



Bird's Nest. 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](mailto:dinah.ceplis@gmail.com) to compile and re-distribute once a month.

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Minister Bibeau launches program to create 2,000 youth jobs in the agriculture sector

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/minister-bibeau-launches-program-to-create-2-000-youth-jobs-in-the-agriculture-sector-872340539.html>

The Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) aims to support agri-food employers and provide young Canadians between the ages of 15 and 30 with job experience in agriculture that could lead to a career working in the sector. In 2020, the Government of Canada invested \$9.2 million for the YESP, to fund nearly 1,000 jobs.

The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, and the Member of Parliament for Glengarry–Prescott–Russell, Francis Drouin, hosted a virtual event to announce an investment of up to \$21.4 million to enhance the Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP).

Eligible applicants include producers, agri-businesses, industry associations, provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous organizations and research facilities. Support can cover the period from **April 15, 2021 to March 31, 2022**.

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### 2. Cocoa producer agency and the living income differential: Lessons from CSOs

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cocoa-producer-agency-and-the-living-income-differential-lessons-from-csos-registration-154399618415>

The 'Empowering Producers in Commercial agriculture' (EPIC) initiative is led by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). It generates lessons on how rural producers, their associations and wider communities can best empower themselves to articulate their development priorities, make informed choices and negotiate effectively for equitable partnerships with progressive private sector actors in commercial agriculture.

Most cocoa farmers live in extreme poverty. In Ghana, for example, it is estimated that the average income gap is about 50% of the living income benchmark. Producers are also highly reliant on cocoa: cocoa production contributes to about two-thirds of cocoa farmers' income.

With their dominance as global cocoa producers, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire's new Living Income Differential (LID) is a bold new move by both governments to make a fundamental change to the structure of global markets to try to ensure rural producers receive a living income. This has happened against a backdrop of ongoing debates on how to achieve living incomes for producers more generally.

While in October 2020 farm gate prices (the prices received by producers at the location of their farms) were indeed increased in both countries, the implementation of the LID has already faced several challenges, such as decreasing global demand for cocoa and suggestions that certain buyers are trying to circumvent the LID.

As a result, the farm gate price in Côte d'Ivoire has been lowered for the mid-term-season in April 2021 to ensure farmers can sell their cocoa. The extent to which producers have been involved in the design of the LID or its implementation appears to have been limited.

This online event, the seventh in a series of EPIC webinars, will share and debate experiences around some of the challenges and impacts of a lack of producer voice and agency in the design and implementation from the LID. It will also explore ways producer organisations and companies are considering to more meaningfully promote producer voice and agency in cocoa price setting in both countries and how to improve the livelihoods of producers.

**Wednesday, 2 June 2021**

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### **3. Future of Labour in Protein Webinar**

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1851663757687729420>

Are you interested to learn more about the type of skills that will be in demand in the upcoming years? Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development has partnered with Food & Bio Cluster Denmark, International Food Recruitment Alliance (Netherlands), Food Processor of Canada, Food Processing Skills Canada, and Enterprise Machine Intelligence & Learning Initiative (Manitoba) to deliver a webinar on **Tuesday, June 15th, 2021 at 10 a.m. CST**. Hear insights from the panelists on strategies to attract and retain a skilled workforce.

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### **4. Registration for the Generation Equality Forum in Paris is now open**

<https://www.mccic.ca/news/21/registration-for-the-generation-equality-forum-in-paris-is-now-open>

<https://forumgenerationegalite.fr/en/get-involved/register>

The Generation Equality Forum in Paris will be held from **June 30th to July 2nd**.

Heads of State and Government, International Organizations, civil society, the private sector and youth organizations will gather to launch the Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality, announce concrete commitments and strengthen intergenerational, multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance gender equality over the next five years.

Registered attendees will gain access to the Forum's digital platform, offering the opportunity to attend nearly 90 events featuring 500 panelists and interact with tens of thousands of participants from around the world.

