

August 1, 2020

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Rosalinda Martagon Lily. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

The Gender Equality Mainstreaming (GEM) Digest provides a compilation of information and articles gathered on an ongoing basis on gender equality mainstreaming within agriculture, scientific research, rural development, climate change, organizational development and international development. Information is shared with members, colleagues, scientific societies and diverse organizations.

The views and opinions presented are not necessarily representative of the editor.

If you have information to share, please send it to dinah.ceplis@gmail.com to compile and re-distribute once a month.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGhIH, FAIC, (Volunteer Editor)

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Free Webinar: Keeping calm in a customer’s storm

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/keeping-calm-in-a-customers-storm-tickets-113893656994?aff=ebdssbeac>

<https://www.facebook.com/MWAF204/posts/622352431735086>

Organizer: Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food (MWAF)

Partners: Professional Women in Agribusiness (PWA)

Customers do not often call to tell the company they are doing an outstanding job! Customers call to let them know when they are displeased, and in that moment, you need to decide how you will handle the situation. An experience member from PWA, Brigitte Readel, will share her advice and the group discussion can help you answer those questions more effectively. There will be discussion tips on how to prepare, what questions to ask and what might be your best mental attitude to handle the situation.

This session is for you if you:

- Have a sales, customer service or administrative/reception role at a company, non-profit, educational institution, professional association or government;
- Are an entrepreneur developing your client base and network;
- Manage staff and report to higher-level personnel;
- Are interested in gaining these skills in order to advance your career.

Mon, July 27, 2020, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CDT

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2. Webinar: Fostering Sustainable Livelihoods for Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Emerging Models from Sub-Saharan Africa

<https://seepnetwork.org/Event/Fostering-Sustainable-Livelihoods-for-Adolescent-Girls-and-Young-Women-Emerging-Models-from-Sub-Saharan-Africa>

This webinar will feature several models and donor perspectives for facilitating market linkages for vulnerable adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe. These models are critical in fostering their economic empowerment and agency to stay HIV-free and safe from violence.

We'll hear from program implementers and donors about the key challenges young women in these settings face and the pathways that can enable them to become successful entrepreneurs and employees - even in traditionally male-dominated sectors. Panelists will also discuss the implications of COVID-19 for economic strengthening.

Thursday, August 6, 9:00 - 10:00 am (US EDT)

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3. Survey: Help shape the next Women Deliver Conference

<https://womendeliver.org/>

Women Deliver Conferences are where the world comes together to advance gender equality. To make the Women Deliver 2022 Conference as relevant and impactful as possible, we must co-create it with our valued community. (That's you!)

- What do you think will have the greatest impact on gender equality in the next two years?
- What are your ideas on how to meaningfully engage diverse communities around the world in the conference?
- What topics and speakers do you want to see reflected in the program?

Take part in the WD2022 Global Community Consultation — a short survey in English, French, and Spanish — **by 7 August**. To thank you for participating in this survey, a random draw will grant one free entry to the Women Deliver 2022 Conference to one participant.

The survey will take only 5-10 minutes to complete but will have a tremendous impact on the design of WD2022. We thank you in advance for your valuable input.

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4. ONLINE: Welcome to business - Agribusiness 2020

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/online-welcome-to-business-agribusiness-2020-tickets-113163226256>

<https://www.facebook.com/MWAF204/posts/621218348515161>

This session helps you explore the advantages and challenges of being self-employed. You will receive information regarding resources and services from our partners: Farm Credit Canada, Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development and World Trade Centre Winnipeg (WTC Winnipeg). Afterwards, an experienced Women’s Enterprise Center of Manitoba (WECM) facilitator will guide you through the resources available to help you put your idea into action and answer frequently asked questions including:

1. What is a business plan?
2. How do I register my business name?
3. Do I require any special licenses or permits?
4. How do I finance my idea?

After this session, Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food MWAF will offer workshops with in-depth instructions to develop your business plan. The business plan is a critical tool for outlining the strategy and tactics you need to manage your business. Guided by WECM, the workshops will be offered in a small group setting so there is lots of time for discussions. These follow up sessions will be partly subsidized by MWAF until the funds are used up. If you completed this introductory, Welcome to Business session, the \$20 fee you paid will be credited toward the next sessions.

