



Acer ginnala tree with fall colour. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Webinar: The Role of Land Certification in Securing Women’s Land Rights on Collective Lands

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6729584409491055116>

You are invited to join The Research Consortium by Resource Equity on **Tuesday, November 19, 2019, from 9:00am to 10:30am (ET)**, to learn how formalization of collectively held land rights secures women’s rights. This webinar aims to explore the question: under what conditions might formalization of collective tenure improve women’s tenure security?

Panelists will address the following questions:

- What mechanisms can help ensure that women’s rights are protected equally with those of men in different processes for formalizing land rights?
- What lessons, challenges, or questions remain on how to ensure gender-equitable outcomes in different processes for formalizing land rights?
- What are the most important enabling conditions for achieving gender equity in outcomes?
- What kinds of data are helpful in answering these questions?
- What are the next steps for the research community?

Speakers: John Leckie, Land Investment for Transformation Programme (LIFT) – DAI-Global; Iliana Monterosso, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Paul Ntegeka, Associates Research Trust-Uganda.

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2. Imagining Rural Futures Conference

<https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/event/imagining-rural-futures-conference/>

June 18 to 19, 2020 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

The year 2020 is a great time to look ahead and explore what change might look like in the year 2040.

Future of Planning Rural Regions – How do we plan for the future of rural? Is it interconnected with urban counterparts, while at times frustrated by urban-centred thinking and policy? What knowledge, tools and techniques can help us inform an integrated regional approach today for a more resilient rural future?

Future of Rural People – How will the population of rural change by 2040? How can we start adapting to and supporting trends today be they on aging, stable and even declining population levels? A labour force with employment-ready skills?

Future of Rural Development – What could rural economy and services look like in 2040? What areas do rural regions need to improve now to participate in the current and future digital economy more effectively? What about the infrastructure deficit in rural Canada?

Future of Agriculture and Food – How will agriculture and food change by 2040? How do we improve food security and sustainability today? What protein advantage will feed more? How are we adapting to climate variations and extreme weather events?

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This Month's News

1. What MIT Media Lab's funding scandal says about sexism in tech

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/pringle-tech-mit-media-lab-1.5296793>

How does a renowned educational institution dubbed "the Future Factory" reconcile its role as both an influential pipeline to the tech industry and a school whose leadership aligned itself with a known sexual predator?

It's a question that staff and students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are grappling with, after multiple reports revealed that the MIT Media Lab accepted — and covered up — millions of dollars in donations from billionaire Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted criminal who served time for procuring the services of an underage girl for prostitution.

But while the Media Lab is at the centre of the scandal, experts point out, the issues at the core of the controversy are prevalent across the tech industry.

The funding scandal puts the lie to all of the industry's initiatives to bring more diversity into the stream of STEM fields — what's known as the "pipeline." Simply filling the ranks with more women is misguided, Coe said, because it still puts the onus on women to "break into" the field as opposed to putting pressure on the establishment to be more welcoming.

"More needs to be done," said Canadian aerospace engineer Natalie Panek. She said she is often asked what advice she would give to women who are deterred from STEM.

"This question needs to be reframed as: How can we dismantle the systemic barriers that drive women out of STEM?" The onus is not on women, she said, but on the institutions and people in positions of power "to make STEM environments more inclusive, and to ensure there is transparency in processes and decision-making."

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2. Women Climate Leaders Face 'Green Rage' Attacks

<https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2019/09/16/Green-Rage-Against-Women/>

Women leaders who support climate action are being attacked online with increasing regularity. These attacks should be viewed as a problem not only for the planet, but also to the goals of achieving gender equality and more inclusive, democratic politics. Unfortunately, vitriol directed at women leaders who support climate action is becoming more frequent in Canada and beyond. Attacks against women climate leaders specifically can be further explained by the relationship between misogyny and climate denialism.

Understanding the complex and challenging terrain women leaders must navigate is an important requirement of an informed electorate.

While some women politicians like McKenna have attempted to tackle head on the problem of online attacks against them, it should not be left to women alone to combat this issue. Dismantling patriarchal assumptions about gender is not just good for women, it is also good for men — and for the planet.