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## 5. The Hidden Side of Energy Access: Understanding Clean Cooking (Self-paced)

<https://olc.worldbank.org/content/hidden-side-energy-access-understanding-clean-cooking-self-paced>

This course explores the hidden side of energy access by uncovering the reality that over 4 billion people around the world currently lack access to modern energy cooking services (MECS) for their daily cooking needs. Throughout the developing world, households still cook with firewood and charcoal on rudimentary stoves in poorly ventilated rooms, resulting in significant negative impacts for health, gender, the environment, and our climate. Stagnating progress on this development agenda costs the world an estimated 2.4 trillion USD per year. In this four-part learning series, you will familiarize yourself with core concepts in the clean cooking sector, uncover the nuanced and contextual nature of accessing modern cooking solutions, learn about innovative financing approaches, and discover recommendations for actors seeking to make clean cooking a reality for households across the world.

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## 6. Conference on “Creating inclusive economies: Building Bridges between Public-Private-Civil Society Sectors.”

<https://www.inclusiveeconomies.ca/>

The Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC) and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation are pleased to announce a call for submissions for the 2021 conference *Creating Inclusive Economies: Building Bridges Between Public-Private-Civil Society Sectors*, scheduled to take place virtually **September 30th to October 2nd, 2021**. The formats for submissions, which were due on **May 17, 2021**, are as follows:

- Poster presentation
- 20-minute oral presentation
- 60-minute panel session

Rural development is a diverse, complex, and evolving process. Before and during this pandemic, communities are engaged in innovative policy development with the goal of enhancing the economic and social wellbeing of rural citizens. However, issues related to sustainability and the environment, rural-urban interdependencies, access to information, and the instability of both global and local markets are changing the way we think about rural development. As a result, the public, private, and civil society sectors are developing individually and collectively new and innovative ways to collaborate and enhance economic activity in rural communities.

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## 7. Women in tech and science must be given greater visibility - Gender Scan

<https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210308-women-in-tech-and-science-must-be-given-greater-visibility-gender-scan>

The survey is available at <https://www.genderscan.org/>. There are 4 different survey links, so please select the corresponding survey link that represents you best: *Teens, Students, SME and Independents, Employees*. Complete the survey **before the end of June**. It is available in 4 languages.

Gender diversity in technology and science will be a key post-Covid advantage in developing and building damaged economies and societies, according to Gender Scan.

The Gender Scan research is an international study - in partnership with UNESCO and international associations – that examines the role of women in scientific and technology professions. Among its goals is to raise the profile of women working in cutting-edge technology and science research sectors.

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## 8. Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Bibeau Launches Second Half of \$20M Food Waste Reduction Challenge

<https://www.perishablenews.com/retailfoodservice/canadas-agriculture-and-agri-food-minister-bibeau-launches-second-half-of-20m-food-waste-reduction-challenge/>

The Government of Canada is committed to reducing the amount of food wasted across Canada through a wide variety of initiatives and investments.

To help spark new ideas and engage diverse perspectives, the Government of Canada launched the \$20-million Food Waste Reduction Challenge in November 2020, calling for innovators to deliver game-changing solutions to this long-standing and complex issue.

The Challenge's novel technology streams (*Streams C and D*) are now open for concept applications with a closing date of **August 31, 2021**. Up to \$6.5 million in prize funding will be awarded to innovators with novel technologies that can extend the life of food or transform food that would otherwise be lost or wasted.

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## 9. Putting Gender at the heart of Climate Security

<https://climatesecurity.cgiar.org/>

See the Events Link to register for **Webinar 7 (October 21) Putting Gender at the heart of Climate Security**.

Climate Security Webinar Series: A CGIAR webinar series on climate security that seeks to connect thought leaders, and future partners in the climate security space and its concurrent nexuses.

Join this webinar series, and several distinguished speakers, to discuss the need to prioritize the climate crisis as a national and international security threat – globally. The main objectives of these webinars will be: 1) to bridge the gap between science and policy; 2) to discuss the importance of land, water, food systems science for peace and security; 3) to identify high-level policy messages to inform the international agenda on food systems, climate, and security.

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## 10. The Sixth International Conference for Women in Science Without Borders

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/the-sixth-international-conference-for-women-in-science-without-borders/>

<https://wiswbconference.embuni.ac.ke/>

The conference, which targets key stakeholders in STEM, will highlight the role of science in building a sustainable future for all through science, technology, and innovation.

The University of Embu will host the 6th International Conference for Women in Science Without Borders from **November 3rd to 5th 2021 in Nairobi**. Women in Science Without Borders (WISWB) is a gender-inclusive initiative and network of scientists from over 60 countries worldwide. This is a conference series held annually under the World Forum for Women in Science (WFWS).