Tue, August 18, 2020, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM CDT

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5. Lessons learned regarding how the Government of Canada and its partners support women’s rights organizations

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9pZqiPwEToqq_6eJZiQWpg

Aug 18, 2020 12:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada) in French

English: 13:00-14:00

CCIC and the Women’s Rights Policy Group invite you to join us to discuss lessons learned regarding how the Government of Canada and its partners support women’s rights organizations. Drawing on experiences of Canadian civil society partners with the Women’s Voice and Leadership, this event will include an engaging discussion on how feminist approaches can enable civil society organizations, partners and Global Affairs Canada to adjust to new realities and work to ensure effective support for women’s leadership rights organizations and feminist movements around the world.

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6. The 14th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change

<https://www.iied.org/cba14-local-solutions-global-action>

The community-based adaptation (CBA) conference series has established itself as the leading global, practitioner-focused climate adaptation conference. Now in its 14th year, the event prides itself on a commitment to creating space for grassroots and local perspectives to be heard through interactive workshop sessions shaped and facilitated by the participants themselves.

This year, we will be holding the conference online so that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, grassroots perspectives are not lost at a pivotal moment for climate justice and global development.

To make the conference as accessible and inclusive as possible, CBA14 will feature a range of ways to interact, network, hold dialogues, and build skills and knowledge. It will be accessible through mobile phones and computers, using several different online platforms and tools.

CBA14 will focus on five key themes and will aim to address these questions:

- i. Climate finance: how can public and private sector finance be accountably and transparently mobilised to scale up climate action, while remaining inclusive?
- ii. Adaptation technology: how can technology be used to bring about adaptation at national level, and be integrated through policy and finance?
- iii. Responsive policy: how can social movements inform policy that is ambitious enough to meet the Paris Agreement targets and improve climate adaptation for communities?
- iv. Nature-based solutions: how can nature-based solutions be made to work for people, nature and climate?
- v. Youth stream: how can we transform our institutions so that they can take advantage of young people's participation in delivering local level adaptation?

CBA14 will take place online from 22-24 September 2020.

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7. Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change

<https://www.iied.org/14th-international-conference-community-based-adaptation-climate-change>

Registration for the 14th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA14) is open! It's been a long road to get here but we're delighted that the CBA14 online event will be from **21-25 September 2020**.

CBA14 will focus on five key themes and will aim to address these questions:

- i. Climate finance: how can public and private sector finance be accountably and transparently mobilised to scale up climate action, while remaining inclusive?
- ii. Adaptation technology: how can technology be used to bring about adaptation at the national level, and be integrated through policy and finance?
- iii. Responsive policy: how can social movements inform policy that is ambitious enough to meet the Paris Agreement targets and improve climate adaptation for communities?
- iv. Nature-based solutions: how can nature-based solutions be made to work for people, nature and climate?
- v. Youth stream: how can we transform our institutions so that they can take advantage of young people's participation in delivering local-level adaptation?

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8. The 2021 AIAEE Call for Abstracts and Sessions

<https://aiaee2021.weebly.com/call-for-proposals.html>

The Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) Scholarly Activities Committee is requesting proposals for refereed abstracts relating to international agricultural and extension education to be presented at the 37th Annual Conference. Topics relating to the conference theme "Mediterranean Agriculture, Food and Environment" are encouraged, but all submissions will be given full consideration. The purpose of abstracts is to share the following:

- Research - reporting on the systematic investigation into and study of materials and resources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
- Application - documenting a practical and/or field experience of applied extension education and/or agricultural education.
- Theoretical/Philosophical - proposition to generate new knowledge concerned with or involving the theory of a subject or area of study rather than its practical application.
- Innovative Models of Education Programming - present a concept or idea that reflects innovative educational approaches for AIAEE - relevant audiences.

The deadline for submitting proposals for abstracts is Thursday, October 1, 2020 by 11:59 EDT.

The deadline for submitting **proposals for professional development sessions** relating to international agricultural and extension education is **Thursday, October 15, 2020 by 11:59 EDT**. No late proposals will be accepted. All proposals should be submitted through the Qualtrics form: https://uidaho.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3ELcykE3kq73dOd

The conference is planned to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, **April 12 – 15, 2021**. <https://aiaee2021.weebly.com/>

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9. Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference is going virtual!

