

**April 1, 2021**

# **GEM Digest of the Month**

**Published monthly since December 2009**



*Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.*  
<https://sdg-tracker.org/gender-equality>

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](mailto: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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## **Contents**

### **Opportunities and Coming Events**

1. Equity Project of Farmers for Climate Solutions.....	2
2. AWN Mentorship Program Virtual Event: "Cultivating Life's Stages" .....	3
3. Virtual film screenings and debate .....	3
4. STEM and SDGs: Where are we at today?.....	3
5. Rural Women’s Studies Association Virtual Conference .....	4
6. RBM 101 Practising Results-Based Management: An Introductory Course .....	4
7. Free Course: Increasing Gender Responsive Agricultural Development Capacity .....	4

### **This Month’s News**

1. Challenges and Opportunities: My perspective as a woman working in organic agriculture. ....	5
1. Opinion: Recognizing Rural Women as Central to Post-COVID Recovery .....	5
2. Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food lift women in agriculture up .....	5
3. Specialist aims to develop Nova Scotia’s protected agriculture scene .....	5
4. Women Discuss the Power of Indigenous Foodways .....	6
5. Michelle Obama’s New Cooking Show Inspires Kids to Try Foods from Around the World .....	6
6. Opinion: Every Girl Can’t Be a Scientist Until We Make Big Changes.....	6
7. The engineer solving Senegal's crop loss problem .....	7
8. Innovations for gender equality .....	7
9. Opinion: Removing Barriers to Women’s Leading Role in African Agriculture .....	7
10. Women Delegates’ Online Negotiations Training .....	8
11. Zero Till systems enable equitable development in the EGP .....	8
12. Opinion: Why Green Growth and Climate Action Fall Short Without Addressing Gender Inequality .....	8

13.	Opinion: Can Free Phones Close the Digital Gender Divide? .....	8
14.	Women in Kenya reap rewards from seaweed .....	9
15.	At CSW, advocates see positive signs for US policy on gender equality .....	9
16.	Tech Savvy Youth with High Social-Emotional Skills Succeed in Agriculture – Study Shows.....	10
17.	Gender Equality: The Formula to Accelerate Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.....	10
18.	Diversity & Inclusion: The Sherlock Holmes Effect .....	11

## Reports, Publications, Resources

1.	Training materials on gender and social inclusion: The Climate and Society Game .....	11
2.	WTO Informal Group Agrees on Trade and Gender Work Plan .....	11
3.	Women’s Economic Empowerment: Insights from Africa and South Asia.....	12
4.	Research Report: Contracts in commercial agriculture: enhancing rural producer agency.....	12
5.	Fish Night 7: Gender equality in the seafood value chain .....	12
6.	Women in Science Toolkit .....	13
7.	Women in Public Sector Science - From Analysis to Action .....	13
8.	Two-Eyed Seeing: Indigenous and Western Views of Science .....	13
9.	Clean Cooking Alliance Releases 2020 Annual Report.....	14
10.	Capital Raised by Clean Cooking Companies Reaches New High .....	14
11.	Counted and Visible Toolkit.....	14
12.	Podcast: Removing The Stigma Around Menstruation Through Education and Access .....	15
13.	2021 edition of "Clean Burning Biomass Cookstoves" .....	15
14.	Perceptions data can help us challenge sexist norms around land and housing.....	15
15.	Podcast: Is it time for diversity quotas? .....	16
16.	New Feminist Climate Policy Screening Tool.....	16
17.	2021 Generation Equality Forum.....	16
18.	Dad's Sweet Comics Promote Empathy, Tolerance and Love .....	17

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Equity Project of Farmers for Climate Solutions

<https://weseedchange.org/equity-project-of-farmers-for-climate-solutions-call-for-focus-group-participants/>

Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS) wants to hear the voices of Black farmers, Indigenous farmers and food providers, farmers of colour, 2SLGBTQ+ farmers, farmers with disabilities, women, small scale farmers, and new Canadians. We know that our sector will be stronger when there is greater diversity in agriculture.

The Equity Project of Farmers for Climate Solutions seeks to understand better the barriers and challenges that face marginalized farmers in order to develop a framework that we can apply to our climate solutions work. The framework will function as a guide to increase opportunities and lower barriers for marginalized farmers generally and in the context of recommendations to the federal government for climate solutions policy and programs.

Farmers for Climate Solutions' Equity Project is being led by Arzeena Hamir (farmer of colour) and Abra Brynne (queer food policy expert). They will be hosting a series of Focus Groups organized by sector for Black farmers, Indigenous farmers and food providers, farmers of colour, 2SLGBTQ+ farmers, farmers with disabilities, women, small scale farmers, and new Canadians. The Focus Groups sectors include: Market Gardeners, Livestock, Grains and Oilseeds, and Fruit (tree, vine and bush). Each Focus Group session will run for 2 hours.