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3. Investing in gender equality for transformative climate actions

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/9/news-investing-in-gender-equality-for-climate-actions>

At the UN Climate Action Summit in New York, members of the UN discussed how to raise ambitions to address the climate crisis. The aim is to strengthen the efforts to implement the Paris Agreement and to reach the goal of limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C. One of the announced commitments is the integration of gender equality in climate change measures.

Gender-Specific Initiative is available at https://www.klimaat.be/files/4615/6927/1139/UN-ClimateAction-2019_b_gender.pdf

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4. This 14-year-old has a science lab in her basement and will be talking biotech at MIT

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/teen-biologist-mit-1.5313595>

When Patricia Rea finishes her school day and her homework, the 14-year-old heads straight to the basement and gets to work in her science lab.

Her recent research: genetically engineering yeast and proteins from eelpout — an eel-like finned fish — with hopes she can make them survive long-term in extreme heat and cold, like the conditions on Mars.

Justin Pahara, the head scientist at the Alberta-based biotechnology company Amino Labs, and one of her mentors said Rea's research is pushing the boundaries in biology.

Her parents say they do their best to treat science as if it's any other extra-curricular activity. "We probably spend the same amount of money for lab supplies and equipment as someone equipping a goalie for a hockey team," said Jim.

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5. Women Changing Food Around the World

<https://foodtank.com/news/2019/10/14-women-changing-food-around-the-world/>

Women are the backbone of agriculture and food systems worldwide—according to The World Bank, women make up about half of the agricultural sector in developing countries, but they typically receive fewer resources including land, education, inputs, and financial and banking services than men. Despite these obstacles, women around the world are emerging as leaders in all corners of the food justice movement: from empowering smallholder farmers in the developing world and building food as medicine into the medical system, to re-imagining a more accessible and sustainable grocery store, their work is changing the way we eat all around the world. Here are their stories.

The article is spotlighting 14 women who are proving that the future of food justice is female: Amy and Ruth Anslow, HISBE Food (United Kingdom); Atram Padma Bai, fairtrade farmer (India); Gitanjali Rajamani, Farmizen (India); Jamila Abass, M-Farm (Kenya); Jillian Hishaw, F.A.R.M.S. (United States); Jolanda Buets and Simone Heemskerck, Por Eso! (Peru); Julie Carney, Gardens for Life (United States/Rwanda); Jyoti Fernandes, agroecological smallholder farmer (United Kingdom); Kavita Shukla, Fenugreen (United States); Pei-Ru Ko, Real Food, Real Stories (United States); Dr. Rita Nguyen, Food Pharmacies of

San Francisco (United States); Sakina Rajkotwala, Herbivore Farms (India); Saumya, Kheyti (India); and Sharon Cittone, Seeds&Chips (Italy).

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6. Celebrating women in agriculture

<https://www.politico.eu/sponsored-content/celebrating-women-in-agriculture/>

As worldwide events take place to celebrate the International Day of Rural Women (Tuesday 15 October) it is more important than ever to keep moving toward more gender-balanced agriculture

Women in agriculture play a vital role in society, and a wide-reaching study conducted by Corteva Agriscience last year found that women are all too often subject to gender discrimination which stops them from meeting their potential, stunting their ability to grow what matters.

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7. We need more women driving agri-food innovation

<https://troymedia.com/business/women-agri-food-innovation/>

A recent report on agri-tech start-up funding provided some compelling numbers but it barely received attention. And when it comes to what it reveals about gender discrepancies, it deserves attention. More and more venture capital is being invested in the sector, which is great news. But these funds apparently aren't serving all demographics equally. Some are left behind, most importantly women. The report is from the United States, but we can suspect the same scenario is happening in Canada.

According to Money Where Our Mouths Are, released in early October 2019, some serious gaps exist between how well men are supported in new ventures compared to women. The report is the first investigation into funding disparities between female and male founders in the agri-food sector.

