Data Management in Agriculture and Nutrition’. The course will run from the **13th November to 8th December 2017**, and is open to infomediaries, policy makers, administrators, project managers, researchers and scientists working in the area of agriculture. This e-learning course aims to strengthen the capacity of data producers and data consumers to manage and use open data in agriculture and nutrition. One of the main learning objectives is for the course to be used widely within agricultural and nutrition knowledge networks, in different institutions. The course also aims to raise awareness of different types of data formats and uses, and to highlight how important it is for data to be reliable, accessible and transparent.

Registration is now open until **5th November**.

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### 2. Gender Summit in North America

<http://gender-summit.com/images/GS11/GenderSummit-2017-OnePage-Industry-Bilingual-FINAL.PDF>

<http://gender-summit.com/gs11-about>

Do you want your company to benefit from gender and diversity? It’s been shown that gender diversity has a positive effect on team innovation, relationship building and financial performance.

Plan to attend the Gender Summit on **November 6-8, 2017 - Montreal**, Canada. The conference theme is EMBRACING PLURALISM AND THRIVING THROUGH DIVERSITY – SHAPING SCIENCE AND INNOVATION. Why should you participate?

1. Develop national, regional and global communities as agents of change.
2. Develop evidence-based consensus on the actions needed and the ways of implementing them in specific national or regional contexts.
3. Demonstrate positive effects of gender balance and gender diversity in research and innovation process.
4. Demonstrate how integrating gender dimension in research and innovation content improves quality of results and outcomes.

5. Promote gender aware solutions to societal problems, e.g. urban quality; human adaptation and climate change; food security; transport and mobility.

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### 3. 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

[http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn\\_nov\\_2017/meeting/10084.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/bonn_nov_2017/meeting/10084.php)

<http://climate-protest-bonn.org/en/>

COP23 will be presided over by the Government of Fiji and take place in **Bonn, Germany, 6-17 November 2017**. A large number of civil society activities are planned before and during COP23.

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### 4. Feminist Lens in Development Workshop

Any questions or for more information, please email Grace at [pe@mcic.ca](mailto:pe@mcic.ca)

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation is coordinating a workshop on the **Feminist Lens in Development** this November, with leading Canadian expert on gender equality, Karen Craggs-Milne of [www.genderequality.ca](http://www.genderequality.ca).

This three-day workshop will cover everything from the foundational concepts of gender equality, to the new Feminist International Assistance Policy in Canada and impacts for Canadian NGOs, to gender-based analysis for programming. Participants will also vote via the registration form for two other topics they would like Karen to cover on Day 3.

Date: **November 15-17, 2017 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**. Cost is \$1000 Canadian. Deadline to register is **November 12**.

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## This Month's News

### 1. Society for Canadian Women in Science & Technology

<http://www.scwist.ca/>

With the launch of the new endowment to support the long term financial stability of SCWIST and our mission of encouraging, empowering, and promoting girls and women in science, technology, engineering and math - we hosted a fundraiser party to invest in SCWIST's future programs. Presentations included:

- Long time member talked about the early days of SCWIST including the organization of the very first international conference for women, held on May 23rd, 1983 with more than 300 attendees.
- One of our founders told the story of how SCWIST reached Nobel Laureate Michael Smith and how he donated a quarter of the Nobel Prize to SCWIST's cause.
- Member gave us the latest news on "Make Diversity Possible", including the federal funding recently received from Ministry of Status of Women. "Make Diversity Possible" is reaching to companies, assessing their commitment to

support women and get them involved in leadership levels. The next step is to transform the project into a sustainable product.

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## 2. G7 SCIENCE MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUÉ, Turin, 2017

<http://www.g7italy.it/sites/default/files/documents/G7%20Science%20Communiqu%C3%A9.pdf>

Some key components of the communiqué related to gender:

*We recognise that researchers provide a crucial contribution to the socioeconomic growth of our societies. We commit to supporting our research communities, in particular women, youth and other underrepresented groups, through training, motivating others to follow. Researchers can help promote the advancement of knowledge and diffusion of new technologies throughout our societies and economies, so as to allow people and firms from all sectors to take full advantage of the benefits of innovation.*

*We recognize the need of expanding women's participation in science and innovation, and reaffirm the importance of the actions agreed at the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting in Tsukuba in 2016 on this topic. In order to have female researchers further participate and lead in science and innovation, we acknowledge the importance of promoting institutional changes and policy environments where women enjoy equal opportunities to develop and make full use of their abilities and advance their career prospects.*

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## 3. Opinion: The Myth of Women's 'Empowerment'

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/05/opinion/the-myth-of-womens-empowerment.html>

The assumption behind donations of chickens or sewing machines is the same: Women's empowerment is an economic issue, one that can be separated from politics.

Empowerment did not always stand for entrepreneurship starter kits.