**Upcoming focus group dates:**

- **April 11th: Fruit Farmers**
- **Date TBD: Grain & Oilseed Farmers**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 2. AWN Mentorship Program Virtual Event: "Cultivating Life's Stages"

<https://www.facebook.com/events/861242824671554/>

Ag Women's Network is hosting an online event. One moderator, Four panelists, A lively discussion by five women at various stages in their careers and personal life. **March 30th**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 3. Virtual film screenings and debate

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defiance-on-film-standing-up-to-nuclear-power-through-protest-and-the-arts-tickets-145551730143>

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/444542695>

The Heinrich Böll Stiftung, Washington, DC in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Washington, DC, and Beyond Nuclear will present four events during 2021, in a year that marks 10 years since the Fukushima nuclear disaster, and 35 years since the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The event series Standing Up to Nuclear Power Through Protest and the Arts will showcase different examples of both mass protest and deeply personal resistance. Jointly, we will explore how the performing and visual arts, including film, music, theatre, fashion and painting — along with protest and resistance — can make a powerful statement of opposition to nuclear power and propel action against climate change.

The opening event—Defiance on Film—features the directors and protagonists from two new documentary films: 33 Days of Utopia (2020, Germany) and The Beekeeper (2020, United Kingdom).

*The Beekeeper* features Katie Hayward, a beekeeper in North Wales, who stood almost alone in her fight to not make way for the bulldozers that would destroy her farm in preparation for a new two-reactor nuclear site at Wylfa-B on the island of Anglesey. Rejected by her neighbors who sold out to the nuclear company, Horizon (Hitachi), Hayward spirals in and out of depression and near suicide as she navigates her one-woman battle to save her bees, her farm animals, and the ancestral land she loves. Film will be in English. 12 min.

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 1:00 PM (EST)**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 4. STEM and SDGs: Where are we at today?

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/stem-and-sdgs-where-are-we-at-today-registration-146244004755>

The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST) is organizing an online event **on May 5th, 2021**. Dr. Anju Bajaj, a STEM Educator for the Catholic Schools Commission in Winnipeg, MB, and recipient of multiple awards including Science Teacher of the Year –STAM (Science Teachers Association of Manitoba), Global Educator Award –MCIC (Manitoba Council for International Cooperation), and K-12 Canadian EdTech Award, will:

- share knowledge, experiences, and resources for using inquiry and supporting student action to address SDG in Canadian Classrooms across the Curriculum;
- use the UN Global Goals (SDGs) to create a real-world problem-solving challenge using the Design and Build Process;
- provide a space for educators to connect and create a professional learning community;
- inspire you to evolve your practice.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 5. Rural Women’s Studies Association Virtual Conference

<https://www.rwsa2021.uoguelph.ca/>

**May 11-15,2021.** The RWSA conference, hosted by the University of Guelph, is a special opportunity for Canadian scholars and Canadian issues to be at the center of discussion, as this is only the second time that this international association has met in Canada. We welcome rural and farm women, policymakers, practitioners, advocates, scholars from different disciplines, and rural organizations and communities.

Scholars from thirteen different countries will present their research on the theme of “Kitchen Table Talk to Global Forum”. Issues on the table are rural women and: food, activism, feminism, social justice, mental health, innovation, community development, and cultural expression, — both historical and contemporary — locally and globally.

Our aim is to share research on rural women in historical perspective, foster unexpected partnerships, promote new perspectives, and mobilize knowledge on a series of issues that concern rural women today.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 6. RBM 101 Practising Results-Based Management: An Introductory Course

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/rbm101/>

This self-paced eLearning course covers basic RBM concepts, how RBM can be applied and provides participants with hands-on practise using basic RBM tools. This course is out-of-this world as it uses gamification, storytelling and a science-fiction theme to spark your interest and to facilitate learning.

If you work for a Canadian small or medium organization (SMO) involved in global development, then this course is for you. The total duration of the course is about 3 hours. It’s recommended that you work in 10- to 20-minute periods. You can log-off in between sections and the program will save your place. Special accommodations are available for people who are partially sighted, deaf or hard of hearing. When you complete the course and pass the final assessment, you will receive a certificate of completion from Spur Change.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 7. Free Course: Increasing Gender Responsive Agricultural Development Capacity

<https://soybeaninnovationlab.getlearnworlds.com/course>

The *Increasing Your Gender Responsive Agricultural Development Capacity* online course offers a deep dive for managers to move beyond a general understanding of gender in development to actual application for organizations attempting to improve their gender awareness. The course takes participants through real world examples to demonstrate the application of the Gender Mainstreaming Framework for better results and greater, more sustainable, outcomes. This free course is offered by the Soybean Innovation Lab.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 1. Challenges and Opportunities: My perspective as a woman working in organic agriculture.

<https://mailchi.mp/canada-organic.ca/buzz-builder-7215125>

COG Board Member Allison Squires shares her perspective as a woman working in organic agriculture. Allison is the owner and operator of Upland Organics, a 2000-acre, family-run certified organic grain farm located near Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan. In this article, Allison shares what her experience as a female farmer and farm owner has been, and what she hopes to see for future generations of women.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 1. Opinion: Recognizing Rural Women as Central to Cost-COVID Recovery

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/03/international-womens-day-2021recognizing-rural-women-central-cost-covid-recovery-imperative-international-womens-day/>

Women in rural areas already stood a higher risk of disenfranchisement, and their considerable social and economic struggles have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. Already confronted with the devastating combination of climate change, decreased biodiversity, severe and worsening land degradation, and resulting food insecurity, rural women have been pushed further below the poverty line than men and into the margins by COVID-19.