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8. Announcement of New President and Chief Executive Officer for Ag-West Bio

<https://business.financialpost.com/pmnp/press-releases-pmn/business-wire-news-releases-pmn/announcement-of-new-president-and-chief-executive-officer-for-ag-west-bio>

The Board of Directors of Ag-West Bio Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Karen Churchill as the organization's next president and chief executive officer. Churchill brings to the position a wealth of knowledge and an array of experiences in the agriculture industry, on a provincial, national and global level. She will join Ag-West Bio on November 18, 2019.

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9. Rwanda's radical plan to reduce poverty by harnessing fathers' love

<https://qz.com/africa/1715055/rwandas-plan-to-reduce-poverty-by-harnessing-fathers-love/>

A team of government officials, non-profits, and academics is trying to change that with Sugira Muryango ("Strengthening Families"), a program to help parents—especially fathers—become more supportive caregivers. By improving relationships in the home, the group hopes to reduce violence, support the development of children, and ultimately reduce poverty in Rwanda.

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10. The role of women in the green economy

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/lifestyle/role-women-green-economy>

Why do we need a green economy which is gender-inclusive? Current economic models are based on discrimination and exploitation of female, non-binary and racialized body as well as the environment. To tackle climate change, marginalized groups and nature have to be included.

In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In the absence of appropriate social policies, the green economy may exacerbate existing gender inequities to the detriment of overall sustainability, says Engineer Coletha Uwineza Ruhamyia, Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA).

Aline Providence Nkundibiza, the chairperson of Rwanda Women in/and Mining Organisation, says women should be part of the movement championing a green economy because they are the ones who are affected more, and once they are part of that movement, they will be able to expose their problems, suggest solutions and even participate in the implementation.

The article reports on a study containing case studies from Brazil, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Philippines, South Africa, Uganda and Vietnam from 2012: “Women’s participation in green growth – a potential fully realised?”

<https://www.greengrowthknowledge.org/resource/womens-participation-green-growth-potential-fully-realised>

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11. Frances Anderson, Ontario Farmer Reporter

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

Thirty-five years ago, this month, Frances Anderson signed on to become a reporter at Ontario Farmer. According to Frances, Merv Hawkins delivered a 12-pound “laptop” to her home office in Listowel, along with a camera and equipment to set up a darkroom for developing print photos. Since then, she’s worked from London, where she edited the paper, in Chatham, in Exeter and now Stratford.

To this day, Frances says she still uses pens and notebooks to record interviews. When asked if she’ll see a 40th anniversary at Ontario Farmer, the seasoned reporter had this to say to readers: “If you keep reading, I’ll keep writing!”

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12. Ag politicians returned

<https://www.ontariofarmer.com/news/farm-news/ag-politicians-returned>

Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau retained her seat in Quebec by more than 3,000 votes, but Monday’s [October 21] election also returned her critics. Conservative agriculture critic Luc Berthold easily held his Quebec riding and incumbent Bloc Quebecois’ agriculture and labour critic and party whip, Simon Marcil, also easily hung onto his seat.

NDP agriculture critic Alistair MacGregor won his Vancouver Island riding, but Green Party agriculture critic Kate Storey failed in her bid to win a Manitoba riding. Liberal Ralph Goodale, who has often been spokesman for Saskatchewan farmers, was defeated after five decades in the House of Commons

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13. Canada set a new record for most elected female MPs, but advocates expected more

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6069742/elections-female-women-parliament-record/>

The October 21st, 2019 federal election saw a new record – the most female Members of Parliament elected to the House of Commons. Global News counted a total of 98 women MPs that were elected across all parties, an increase of 10 from the 2015 election and seven from the 91 female-held seats at the time parliament dissolved.

Canada’s longest serving female MP, Liberal Hedy Fry said that the problem isn’t the willingness women have to run for federal government, but rather the practical obstructions that come with working as a Member of Parliament — particularly the vast distances they would have to travel in order to get to Parliament in Ottawa, and how that can be especially tough if she has kids.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. “Money Where Our Mouths Are” Publishes Report on Female Funding in Agri-Food Tech

<https://about.crunchbase.com/blog/mwoma-female-funding-agri-foodtech/>

AgFunder, The New Food Economy, and Karen Karp & Partners, have teamed up to form MWOMA, the first-ever investigation into the funding gap between female and male founders in the Agri-Food Tech industry. Crunchbase contributed to the raw data analyzed in the report, including the founder gender data for Agri-Food Tech start-ups.