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2020virtual/>

The Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference is created for every woman who is passionate about agriculture and food, whether you are a university student studying agriculture, producer, entrepreneur, representative of a grower association or corporate agribusiness. AWC is for women who want to enhance their family life, community, career, and industry. Connect with like-minded women passionate about agriculture and food. Get ready for a great virtual conference experience on **November 24 & 25, 2020**:

- hear from speakers on a wide variety of topics
- connect with women attending the virtual conference in sessions, chat rooms, round tables and more
- visit sponsoring companies and their staff at their virtual booth
- ask questions during presentations through live or private chats
- tune into the conference from your computer, tablet or mobile phone
- watch presentations again until December 31, 2020

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This Month's News

1. 2020 Canadian Society of Animal Science Award Recipients

Canadian Journal of Animal Science, <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjas-2020-0108>

Among the awards:

- Canadian Society of Animal Science Fellowship to Dr. Christiane Girard, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Young Scientist Award to Dr. Katie Wood, University of Guelph
- Honorary Lifetime Memberships
- Undergraduate Academic Achievement Awards
- Graduate Student Travel Fellowships

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2. New program to empower women entrepreneurs in agriculture

<https://www.mwaf.ca/events-opportunities>

The non-profit Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food (MWAF) is launching a program titled “Business Training and Development” for women who have a business idea or who already own a business and wish to grow it. The goals are to empower women entrepreneurs in agribusiness and offer a solution to unemployment in order to increase their participation in the industry and contribute to the sector’s growth and capacity for innovation. The program is complemented by a series of webinars for all women who work in the sector.

The gender gap in business, including agribusiness, has been documented. The Canadian Agricultural HR Council found that female entrepreneurs rarely are the sole owners of their farms, and when they are, the farms are smaller than average and

experience a higher than average turnover rate. The Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH) reports that female entrepreneurs face barriers to financing, networking, training and mentors.

Fostering women's entrepreneurship would pay off.

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3. OPINION: Opening opportunities for gender equality in the transition to sustainable energy

<https://www.energia.org/women-leaders-call-for-action-in-response-to-covid-19-opening-opportunities-for-gender-equality-in-the-transition-to-sustainable-energy/>

Understanding the connections between the present pandemic, the looming climate crisis, and long-standing gender disparities can help us devise solutions with multiple benefits. As economies re-open and governments include sustainable energy options in recovery packages, we see four major opportunities to address long-standing inequalities and promote women's empowerment in the energy sector:

- Women and men should get equal opportunities to participate in and support the clean energy economy, as entrepreneurs and employees, and equal funding and investment for their businesses;
- The energy sector must mitigate gender-based vulnerabilities that have worsened with the pandemic, in health care, gender-based violence, and the digital economy;
- Women need better energy access and suitable appliances to support their roles in the care economy. Clean cooking is of special importance here.
- Women need to have a place at the table – or create their own tables – when strategies about energy transitions and post recovery strategies are planned and decided on.

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4. COVID-19 market survey: Off-grid businesses in crisis – EnDev proposes instruments for green recovery

https://endev.info/content/COVID-19_market_survey:_off-grid_businesses_in_crisis_%E2%80%93_EnDev_proposes_instruments_for_green_recovery

EnDev conducted a COVID-19 market survey in 23 countries, involving about 700 small and medium-sized companies. It shows that companies across the off-grid sector are severely impacted by the pandemic.

The companies surveyed encompass a variety of sub-sectors including improved and clean cooking, biogas, household solar PV and mini-grids. The survey shows that companies are confronted with severe liquidity constraints, forcing them to scale down their operations, reduce salaries, lay-off staff, or seek for alternative businesses or close down their operations.

The crisis has a particular impact on local energy companies, which are being left behind by most existing support instruments. EnDev proposes a comprehensive set of support interventions to address the needs along the value chain. Helping the actors on supply side to survive the crisis, will pave the way for green economic recovery in partner countries.

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5. Survey shows more positive view of gender equality in agriculture

<https://www.producer.com/2020/07/survey-shows-more-positive-view-of-gender-equality-in-agriculture>

Agriculture continues to make strides as an equal opportunity employer, according to one human resources expert. "We want to make sure people are aware that there are vast opportunities in agriculture and that they're a fit for anyone that wants to put in the time and effort to be a successful candidate," said Erika Osmundson at AgCareers.com.

For more than 20 years, AgCareers.com has matched job seekers and employers in the agriculture industry. Osmundson said conventional images about gender-based career roles are becoming a thing of the past.

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6. Blog Post: How can farmers in Ethiopia work safe and smart during COVID-19 lockdown?