Secure land tenure, essential to the well-being and livelihoods of rural women, has increasingly come under threat with the advance of the novel coronavirus. COVID-19 widows are at a high risk for disinheritance in several countries, and many more rural women are being displaced as unemployed men return to rural communities, thereby “increasing pressure on land and resources and exacerbating gender gaps in agriculture and food security.”

Safeguarding the rights, livelihoods, empowerment and agency of rural women should be a goal unto itself, but doing so is also essential to safeguarding ecological health and food security writ large. Already, COVID-19 has not only compromised progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but has undone some of the progress made. Rural women are central to sustainable development and post-COVID resilience as natural resource managers, land stewards, food growers, sellers, buyers and preparers. They are not merely victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are also essential – and all too often overlooked – agents of change. They are also part of the solution.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 2. Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food lift women in agriculture up

<https://www.farms.com/ag-industry-news/mwaf-celebrates-international-women-s-day-498.aspx>

March 8 is International Women’s Day (IWD) and Farms.com wanted to connect with Manitoba Women in Agriculture and Food (MWAF) board members to find out what they’re doing to celebrate and what the day means to them.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 3. Specialist aims to develop Nova Scotia’s protected agriculture scene

<https://www.greenhousecanada.com/specialist-aims-to-develop-nova-scotias-protected-agriculture-scene/>

Nova Scotia’s horticulture sector may be known for its berries, tree fruit and field-grown vegetables, but protected crop production is rising in importance. So much so, that provincial development agency, Perennia, hired a dedicated extension specialist to support the growing sector. Talia Plaskett stepped into the newly created role of protected crop specialist at Perennia last June. She currently oversees all crops grown under cover, including flowers, vegetables, berries and cannabis, produced in structures ranging from low tunnels to complete indoor grow facilities.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 4. Women Discuss the Power of Indigenous Foodways

<https://foodtank.com/news/2021/03/women-discuss-the-power-of-indigenous-foodways-in-james-beard-panel/>

During a panel organized by The James Beard Foundation and First Nations Development Institute, “Women’s History Month: Honoring Indigenous Women in America’s Food System,” Indigenous women activists discuss the role of food in preserving and elevating their communities.

The conversation takes place amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has ravaged Indigenous communities across the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds that, at one point in the pandemic, Indigenous individuals in the U.S. were 3.5 times more likely to contract the virus than non-Hispanic white Americans.

Livingston says the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many inequities in Indigenous communities, but it has also provided an opportunity for Indigenous women to demonstrate leadership.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 5. Michelle Obama’s New Cooking Show Inspires Kids to Try Foods from Around the World

<https://foodtank.com/news/2021/03/michelle-obamas-new-cooking-show-inspires-kids-to-try-foods-from-around-the-world>

Former first lady and good food advocate Michelle Obama stars in a new Netflix show aimed at inspiring kids to get creative in the kitchen. The show—Waffles + Mochi—is named after its two main characters: Waffles, a blue-and-white-haired puppet with frozen waffles for ears, and Mochi, a small purple blob resembling the Japanese treat.

Producers hope the show will inspire kids and adults to start cooking and help connect cultures across the world through food. According to Netflix, Waffles and Mochi are bound to pick potatoes in the Andes, taste spices in Italy, and make miso in Japan.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 6. Opinion: Every Girl Can’t Be a Scientist Until We Make Big Changes

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/03/every-girl-cant-scientist-make-big-changes/>

URBANA, Illinois, Mar 17 2021 (IPS) - Over a month ago, the world celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. But the celebrations ring hollow when there’s still been no meaningful progress in the representation of women in the research sciences field. At present, less than 30 percent, of scientific researchers worldwide are women, a percentage that has been the same for almost a decade.

Despite this lag in progress, consistently, and predictably so, from the United Nations to professional societies, to Universities, there is often the message shared that “Every girl can be a scientist”. As a woman scientist, who is very lucky to be in science, because, without luck, and I mean, nature’s luck, I would never been a scientist, I know this statement isn’t true right now.

The truth is, the way our society and systems are set up, few girls, especially girls like me, from rural communities, can ever be scientists. How do we expect them to be scientists without the resources and facilities to allow them to experience the magic of science? How do we expect them to get into science when they do not have societal role model scientists that look like them?

And even if they are lucky like me, how do we expect them to succeed, if many end up in institutions that are still grappling with low representation of women in science? How?