The disparity between founder gender and deal volume has stayed relatively constant over the past few years. According to the study, only 7% of deals in 2018 involved start-ups with a female-only founding team. When including those start-ups with a mixed female/male co-founding team, the percent increases to 16%.

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2. Study: The professional status of rural women in the EU

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/608868/IPOL_STU\(2019\)608868_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2019/608868/IPOL_STU(2019)608868_EN.pdf)

This document is available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses>

Abstract: This study, commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee, gives an overview of the professional status of rural women in the EU, as well as their employment situation and position in the labour market in rural areas in most relevant Member States. The study provides identification of the best practices implemented in the Member States and concludes with policy recommendations on the improvement of the employment situation and legal status of women living in rural areas of the EU. Published in May 2019.

“As the European Parliament report on the professional status of rural women in the EU shows, more business education and training is needed for women in rural areas. According to the report, this training should be personalized and focused on making business plans, developing leadership skills and bookkeeping. And if female farmers are to keep up with societal demand for a more sustainable agriculture, they need to be well versed in practical agronomy education on the latest technological solutions.”

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3. Audio: Glass obstacle course: Why so few women hold top STEM spots

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/sep-21-2019-women-in-science-special-how-science-has-done-women-wrong-1.5291077/glass-obstacle-course-why-so-few-women-hold-top-stem-spots-1.5291082>

Research shows that in Canada, these obstacles persist over the course of a female scientist's career. According to a 2012 report by the Council of Canadian Academies, women tend to occupy fewer high-ranking STEM positions than men, with their numbers steadily decreasing as the rank increases.

In addition to workplace discrimination, female scientists are often confronted with the "motherhood penalty," where they are passed over for promotions or research grants because of the time they dedicate — or plan to dedicate — to family and childcare. While academic institutions are technically not allowed to discriminate during a tenure process based on family issues, Lisa Willis says a scientist's decision to split focus between her home and work life can still affect how she is perceived by her peers.

In recent years, the Canadian government has made a number of changes to address gender inequity in STEM fields.

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4. Three Podcasts from Women in Food and Agriculture

Education Ag Tech

<https://soundcloud.com/womeninfoodandag/natalie-mccaffery-education-ag-tech>

Natalie McCaffery is a high school senior from Southern California who has developed a passion for Agriculture, Technology, and Education. Through her involvement in the Girl Scouts of America, Natalie has earned the highest distinction by bridging gaps between STEM education and Agricultural literacy for students of all ages. The mission of her non-profit organization, Education Ag Tech, is to advance the knowledge of our next generation on the importance of agriculture and how technology can be optimized and applied to farming methods, resulting in a healthier planet and population. Natalie has been leading a team in the build of an Internet of Things Smart Farm station used to teach computer science through agriculture.

Changing the future of Ag

<https://soundcloud.com/womeninfoodandag/susanna-elliott-alltechs-planet-of-plenty-campaign-and-changing-the-future-of-ag>

Susanna Elliott, Head of communications at Alltech. Susanna has been with Alltech for more than 10 years, and today she oversees our global communications efforts. She is an integral part of amplifying our Planet of Plenty message.

The many unique challenges that women throughout the ag supply chain

<https://soundcloud.com/womeninfoodandag/jessica-fanzo-the-many-unique-challenges-that-women-throughout-the-ag-supply-chain>

This podcast features Jessica Fanzo, an amazing leader in health and nutrition from Johns Hopkins University with background serving in prominent capacities for several globally focused organizations, including the United Nations. Jessica discusses with Laura the many unique challenges that women throughout the ag supply chain face- access to land and land tenure, access to funding and loans, decision-making limitations, and the world-wide gender gap in agriculture as a whole. Jessica also talks through the many obstacles to accessibility and popularity of plant-based and lab-grown protein, agricultural eco systems and their role in crop production, and more.