Theme: "Building a Gender Inclusive Sustainable Future Through Science, Technology and Innovation"

Sub-Themes:

- 1) Gender responsive strategies for school to work transition in STEM
- 2) Circular economy for a sustainable future
- 3) Sustainable food systems
- 4) Post-Covid-19 resilience strategies

- 5) Innovation and entrepreneurship in STEM
- 6) Big data and artificial intelligence
- 7) Automation and robotics
- 8) Climate change and green energy
- 9) STEM fields related to SDGs including medicine (Water, food, energy, health, environment, education)

The conference targets scientists, students, practitioners, industrialists, journalists, and policymakers, among other key stakeholders in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Participants will be drawn from across Africa and other parts of the world. As basic science drives innovation and development, the discussions will endeavor to highlight gender equity in STEM as a driver for sustainable development. The conference will also provide an opportunity for capacity building in Social Entrepreneurship, Science Communication, and Negotiation Skills.

**Abstracts are due on June 30.**

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## **This Month's News**

### **1. Farm groups welcome passage of bill to reduce the tax burden of selling a business to a family member**

<https://www.realagriculture.com/2021/05/producer-groups-say-passing-of-bill-c-208-a-positive-move-for-farm-succession-planning/>

Bill C-208, which would amend the Income Tax Act for the transfers of small businesses, family farms, or fishing corporations, passed its third reading in the House of Commons on Wednesday, May 12, sending it to the Senate for approval.

The private member's bill, introduced by Manitoba Conservative MP Larry Maguire, would make it more affordable for producers to sell their farms to a family member instead of selling to a non-family member.

Right now, when a producer chooses to sell their farm to a family member, the sale is considered a dividend between the original purchase price and the sale price. If the producer sold to a non-family member, the sale would be seen as capital gain, which is taxed at a lower rate than a dividend.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is also pleased the bill has passed to the next stage and supports the requirement that a child who has bought a farm not sell the shares of the farm corporation within 60 months. OFA states that this wording will preserve the new tax treatment for farm children who wish to keep the business in the family.

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### **2. Canadian Organic Growers**

<https://www.cog.ca/about>

New and returning board members of the Canadian Organic Growers were confirmed at the annual general meeting held in April 2021. See the link for COG's Statement on the Budget 2021 <https://www.cog.ca/cogs-statement-on-the-budget-2021/>

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### **3. KAP announces a new general manager**

<https://www.realagriculture.com/2021/05/kap-announces-new-general-manager/>

The Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) board of directors has announced a new general manager. Brenna Mahoney will join Manitoba's main general farm organization effective June 14, 2021.

Before joining KAP, Mahoney was director of communications and stakeholder relations for Cereals Canada. She was also a steering committee member for the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops (CRSC) and supported the development of CRSC's code of practice. Mahoney is also a board member for the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame and Farmers Abroad Canada. She was formerly the chair of the Healthy Grains Institute.

She replaces Patty Rosher, who was appointed assistant chief commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission by Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau.

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#### **4. Assistant Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission**

<https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/en/about-us/org/patty-rosher.html>

Patty Rosher was appointed Assistant Chief Commissioner on February 15, 2021. Ms. Rosher comes to the Canadian Grain Commission after having worked as the General Manager for Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) since March 2019. Prior to her work with KAP, Ms. Rosher worked for the Department of Manitoba Agriculture where she held multiple leadership positions including being the Acting Chief Operating Officer of the Food Development Centre in 2016-2017, the Director of Transformation in 2017-2018, and the Director of Policy in 2018-2019.

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#### **5. Women in charge of the farm**

<https://www.country-guide.ca/guide-business/women-in-charge>

The proportion of Canadian farm operators who are women has edged higher in recent years, but the total number of women who are farming is still on a downward trend and is expected to keep on that trend unless and until numerous challenges are overcome. Statistics Canada's most recent census of agriculture showed women accounted for 28.7 per cent of all farm operators in 2016. That was up from 27.4 per cent in 2011, and from 25.3 per cent in 1996.

The number of women farming, however, fell. And it may be even harder for women to farm as we get further into the 2020s.

Federal statistics show, however, that farm women own less of the land they farm than male farmers. Men on average own over half the land they work. Women own just over one quarter.

In addition, few farms in Canada were solely owned by women. The 2016 census revealed 80 per cent of farms with women operators had two or more partners, and that independent women operators accounted for only 20 per cent of female operators. The proportion for independent males, however, was 50 per cent.