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 7. The engineer solving Senegal's crop loss problem

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09815lh>

Podcast at <https://www.sustainablejungle.com/podcast/episode-54-marie-aida/>

Ecobuilders <https://www.facebook.com/EcobuildersMadeinSenegal/>

Marie Ndieguene, a young Senegalese civil engineer, is tackling post-harvest loss for farmers with a novel storage solution. This allows crops to last longer and attract higher prices and reduces waste. Her solution, made from old car tyres and plastic bottles, is sustainably made from diverted landfill waste. Marie's idea has won her a nomination for the Africa Engineering Prize.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 8. Innovations for gender equality

<https://www.cgiar.org/features/innovations-for-gender-equality/>

The CGIAR GENDER Platform, established in 2020, is designed to transform the way research is done, and to continue to accelerate efforts to make gender part of all agricultural science and innovation. It delivers thought leadership and develops evidence, methods and tools that support the entire research-for-development community to adopt gender-transformative approaches and practices. This renewed focus on gender research will be fundamental to realizing the ambitions of CGIAR's five new impact areas, one of which is gender, youth and social inclusion.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 9. Opinion: Removing Barriers to Women's Leading Role in African Agriculture

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/03/international-womens-day-2021removing-barriers-womens-leading-role-african-agriculture/>

IBADAN, Nigeria, Mar 4 2021 (IPS) - Africa's population will double by 2050 if growth rates continue their trajectory, but the creation of jobs is not keeping pace, with up to five times more young people seeking employment each year as there are new posts to fill. And, on top of this, the COVID pandemic is plunging Africa into its first recession in 25 years.

With shifting demographics, it is important that we examine the role women and youth play in ensuring food security in sub-Saharan Africa and understand how these dynamics are changing and pinpoint the old and new challenges faced by women.

A recent study supported by the non-profit International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) found that among final year university students in north-west Nigeria, young women are just as likely to express the intention to engage in agriculture after graduation as men. The World Bank estimates, however, that currently women account for about 37% of agricultural output in Nigeria. Increased investments in boosting the position of women in agriculture could significantly benefit productivity.

A 2018 World Bank report detailed gender gaps in property ownership in sub-Saharan Africa. One of its key points was that women are less likely to own land or housing than men.

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) has launched 80 research fellowships for young African scholars, with a specific emphasis on young female professionals and students.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++



## 10. Women Delegates' Online Negotiations Training

<https://wedo.org/women-delegates-online-negotiations-training/>

<https://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-programs/women-delegates-fund/>

In March 2021, WEDO launched virtual training for women climate negotiators. The course, aimed primarily towards first-time negotiators from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), includes insights from leading women negotiators in the climate negotiations process, as well as weekly virtual in-person sessions. This initial training includes 80 women delegates from 57 countries planning to participate in the #UNFCCC negotiations.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 11. Zero Till systems enable equitable development in the EGP

<https://aciarsdip.com/latest-news/2021/3/4/zt-systems-enable-equitable-development-in-the-egg>

A new study demonstrates that Zero Till (ZT) farming systems in the Eastern Gangetic Plains (EGP) are women-friendly and should be supported by government and development programs not just because they have agronomic and economic benefits, but because they can also enable equitable development.

A policy brief and fact sheet about the project are available.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 12. Opinion: Why Green Growth and Climate Action Fall Short Without Addressing Gender Inequality

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/03/international-womens-day-2021why-green-growth-climate-action-fall-short-without-addressing-gender-inequality/>

SEOUL, Republic of Korea, Mar 8 2021 (IPS) - As the global effort to address climate change has strengthened over the last few years, so has the realization that rising temperatures and climactic disruptions disproportionately impact women, particularly in developing countries, as they tend to be more dependent upon natural resources and are thus overrepresented in resource-intensive economic sectors. Furthermore, inherent in gender inequality are disadvantages for and discrimination against women in all facets of society, including in the economy and politics. Thus, it is unfortunate, yet perhaps unsurprising, that these structural disparities are mirrored in the negative effects of climate change. Therefore, if gender differences are not incorporated into climate change plans, women will be unable to access the co-benefits that arise from concerted climate action.

Meaningful climate action must be taken by concurrently addressing gender disparities and inequalities. Green growth policies and approaches that do not address gender equality and inclusion can have the effect of being counter-productive or, at best, further entrenching the status quo of large segments of society prevented from access to the benefits of growth. Therefore, firm commitments and deliberate strategies are required to aggressively tackle gender disparities and inequalities in the context of climate action.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 13. Opinion: Can Free Phones Close the Digital Gender Divide?

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/03/can-free-phones-close-digital-gender-divide/>

WASHINGTON DC, Mar 10 2021 (IPS) - The gender gap in mobile phone ownership is well-documented. For years now, the financial inclusion community has been trying to get phones into the hands of more women at the last mile — spurred on by mounting evidence that mobile money can increase women's financial resilience, expand their economic opportunities and improve their intra-household bargaining power.



While these efforts have undeniably increased women’s access to phones, it is less clear to what extent the beneficiaries of these programs are using phones to improve their lives. Regardless of whether they’re given away, financed or bundled with other life-enhancing services such as agricultural or health information, phones only matter if women actually use them to meet their goals.