Empowerment as a term was introduced into the development lexicon in the mid-1980s by feminists from the Global South. Those women understood "empowerment" as the task of "transforming gender subordination" and the breakdown of "other oppressive structures" and collective "political mobilization."

There is a skirting of the truth that without political change, the structures that discriminate against women can't be dismantled and any advances they do make will be unsustainable.

It's time for a change to the "empowerment" conversation. Development organizations' programs must be evaluated on the basis of whether they enable women to increase their potential for political mobilization, such that they can create sustainable gender equality.

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## **4. Climate Change Leaves Women Farmers in Central Asia Fighting for Water**

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/womenandgirls/articles/2017/09/01/climate-change-leaves-women-farmers-in-central-asia-fighting-for-water>

In Kyrgyzstan’s Kadamjay district, it is often women who are found cultivating land in the 104F (40C) heat. Local officials told News Deeply that recurrent drought has forced 20-30 percent of the male population to find work abroad, unable to sustain a living in a region dominated by agriculture.

This demographic shift has allowed women to carve a new position for themselves within the household, altering gender roles in a relatively conservative society. But the new responsibilities have come at a price, with women now embroiled in an escalating dispute over the region’s most precious resource.

The water used for irrigation in Kadamjay must travel more than 120 miles (195km) from its source at the Papan reservoir. The overuse of water in upstream communities often causes drought in those downstream. As the relationship between climate change and forced migration intensifies – with an exodus of working-age men leaving the Fergana Valley – it is women who will find themselves at the forefront of the conflict over irrigation water.

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## **5. How lessons from recruiting female energy entrepreneurs into a gender-focused project are influencing its strategies**

<https://www.energy4impact.org/news/how-lessons-recruiting-female-energy-entrepreneurs-gender-focused-project-are-influencing-its>

*Women Integration into Renewable Energy (WIRE) Value Chains* project, in Kenya and Tanzania, is an initiative supported by the US to support entrepreneurs that produce, manufacture, import, distribute, promote, supply or retail improved cookstoves, briquettes, biogas and solar products, such as lanterns and solar home systems, to develop and strengthen their entrepreneurial skills. Lessons from the recruitment, which have influenced the project’s support strategies, are available in the article.

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## **6. Women-Led Farming Model Wins 2017 United Nations Equator Prize**

<https://foodtank.com/news/2017/09/un-equator-prize/>

The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) recently announced the winners of the 2017 Equator Prize, recognizing 15 local and indigenous communities across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The 15 winners were selected from a pool of 806 nominations across 120 countries for protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing nature to achieve local sustainable development. Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) in Maharashtra, India, won for its unique, women-led, and climate-resilient agroecological farming model.

Operating at the nexus of gender, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture, SSP trained and supported 20,000 women to engage as farmers, entrepreneurs, and leaders during 2016 alone.

Research and impact studies in SSP’s programmatic areas show that when women are supported as decisionmakers and innovators, there are multiple spin-offs: women farmers go beyond their farms and embrace the larger goal of community leadership while protecting natural resources such as water, trees, and biodiversity.

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## 7. Nutritional scientist recognized

<http://news.umanitoba.ca/nutritional-scientist-recognized/>

Dr. Miyoung Suh, Associate Professor in the Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences at the University of Manitoba, has been named Scientist of the Year by the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies (KOFST). The award was presented at the 7th Annual Canada-Korea Conference held August 6-9, 2017 in Montreal.

The award is given to a Korean scientist working abroad, with significant contributions in their area of research. Dr. Suh’s research in lipids and retina photoreceptors is specifically being recognized. She is the first woman to receive the award.

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## 8. Women are Pivotal to Addressing Hunger, Malnutrition and Poverty

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/10/women-pivotal-addressing-hunger-malnutrition-poverty/>

**UNITED NATIONS, Oct 13 2017 (IPS)** - The 16<sup>th</sup> of October marks World Food Day, a reminder to the international community of the criticality of treating food security as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century priority if sustainable development, peace and security and the realisation of human rights are to be achieved.

When we think and act on food security we must think and act on gender equality and women’s empowerment as women are not only the ones most affected by food insecurity but are charged with the food and nutrition responsibilities for families and communities in the entire food value chain from growing the crops to bringing food to the table.

Women are pivotal to addressing hunger, malnutrition and poverty especially in developing countries. They comprise an average of 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force across the developing world making up the backbone of the agricultural sector and food production systems and the bulk of the agricultural labourers. Eight out of ten agricultural workers in Africa are women and in Asia six out of ten are women. Rural women often represent approximately two thirds of the 400 million poor livestock keepers.

Furthermore, women are on the front line of nutrition as care givers in the family — producing, storing, cleaning, cooking food for consumption – and ensuring that food, when available, reaches children first. Women have a crucial role in ensuring the health of children.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the productivity levels of female workers in agriculture are between 20 and 30 per cent lower than those of male workers, purely because of the gender gap in access to resources. Moreover, food preferences, taboos and consumption patterns give rise to differential gender outcomes on food security, as men and boys get preferential food access in some contexts. In time of food scarcity, women tend to eat last and least.