British Columbia had the highest female proportion of farm operators in Canada at 38 per cent, followed by Alberta at 31 per cent, according to the 2016 census.

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#### **6. Agronomist of the Year by the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailers**

<https://caar.org/ag-retail-news/1380-congratulations-to-the-caar-award-recipients>

<http://360agconsulting.com/staff/wendy-mcdonald/>

Introduced in 2012, the Agronomist of the Year award recognizes a CAAR member agronomist who consistently exceeds expectations through dedication to their field and their agronomic knowledge.

Wendy McDonald from 360 AG Consulting is a University of Manitoba Aggie, Certified Crop Advisor and a Registered Professional Agrologist. Wendy has been in the ag industry for over 25 years, providing advice and recommendations to

farmers in Southern & the Parkland, Manitoba regions. No two of those years have ever been alike, each coming with its own unique set of challenges and opportunities.

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## 7. A Windfall for Minority Farmers Divides Rural America

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/22/us/black-farmers.html>

The Biden administration set aside \$4 billion to help minority farmers. The debt relief is redress set aside for what the government calls “socially disadvantaged farmers” — Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and other non-white workers who have endured a long history of discrimination, from violence and land theft in the Jim Crow South to banks and federal farm offices that refused them loans or government benefits that went to white farmers.

But the \$4 billion fund has angered conservative white farmers who say they are being unfairly excluded because of their race. The program is part of a broader effort by the Biden administration and Democrats in Congress to confront how racial injustice has shaped American farming, which is overwhelmingly white. Black farm advocacy groups say that nearly all the land, profit and subsidies go to the biggest, most powerful farm operations, leaving Black farmers with little. But in large portions of rural America, the payments threaten to further anger white conservative farmers.

The plans have drawn thousands of enraged comments on farm forums and are being fought by banks worried about losing interest income. And some rural residents have rallied around a new slogan, cribbed from the conservative response to the Black Lives Matter movement: All Farmers Matter.

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## 8. African Women in Science (AWIS)

<https://www.iisd.org/awis>

Hosted by International Institute for Sustainable Development IISD-ACARE, African Women in Science (AWIS) is a 10-month program designed by women, for women, to support the interests, needs, and goals of students and early-career scientists working on Africa’s large lakes and freshwater issues.

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## 9. Youth Innovation in Agriculture

<https://youthagripreneurs.org/>

[http://www.ipsnews.net/documents/IITA\\_special\\_report\\_240421.html](http://www.ipsnews.net/documents/IITA_special_report_240421.html)

Almost 10 years ago, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) established the IITA Youth Agripreneurs program to change these perceptions and get more youths into agriculture. The aim was for this group of enterprising young individuals coming from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to make young Africans see that agriculture can be an exciting and economically rewarding business venture and convince investors to invest in Africa’s youth by showcasing their success stories.

IPS is pleased to publish a special edition publication of in-depth opinions, views, interviews, and stories of the young researchers and their findings during the crucial venture of the CARE project of IITA which is now coming to a close.

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## 10. Eco-friendly Eid - the Indonesian women on a mission to plant trees

<https://news.trust.org/item/20210512225342-0n188/>



<http://llhpb.aisyiyah.or.id/>

Muslim women's group 'Aisyiyah is helping the environment and local communities by restoring forests, tackling climate problems and raising awareness on the need to reduce waste.

'Aisyiyah was founded in 1917 to advocate for education at a time when girls did not receive formal schooling. Today 'Aisyiyah, part of Indonesia's larger Muhammadiyah organisation, has at least 4 million members with branches throughout the world's largest Muslim-majority country, where more than 80% of the population of about 270 million identify as Muslim.

In recent years, it has increasingly turned its attention to the environment. In 2015, 'Aisyiyah's leadership set up its LLHPB environment wing to increase women's capacity to respond to climate change and natural disasters.

'Aisyiyah also runs a "Green Ramadan" programme, holding evening talks on how families can reduce waste and the use of plastics during the Islamic fasting month.

In Sumatra's Riau province, the LLHPB is preparing to work with the national peatland and mangrove restoration agency to rehabilitate degraded forests and land. Women volunteers in Kalimantan, meanwhile, are helping with wildfire prevention efforts.