<https://www.iied.org/how-can-farmers-ethiopia-work-safe-smart-during-covid-19-lockdown>

Professor Molla and students at Wollo University have been discussing: how can farmers continue working safely on their farms? What measures can be taken to maintain physical distance in the marketplaces? What does farming under lockdown look like – and what are the options for keeping farmers safe while work goes on?

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7. The Goan Village Women Helping Mitigate Plastic Pollution by Making Eco-friendly Sanitary Pads

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/06/the-goan-village-women-helping-mitigate-plastic-pollution-by-making-eco-friendly-sanitary-pads/>

PILGAON/GOA, India, Jun 30 2020 (IPS) - Jayashree Parwar has not traveled much outside of her village of Bicholim in the western coastal Indian state of Goa. But the homemaker-turned-social-entrepreneur has been reaching women in dozens of cities across the country with a hygiene product she makes at home along with women from her community.

Called Sakhi (friend in Hindi), the plastic-free sanitary pad is Goa's first menstrual hygiene product made with organic materials. The Sakhi sanitary pad is completely natural, comprising pinewood fibre, non-woven cloth, and butter paper. The pad com

posts in eight days.

According to a 2018 joint report by Water Aid India and the Menstrual Hygiene Alliance of India, women and girls here use a whopping 12 billion sanitary pads annually. Depending on the materials used in the making of the sanitary pads, they could take up to 800 years to decompose, the report says. Currently, most sanitary pads have over 90 percent composition plastics — the equivalent of four plastic bags.

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8. Leaders Training for Women Cocoa Farmers in Côte d'Ivoire

<https://www.fairtrade.net/news/womens-school-of-leadership-graduates-forge-a-new-path-for-women-cocoa-farmers>

The Women's School of Leadership in Côte d'Ivoire, developed by Fairtrade Africa in 2017 and funded by Co-op and Compass Group UK & Ireland, is an innovative programme that brings women cocoa farmers together for a year of training and mentorship on topics of human rights and gender equality, as well as financial management, negotiation, and income diversification project development.

This week, thirty women from seven different Fairtrade certified cocoa cooperatives are graduating from the programme, following in the footsteps of 22 participants who completed the programme in 2018. Ten men also participated in this year's programme and are prepared to serve as allies and advocates within their communities and households.

The graduation was held on 14 July in four different locations connected by video conference, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Health and safety precautions included no more than 22 people gathered in one location, same-day transportation provided to all participants to avoid use of public transport, social distancing and mask usage required, sanitization of venues, handwashing stations and hygiene kits provided to staff and participants. The participants, along

with Fairtrade Africa staff, government representatives and the programme funders, were able to join together virtually to celebrate the progress over the past year.

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9. Are Women-led Start-ups Key to Sustainability in Senegal?

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/07/are-women-led-startups-key-to-sustainability-in-senegal/>

According to VC4A — an organisation that provides technical and financial support to start-up ventures globally and in Senegal — there are 128 registered start-ups in the West African nation, over a dozen of which are owned by women.

However, it is often assumed that the number of women-owned start-ups are much higher as many women entrepreneurs hesitate to register their businesses due to high taxes, which include 18 percent Value Added Tax (VAT) and 30 percent company taxes.

However, the introduction of the Senegal Startup Act promises to provide support for start-ups, while easing their tax burden.

The law was passed in December 2019 after 19 months of intense consultation and discussions among 60 Senegalese innovation enthusiasts, 20 start-up supporter organisations and government representatives, including the tax authority, and the education and economy and finance ministries.

The law aims to promote and provide tax breaks and other benefits to innovative new businesses in various fields, ranging from food and agriculture to health and mobile banking. Senegal is only the second African country after Tunisia to have such a law supporting start-ups.

Perhaps it will create an encouraging environment for women entrepreneurs, but the law itself has no special provisions for them.

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10. Inadequate Water & Sanitation Threatens Women's & Girls' Development in Senegal

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/07/inadequate-water-sanitation-threatens-womens-girls-development-in-senegal/>

In urban Senegal, water shortages have been frequent for several years, affecting thousands of households. But this summer, the shortage has been more acute, as most homes have seen their taps run dry or reduced to a trickle.

Because of the coronavirus, families need extra water for maintaining cleanliness and frequent handwashing. But there is another reason why they need additional water. In a few weeks time, Muslim families will sacrifice a livestock animal to mark Tabaski. The animals need water to maintain weight gain.