**It is therefore clear that achieving sustainable development and peace and security will continue to challenge humanity if gender disparities in agriculture, food security and nutrition remain unaddressed.**

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## 9. Rights of Rural Women Have Seen Uneven Progress in Latin America

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2017/10/rights-rural-women-seen-uneven-progress-latin-america/>

On October 15, the International Day of Rural Women, access to quality education, productive resources, technical training and participation remain challenges shared by rural Latin American women to close the persistent gaps in gender equality and realize their full potential under equal conditions.

Bolivia, where 1.6 million women live in rural areas, according to the National Institute of Statistics, is one of the Latin American countries which has seen a growing feminisation of agriculture.

The Third National Agricultural Census of Ecuador records that 45.4 percent of farms are headed by women, and 62.8 percent of these are less than two hectares in size.

This inequitable trend in access to and control of productive resources is also evident in Peru, where, according to official figures, rural women are in charge of lands of 1.8 hectares in size on average, while the average size of the farms managed by men is three hectares.

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## 10. Two women win Africa Food Prize

<https://www.africafoodprize.org/the-2017-africa-food-prize-promotes-high-value-food-and-seeds/>

Two women, working at both ends of the agriculture supply chain in Africa, beat more than 600 other nominees to win the 2017 Africa Food Prize (AFP). The two were awarded the \$100,000 prize at the 2017 African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

Kenya's Professor Ruth Oniang'o, an advocate of nutrition, and Ms. Maïmouna Sidibe Coulibaly, an entrepreneur and agro industrialist from Mali, were awarded for their contribution in opening access to affordable quality seed to farmers and improving the nutrition of the food on people's plates.

Prof. Oniang'o, the first nutrition professor in Kenya and the first female nutrition professor in sub-Saharan Africa, was feted for her role in championing for investment in nutrition and policy development. Ms. Coulibaly, the other Laureate, is a renowned agripreneur in West Africa, where she has invested heavily in seed production and distribution. Her company Faso Kaba produces and supplies improved and high-yielding seed, some of which have been confirmed to increase yields by up to 40 per cent.

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## 11. Technology is not gender neutral

<http://www.rtb.cgiar.org/blog/2017/10/15/technology-is-not-gender-neutral/>

The Latin American gender team of the International Potato Center (CIP) conducted a study to investigate the factors that influence the adoption of agricultural technology by men and women in the Andean region, whose agricultural systems are based on potato production. The main objective of the study was to generate recommendations that can inform the design and development of gender sensitive agricultural technologies. Qualitative information was collected through the implementation of focus group discussions, observation and interviews with technical personnel working directly in CIP's areas of intervention in the Andean Region (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru) in the promotion of agricultural technology innovation for food security.



One important result of the study is that technology itself is not neutral and entails gender biases that can occur when the conditions of the target group (men, women, youth, or other disadvantaged groups) are not considered at different stages.

Analyzing the results of the research, we have been able to catalog the different factors that influence technology adoption in three different types: i) internal factors that include elements related to the productive context (social, political, environmental, economic and cultural), historical and educational factors, and gender roles; ii) technological attributes, which are inherent to technology and its use (technical, structural and operational characteristics of the technology); and iii) external factors related to access to productive resources (land, capital, labor), physical access to productive areas and access to information.

The final report of this work will be available online soon.

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## **12. Opinion: Three ways extension services can engage and empower rural youth**

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-3-ways-extension-services-can-engage-and-empower-rural-youth-90463>

Rural youth form a substantial share of the population within developing countries and face high unemployment rates. Engaging youth in agricultural activities is a commonly cited solution, but making this work has remained elusive. Despite this potential for youth employment, ministries of agriculture and nongovernmental organizations continue to hit roadblocks and barriers in delivering relevant services that prepare youth to manage agricultural enterprises. Filling the gap will require building the capacity of youth and more effectively linking them to information, technologies, improved practices, land and finance.

Consider effective ways for extension to engage rural youth in order to help them connect to decent work opportunities.

- i. Extension services must change the way they see youth.
- ii. Extension providers should focus on opportunities within agriculture.
- iii. Extension providers should create internships, fellowships and entry-level employment opportunities.

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## **13. New Programme with Women Cocoa Farmers Seeks to Close Gender Gap**

<https://www.fairtrade.net/new/latest-news/single-view/article/new-programme-with-women-cocoa-farmers-seeks-to-close-gender-gap.html>

The Women’s School of Leadership is an innovative new programme which will improve women’s opportunities in cocoa communities in Côte d’Ivoire. The programme is being led by the producer network Fairtrade Africa.

The women come from seven Fairtrade cocoa cooperatives in Cote d’Ivoire, which represent almost 5,000 members. They will gain skills in finance, negotiation, and decision-making as well as greater awareness of gender equality.