4,700 seedlings have been planted by 'Aisyiyah volunteers since the end of last year. In March, 'Aisyiyah announced plans to plant 5 million fruit trees in homes and gardens, partly to boost food security during the coronavirus pandemic.

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## **11. Mauritius' First Female President on Why We Need Science Diplomacy to Address Major Challenges**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/05/mauritius-first-female-president-on-why-we-need-science-diplomacy-to-address-major-challenges/>

HYDERABAD, India, May 20, 2021 (IPS) - If we want to address the great challenges this world is facing, we have to factor in science into all our narratives, according to Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, the first woman president of Mauritius and renowned biodiversity scientist. In an interview conducted over Zoom, Gurib-Fakim tells IPS the real cost of biodiversity loss. She also tells IPS about the importance of using science diplomacy to better international relations and the importance of investing in the youth.

*IPS: Can you identify a few sectors where investing in youth is needed right now?*

AGF: The health sector needs capitalisation very, very fast, but I'm thinking of another sector, especially for Africa, the agricultural sector. In Africa, agriculture is estimated to be a \$1 trillion business. Now every time there is a messaging on Africa, we see a woman working with a baby on her back with a hoe in her hand, digging a very arid land. And this is not what agriculture is. So, just think what drone technology has been able to do, just think what smart technologies have been able to do to empower youth and investment,...[and] how many jobs can be created. But again, it calls for smart investment in the youth, in the ecosystem and in infrastructure.

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## **12. COVID-19 Widens Learning Gap For Girls In Rural Ghana**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/05/covid-19-widens-learning-gap-for-girls-in-rural-ghana>

Ghana's education sector was one of the hardest affected by the pandemic and for many girls, particularly those in rural areas, the consequences of school closures mean many will never return to their schooling. Many girls had to take on more responsibilities at home during the lockdown.

The pandemic's impacts on children's access and quality of education were most severely felt through the tracking closure of schools without adequate alternative education services accessible by all children, nation-wide. This exacerbated existing inequities in education in the short and long- terms and worsened existing barriers to access as urban/rural disparities are significant, with children in rural areas, as well as in the Northern and Upper West regions faring far worse.

Ghana's government, with funding from the World Bank, introduced a \$15 million, one-year remote learning system as part of the COVID-19 response for continued learning, recovery and resilience for basic education. It included developing accessible and inclusive learning modules through TV and radio, distributing printed teaching and learning materials, distributing pre-loaded content devices to vulnerable groups who lack access to technology, and in-service teacher training to ensure teachers can effectively deliver lessons through innovative platforms. Despite the remote learning platforms, Adams says she and some students in her community still faced a lot of challenges in ensuring equitable access to these services, because "we do not have access to online learning devices or the internet at home".

Chief Director of the Ministry of Education, Benjamin Kofi Gyasi, who is also the COVID-19 focal person for education, tells IPS that while remote learning strategies aim to ensure continual learning for all children, "we know that the most marginalised children, including those in the most rural, hard-to-reach and poorest communities and girls, may not be able to access these opportunities." He adds that the ministry is prioritising the learning of most vulnerable children through the provision of learning devices/equipment and connectivity, where possible, adding that the initiative has reached more than half of targeted learners.

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### **13. Hydroponic Research Report at Canada Wide Science Fair**

<https://www.discoverwestman.com/local/brandon-student-achieves-silver-in-canada-wide-science-fair>

Project Board at <https://projectboard.world/ysc/project/grow-big-or-grow-home-a-two-year-study-on-economical-sustainable-hydroponic-yield-facilitation-only>

Brandon, Manitoba's Grade 12 Vincent Massey student Emily Robb received a most prestigious award at this year's Canada Wide Science Fair. Robb was one of 4 Westman area finalists who participated in the virtual CWSF 2021 earlier this month. Robb's project, 'Grow Big or Grow Home: A Two-Year Study on Economical & Sustainable Hydroponic Yield Facilitation', has taken years of study on Robb's part. Robb's study on hydroponics tested a variety of combinations with the best outcome, that being the greatest growth with the right combination of inputs, as her goal.

All Canada Wide Science Fair results are available at <https://youthscience.ca/science-fairs/cwsf/ottawa-2021/results/>

The weeklong Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) brings together the country's top young scientists in grades 7-12/Cégep. It's been held every year since 1962, except 2020 when it was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. In addition to scientific, social, and cultural activities, the 500 finalists compete for medals, cash prizes, scholarships and exclusive opportunities.