There are many reasons why women may not use their free phones. Some have to do with the quality of the handsets. And although the phone itself may be free, there are costs of phone ownership that women may not be willing or able to cover, such as data and electricity. In some instances, the use cases for the phones aren’t compelling or encouraging enough for women to learn how to use them.

As a Harvard Evidence for Policy Design study notes, efforts to give mobile phones to women without considering the prevailing norms may have negative consequences at the household level or be quickly rendered obsolete if other household members take the phones.

Going forward, it will be important for interventions to address not only affordability constraints, but more importantly, the deep-rooted social norms that reinforce and deepen the digital divide.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **14. Women in Kenya reap rewards from seaweed**

<https://www.devex.com/news/women-in-kenya-reap-ecological-and-economic-rewards-from-seaweed-99439>

Up to a few years ago, Kibuyuni on Kenya's south coast was a typical fishing village. The majority of houses were made of grass thatch and mud walls. Few children made it past primary school due to lack of school fees. Working-age men were only engaged in fishing. Due to societal norms, women did not venture out to sea. They engaged in small-scale farming for subsistence purposes.

Seaweed farming has changed that. Through the practice, women are able to earn a decent living. Seaweed has traditionally been used for domestic purposes such as food and feed. However, due to industrial uses like gels, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals have emerged, making seaweed a billion-dollar industry. Unlike in East Africa, where production is still low, countries in Asia produce millions of metric tons a year.

But the seaweed farmers in Kibuyuni have faced some challenges in their attempt at value addition. Fatuma said that the Tanzanian company they sell to hasn’t increased the buying price since they started selling six years ago. While the government has supported the farmers with equipment to dry and process seaweed for value addition, they haven’t been successful in getting a suitable market for their produce.

An industrial fishing port, set to be constructed soon in Shimoni, a few kilometers from Kibuyuni, also threatens the practice. When the drilling for the construction work was done, soil was washed to the seaweed farms, which affected seaweed quality. The farmers also fear that with continued drilling at sea, oil spills will be inevitable, which will further affect seaweed growth.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **15. At CSW, advocates see positive signs for US policy on gender equality**

<https://www.devex.com/news/at-csw-advocates-see-positive-signs-for-us-policy-on-gender-equality-99508>

The United States sent a historically senior and diverse delegation to the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, where Vice President Kamala Harris delivered an address to the United Nations last week — making her the highest-ranking U.S. government official ever to do so at the event.

This show of support wasn't lost on women's health and rights advocates, who are watching President Joe Biden's administration to gauge whether early signals will evolve into global policy and funding choices that elevate women's voices and agency in the COVID-19 pandemic response and beyond.

The largest annual U.N. gathering on women's rights — which has taken place in a mostly virtual format over the past two weeks and ends Friday — followed a flurry of U.S. legislative action in the first months of 2021.

Advocates are looking to Biden's newly established White House Gender Policy Council, in particular, for clues as to what's next from an administration outspoken in its commitment to equality and inclusion. The council is tasked with guiding and coordinating government policy that impacts women and girls, including economic, health, racial justice, gender-based violence, and foreign policy.

Aria Grabowski, policy and advocacy manager at the International Center for Research on Women, wonders whether Biden's 2022 budget request will reflect a full commitment to gender mainstreaming, which would ensure that gender analysis informs how money is allocated.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **16. Tech Savvy Youth with High Social-Emotional Skills Succeed in Agriculture – Study Shows**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/03/tech-savvy-youth-with-high-social-emotional-skills-succeed-in-agriculture/>

Dr Khadijat Amolegbe, a lecturer at Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, conducted a study into another government programme exploring the skills needed to motivate youth to participate in the agricultural sector. Amolegbe conducted a randomised controlled experiment on Nigerian youth enrolled in the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) — a programme set up by the Nigerian government in 1973 to involve graduates in nation building and development. She measured the youth's motivation to engage in the agricultural sector by evaluating the following:

- their intention to start an agribusiness venture;
- their intention to register a business name; and
- their intention to save towards starting an agribusiness venture.

Amolegbe's IITA-CARE study revealed that the youth need training beyond basic agricultural skills. According to the research study, "socio-emotional and digital skills, also known as the 21st Century skills are indispensable, not only to motivate youths into agriculture but also help them thrive and survive the new and emerging challenges".

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **17. Gender Equality: The Formula to Accelerate Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/gender-equality-formula-accelerate-implementation-2030-agenda-sustainable-development>

Addressing gender inequalities—including access to and control over natural resources—accelerates the impact of sustainable development policies. Enabling women's participation and decision-making at all levels is an important, but often overlooked, step toward effective, transformative policies connected to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Contents:

- Gender Inequality: A Form of Injustice that Leaves Everyone Behind
- International Efforts to Address the Gender Gap
- Gender Mainstreaming: A Key Ingredient to Sustainable Development
- Women as Environmental Leaders
- Transforming Gender Norms for a Sustainable Planet

- Works Consulted

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 18. Diversity & Inclusion: The Sherlock Holmes Effect

<https://www.chieflearningofficer.com/2021/03/24/the-sherlock-holmes-effect/>

For nearly 60 years, organizations have used some form of diversity and inclusion training to increase awareness and sensitivity toward one another’s differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and culture. Despite new strategies, repackaged training, fanciful phrases (e.g., unconscious bias), slick values campaigns and an increase in D&I-focused roles, little in terms of meaningful change has transpired to date.

