



Wild Lady's Slipper orchids. Cypripedium parviflorum. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse - Summer School

<https://www.digna.ca/psea-summer-school/>

Digna is offering “PSEA Summer School” for Canadian Organizations working in International Cooperation to increase capacity to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse. Please register online for each module that meets your needs – from the basics to PSEA in HR, programming, and managing investigations, there’s a module for your whole team.

The Summer School will run 8 sessions of approximately 3 hours each, in both English and French, **between June 29th and September 2nd**. Choose the modules, dates, and language that work for you. By participating in the PSEA Summer School, your organization will be able to:

- Equip senior leaders with the knowledge needed for strategic oversight of PSEA.
- Build the capacity of those responsible for key PSEA roles within the organization; and
- Ensure that all staff know how to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse in a way that ensures a survivor-centered approach, promotes power shifts in ways of working, and enables programming to succeed with reduced risk of SEA.

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2. Call for Applications: PSEA Outreach and Communication Fund

<https://www.icvanetwork.org/resources/community-outreach-and-communication-fund-psea-call-proposals>

"Raising community-awareness on the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) committed by aid workers and available reporting channels is critical to preventing of SEA, as well as to ensuring that victims know where and how to safely report SEA when it does take place. Due to the existence of gaps in communication and outreach as well as in appropriate rights-based messaging, local stakeholders have underlined the need for effective, updated information, education and communication (IEC) materials on PSEA that are tailored to local cultural contexts, operational realities, the groups that are most at risk, and which take into account, among others, levels of literacy, languages, age and capacity.

To support NGOs in meeting these needs, UNHCR and ICVA have jointly launched the PSEA Outreach and Communication Fund. This Fund will provide rapid, targeted financial support to NGOs to develop and disseminate PSEA outreach and communication materials, and to make available to all IASC members and the wider sector the materials developed through the Fund for their further use or adaptation."

Who can apply? NGOs, particularly those that may have limited financial capacity to develop outreach and communication materials on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). NGOs contributing to humanitarian responses are encouraged to apply. Large global organizations will not be considered for this fund.

Applications will be accepted until July 2nd, 2021.

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3. Allies for Gender Equality Toolkit: Knowledge Sharing Session

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/knowledge-sharing-session-white-ribbon-allies-for-gender-equality-toolkit-tickets-160214430675>

White Ribbon is thrilled to inform you that we developed a new toolkit in consultation with project advisory committee members representing organizations at the national level. The toolkit's title is "Allies for Gender Equality Toolkit: Enhancing Intersectionality In Engaging Men and Boys- Creating Fair and Engaging Practices Using Gender-Based Analysis+"

The toolkit is an informative resource, that presents guidelines and key strategies, for the application of Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) tool in the work of organizations that engage men and boys in gender-transformative equity practices.

Knowledge sharing session is planned for **Wed, July 7, 2021, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM CDT.**

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4. Indigenous-led agricultural projects receive federal funding

<https://www.greenhousecanada.com/16-indigenous-led-agricultural-projects-receive-over-4-million-in-federal-funding/>

Ottawa has announced investments of over \$4 million in 16 projects that will help support Indigenous food systems initiatives.

Announced through the Indigenous Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (IASFI) and the AgriDiversity Program, these projects build on previous federal support of \$2.1 million. The aim is to provide equitable access to healthy food and increase participation of under-represented groups in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

The IAFSI is a five-year (2018-2023) joint initiative with Indigenous Services Canada funded in part through the Strategic Partnerships Initiative (SPI), an innovative, horizontal initiative that fosters federal coordination to boost indigenous participation in economic growth. IAFSI funding supports Indigenous producers, communities, and organizations who are ready to launch agriculture and food systems projects and others who want to build their capacity to participate in the sector. Applications for IAFSI funding will be accepted **until July 31, 2021**, for projects to be completed on or before March 31, 2023.