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## **14. Transformations**

<http://www.ocic.on.ca/what-we-do/influence-by-informing/transformations-stories-of-partnership-resilience-and-positive-change-in-nepal/>

<http://www.ocic.on.ca/what-we-do/influence-by-informing/transformations-stories-of-partnership-resilience-and-positive-change-in-tanzania/>

<http://www.ocic.on.ca/what-we-do/influence-by-informing/transformations-stories-of-partnership-resilience-and-positive-change-in-peru/>

Transformations is an award-winning collaborative photojournalism project intended to increase dialogue and further understanding of international partnerships that address complex global challenges. Through individual and organizational stories, the Ontario Council for International Cooperation invites you to actively engage in a new narrative on international cooperation and solidarity. See Transformations photos from Nepal, Tanzania, and Peru.

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## 15. InfoLadies on Bicycles

<http://dnet.org.bd/page/infolady>

<https://www.accessagriculture.org/women-take-videos-bangladeshi-villages-their-bicycle>

InfoLadies from iSocial will soon cycle throughout rural Bangladesh equipped with quality training videos hosted on the Access Agriculture video-sharing platform. The new partnership will add an exciting dimension of South-South rural learning to the diverse services already provided by these entrepreneurial women. The InfoLadies recently renamed as Kallyani in Bangladesh, are women entrepreneurs who visit villages on their bicycle equipped with a tablet connected to the internet. They are part of a rural network providing products and services at community level in the field of agriculture, health, adolescent girls and information.

The dynamic InfoLady entrepreneurship model has won numerous awards for making a visible impact on the lives of the people in rural communities. Under this agreement, iSocial will add the rich library of quality farmer-to-farmer learning videos hosted on the Access Agriculture video-sharing platform to its portfolio of services. Through partnership and support from the ICT Division of the Bangladesh Government, iSocial plans to deploy 10,000 Kallyanis throughout the country by the end of 2021. In collaboration with Access Agriculture, iSocial's last mile delivery model strengthened with quality training videos will be rolled out across Bangladesh, Nepal, Tanzania and Haiti.

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## 16. Empowering women

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/article/empowering-women>

The Sustainable Development Goals' commitment to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all will be achieved only if development initiatives consider and promote the unique needs, knowledge, roles, and potential of women.

IDRC funds research that supports gender equality, facilitates women's empowerment, and builds the capacity of female researchers to become leaders. By supporting research that confronts the structural and root causes of gender inequalities, IDRC helps to ensure that women, young girls, and children can take advantage of the same opportunities as men.

*What does empowering women look like?*

It looks like supporting agricultural innovations that improve women’s income and access to markets, promoting female entrepreneurship in technology-based interventions, and examining how care work and other domestic duties are valued and redistributed inside and outside the household.

These projects explore some of the many ways that IDRC-supported research is promoting gender equality and ultimately contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. By sharing efforts to empower women, IDRC is contributing to a vital global conversation that will help make gender equality a reality worldwide.

See the website for more on Science & Technology, Inclusive Economies, and Agriculture & Environment.

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## **17. Channeling the power of 'self-help' for gender empowerment in agriculture**

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/channeling-power-self-help-gender-empowerment-agriculture#.WfDzAWhSziW>

In India, women’s self-help groups are being utilized and encouraged to create resilience among farmers. When it comes to community vulnerabilities fostered by climate change, women are one of the highlighted groups. Since times immemorial, a collective front has often seemed to work out better for women in terms of addressing their issues. A similar innovative, collective construct is visibly operating in India with the nomenclature of self-help groups mostly among women in rural India. An initiative by Bioversity International on crop diversification through horticultural nurseries, with support of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), takes up this platform for promoting empowerment and resilience of rural women farmers.

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## **18. Ag Women’s Network (AWN) announces mentorship recipients**

<https://www.facebook.com/agwomensnetwork/>

On October 26, 2017, the Ag Women’s Network (AWN) is pleased to announce 10 mentorship recipients that will pilot the program in 2017-18. This is Ontario’s first mentorship that aims to empower women of all ages and background involved in the agricultural industry.

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## **19. Do think tanks need more female leaders?**

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/resources/perspectives/do-think-tanks-need-more-female-leaders?platform=hootsuite>

Women around the world are underrepresented at both leadership and management levels — less than one-third of senior and middle-management positions are held by women. Certainly, getting more women into leadership roles feels like an important goal in itself, and there’s a social justice argument to be made for fostering equality. But why do we need more women leaders? Do we expect women to be better leaders? And does this lead to stronger, more equitable organizations?

Even if we do see female leadership numbers increase, it is important to consider whether greater numbers of female leaders will enable gender equality. We can’t conflate women with gender, and we need to consider where diversity in women’s experiences fits into this discussion. The category of ‘women’ is not a uniform one with a shared experience or single point of view.