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5. Film: Mothers of the Land

<https://www.mothersofthelandfilm.com/>

The film, *MOTHERS OF THE LAND – Sembradoras de Vida*, accompanies five women from the Andean highlands in their daily struggle to maintain a traditional and organic way of working the land.

The film takes place in the context of climate change, in which Peru is predicted to be among the three most affected countries in the world. Female farmers in this highland region struggle to adapt to extreme changes in weather and the ravages these produce, by using both traditional and modern agricultural techniques that allow them to maximize clean energy.

The target audience of the film are the native population of Peru and South America. We expect to make them feel proud of our indigenous heritage and influence farming communities from developing countries who are fighting poverty and inspire them to make changes in their lives.

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6. Free Digital Library from IDRC

<https://www.idrc.ca/books>

IDRC is committed to improving lives and livelihoods by supporting research that addresses critical international development issues. One of the important ways that IDRC and our grantees help to bring about positive change is through our book publishing program, where we share our research results and findings with other researchers, policymakers, and communities globally.

Explore our book collection from the last 25 years below, all free for digital download. Hundreds more IDRC books, published from the 1970s to the 1990s, are available through the IDRC Digital Library.

“Gender” is a searchable topic, and provides results such as:

- Transforming Gender and Food Security in the Global South
- Use of Mobile Phones by the Rural Poor: Gender perspectives from selected Asian countries
- Women, Livestock Ownership and Markets: Bridging the gender gap in Eastern and Southern Africa
- Gender and Natural Resource Management: Livelihoods, Mobility and Interventions

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7. A Lean Data How-to Guide: Understanding Gender Impact

<https://acumen.org/investinwomen/>

<https://acumen.org/wp-content/uploads/understanding-gender-impact-phase-2.pdf>

<https://acumen.org/blog/acumen-and-unilever-launch-lean-data-how-to-guide-for-measuring-gender-impact/>

At Acumen, we recognize poverty can impact women and men differently, but existing data makes it hard to have a clear understanding of how or why. To see if we could bring a gender lens to impact measurement, we joined forces with our partner Unilever to create the Lean Data How-to Guide: Understanding Gender Impact.

The guide leverages Acumen’s Lean Data methodology—now available to the entire social sector through our new social enterprise, 60 Decibels—to gather meaningful data to understand the gender dimensions of poverty.

We provide details on our approach, surveys and methodology, along with analysis and consolidated insights, from five pilot projects—including LabourNet, an Acumen investment—across four countries.

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8. Policy Brief - Localizing the 2030 Agenda in Canada

<https://www.bccic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Canada-localization.pdf>

<https://ccic.ca/2030agenda/canadas-2030-agenda-national-strategy-and-implementation/>

Engagement and participation of provincial, territorial, municipal and indigenous governments are integral for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While implementing the 2030 Agenda is primarily the responsibility of national governments, partnership and coordination with provincial, territorial, municipal and indigenous governments are critical to ensuring that implementation is informed by local priorities and solutions and makes use of a whole-of society approach. In Canada, many of the SDGs fall within the jurisdictions of provincial, territorial municipal and Indigenous governments. In this context, their policies, plans, programs, capacities and initiatives play an important role in linking the global agenda to local communities and their priorities. Based on a review of good practices emerging from around the world, this policy brief provides recommendations on how the Government of Canada can best localize the 2030 Agenda.

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9. Youth associations and cooperatives: getting young people into work

<https://www.odi.org/publications/11470-youth-associations-and-cooperatives-getting-young-people-work>

The Youth Empowerment Through Agriculture (YETA) programme, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, addresses the employment challenges faced by young people in mid-Western and Northern Uganda through the support and formation of youth associations. This report aims to understand how these associations can address the challenges typically faced by underemployed or unemployed youth and to capture the lessons learned by the programme.