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5. 'Gender-Just Climate Solutions' Awards

<https://www.judgify.me/genderjustclimatesolutionsawards2021en>

The Women and Gender Constituency, which WEDO is a proud member of, is thrilled to invite you to participate in the 6th annual 'Gender-Just Climate Solutions' Awards! These awards aim to showcase transformative solutions for a more just, equal and healthy planet.

All activists, grassroots and women-led organizations and groups working on issues related to climate change are encouraged to apply. Three award recipients will receive seed grants, travel support to attend COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland (depending on COVID-19), and mentorship opportunities, and runners-up will be showcased in a publication, online platform and awards ceremony.

The deadline for entries is **Saturday, July 31st, 2021, 11 pm EST.**

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6. 2021 Call for Concept Notes - Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/smo_call-2019-appel_pmo.aspx

This call for concept notes is part of Global Affairs Canada’s five-year pilot initiative targeted at Canadian small and medium organizations (SMOs). This initiative seeks to engage Canadian SMOs in international assistance efforts in areas consistent with Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy. It seeks to diversify the Department’s partnerships that contribute to international development, improve the capacity and knowledge of Canadian SMOs and their partners abroad to produce results, and strengthen the engagement of Canadians.

The total amount of funding available under this call for concept notes is up to \$36 million over five years. Global Affairs Canada may fund any number of proposals or none, up to the maximum funding available. Canadian SMOs will have until 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET on **September 22, 2021**, to submit their application.

Applicants may send questions about this call by email to SMO.PMO@international.gc.ca. Questions must be submitted before 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET on **August 18, 2021**, and answers will be published on the Questions and Answers page for this call.

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7. Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2021virtual/registration/>

Registration for the AWC Virtual 2021 Conference includes 2 full days of presentations from speakers who will inspire, motivate and engage! **November 22-23, 2021.** Don’t miss this opportunity to:

- meet hundreds of women who are passionate about the agriculture industry.
- learn about leadership, communication, life skills and much more.
- hear women’s unique stories about their journeys and the lessons they have learned.
- network with other delegates while the conference is on.
- watch speaker presentations again until December 31, 2021.

Register today to take advantage of the **early bird discount pricing (available until August 1, 2021).**

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8. Results Based Management Online Course

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

This free online course is a self-paced eLearning course covering basic Results-Based Management (RBM) concepts, how RBM can be applied, and provides participants with hands-on practise using basic RBM tools that takes approximately 3 hours to complete. If you work for a Canadian small or medium-sized organization (SMO) involved in global development, then this course is for you! Successful completion of RBM 101 is mandatory to participate in RBM 201.

RBM 201 will be an Intermediate-level two-day (15 hour) participatory workshop. RBM 201 will bring learners to the next level of RBM's application and understanding. The course will focus on the design and implementation of RBM strategy and practice throughout the project cycle. Although currently envisioned to occur Fall 2021, the exact timing and delivery method will depend on the Covid context.

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This Month's News

1. Opinion: Why we need gender and food systems research

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-hurting-or-helping-why-we-need-gender-and-food-systems-research-99922>

Well-intended efforts are being made across the globe to reduce gender inequalities in agriculture, including by engaging women farmers in entrepreneurship or new jobs within the wider food system. But we still need to find out whether women are benefiting or becoming empowered by these initiatives.

Approaches departing from previous business-as-usual attempts to include women. Instead, they work to tackle the root causes of inequality by transforming gender norms and show great potential for reducing inequalities in food systems. This results in significant progress toward gender-responsive agricultural innovations that support women and men to become equal partners in agriculture.

Importantly, women in food systems — whether marginalized, at risk, or in leadership — are a heterogeneous group with vastly different realities, opportunities, and challenges. The diversity of women provides even more reason to prioritize research that identifies their specific needs and challenges, thereby providing an informed starting point for tackling inequalities.

Ground-breaking approaches for measuring women's empowerment have so far helped development practitioners in at least 56 countries to understand, track, and improve progress made in their projects.