Many community schools don't have enough water; there are no separate toilets for girls and some menstruating girls are shy to use a shared toilet. Only one percent of schools in Senegal have separate toilets for girls. Experts say that the core reason behind this is the low priority attached to girls' education. Although the government has been focusing on girls' enrolment at elementary level, the focus on improving their water and sanitation needs has remained a neglected subject.

According to Global Waters, an agency supported by the USAID Center for Water Security, Sanitation, and Hygiene, 49 percent people in Senegal lack access to proper sanitation facilities while 20 percent of Senegalese don't have access to safe drinking water. For them the only source of water are open wells and rivulets. So they drink non-potable, unfiltered and untreated water.

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1. New guidance for researchers aiming to scale results: Scaling Playbook

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/news/new-guidance-researchers-aiming-scale-results>

“Scaling impact” implies optimizing results in ways that will matter to people and our planet. IDRC approaches scaling as a means to achieve impact that matters, yet challenges the predominant more-is-better paradigm of scaling.

Developed from lessons that emerged through an exploration of IDRC-supported research, the Scaling Playbook is based on the premise that scaling in research for development requires ongoing attention from the first steps of framing a research project through to its implementation, reporting, sharing, and beyond. It provides guidance to researchers through each stage of a typical research process to help put scaling intentions into action and to encourage researchers to revisit scaling plans on an ongoing basis. The Playbook includes case studies that demonstrate how some IDRC grantees have integrated scaling into their research, as well as workbooks to facilitate easy uptake of the tool by research teams.

Available in English, French and Spanish.

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2. Book - Scaling Impact: Innovation for the Public Good

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/book/scaling-impact-innovation-public-good>

Available as pdf, Epub, HTML5, or by book order.

Scaling Impact introduces a new and practical approach to scaling the positive impacts of research and innovation. Inspired by leading scientific and entrepreneurial innovators from across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East, this book presents a synthesis of unrivalled diversity and grounded ingenuity. The result is a different perspective on how to achieve impact that matters, and an important challenge to the predominant more-is-better paradigm of scaling.

For organizations and individuals working to change the world for the better, scaling impact is a common goal and a well-founded aim. The world is changing rapidly, and seemingly intractable problems like environmental degradation or accelerating inequality press us to do better for each other and our environment as a global community. Challenges like these appear to demand a significant scale of action, and here the authors argue that a more creative and critical approach to scaling is both possible and essential.

To encourage uptake and co-development, the authors present actionable principles that can help organizations and innovators design, manage, and evaluate scaling strategies. Scaling Impact is essential reading for development and innovation practitioners and professionals, but also for researchers, students, evaluators, and policymakers with a desire to spark meaningful change.

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3. Engagement of Women and Gender-related Groups in the Climate Investment Funds: An Assessment

https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/sites/cif_enc/files/knowledge-documents/wedo_final_report_7april2020.pdf

Alongside Climate Investment Funds (CIF), we are excited to publish this assessment that examines crucial aspects of gender and the global climate finance system. This report, assessing the engagement of women and gender-related groups, is embedded within a landscape of global climate finance that increasingly recognizes the role of women and diverse stakeholders in providing differentiated perspectives that contribute to more effective program design thereby helping to ensure project sustainability.

Evidence suggests that the inclusion of women in climate processes improves the effectiveness and efficiency of technical assistance and development funding, enhances social justice, alleviates poverty and increases global sustainability, and improves impact of disbursed climate finance. This assessment intends to support CIF-wide goals on gender mainstreaming, while also providing important transferable learning to other climate finance mechanisms.

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4. Women Entrepreneur Series: Expanding Access to Biogas During a Pandemic

<https://www.cleancookingalliance.org/about/news/06-09-2020-women-entrepreneur-series-expanding-access-to-biogas-during-a-pandemic.html>

Sistema.bio, a Mexico-based social enterprise manufactures, distributes, installs, and finances biodigesters that convert waste into cooking energy and fertilizer. Sistema.bio was also recently selected to join the Clean Cooking Alliance's new Venture Catalyst portfolio. This interview is the first in a series showcasing women entrepreneurs in the clean cooking sector.

The pandemic has, of course, imposed some unique challenges. With travel restrictions remaining in place in Kenya, Sistema.bio has had to identify novel ways of maintaining a steady stream of new clients.

One solution Sistema.bio has found useful is coordinating with referral programs or local organizations that can connect them with new markets. Another sales strategy is motivating sales agents with bonuses and other financial incentives that are paid the same day, rather than at the end of the month. With many families' expenses increasing due to children and other family members spending more time at home, this source of instant financial relief and job security has proven to be extremely beneficial.