As women think-tankers share in a blog post about women-led organizations, it comes down to the attributes and practices of these female leaders, not the simple fact that they are women.

As a starting point, it is essential to look at both the organization and how gender is integrated across its policies and practices, as well as the leader’s style and characteristics. This is an essential next step for anyone interested in understanding why and how female leadership should be fostered, the difference it can make, and the importance of supporting organizational approaches to gender equality.

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## 20. We’ve celebrated rural women for 20 years: what has changed?

<https://www.odi.org/comment/10565-we-ve-celebrated-rural-women-20-years-what-has-changed>

After more than two decades of recognising and celebrating – officially and unofficially – rural women, have we seen movement? In a nutshell, yes, though in some places change has been disappointingly slow. These are the top three changes that I think have affected rural women over that time.

- On average, rural women are having fewer children.
- In rural areas, changes to basic services and utilities like water, sanitation, electricity, transport and communications have all been significant, enabling improvements in people’s lifestyles.
- The number of female-headed rural households has also grown in the last 20 years

Today, the ‘rural’ is in flux. Developing economies are seeing a decline in the importance of agriculture, continued rural out-migration of both sexes, and other demographic and developmental shifts that are transforming rural lives.

So what does this mean for rural women? Rural women need more than access to agricultural resources. They need to have the ability to make decisions that shape their lives – like where and on what to work, when and how many children to have, how and on what terms to contribute to their homes, families, villages and communities. More than expecting them get on quietly with feeding the world.

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## Reports, Publications and Resources

### 1. Energizing Equality: The Importance of Integrating Gender Equality Principles in National Energy Policies and Frameworks

<http://genderandenvironment.org/2017/09/blog-energizing-equality-in-the-energy-sector/>

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

A recent report, *Energizing Equality: The Importance of Integrating Gender Equality Principles in National Energy Policies and Frameworks*, found that nearly one-third of national energy policies and frameworks include gender considerations. Of the 192 energy plans, policies, and strategies from 137 countries studied, more than 60 percent do not mention women or gender at all. Almost all that did—57 out of 61—come from developing countries, with sub-Saharan Africa leading the way with 32 frameworks.

The report, which was produced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Global Gender Office in collaboration with ENERGIA and with support from USAID, analyzed data from IUCN’s Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform to identify unrecognized opportunities to advance a gender-responsive approach within the energy sector’s policy and planning design.

The report shows that women and men have distinctly gendered roles in the production, distribution, and utilization of energy in households and markets. The report finds that these impacts on women’s lives are reflected in many of the energy frameworks of developing countries, which cite cross-cutting issues like energy poverty, where women have limited access to and options for fuel; time poverty, where lack of energy access limits women’s available free time; and the negative impacts of both on women’s health and wellbeing.

Rising energy prices—which increase the costs of transport, heating, cooling, and electricity—also affect women and their families in developed countries.

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## **2. Designing gender sensitive agricultural extension information campaigns**

<https://www.ifpri.org/blog/designing-gender-sensitive-agricultural-extension-information-campaigns>

An ongoing IFPRI study under the Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC) project—a collaboration with Digital Green funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under the Feed the Future Initiative—looks at gender in the context of information provision by agricultural extension services. Given that extension services in many countries tend to employ male extension workers and target male household heads, little is known about what can be achieved by changing the gender of the information provider(s) and its targeted recipient(s).

This study tests if household-level outcomes—awareness, understanding, experimentation, or adoption of a technology or practice—can be influenced by small changes in the extension approach in several pathways.

- Reducing information asymmetries between men and women in (dual) households.
- Promoting a “cooperative approach” to farming.
- Leveraging a “homophily effect”.
- Providing information.

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## **3. The Impact of Fair Trade on Gender: A review of research evidence 2009 -2015**

<https://www.odi.org/publications/10891-impact-fairtrade-review-research-evidence-2009-2015>

One of the identified impacts of fair trade is on gender equality: Enhanced gender equality and intergenerational sustainability in rural communities. [pg. 12] See Chapter 9. “In conclusion, evidence of Fairtrade impacts on gender equity tend to derive more from qualitative studies and to focus on women’s voice and role in governance structures rather than on differential economic impacts on women. Some studies have found direct benefits to women producers in terms of increased recognition of land ownership, membership of associations and access to better prices. Much of the evidence

suggests that improvements in the voice and role of women within producer organisations and hired labour situations resulting from adherence to Fairtrade Standards may be more formalistic in nature, and that such requirements may struggle to impact on actual gender norms and power relationships. Existing gender norms in the communities and cultures in which Fairtrade operates also has an important role in determining the impact of Fairtrade on gender equity.” [pg. 39]

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## 4. The Fairtrade Gender Strategy

<https://www.fairtrade.net/programmes/gender/next/2.html>

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development globally. Fairtrade is dedicated to promoting equality and enabling women and men to access the benefits of Fairtrade equally.