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2. Opinion: Why Investing in Women Is Key to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/06/investing-women-key-achieving-sustainable-development-goals/>

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jun 1 2021 (IPS) - Last year, the Asia-Pacific region recorded its worst economic performance in decades. With the pandemic far from over, the region's recovery is slow, fragile and highly uneven both across and within countries. As the region struggles to recover, how can countries rebuild their economies and revive their development?

The answer can be found in the flea market of Suva, the Facebook commerce online stores of Bangladesh, and the digital learning centers across Viet Nam. In these and so many other spots across the Asia-Pacific region, it is clear that women entrepreneurs are a driving force of recovery and the mainspring of commerce and technology.

ESCAP – in collaboration with the Government of Canada – initiated the Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) programme. The programme addresses three fundamental barriers that are hindering the growth of women-led businesses.

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3. Innovation: G+ tools for gender-responsive plant breeding

<https://www.cgiar.org/innovations/g-tools-for-gender-responsive-breeding/>

The G+ approach for gender-responsive breeding, developed by CGIAR scientists since 2018, offers an integrated, systematic and evidence-based protocol for breeding new crop varieties. The approach builds on work by the CGIAR Excellence in Breeding (EiB) Platform on the concept of a “product profile”, which describes the traits that different actors want in a new variety, giving plant breeders a target. The G+ approach complements this with two additional tools. The G+ plus customer profile characterizes client groups targeted for new varieties, considering gender differences in knowledge, assets and decision-making which influence adoption. This makes it easier for breeders to develop the right product for the right customers.

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4. Putting gender, intersectionality and social justice at the centre of transformative responses to climate change

<https://www.iied.org/putting-gender-intersectionality-social-justice-centre-transformative-responses-climate-change>

At IIED, our strategy commits us to address inequality and promote the rights and voice of poor men and women, young and old. Social justice is at the centre of our climate change research.

But over the past year – a year when the COVID-19 pandemic has made global inequality much worse – we have asked ourselves whether the way that we work and what we do will support transformation quickly enough.

We need to proceed with renewed urgency, taking steps through our research to dismantle systems that hold some people back and privilege others when confronting the challenge of climate change.

Five steps towards social justice

- i. Gender and intersectionality analysis must be central to designing our intervention.
- ii. Getting better at intersectionality means understanding power dynamics,
- iii. Tracking our impact
- iv. Gendered and intersectional communication of evidence
- v. Enabling ourselves to be better at tackling gender and intersectionality in climate action for social justice.

Using the Spirit in Action approach to changing the way we do change to define transformative processes, we commit to a process.

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5. Women in Food & Agriculture Newsletter

<https://www.wfasummit.com/content-hub/>

We are proud to launch our first WFA newsletter! This will be your monthly occasion to catch up with the biggest news for diversity of the food & ag industry, WFA content and announcements, and an opportunity for you to discover various initiatives promoting inclusivity.

In this first edition, you will find an exclusive piece released for the occasion of this newsletter on why diversity is key in our industry with insights from the WFA Advisory Board, followed by our top stories of the month, to inspire you in your career and learn more about how to support the women around you.

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6. Four Women-run Projects that are Redefining Agriculture

<https://www.magazine.cog.ca/article/four-women-run-projects-that-are-redefining-agriculture/>

The Canadian Organic Grower is showcasing creative and innovative women who are leading the way towards creating a more equitable future for food security. The work they've done and continue to do for their communities, the organic movement, and the environment deserve to be recognized. We're very lucky to have such dedicated caretakers across the country, and understand that these are only a few examples of extraordinary women we know.

- Jane Rabinowicz, Tiffany Traverse and the whole team at SeedChange are working with farmers and like-minded organizations to reclaim the power of good food and nourish communities.
- Smith and Varga are known in PEI for their beautiful and bountiful farm.
- Heather Stretch, Robin Tunnicliffe and Rachel Fisher are co-owners of Saanich Organics in Victoria, British Columbia, and each have certified organic farms of their own.
- Tammara Soma, Tamara Shulman, and Belinda Li are co-directors of the Food Systems Lab, a research hub that specializes in bringing a sustainable food system to everyone.