Part of the traditional sales package that Sistema.bio offers after the installation of a new biodigester is a set of three, in-person trainings for each client. For the second of these trainings, Sistema.bio has been able to transition nearly 80% of visits to phone-based assistance (in-person training is still available if customers require extra support).

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5. Podcast: Youth-Powered Agricultural Development

<https://foodtank.com/news/2020/06/new-on-the-podcast-dr-felix-kwame-yeboah-on-youth-powered-agricultural-development/>

Dr. Yeboah's publications at https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/yeboah_felix

Dr. Felix Kwame Yeboah, social science researcher and professor of international development at Michigan State University discusses his recent work at the intersection of land access, youth livelihoods and agricultural policy in sub-Saharan Africa.

Topics include: Harvest, markets, closed borders, inputs for agricultural activities, food insecurity related to lockdowns, livestock feed store closures as a result of COVID-19, aging of labour force working in agriculture, resources + skill-set of youth is missing from full-time agriculture, how to attract youth to agriculture [funds, return to labour, profitable, technology in agriculture] , appropriate technology [local R&D], cooperative extension systems, research, value of small and medium scale agriculture, continue investments in agriculture : Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) , land ownership/constraints, land management practices, investors, youth access to land, impact of longevity on land inheritance, migration; investments needed in youth: education/sciences, land, financing agriculture, market access and infrastructure, technology/information access, mentorship; barriers to women in agriculture: similar to youth barriers, cultural barriers, community education, banks; agricultural growth leads to stronger economies through multiplier effect [e.g. increased housing, consumer activity, off-farm jobs]; preparation for COVID-19 responses [food distribution systems, infrastructure, weaknesses/hygiene in wet markets, value of community networks especially for women traders]; hand-washing machine.

Countries part of the research included Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia for a total of 33% of Sub-Saharan African population.

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6. Report: Driving social change for sustainable decisions: Gender-inclusive agricultural transformation

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/driving-social-change-sustainable-decisions-gender-inclusive-agricultural-transformation#.Xw8HUSHKjIV>

What lessons have we learned about building capacity and empowering farmers, consumers, women, and youth to achieve transformative change in the food system? We need to encourage producers, business owners, researchers, investors, and policymakers to innovate in ways that promote gender equality and opportunities for youth. We also need to support empowering strategies with women and men farmers on the ground, like participation in collective action, such as farmers' organizations (FOs) and self-help groups. We can also empower women and promote their resilience by enabling them to access the inputs, information, and resources required to adopt climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices. These actions also increase agency through shared decision making with men in communities and households.

What do we need to do to promote gender-inclusive transformation?

To empower women and achieve gender-inclusive agricultural transformation, policy and implementation must be informed by gender-disaggregated data as well as evidence on gendered trade-offs, benefits, opportunities, and vulnerabilities. Different business models need to be tested, including digital models, to identify what works for low-income women and men farmers when venturing into farming businesses.

We need to move beyond tracking the participation of women and men in projects to understanding the gendered impacts of our research. This includes using an intersectional approach—taking into account ethnicity, race, religion, and age as well as gender. Finally, we need to tap into existing global commitments and networks to move the gender-inclusive transformation agenda forward—from local to global scales.

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7. Report: Civil society engagement with the Feminist International Assistance Policy

Organizational and human resource capacity for addressing gender equality: Civil society engagement with the Feminist International Assistance Policy

<https://ccic.ca/report-organizational-and-human-resource-capacity-for-addressing-gender-equality-civil-society-engagement-with-the-feminist-international-assistance-policy/>

<https://ccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GE-Analysis-Report-Final-June-5-2020-1.pdf>

Through a survey of 45 Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) and key informant interviews, this study examined how CSOs have made progress towards addressing gender equality as a result of the development and launch of the Feminist International Assistance Policy in 2017. The survey examined operational investments that affected financial, technical and human resources in project implementation processes. Supported by CASID-CCIC Next Generation Program, l'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), MITACS and the University of Ottawa, this report provides recommendations for CSOs and Global Affairs Canada.

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8. Report: Evicted by Climate Change: Confronting the Gendered Impacts of Climate-Induced Displacement

<https://care.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CARE-Climate-Migration-Report.pdf>

The international aid organization CARE launched a new report, *Evicted by Climate Change: Confronting the Gendered Impacts of Climate-Induced Displacement*, highlighting the causes and consequences of climate-induced displacement and the urgent need for a gender-transformative response.