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### **14. Science-themed treasure hunt: NSERC Science Odyssey 2021**

<https://scwist.ca/steminist-treasure-hunt-nserc-science-odyssey/>

SCWIST organized a science themed treasure hunt, "STEMinist treasure hunt" for NSERC Science Odyssey 2021. The live event spanned 4 days from May 11th to May 14th, with a different hands-on science activity each day. The activities included cracking a code using the periodic table of elements, building a bridge, using static electricity to uncover the treasure chest, and learning about woodpecker anatomy to unlock the treasure chest, using easy to find household materials. Women in STEM led the participants through the event. Over 2000 kids of ages 8-12 from schools all over Canada participated in the event, from schools as far as Nova Scotia and Northwestern Territories.

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### 1. Gender and intersectionality in action research

<https://pubs.iied.org/20036iied>

IIED seeks to advance inclusive, equitable change. We are committed to conducting gender-transformative research that tackles the many and reinforcing inequalities that women and men experience. In late 2020, IIED researchers carried out a structured analysis of their selected past and ongoing research to see how effectively it incorporated the issues of gender equality and intersectionality. This Reflect & Act explores this work and discusses the key lessons learnt, as well as looking at next steps. Findings include Cambodian, Nepalese and Tanzanian locations.

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### 2. The Women’s Empowerment Principles - Gender Gap Analysis Tool

<https://weps-gapanalysis.org/>

What is your company doing to advance gender equality? Identify strengths and areas where further action can be taken.

The evidence is clear: gender equality is critical to business performance and sustainable economic growth globally. Unleashing the full potential of women and girls could add more than \$12 trillion dollars to global GDP, drive significant positive impacts on business productivity and the bottom line, and support families and communities around the world.

The Women’s Empowerment Principles Gender Gap Analysis Tool (WEPs Tool) is a business-driven tool designed to help companies from around the world assess gender equality performance across the workplace, marketplace, and community.

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### 3. Results Based Financing for Off-grid Solar: The Green Economic Recovery Fund

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t27fRu7x1mE>

<https://snv.org/update/how-results-based-financing-spurring-solar-market-development-tanzania>

Funded by Energising Development, and implemented by SNV, the Green Economic Recovery Fund GERF builds off proven results-based financing (RBF) mechanisms to aid in Covid-19 Green Economic Recovery for the off-grid solar sector in Tanzania.

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### 4. Six Steps to Closing Gender Gaps with Stronger Data Systems

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/six-steps-to-closing-gender-gaps-with-stronger-data-systems>

Data2X and Open Data Watch have released a report showing that recurrent data gaps are exacerbating gender inequalities. The report titled, ‘State of Gender Data Financing – 2021,’ published on 11 May 2021, builds on the 2019 issue of the report.

The publication finds that the recognition of the importance of gender data has increased, along with the understanding of gender data gaps. But financing has not risen accordingly to meet the identified needs.

Strengthened support for gender data would yield broad benefits; according to the report, gender data instruments overlap significantly with those needed by robust statistical systems. Since “persistent low levels of financing for gender data go hand in hand with recurring gender data gaps,” the authors recommend six actions for the global community to gradually increase support for gender data:

- 1) Build a coalition for more and better financing;
- 2) Increase demand for gender data;
- 3) Deliver on the promise of new sources of data;
- 4) Encourage a country-driven approach;
- 5) Prioritize core data systems; and
- 6) Advocate for increased donor funding.

Gender equality is the subject of SDG 5, and SDG target 17.18 stresses the need for “high-quality, timely and reliable data” disaggregated by gender, among several other characteristics.

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## 5. The AgSpirations Report by AWARD

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/announcing-the-agspirations-report-by-african-women-in-agricultural-research-and-development/>

Download at <https://agspirations.awardfellowships.org/>

<https://agspirations.awardfellowships.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AWARD-AgSpirations-Vol-1.pdf>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is excited to release a new publication highlighting some of the gender-responsive innovations enhancing agricultural research and development in Africa.

The new publication, AgSpirations Volume 1, features inspiring stories of African agriculture and outlines some of AWARD’s achievements in strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender-responsive agricultural research and innovation.