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7. Science for All: Building a Gender-Inclusive Future in the Sciences

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/news/science-all-building-gender-inclusive-future-sciences>

For women who manage to successfully enter science-based careers, challenges remain. Studies have shown that women are discouraged from, or become less interested in, entering the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) beginning at a young age. And according to the Pew Research Center, women remain underrepresented in engineering, computer science and physical science.

Research also reveals that women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) fields are paid less than their male counterparts, are less likely to publish their research, and are not promoted at the same pace of men.

A gender-inclusive approach to scientific research not only supports women researchers but ensures that both women and men fully benefit from the scientific process. For example, research points to gendered access to resources and climate-related priorities, making gender-disaggregated data an important component for the design and implementation of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies.

It is imperative that we work towards a future where scientific advancement is unhindered by bias and stereotypes.

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8. The changing face of the Farm Management and Technology Program at McGill

<https://reporter.mcgill.ca/the-changing-face-of-the-farm-management-and-technology-program>

For the very first time, the graduating cohort from the Farm Management and Technology Program (FMT) at McGill University was made up of more than 50 per cent women. The end result is a program that is healthier and more vibrant because of its diversity.

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9. How educating women and girls can mitigate climate change

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-educating-women-and-girls-can-mitigate-climate-change-100170>

At least 200 million adolescent girls face a heightened risk from the effects of climate change. Catherine Boyce, director of enterprise development at the NGO CAMFED, says countries with more women in government are more likely to adopt

climate protection policies. In the latest in our People and the Planet series, Rumbi Chakamba looks at girls' education, one of the most overlooked mechanisms for fighting climate change — even as climate change threatens the gains made in educating women and girls around the world.

Although well-educated girls and women have been identified as a powerful part of the solution to the climate change problem, girls' education remains one of the most overlooked mechanisms for fighting weather-related catastrophes and adapting to climate change. Countries with more women in government are also more likely to adopt climate protection policies, according to Boyce.

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10. Meal – Finishers

<https://newint.org/features/2021/06/11/zambia-meal-finishers-fjf>

'Meal-finishers' is the colloquial term for groups of hungry, often jobless young men on Zambia streets who quietly turn up at the motel, hotel or roadside eateries and politely offer to take over meals that have been abandoned part way through – usually by tourists who are not used to Zambia-style oversize buffets.

Sustainability charity HIVOS reports Zambia has an outsized food waste problem, compared to its sub-Saharan neighbours, despite half the country's population being unable to access enough food to meet the minimum necessary calories per day. The HIVOS charity says Zambia's food waste is one of Africa's biggest.

Over half of Zambia's population of 17 million live below the poverty line. Unemployment among young people sits at around 20 per cent and it is only young men who have the courage to ask for this food, which would otherwise go to waste.

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11. What women want – Part two: To map vulnerability to climate change

<https://www.iied.org/what-women-want-part-two-map-vulnerability-climate-change>

Guest blogger Sheela Patel continues her discussion of the priorities and needs of women living in informal settlements and tenements, highlighted by COVID-19. In this blog, she explains why women are ideally placed to map vulnerability to climate change in their community and city.

Five priority areas emerged. The four described in part one of this blog were: a roof over their heads; greens in their meals; women taking care of their own health; and 'wheels and wages', or the difficulties navigating increasingly unaffordable transport options.

This blog discusses the fifth request from women – to be able to use their own knowledge and skills to map vulnerability to climate change. In the last two years of working on climate change issues, SDI has tried to understand what brought women to the city, the challenges they face and where they live. An underlying driver of women moving to cities is their vulnerability to climate change, and being unable to find work in rural areas because of climate change's negative impacts on agriculture and on rural populations.

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12. Turning up the heat – how chilli growing is conserving Uganda's wildlife

<https://www.iied.org/turning-heat-how-chilli-growing-conserving-ugandas-wildlife>

As part of the IIED-led project that seeks to increase community engagement in tackling wildlife crime by implementing park-level action plans, Village Enterprise has established a Model Conservation Village programme in Nanda, a village on the edge of Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

The programme supports women from households in Nanda to start wildlife-friendly businesses, with the aim of mitigating human-wildlife conflict and poaching in MFNP. It also seeks to raise awareness of the park's benefits – to build support for conservation.