It is time to try something radically different and replace metrics and anecdotes with science and new constructs based on fundamental human needs. Patricia Devine, professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, found that Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs model provides us with profound insight allowing us to examine individual needs, how these needs show up in life and work, and the effect these needs have on the behavioral choices we make toward others.

This points us in the direction of three imperceptible clues worth investigation: belonging, individual accountability and social accountability.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## Reports, Publications, Resources

### 1. Training materials on gender and social inclusion: The Climate and Society Game

<https://cdkn.org/2021/03/news-this-womens-day-explore-cdkns-colourful-training-materials-on-gender-and-social-inclusion/>

Climate and Development Knowledge Network CDKN has expanded its interactive role-playing exercises to explore what makes you vulnerable to climate and what makes you able to contribute to solutions. The new game pack uses a colourful cast of characters set in a fictional, small South Asian town. It complements an interactive role play in ‘intersectional’ capacity issues set in Ethiopia.

The overarching objectives are to enable workshop or training participants to:

- Understand better how people’s different social, economic, cultural, physical status and attributes, including their gender roles and relations, interact with and contribute to their climate vulnerability and risk by ‘walking in other people’s shoes’.
- Understand how these attributes affect different people’s ability to contribute to individual and collective disaster risk reduction, adaptation and climate-resilient development.
- Highlight, through group discussion, some helpful tools and tactics that project managers could use, in their work, to empower diverse people’s participation in local climate adaptation planning and implementation processes. Pinpoint how the design of such climate adaptation programmes and projects can provide equitable benefits, bearing in mind people’s different social, economic, cultural, physical status and gender.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 2. WTO Informal Group Agrees on Trade and Gender Work Plan

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/wto-informal-group-agrees-on-trade-and-gender-work-plan/>

Report [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/women\\_trade\\_pub2807\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/women_trade_pub2807_e.pdf)

Members of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender adopted a work plan that aims to increase women's empowerment through trade.

The report titled, 'Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality,' examines the impact of trade on women as workers, consumers, and family members, and shares how trade can expand women's role in the economy, which can be linked to higher levels of gender equality, increased wages, improved working conditions, and improved women's access to education and skills. Members also presented their national experiences with gender and trade policies.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### **3. Women's Economic Empowerment: Insights from Africa and South Asia**

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/handle/10625/59714>

<http://hdl.handle.net/10625/59714>

The International Development Research Centre's (IDRC) Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) programme was a five-year initiative that aimed to provide policy lessons, insights, and concrete solutions to advance gender equality and women's economic empowerment by looking at the role of institutions and macroeconomic growth, barriers to labour market access, and the impact of women's care responsibilities. The main results of this work are brought together in this edited volume.

The volume showcases the research emerging from this ground-breaking programming on topics such as the school-to-work transition, child marriage, unpaid domestic work and childcare, labour market segregation, and the power of social and cultural norms that prevent women from fully participating in better paid sectors of the economy. With case studies from Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uganda, this book is an important resource for students, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers working on women's economic empowerment and gender equality in Africa and South Asia, including during and after the current pandemic.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### **4. Research Report: Contracts in commercial agriculture: enhancing rural producer agency**

<https://pubs.iied.org/12613iied>

In commercial agriculture, contracts coordinate production and trade, linking input suppliers to producers, all the way to end buyers. A better understanding of these chains of contracts can enable development practitioners and policymakers to increase scope for rural producer agency. This research examines the extent to which producers have a voice in contracting and related policy processes; how contracts affect options for rural producers; whether buyers' obligations create opportunities for farmers to exert agency; and how arrangements affect producers' ability to respond to risk.

One of the recommendations states:

- *Consider social differentiation and how it affects contracts in commercial agriculture — not only between farmers and their value chain partners but within the farming family, taking into account gender, age and other factors.*

Box 2, page 21 discusses Gender Issues in Value Chain Contracts.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### **5. Fish Night 7: Gender equality in the seafood value chain**

<https://www.iied.org/fish-night-7-gender-equality-seafood-value-chain>

YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnijifamgu8>

Twitter feed <https://twitter.com/IIED/status/1368939094965911553>

Small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture value chains are important for the livelihoods of coastal communities worldwide. Women play a pivotal role in small-scale fisheries around the world.

Close to half of the 40 million people worldwide who work in small-scale fisheries are women. Women dominate the post-harvest handling, processing, selling of fresh fish, packaging and marketing of seafood. Yet the seafood industry is characterised by pervasive gender inequalities and the work of women is still mostly ignored, invisible, unrecognised and undervalued.

At this Fish Night on International Women’s Day on 8 March 2021, this event organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) heard from women working in the seafood industry, in practical and research roles, in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 6. Women in Science Toolkit

<https://pipsc.ca/news-issues/defending-public-science/women-in-science-toolkit>

The Women in Public Sector Science Toolkit is a living library of resources, tools and best practices – all with the aim of advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in public sector science.