In 2019, 33.4 million people were newly displaced people, 70% of which were due to climate-related disasters. Climate change displacement is further compounded for women and girls in developing countries that are disproportionately impacted. For example, in 2018 more than half of the 41 million people internally displaced were women. Climate-induced displacement must be understood, and policy responses developed, through the intersecting lenses of gender, climate and social justice. The report highlights the urgent need for more women’s leadership and greater financial support for gender-just solutions to climate-induced displacement.

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9. Video: Feminist Chocolate

<https://vimeo.com/433958898>

From Fairtrade International: The Fairtrade-certified chocolate factory in Honduras is run mainly by women, leading a revival of cocoa production. Follow us to Honduras, where Alejandra Lemus talks about breaking deeply rooted patterns of machism, by creating Latin America's first feminist chocolate.

10. Blog: Cocoa Production

<https://www.fairtrade.net/news/women-create-chocolate-to-combat-climate-change>

In the heart of Copán, Honduras – home of Mayan ruins and the birthplace of cocoa – the new Xol chocolate factory has just come into operation, run by around 20 young women. The factory was built with a \$3 million investment by the Fairtrade certified coop COAGRICSA that the women belong to. It comes on the tails of their own visionary planting programme of so far more than 1.2 million cocoa trees and another 300,000 canopy trees to shade the cocoa.

“Giving women the chance to take key positions of responsibility and taking serious action on the climate is not just good for us,” says Alejandra Lemus, who is in charge of production in the factory. “It’s good for our families and our communities, for everyone.”

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11. Webinar: Gender Equality Crucial in ‘Building Back Better’ Post-COVID-19

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/07/gender-equality-crucial-in-building-back-better-post-covid-19/>

NAIROBI, Jul 15 2020 (IPS) - While men are more likely to die from COVID-19, women are facing the full blow of the socio-economic fallout from the ongoing pandemic as well as seeing a reversal in equality gains made over the last two decades, says an all-women panel of international thought leaders, who met virtually during a discussion convened by IPS.

“The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women and Girls” took place on Tuesday, Jul. 14, with the aim to bring to the fore the dangers of neglecting gender dimensions in COVID-19 response and recovery plans.

While experts are still gathering data on the current crisis, recent past studies show that women are more affected by food insecurity than men, often allocating food to others before themselves.

“The pandemic is showing us how women are facing heightened levels of gender-based violence (GBV). It is also showing us how insufficient our social protection systems are with respect to sick leave, parental leave, child care, health care, and unemployment subsidies,” Papp of Women Deliver said.

Sherif, of Education Cannot Wait, said that the closure of schools and other educational settings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has deprived young girls of a protective environment.

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12. Proceedings of Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE)

https://www.aiaee.org/attachments/category/192/AIAEE_2020_programproceedings_finalspreads.pdf

The 2020 Accepted Conference Proceedings of the 35th Annual Conference of AIAEE (cancelled due to COVID-19) April 20-23, 2020 are now available.

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13. Gender Data Series: Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls

<https://pages.devex.com/gender-data-covid19#upcoming-event>

The COVID-19 outbreak has uncovered pressure points impacting women and girls across an array of key issues including rise of gender-based violence, reduced capacity to earn a living, increased risks faced by female health workers on the frontline of the fight, and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Devex and Facebook are launching a series of 10 practical virtual events to create a better understanding of the gender-related issues highlighted by the current pandemic and to share important lessons learned about how data can help inform better responses to the current crisis.

For example, Event 7 on Using data to support women entrepreneurs during COVID-19: Shattered markets and decreased mobility are threatening many women-led small businesses during COVID-19. Social distancing measures, disrupted supply chains, and decreasing global demand for certain goods have already had a detrimental impact on women entrepreneurs around the world, intensifying existing barriers such as limited access to finance and lack of social safety nets.

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14. Chart of the month - COVID-19 Agriculture Dashboard

<https://app.60decibels.com/covid-19/agriculture#explore>

The organization 60 decibels just launched our COVID-19 Agriculture Dashboard (generously funded by DFID’s Research and Evidence Division), to understand how Kenyan farmers are faring in the face of floods, locusts, and a national curfew.