The women are originally subsistence farmers who were targeted for enterprise development as an incentive for the male members of their household to remain in the project's wildlife scout programme.

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13. Research in Malawi Shows How Access Impacts Female Farmers

<https://foodtank.com/news/2021/06/research-in-malawi-shows-how-access-impacts-female-farmers>

When farmers of any gender in Malawi had equal access to resources and land, they produced the same high yields, so why do women-run farms have lower production? Lack of access to high-quality inputs. There is nothing "about being a man or woman that innately makes you better at farming," Dr. William Burke, lead author of the study, tells Food Tank.

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14. Canada ups investment in youth agriculture programs

<https://www.thepigsite.com/news/2021/06/canada-ups-investment-in-youth-agriculture-programs>

The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing \$1.4 million and working with 4-H Ontario to develop educational content and first-hand learning experiences to inspire the next generation to explore exciting careers in the agri-food sector.

For more than 100 years, 4-H Ontario has provided youth with lifelong leadership skills and hands-on learning on topics such as technology and science, livestock and agriculture knowledge, financial management, food preparation, nutrition, and career development.

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15. Biden's Push for Equity in Government Hits Legal and Political Roadblocks

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/26/us/politics/biden-racial-equity.html>

A small-business program in the USA that prioritized applications from women and people of color has had to change its rules after a lawsuit was filed on behalf of white restaurant owners. This week, a judge stopped an Agriculture Department program to forgive the debts of Black farmers and other minority farmers that had been intended to redress years of discrimination.

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16. Dispossessed, Again: Climate Change Hits Native Americans Especially Hard

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/27/climate/climate-native-americans.html>

From Alaska to Florida, Native Americans are facing severe climate challenges, the newest threat in a history marked by centuries of distress and dislocation. While other communities struggle on a warming planet, Native tribes are experiencing

an environmental peril exacerbated by policies — first imposed by white settlers and later the United States government — that forced them onto the country’s least desirable lands.

And now, climate change is quickly making that marginal land uninhabitable. The first Americans face the loss of home once again. In the Pacific Northwest, coastal erosion and storms are eating away at tribal land, forcing native communities to try to move inland. In the Southwest, severe drought means Navajo Nation is running out of drinking water. At the edge of the Ozarks, heirloom crops are becoming harder to grow, threatening to disconnect the Cherokee from their heritage.

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17. STEM Summer Programs for Female-Identified Youth

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

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at the University of Manitoba is offering virtual science, technology, engineering and math [STEM] summer programs for female-identified youth. WISE Kid-netic Energy helps youth become more interested in STEM. WISE has produced activity booklets based on Kindergarten to Grade 8 Science curriculum. Virtual clubs for youth in Grades 3 to 5 and Grades 6 to 8 are available for STEAM [science, technology, engineering, art and math] and the Space Farm. Themes offered in the club include extreme engineering, medical science, ecology and ecosystems, chemistry and codemakers. The Space Farm mission is to grow plants in space. Spots are limited.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Study shows how training is shaping women’s awareness of their land rights

<https://www.iied.org/study-shows-how-training-shaping-womens-awareness-their-land-rights>

Despite Senegal’s favourable legal framework, women – representing a large portion (68%) of the agricultural workforce (PDF, French language only) – face many challenges in accessing land, aggravated by significant commercial land pressures. Disparities in land access are increasing inequality between men and women and widening the gender poverty gap. This is particularly the case in rural areas.

To tackle these issues, IIED and partner IED Afrique set up the 'Gender, Land and Accountability' project.

A recent study of two Senegalese villages showed how training women on land access is helping them claim their land rights. But disparities in results between locations and the use of customary practices as the preferred way of accessing land highlighted that civil society organisations' (CSOs) strategies and approaches need to reflect local realities, and ensure women from different groups and geographies also benefit.