The objective of this toolkit is to equip women, non-binary members and allies to advance and support equity, diversity and inclusion in public sector science. The Women in Science Task Force and the Lab participants’ wealth of experience and expertise have made this toolkit. Their voices are reflected in this toolkit. Together, we present this guide for those in public sector science who see themselves encountering barriers in their workplaces.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 7. Women in Public Sector Science - From Analysis to Action

<https://pipsc.ca/news-issues/defending-public-science/women-in-public-sector-science-analysis-to-action>

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) currently represents six federal science bargaining groups. In general, women are under-represented across core science groups.

Our analysis of the PIPSC science member survey found that:

- More women than men believe dependent care responsibilities are a barrier to their career progression.
- 42% of women believe that gender biases are a barrier to their career progression.
- 27% of women believe that men are favoured in opportunities for leadership roles.
- One in four women respondents said that lack of access to mentors was a major barrier to their career progression.
- Women were more likely to be qualified applicants than men; this is consistent with recent research indicating women have been more socialized to follow rules, and view qualification requirements as more stringent than men do.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 8. Two-Eyed Seeing: Indigenous and Western Views of Science

Andrea Reid on YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSicYcr5TZE>

The primary purpose of this Insight Lecture is to be reminded that Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants in co-management inhabit the same landscape with each other and the aquatic systems that occupy their attention. This will work towards identifying pathways for building consensus and where we can become larger than the sum of our parts when

addressing increasingly complicated issues that threaten our aquatic systems. Dr. Andrea Reid is a new Assistant Professor with the University of British Columbia's Institute for the Oceans and Fisheries.

Take a journey into learning about the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources projects to learn how western science knowledge was braided with Indigenous knowledge to teach, learn and share about watershed management, engaging with youth, and developing educational materials and resources for Indigenous communities in the areas of watershed planning, climate change and renewable energy. Shianne McKay is currently one of Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources CIER's Senior Project Managers.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 9. Clean Cooking Alliance Releases 2020 Annual Report

<https://www.cleancookingalliance.org/2020-Annual-Report/index.html>

The report opens by acknowledging that the clean cooking sector – like so many others – was heavily impacted in 2020 by the health risks and economic consequences of COVID-19. As the report highlights, CCA responded to this challenge in a variety of ways, starting with surveying 300 companies, investors, donors, and others in the clean cooking sector about the pandemic-related impacts they were experiencing. CCA also funded two studies, currently ongoing, on the links between exposure to household air pollution from inefficient cooking methods and COVID-19.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 10. Capital Raised by Clean Cooking Companies Reaches New High

<https://www.cleancookingalliance.org/2021-Industry-Snapshot/index.html>

Clean cooking companies raised more capital in 2019 than in any year since the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) began tracking investment in the industry. According to CCA's 2021 Industry Snapshot report ("Snapshot"), clean cooking companies tracked by CCA raised USD \$70 million, a 63% increase compared to 2018. However, despite the surge in private sector investment, total investment remains far short of what is required to achieve universal access to clean cooking solutions by 2030.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 11. Counted and Visible Toolkit

<https://data.unwomen.org/resources/counted-and-visible-toolkit>

Digital toolkit set to transform gender data and tackle inequality <https://www.devex.com/news/q-a-digital-toolkit-set-to-transform-gender-data-and-tackle-inequality-99362>

The *Counted and Visible: Toolkit to Better Utilize Existing Data from Household Surveys to Generate Disaggregated Gender Statistics (Counted and Visible Toolkit)* provides a compilation of tools and mechanisms used by several countries to produce evidence to inform gender-responsive policies and catalyze actions to leave no one behind. The selected countries are linked to UN Women's global gender data programme, Women Count.

The toolkit was developed by UN Women. Navigate across the five stages of the toolkit:

Stage 1: Commitment

- Outlines the commitment of NSS leadership to producing disaggregated gender statistics to leave no one behind.

Stage 2: Prioritization

- Covers the process of identifying national priority gender equality indicators (NPGEIs).

Stage 3: Production

- Focuses on the development of methodologies and data production of select NPGEIs.

Stage 4: Assessment

- Outlines the assessment and publication of results.

- Specifies the importance of dissemination, advocacy and use of disaggregated gender statistics.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 12. Podcast: Removing The Stigma Around Menstruation Through Education and Access

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/episode-5>

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/episode-6>

Two episodes are available. Episode 5: Menstrual health a public health, gender equality and human rights issue, according to the United Nations. Promoting menstrual equity and addressing period poverty is key to supporting women and young girls and necessary in achieving many of the sustainable development goals. We discuss this issue further with our guest Leisa Hertz founder of Women’s Global Health Innovations a social enterprise that was developed to address the lack of sustainable, accessible products available to those experiencing period poverty in the most vulnerable communities and expand menstrual health education in collaboration with health advocates and educators.