Export crops constitute the vast majority of Fairtrade products and production tends to be male dominated. Data shows that women make up just 25 percent of the smallholder farmers and workers involved directly in Fairtrade. However, these figures do not account for members’ female relatives who contribute to the production of commodities in small farmer organizations. Even though women are often heavily involved, their work is seldom fully recognized and rewarded.

The Fairtrade approach seeks to tackle unequal power relations in order to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. This will be achieved by strengthening women’s human, social, financial, and physical capital. This approach is aligned to Fairtrade’s 2016-2020 Strategic Framework and guided by the Fairtrade Theory of Change. Further, it adopts the Gender at Work framework and reflects the recommendations of the 2015 Equal Harvest Report.

The Fairtrade Gender Strategy seeks to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in producer organizations by building women’s and girls’ power and autonomy. The strategy aims to deliver a transformative approach to gender mainstreaming in the Fairtrade system.

Fairtrade Standards include criteria that are designed to prevent gender inequality.

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## 5. Fair Trade International 2016-2017 Annual Report

<https://annualreport16-17.fairtrade.net/en/deepening-impact-through-programmes/>

Fairtrade works with 1,411 certified producer organizations across 73 countries and a range of product categories. Fairtrade producers are confronted with a myriad of challenges, including climate change, child and forced labour, low productivity, gender imbalances, and youth apathy towards agricultural work to name a few. To address these challenges and further increase the social, economic and environmental benefits of Fairtrade, we must increasingly deliver programmes focused on specific product categories and regions.

Fairtrade and its members have developed programmes to address key challenges such as child and forced labour, gender inequality, youth, and climate change.

Fifteen Fairtrade producer organizations across six product categories have self-governing due diligence risk assessment and response processes covering child and/or forced labour, including gender-based violence. These include relevant policies, procedures and operating internal control systems (ICS) to check for child and/or forced labour.

It is clear that a major effort is required to enhance the participation of women in producer organizations. In a recent survey, we identified that representation of women on SPO boards stood at just six percent.

One way to begin to achieve this is through awareness raising and training: last year 32 percent of participants in training delivered by Fairtrade Africa were women. Following the success of the Leadership Training and Women’s Empowerment School launched by the CLAC last year, Fairtrade Africa recently initiated the Women’s School of Leadership targeted at women cocoa farmers in Côte d’Ivoire. The programme focuses on financial acumen, negotiation, and decision-making, as well as improved awareness of gender equality, which will equip women with the skills needed to make a greater contribution to the businesses they represent.

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## **6. Improved stoves found to change gender dynamics in Ugandan school kitchens**

<https://www.energy4impact.org/news/improved-stoves-found-change-gender-dynamics-ugandan-school-kitchens-%E2%80%93-new-study-reveals>

Stove design and usage should be studied in greater detail to understand the unintended effects on gender dynamics in the kitchen. In addition, further study on the effects of women in the kitchen in terms of fuel efficiency, stove durability etc. is crucial in understanding whether there are missed benefits from the changing gender dynamics. Stove makers should also involve and consult more women on the design and installation. Improved training could reduce incidences of faults caused by improper use.

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## **7. Village savings and loan associations**

<https://www.accessagriculture.org/village-savings-and-loan-associations>

This video from Malawi by Access Agriculture describes how village women, men and youth manage a savings and lending association in a rural setting.

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## **8. Canada urgently needs to diversify in science, tech, engineering and math: report**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/fighting-gender-stereotypes-stem-1.4354302>

<http://www.ryerson.ca/edistem/resources/forgingpaths/>

Stereotypes represent a major challenge to getting more women into male-dominated fields like science, technology, mathematics and engineering, known collectively by the acronym STEM, according to a new report released by Ryerson University

The Faculty of Science at Ryerson University and the Canadian Science Policy Centre are delighted to release the report “Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: Forging Paths to Enhanced Innovation”. This report highlights key insights and unveils action-oriented, effective strategies that leverage EDI in STEM to advance innovation in Ontario. These findings are from the May 29th roundtable which was among the first ever in Ontario to facilitate dialogue, share knowledge and seek best practices among various sectors.

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## 9. The State of Food and Agriculture Report 2017

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/news/state-food-and-agriculture-2017>

The 2017 edition of the State of Food and Agriculture has been released. This year, the theme of the report is “Leveraging food systems for inclusive rural transformation”.

The new report looks at how population growth, increasing urbanization, technologies, and climate change are transforming rural and urban areas, and how the world’s food systems are evolving. The report concludes that fulfilling the 2030 Agenda depends crucially on progress in rural areas, which is where most of the poor and hungry live today, and outlines a strategy for how agriculture and rural economies in developing countries can provide prosperity.