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2. Assessing and improving the social impacts of protected areas: Case studies from Kenya and Uganda

<https://pubs.iied.org/20151iied>

<https://pubs.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-05/20151IIED.pdf>

This research report provides an overview of the Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (SAPA) methodology and describes the results of SAPA’s application at six protected areas in Kenya and Uganda.

These case studies provide a practical illustration of the kind of information generated by SAPA, and integrate outcome harvesting to determine whether SAPA can make a difference. The report is written primarily for conservation practitioners but will also be of interest to policymakers.

It underscores the importance of inclusive, multi-stakeholder approaches and reflects more broadly on their contribution to goals for enhancing the effectiveness and equity of protected area management and governance.

Differentiation based on gender and wellbeing status.

SAPA can help explore differences in opinions of different social groups. For example, women agreed less often with positive statements about governance at all six PAs. At RNP in Kenya, 53% on average agreed they could share issues and concerns with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), but more men (61%) than women (46%) agreed. Similarly, at MNR, 48% on average reported human injury and death caused by wild animals as a high negative impact, but more respondents from households with lower wellbeing (61%) than respondents from households with higher wellbeing (48%) reported this. These differences, in turn, can have major implications for PA management and governance.

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3. Toolkit on Decolonization

Toolkit https://videa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Decolonization-Toolkit_VIDEA2020.pdf

Facilitator Guide https://videa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/VIDEA_Facilitators-Guide.pdf

Organizational Decolonisation Action Plan <https://videa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/OrganisationalDecolonisationAP.pdf>

Acknowledging the importance of strengthening and bettering organizations through decolonial practices and principles, VIDEA developed a toolkit on decolonization. This toolkit aims to inspire conversation and growth at personal, professional, organizational levels or in communities. A Facilitator Guide is also available to assist you in using the toolkit in your decolonization efforts.

The Organizational Decolonisation Action Plan outlines actions that organizations can take to build and implement their decolonization plan.

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4. Working paper: Women’s involvement in coffee agroforestry value-chains: Financial training, Village Savings and Loans Associations, and Decision power in Northwest Vietnam

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/111055/WP%20340%20Simelton.pdf>

Abstract

Globally, in the coffee sector and smallholder agriculture in developing countries, there is a distinct gender gap in key factors that enable women’s active participation in and contribution to the coffee value chain and in farm and domestic decisions, such as decisions over credit, agricultural inputs, and training opportunities and division of labor and time.

This study assesses Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) impacts and related training on gender equality and women’s access to coffee markets in an ongoing coffee project in northwest Vietnam. All 169 women in this survey received gender equality and finance training, with one group being members of a VSLA and taking out small loans. With Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI), women rated their perception of their decision-making power over a range of 18 tasks related to household and agricultural responsibilities and use of income and social activities over 18 months.

There were significant improvements in decision-making power in categories with previously low participation and increased sharing of domestic responsibilities. The categories with the biggest gains were decision-making over large purchases and use of income, especially for VSLA-members who sought out market information before engaging with potential coffee buyers and enhanced their negotiating abilities to arrange more favorable outcomes successfully.

These results indicate that active gender and finance training translated to real changes in gender dynamics, and membership of a VSLA also helped women improve their financial literacy and improve their negotiating abilities. Husbands to women in the study also began to reconsider gender roles and shift towards equal sharing of responsibility and decision-making with their wives.

Based on this study, we recommend (1) implementing gender and finance training and enabling access to loans for women as a means for their inclusion in agriculture value chains, and (2) engaging the whole household in gender training in order for all family members to be receptive to adjustments in the gender division of responsibility, labor and decision-making. The results indicate the conditions under which women can benefit from activities involving agroforestry systems that also enhance carbon sequestration for climate change mitigation compared to coffee monoculture.