*Gender-responsive agricultural research is a significant opportunity for systemic transformation that we continued to harness in 2019. We intensified our mission of equipping African researchers and institutions to deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa’s agricultural value chains.*

*We forged partnerships with eight national agricultural research institutions in six African countries, which saw us customize and deploy various interventions to build their gender responsiveness. The interventions included customized institutional fellowship programs and mentoring programs and supporting partner institutions to develop their gender strategies and leadership programs.*

*We scaled our investments in strengthening the pipeline of women in leadership in ARD. Through the pan-African AWARD Fellowship targeting francophone Africa, we reached an additional 208 scientists from 13 sub-Saharan countries (nine francophone countries, four anglophone countries). ...*

*Through the One Planet Fellowship, we fostered a robust global network of capable and influential researchers and research leaders able to deploy a gender lens to analyze their research’s potential to bridge the gender gap in African agriculture and help smallholders adapt to a changing climate.*

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## 6. Gender-Responsive Investments in Africa’s Agriculture for Inclusive Food Systems

<https://awardfellowships.org/webinar/gender-responsive-investments-in-africas-agriculture-for-inclusive-food-systems/>

This collaboration sought to present a strategic platform that fosters continental and global collective actions toward strengthening gender-inclusive private sector engagement in African Agricultural Research and Development. The key objectives of the forum were: to facilitate a consultative e-forum to identify and discuss the main gender issues in

agricultural research for development (AR4D), to propose solutions to a gender-inclusive private sector engagement, to contribute towards a framework for advocacy for increased investment in gender-responsive approaches in AR4D, and to highlight strategies for implementation of post-summit actions towards gender-responsive food systems. Listen to the recording.

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## 7. Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Gender Mainstreaming Guide

<https://awardfellowships.org/our-learnings/taat-gender-mainstreaming-guide-2/>

The Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Project consider gender as a critical component and demands that gender should be integrated through designing and implementing interventions. Based on findings from the assessment led by AWARD, this guide proposes two approaches for gender mainstreaming.

- 1) The first one is gender mainstreaming in organizational processes. These include building good technical capacity, developing or reviewing gender policy, enabling corporate culture, promoting accountability, and improving political will for gender integration in the whole work processes.
- 2) The second strategy is mainstreaming gender in the whole project cycle. Gender should be integrated from identification, design, implementation and monitoring, and evaluation of interventions and activities.

The guide also recommends key action areas TAAT partners and stakeholders should do if proper gender mainstreaming is to happen, women and men are equally benefited from the project interventions. The book is free and accessible.

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## 8. Report: Young women in the agricultural sector in Uganda: Lessons from the Youth Forward Initiative

<https://odi.org/en/publications/young-women-in-the-agricultural-sector-in-uganda-lessons-from-the-youth-forward-initiative/>

[https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/ODI-YFLP-GenderAgriculture-Report-FINAL-14.05.2021\\_C6kOx3x.pdf](https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/ODI-YFLP-GenderAgriculture-Report-FINAL-14.05.2021_C6kOx3x.pdf)

In Uganda, more women are primarily engaged in agriculture than men, yet female farmers face more challenges in starting successful agribusinesses than their male counterparts.

This report explores the experiences of young women in Uganda, finding that a diverse set of harmful social and cultural attitudes around gender play a key role in limiting farming opportunities for women in rural communities. Taking a youth and gender perspective, with analysis of government policy and interviews with a range of youth participants and regional agricultural stakeholders, this research provides lessons for future programmes that seek to support young people to build sustainable livelihoods in farming.

### Key Messages

- A range of macro-, meso- and micro-level factors significantly impact rural livelihoods and in turn shape women's agribusiness trajectories. Evidence of gender-differentiated outcomes following participation in the Youth Forward Initiative indicated that gender norms play a very important role in determining women's engagement in the agricultural sector.
- The qualitative findings indicated improved economic empowerment of young women and men through increased access to inputs, technology, education, learning, connections to supply-chain companies, and financial services. Participation helped youth to gain agricultural and entrepreneurial skills and to diversify income sources to build different kinds of livelihoods.

- Women’s participation in community groups and in Village Savings and Loans Associations generated shifts in their well-being, confidence and self-worth, increasing their ability to exercise voice and individual agency. This meant women were able to challenge harmful gender norms in their communities around: decorum and mobility, managing and earning income, and making decisions in the household.
- The study identified four broad, cross-cutting action areas and thematic lessons for policy, programmes, gender and sustainability, that can be adapted to district and local realities.

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