Some gender-related excerpts:

*Pg.2: In many cases, the transformation of food supply and value chains in low- and middle-income countries has created serious barriers to the participation of smallholder producers and small-scale agroprocessors in local, national and global markets....This is especially true in the case of female small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs or agricultural workers, who face gender-based discrimination in access to productive resources and services.*

*Pg. 30: Gender- and age responsive solutions will also be needed to address the specific challenges that women and young producers face in accessing new market opportunities and participating effectively in longer, more integrated value chains.*

*Pg. 43: However, over time, there is gradually capital intensification and, with it, challenges for low-skilled labour in particular. These shifts also have differentiated gender impacts, which need to be carefully assessed and monitored. While the expansion of off-farm services generates employment opportunities for rural women, capital intensification and increased formalization of the chain often exacerbates gender segregation in the labour market.*

*Pg. 88: Male out-migration is among the key factors driving women’s increasing employment in agriculture. Data from sub-Saharan Africa show that migrants are mostly young men and that women migrate less. More research is needed to understand whether women’s expanding roles in agriculture lead to welfare improvements or merely perpetuate existing gender inequalities in access to resources and human capital.*

*Pg. 91: Facilitated access to affordable sources of credit and energy, and improvements in education and skills, in a gender-balanced way, are also necessary conditions for sustainable and inclusive rural transformation.*

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## 10. Webinar Recording: Transforming Gender Inequality through Inclusive Dairy Value Chain Development

<http://www.seepnetwork.org/blog/transforming-gender-inequality-inclusive-dairy-chain-development>

CARE Bangladesh hosted a webinar on "Transforming Gender Inequality through Inclusive Dairy Value Chain Development" to share its unique experience and learning from Strengthening Dairy Value Chain Project. The webinar replicated a Peer Learning Session held at the 2017 Women's Economic Empowerment Global Learning Forum, aiming to share insights on the status of gender inequality in a dairy-based market system and how an enterprise-led dairy-hub model can make it gender inclusive. The webinar drew participation from the BRAC Dairy, a leading dairy processor in Bangladesh, also SDVC project partner, to share their experience of transforming the core business model. Oxfam Bangladesh then reflected on their learning on promoting women’s economic leadership from their dairy value chain work in Bangladesh.

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## 11. The role of social protection and agriculture in tackling chronic undernutrition

<http://www.eldis.org/keyissues/role-social-protection-and-agriculture-tackling-chronic-undernutrition>

Nutrition specific interventions such as micronutrient supplements and fortification, communication interventions to strengthen infant feeding practices and community management of acute malnutrition, can dramatically reduce infant and child mortality. Research has shown that there is a powerful economic case for these interventions, with every dollar invested returning around 15 dollars in economic benefits. Yet these nutrition specific interventions, powerful though they are at reducing infant and child mortality, appear to have limited impacts on chronic undernutrition. This limited impact has sparked interest in the potential for nutrition sensitive interventions – complementary programmes on other sectors that address the underlying determinants of malnutrition.

A major component of the Transform Nutrition consortium's research portfolio has been an examination of the potential of two sectors, social protection and agriculture, in two countries – Bangladesh and Ethiopia, to reduce chronic undernutrition. This Guide reports on the, sometimes unexpected, learning that has emerged as a result.

*A trio of papers looking at the links between agriculture and nutrition in Ethiopia provide some clues. The first study explores the relationship between pre-school children's food consumption and household agricultural production. It found that increasing household production diversity leads to considerable improvements in children's dietary diversity but this relationship does not hold for households that have access to food markets. The second brings in the links between market access and caregivers' nutrition knowledge. The interesting finding here was that better nutrition knowledge leads to considerable improvements in children's dietary diversity, but only in areas with relatively good market access. The third paper looks at the interplay between home production of foods and children's diets, focusing on dairy. Here it was found that cow ownership raises children's milk consumption, increases linear growth, and reduces chronic undernutrition. Also, household cow ownership was less important where there is good access to local markets, suggesting that market development can substitute for household cow ownership.*

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## 12. Smallholder farming systems in coastal Kenya: Key trends and innovations for resilience

<http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17611IIED.pdf>

Smallholder farmers in coastal Kenya are significantly affected by climate change, particularly in semi-arid and dryland areas. They have developed a number of innovations to enhance resilience and productivity, eg. crop diversification using resilient local varieties, new planting techniques and wild tree domestication. *Smallholder farming systems in coastal Kenya: Key trends and innovations for resilience* explores these key trends and innovations to address climatic and socioeconomic challenges.

See various sections and references related to gender, including Section 2.3 Women's and men's changing roles in farming over time. [pg. 19]; and Section 5.2 Roles of men and women in selecting seeds [pg. 33].

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### **13. New Green Climate Fund manual puts gender at centre of climate response**

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/-/gcf-launches-its-first-climate-gender-manual>

“Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects,” developed with UN Women, guides GCF partners on how to include women, girls, men and boys from socially excluded and vulnerable communities in all aspects of climate finance.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has launched its first gender guide to climate finance. The manual "Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects" was developed together with UN Women and guides partners on how to integrate gender equality in climate change interventions and all aspects of climate finance. We hope this guide will contribute to strengthening the development and implementation of gender-responsive climate action and projects.