Unfortunately, the impact has been big: input costs are increasing as the prices farmers receive for crops are decreasing. The impact isn't just on smallholder farmers directly: 95% are cutting back on days of hired farm labor. This is likely to be having significant impacts on the most vulnerable members of rural supply-chains, migrant workers. When asked what would help farmers the most, two-thirds mentioned cash or food donations.

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15. Use Cases and Cost Breakdown of Off-Grid Refrigeration Systems

<https://efficiencyforaccess.org/publications/use-cases-and-cost-breakdown-of-off-grid-refrigeration-systems>

<https://storage.googleapis.com/e4a-website-assets/Use-Cases-and-Cost-Breakdown-of-Off-Grid-Refrigeration-Systems-Report.pdf>

The organization 60 decibels worked with Efficiency for Access (CLASP) to understand the impact of solar refrigerators. For 93% of the people we listened to, this was their first ever refrigerator. The impact of having one? Like a cool drink in summer: access to refrigeration has boosted savings in the home, increased sales in small businesses, and increased well-being. One respondent in Tanzania reports: “I am able to keep my foods and fruits safe. Food poisoning has been controlled and I save more because I can buy in bulk and store.” One more interesting nugget: one-third of users are using their refrigerators to store medicine, which points to the positive multiplier effects of access to refrigeration.

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16. Report: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020

<http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/CA9692EN.pdf>

Some messages:

Considering the total affected by moderate or severe food insecurity, an estimated 2 billion people in the world did not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food in 2019.

At the global level, the prevalence of food insecurity at moderate or severe level, and severe level only, is higher among women than men. The gender gap in accessing food increased from 2018 to 2019.

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17. Reducing Post-Harvest Losses through Better Gender Integration

<https://www.agrilinks.org/post/reducing-postharvest-losses-through-better-gender-integration>

The INGENAES Gender Technology Assessment tool is a successful method to assess a technology’s gender sensitivity and develop solutions to address barriers. In Bangladesh, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) researchers utilized the Gender Technology Assessment tool to assess the gender sensitivity of hermetic bags and the BAU-STR dryers promoted within the PHLIL project. The gender assessment of the technologies highlighted the role of women in post-harvest activities. The assessment revealed that women farmers saved time and labor by using hermetic storage for storing paddy seeds.

In conclusion, improved drying and storage technologies have the potential to save women’s time and labor, and play both a direct and an indirect role in increasing smallholder farmers’ income. Improved post-harvest technologies can enhance all four dimensions of smallholder families’ food security - increasing physical availability, improving economic access, ensuring safe utilization, and improving stability by providing continuous access to cereals, and thereby enabling community resilience. However, programs promoting improved drying and storage technologies need to consider and address gender and constraints to ensure that women smallholders benefit from the process.

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18. An Analysis of Civil Society Organizations’ Experiences with the Women’s Voice and Leadership Program

<https://ccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WVL-report.pdf>

Women’s Voice and Leadership (WVL) is a flagship initiative of Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP). It is an innovative and path-breaking program of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) that aims to get financing and support to women’s rights organizations (WROs) via country- and region-specific WVL Programs, managed by civil society organizations. It currently spans 30 countries and regions and has committed \$174 million in contributions.

This document provides key insights from an analysis of the application process to implement WVL projects. The findings and recommendations are based on a survey and a workshop conducted by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation and the Women’s Rights Policy Group.

An opportunity to discuss lessons learned regarding how the Government of Canada and its partners support women's rights organizations on August 18 (under Upcoming Events).

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19. Replication Data for: Development of the Project-Level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml>

The project-level Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI) is a survey-based index designed for use by agriculture development projects to measure project impacts on women’s empowerment, diagnose areas of women’s disempowerment, and inform strategies to address deficiencies in specific settings. Pro-WEAI was developed jointly by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), and 13 agricultural development projects in Africa and South Asia as part of the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, Phase 2 (GAAP2). Pro-WEAI is an adaptation of the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), originally developed in 2012 by IFPRI, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and OPHI. This data package contains baseline data from five GAAP2 projects and Stata .do files necessary for replicating the results of Malapit et al. (2019). The data include all items needed to calculate pro-WEAI, as well as the basic demographic information (gender and household type) used in the analysis.

To execute the replication, use the “read me document” that will take you step-by-step through the process. Anyone can access these files.

The questionnaire used to collect the data can be found here. <https://ars.els-cdn.com/content/image/1-s2.0-S0305750X19301706-mmc1.docx>

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