One of the recommendations:

“All groups should have a female mentor: Young women face greater constraints than their male peers. They have fewer resources at their disposal, may require the permission of husbands or fathers, and often have greater familial responsibilities. This means that female mentors are more important, but also that groups tend to choose male mentors with access to greater resources. To circumvent this, youth associations should be encouraged to choose both a male and a female mentor. Where female mentors cannot be found, youth programmes should have dedicated female advisors to provide assistance to female participants. Furthermore, greater peer-to-peer learning should be encouraged among female members.”

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10. Survey Results: Women’s Leadership: Empowering Women to Become Powerful Advocates for Agriculture

<https://www.fb.org/programs/womens-leadership-program/>

https://www.fb.org/files/2019_Women_in_Ag_Survey.pdf

According to the U.S. Census of Agriculture, 36% of American farmers and ranchers are women. In our Women in Ag Survey, we take a closer look at the opportunities for growth and development for women in the agriculture industry.

The American Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee launched its second Women in Ag survey in March 2019 to ensure programming and leadership opportunities help women in agriculture achieve their goals and aspirations. All women who are farmers, ranchers, farm/ranch employees, employed in agricultural businesses, pursuing ag-related education or supportive of agriculture in other ways were invited to participate.

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11. Podcast: The challenges of measuring women’s empowerment

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2019/10/podcast-the-challenges-of-measuring-womens-empowerment/>

In this episode we share Oxfam’s journey in measuring women’s empowerment in our impact evaluations. Our Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Lead, Marina Torre, speaks to Simone Lombardini, Impact Evaluation Lead, who has been working

in this area of work. Simone delves into the details on what methodologies have been used, the challenges the team has faced and what we have learnt.

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12. Factors influencing gendered access to climate information services for farming in Senegal

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09718524.2019.1649790>

Journal *Gender, Technology and Development*, Volume 23, 2019 - Issue 2

Abstract

In the context of climate change, climate variability has become a major issue in recent years in sub-Saharan countries. Climate information services (CIS) could be a vital resort for African producers to better manage climatic risks. This study aimed to identify CIS needs and analyze the most adapted dissemination channels while also determining factors that influence smallholder access. This was done with a gender lens where 1170 farmers (20% women) were surveyed from 11 regions in Senegal. Two probit regressions were performed. Results revealed that men and women have different needs for CIS, with 95% of women requesting information relating to the onset date of rainy season against 90% for men ($p < 5\%$). Similarly, 46% of women prefer rural radios as a CIS broadcast channel compared to 39% of men ($p < 5\%$). Also, the main factors influencing the access are ethnicity, area of residence, and farmers' perceptions of the utility of CIS. Among women, the native status and the willingness to act against climate change affect the access to CIS. Thus, to facilitate access to CIS for relevant decision-making, it remains important to capacitate farmers and to consider the producers' organizations as platforms for CIS dissemination and trainings.

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13. Gender Integration in Climate Change and Agricultural Policies: The Case of Nepal

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2019.00066>

Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, 23 August 2019

Abstract

Gender integration across national policy processes is critical to ensure effective implementation of climate change adaptation interventions in agriculture. This is especially so for countries like Nepal, where climate vulnerability and women participation in agriculture is high, accompanied by gender gaps in access to information, technologies, markets, and labor burden. To do this, it becomes necessary to address the inter-related issues of gender, agriculture, and climate change instead of looking at them in isolation. This study, therefore, highlights policy gaps to suggest a set of recommendations for improving gender responsiveness at policy level in Nepal. It presents the gender gaps that women face in agriculture, based on data collected from five districts of the country. Subsequently, using the concept of gender-agriculture-climate change nexus, it analyses 20 government policies and related documents of Nepal based on a set of five indicators. The policy analysis elucidates the level of gender integration in agriculture and climate change policies in the country. Eleven of the 15 agriculture related documents acknowledge the need to focus on women farmers, with nine of them also defining provisions for women-related issues in agriculture. Two of the five climate change policies merely acknowledge gender issues related to climate change. However, only two of the 20 policy documents recognize the need to address gender, climate change, and agricultural issues in coherence. Accordingly, the paper proposes a framework highlighting key points to make policy process and implementation plans in the agriculture sector more gender responsive in Nepal, focusing on the development and promotion of gender responsive Climate-Smart Agriculture technologies and practices. It suggests measures to increase access of assets and services to women farmers, improve their capacity to participate in decision making across levels, and promote transformative changes at both local and policy level.