See Annex 2 for Examples of gender-responsive indicators in climate change projects.

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### **14. Successes from gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive agricultural extension services**

<http://illinois.edu/emailer/newsletter/143444.html>

After three years of INGENAES activities, we have seen exciting achievements in empowering and engaging women and men smallholder farmers. The many, diverse successes came out of building robust gender-responsive and nutrition-sensitive institutions, strengthening existing programs and projects to assess and respond to the needs of both male and female farmers, identifying proven mechanisms for providing improved EAS to female farmers, and promoting effective tools and approaches. Read success stories centered around the hub of gender, nutrition, and agricultural development.

- a. Farmer Groups Value Using and Buying their Own Tools in Sierra Leone
- b. New Fish Feed Technology Changes Production in Sierra Leone
- c. Young Professionals in Nepal Rise Up as the Next Leaders in Agriculture
- d. Tackling Machismo in Honduras through New Perspectives
- e. Harmonizing Nutrition Messages for Zambian Households
- f. Sierra Leonean Youth Tackle Gender Gaps in Agriculture
- g. Young Professionals on Board to Support Nutrition Security
- h. Extensionists Adapt INGENAES Gender and Nutrition Training to Fieldwork
- i. How Evaluation Builds Stronger Households in Rural Bangladesh
- j. Integrating Gender and Nutrition within Zambian National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy

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## 15. IDRC Annual Report 2016-2017

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/article/idrc-annual-report-2016-2017>

Canada's International Development Research Centre IDRC's vision is to support long-term change for those who need it most — but it is the accomplishments made on an annual basis that form the building blocks to our success.

We work with some of the brightest minds in the world to achieve results that lead to:

- gender equity;
- healthier people;
- higher incomes;
- cleaner environments; and
- responsible governments.

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## 16. Podcast: Transforming the world for girls

<https://www.odi.org/opinion/10419-podcast-transforming-world-girls>

'Transforming the world for girls' is a three-part podcast series exploring how harmful gendered norms affect the lives of girls in developing countries. This podcast brings together four years of learning on gender norms and adolescent girls, with a focus on Ethiopia, Nepal, Uganda and Viet Nam. Through interviews with girls, their families and communities, and some of the world's leading gender and development researchers, we explore how we can transform girls' futures.

The podcast is divided into three episodes:

- Episode 1: What are gender norms, and how are they changing?

*This episode introduces the concept of gender norms and explores how they are changing. It looks at gender norms through a historic lens to demonstrate that while change is slow, it is happening.*

*Part 1: What are gender norms?*

*Part 2: Change happens*

- Episode 2: Change is challenging

*This episode unpacks some of the many challenges associated with changing gender norms.*

*Part 1: The paradoxical nature of change creates challenges*

*Part 2: What are the wider conditions needed to facilitate change?*

*Part 3: Even if change is happening, there are powerful forces pushing back*

- Episode 3: Opportunities and challenges for girls' empowerment

*We explore three distinct areas of opportunity to change gender norms: policy and the law, communications, and education. We conclude the series with a reflection on the nature of gendered norms and provide opportunity for listeners to individually act on the lessons learned.*

*Part 1: Policies and laws to empower adolescent girls*

*Part 2: Communications, girls' clubs and norms*

*Part 3: Girls' education*

*Conclusion: Gender norms affect all of us: knowledge and understanding leads to change*

Links to further resources are available. This podcast was created as an output of the UK Government-funded Transforming the Lives of Women and Girls project.

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## **17. Integrating Extremely Poor Producers into Markets Field Guide**

<https://agrilinks.org/post/integrating-extremely-poor-producers-markets-field-guide-fourth-edition>

The fourth edition of the Integrating Extremely Poor Producers into Markets Field Guide prepared for World Vision through the USAID Office of Food for Peace Nobo Jatra (a New Beginning) Development Food Security Activity in Bangladesh is now available. Input for the fourth edition was provided by practitioners in workshops for Southeast Asia in Bangladesh, Eastern Africa in Tanzania and Ethiopia, West Africa in Ghana, Southern Africa in Malawi and Zimbabwe, Latin America in Haiti, and several workshops in Washington, D.C.

The Field Guide is intended to provide practitioners with tools to improve the food security and nutrition of extremely poor households.

**Some key areas of emphasis and tools in the fourth edition include:**

- Tool 1: Nutrition-sensitive Checklist
- Tool 5: Village Agent Project Budget Checklist
- Worksheet 1: Nutrition-sensitive Value Chain and Market Analysis Worksheet
- Tool 6: Working with the Private Sector to Build a Village Agent Network Checklist
- Tool 7: Selecting a Village Agent and Training Village Agents Workshop Checklist
- Worksheet 22: Women's Participation Improvement Worksheet

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