Episode 6: Period poverty is a global issue affecting women and girls who don’t have access to safe, hygienic sanitary products, and/or who are unable to manage their periods with dignity. It is also an issue that impacts the global North. In this week’s episode, we speak with Sherri Smith, President, Soroptimist International of Central Alberta on their upcoming initiative Period Promise which seeks to gain commitment from schools, workplaces and various levels of government to provide free menstrual hygiene products in their facilities.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 13. 2021 edition of "Clean Burning Biomass Cookstoves"

<http://aprovecho.org/publications-3/>

It is now divided into two much more easily downloadable sections! The main part of the book is a .pdf that's just over 7mb. The second .pdf section contains all the CAD drawings and is just over 9mb. Both files are available at the Publications link.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 14. Perceptions data can help us challenge sexist norms around land and housing

<https://www.prindex.net/news-and-stories/perceptions-data-can-help-us-challenge-sexist-norms-around-land-and-housing/>

When it comes to land and property rights, much is hidden behind closed doors. But now, a new survey is giving voice to women around the world, letting them share their perceptions of their property rights.

The Prindex 2020 dataset reveals that in many parts of the world, married women are far less likely than married men to consider themselves individual or joint owners of their homes. Such women instead say they are ‘staying in family-owned property’. This gender gap is most visible in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East. Staying in a family home is not necessarily a bad thing. However, this gender imbalance does suggest that men are more likely to hold rights to family property and the benefits that this brings – from access to credit, to the sale of crops grown on farmland. And that women’s access to the property depends on her relations with the family.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++



## 15. Podcast: Is it time for diversity quotas?

<https://www.economist.com/podcasts/2021/03/25/is-it-time-for-diversity-quotas>

Ursula Burns, the first black woman to run a Fortune 500 company as CEO of Xerox tells The Economist's editor-in-chief Zanny Minton Beddoes why she thinks businesses will not diversify without quotas. The former CEO of Xerox also argues that business leaders have the edge over presidents when it comes to closing the skills gap and explains why she became an engineer rather than a nun. Runtime: 21 min

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 16. New Feminist Climate Policy Screening Tool

<http://feministgreennewdeal.com/2021/03/11/building-feminist-policies-for-climate-justice/>

The Feminist Green New Deal Coalition is excited to launch new policy and screening resources for policymakers and movement advocates to support building feminist policies for climate justice at all levels.

The FemGND's vision is founded on 10 core principles for feminist action for climate justice, which should form the backbone of any climate policy proposal. This document provides guidance for policymakers to assess whether proposed legislation or policy meets, both in spirit and materially, the principles laid forth. It also provides movement leaders and advocates with an intersectional gender lens into climate policy, along with concrete resources and tools. See the accompanying resource annex for more materials and information related to each Principle.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 17. 2021 Generation Equality Forum

<https://forum.generationequality.org/news/generation-equality-forum-increases-momentum-action-coalitions-preview-recommendations-and>

The 2021 Generation Equality Forum, an initiative of UN Women, with the governments of France, Mexico and in partnership with civil society and youth will kick off in Mexico City in March 2021 and culminate in Paris in June 2021 - aims to spur major financial and political commitments for gender equality. The Action Coalitions are highlighting the concrete action steps that they see as central to a new and bold feminist agenda within the next 5 years.

The initial draft actions of the Action Coalitions may be viewed at the link. Full 'blueprints' detailing the draft agendas of each action coalition will be unveiled at the Generation Equality Forum **in Mexico City, March 29-31** and commitments toward the action coalitions will be announced in **Paris in June 2021**.

Examples of these include:

- Radical Steps to End Violence Against Women and Girls, including accelerated introduction and implementation of laws and policies prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence, protecting 550 million more women and girls worldwide
- A Global Re-set on Care-work and Equal Pay, including policy efforts to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, alongside the creation of an additional 80 million decent care jobs
- Putting Women and Girls at the Heart of the new Digital and Green Economies by fueling the creation of jobs and leadership opportunities, doubling the proportion of women working in technology and innovation, and accelerating investment in gender-responsive climate solutions
- Halving the current global gender digital divide faced by girls and women, ensuring that 600 million more women can access the internet, and over 350 million more women and girls have access to a mobile phone
- Empowering women and girls to make and act on their own decisions about their sexual and reproductive lives by extending comprehensive sexuality education to 50 million more young people and changing norms, laws and policies to enable at least 260 million more girls, adolescents and women to exercise their bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive rights

- Increasing resources for feminist, youth-led and grass-roots women’s groups, including women’s funds, by doubling the annual growth rate of funding to such organizations

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **18. Dad's Sweet Comics Promote Empathy, Tolerance and Love**

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/lunarbaboon-comics\\_n\\_5a0f15d1e4b0e97dffed08aa](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/lunarbaboon-comics_n_5a0f15d1e4b0e97dffed08aa)

For the past five years, Chris Grady has been drawing his experiences as a dad and sharing them in a web comic called Lunarbaboon. Grady decided to use his popularity for good. He often draws comics with positive messages that touch on social justice, gender issues, xenophobia and more.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++