14. What does it Mean to Make a ‘Joint’ Decision? Unpacking Intra-household Decision Making in Agriculture: Implications for Policy and Practice

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2019.1650169> The Journal of Development Studies

Abstract

Strategies to empower women in development contexts frequently address their authority to take decisions within their household, including decisions that are taken jointly by couples. Assessing empowerment in joint decision-making has traditionally followed a dichotomous approach: decisions are either joint or not, with the former associated with women’s empowerment. This paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the empowerment effects of joint decision-making, based on case study data from Uganda. We present survey data revealing significant gender differences in perception of decision-making over the adoption of agricultural practices and consumption expenses. Women reported joint decision-making more often than men, who presented themselves more as sole decision makers. We supplement the survey data with an in-depth study in Lodi village, where we reconstruct meanings attached to joint decision-making using focus group discussions, a decision-making game and participant observation. Reported joint decision-making included a range of practices from no conversation among partners to conversations where female spouse’s ideas are considered but the man has the final say. The findings suggest that local interpretations of joint decision-making, in at least this case of a dominantly patriarchal context, can limit its potential for assessing women’s empowerment.

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15. Info Note: Examining gender differences in the access to and implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices in Central America

https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/103471/InfoNote_TeSAC_EN_Gender_August%2029th.pdf

This Info Note summarizes the findings from the monitoring efforts of CSA practices conducted in 2018 in the Climate-Smart Villages of Guatemala and Honduras within the framework of the project “Generating evidence on gender-sensitive climate-smart agriculture to inform policy in Central America” led by the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), with the financial support of the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

Key messages

- i. Women are comparatively more predisposed than men to invest in climate change adaptation solutions, even though they receive less income from agricultural activities and less investment from their farms.
- ii. Compared to men, women have lower access to credit or loans to help them carry out their agricultural activities, but when they do, they are more likely to invest them in strategies that address the risks of climate change
- iii. The fact that women and men receive weather forecast information does not necessarily mean that they will use it. The reason for not using the climate information received has gender connotations. For example, in Olopa, the men tend to not use the information because they don't know what decision to change while women say they don't trust that information.
- iv. In the Climate-Smart Villages of Olopa (Guatemala) and Santa Rita (Honduras), men report participating more in the implementation of the climate-smart agricultural practices (CSA) than women.
- v. In Olopa, most women report that they decide jointly with their spouses on the implementation of the CSA practices, while in Santa Rita women’s participation in joint decision-making processes is lower.
- vi. In general, both men and women perceive that the implementation of CSA practices provides higher agricultural productivity and income

16. The power of narratives: Explaining inaction on gender mainstreaming in Uganda's climate change policy

<https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12458> Development Policy Review

Abstract

Expectations that gender-mainstreaming efforts would effectively advance gender equality have been disappointed in contemporary sub-Saharan Africa. Examining this apparent disconnect, we focus on the narratives through which policymakers relate to, and dis/engage with, gender issues. Using in-depth interviews and stakeholder meetings, our multi-step analysis identifies story episodes from which we reconstruct stories and narratives. The analysis reveals a complex ecology of 22 stories, clustered in five main narratives. While most stories unfold a gender equality narrative, four competing narratives emerge. Shifts during conversations from the gender equality to other narratives reveal that the discursive engagement with gender mainstreaming is accompanied by simultaneous resistance, deconstruction and revocation. These narrative shifts exercise four distinct power effects: They (1) shift blame for ineffective gender implementation; (2) legitimize policy inaction; (3) foreground and naturalize patriarchy; and (4) promote the diversion of resources. The implicit communicative strategies exercise power *through* ideas (persuade listeners that the equality narrative is inappropriate), power *over* ideas (gender equality ideas are rejected or frustrated) and power *in* ideas (entrenched patriarchy ideas are reproduced). Attention to ideational power through policy narrative contributes to explain implementation issues with gender mainstreaming in Uganda and is likely to be relevant beyond this case.