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5. Disparate access to quality land and fertilizers explain Malawi's gender yield gap

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0306919220302086>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2020.102002>

Abstract

Grain yields on land managed by women in developing countries are usually lower than those on male-managed fields. This is usually attributed to unequal access to productive inputs, highlighting the systemically inequalitarian distribution of opportunities between men and women. This study examines the yield differences between male-, female- and jointly-managed maize fields in Malawi. We test the hypothesis that there is no yield gap after controlling for access to higher quality soils, fertilizer, and other inputs. Furthermore, we explicitly test for significant differences in the endowment of soil quality and the likelihood of employing soil improving management practices between male-, female- and jointly-managed fields. We employ field-level data on field managers, production, and input use, coupled with lab-assessed field-specific soil characteristics from 912 observations in Malawi's Central and Southern regions that were collected during the 2018 harvest season. Unlike many previous studies, we measure yield using a combination of yield cuts, plant population density, mid-season chlorophyll measurements, and satellite data (versus using farmer-reported data). Soil quality endowments are measured using total carbon, an effectively fixed condition. Farming effects on soil quality are measured using labile carbon fractions. We find women are disproportionately likely to be farming with lower quality seeds and less fertilizer on lower quality soils, and there is no yield gap after controlling for these factors. Our results will be beneficial to policy makers in Malawi because they highlight potential interventions that can be both productivity-enhancing and advance the goal of gender equality.

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6. Gender Equality Strategy for the Social Innovation Space

<https://fit-fit.ca/wp-content/uploads/FIT-Gender-Equality-Strategy-EN.pdf>

From the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT): As part of a complete Gender Equality Strategy (GES), small and medium organizations (SMOs) are requested to conduct an In-Depth Gender Scan (IGS) for the Social Innovation Space to further identify and understand barriers to gender equality that the innovative solution will address. The findings of the IGS should be used for the development of a gender sensitive testing framework (and theory of change), which will help to define the outcomes of the innovative solution. Each SMO should develop a GES appropriate for their innovative solution and testing framework.

This document is intended to provide guidance to SMOs on how to develop a GES for short testing periods to ensure gender is considered throughout the design and testing of innovative solutions.

Developing a FIT GES involves four stages:

- Stage 1: Conduct an in-depth gender scan for the social innovation space;
- Stage 2: Identify priority gender equality outcomes as they relate to the innovative solution and its testing framework;
- Stage 3: Develop an action plan for the testing framework; and
- Stage 4: Develop a monitoring plan for the testing framework.

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7. Gender Learning Series

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/gender-learning-series/>

If you missed Spur's Gender Learning Series last fall, consider taking it now as we all slow down for summer. This first session features Deborah Simpson, Oxfam Canada, Andres Gouldsbrough, Plan Canada and Calais Caswell, MEDA presenting gender-adapted tools and practices that help SMOs integrate gender/feminist approaches into their activities.

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8. Mobile Gender Gap Report 2021

<https://www.gsma.com/r/gender-gap/>

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a disproportionate toll on women, but in one area lockdowns and other disruptions may have narrowed an equity gap: mobile internet access. Women in LMICs are now 15% less likely than men to use mobile internet — down from 20% in 2019, according to GSMA's "The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2021," released June 17.

Women still face persistent structural barriers to mobile access, including often requiring permission from men. The pandemic created new "social justification" for women to go online — such as helping kids with mobile schooling — says Claire Sibthorpe of Connected Women, Connected Society and Assistive Tech.

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9. Podcast: LGBTQ+ Inclusion in the workplace

<https://shows.acast.com/women-in-food-agriculture-podcast/episodes/wfa-chats-corinne-bonadei>

In this episode of the Women in Food and Agriculture podcast, we speak to Corinne Bonadei, Director of Digital Strategy, Marketing Communication and Marketing & Sales Excellence for Animal Nutrition and Health at DSM.

Corinne is compelled to make the food and ag industry a more diverse and inclusive place. As a gay mother she has first-hand experience as to why inclusion is so important, and in this podcast, she shares her journey of how to create a true culture of inclusion within a business and take it to the next level.

We discuss how DSM went about driving D&I strategies forward, the work they have done to support the LGBTQ+ community in the workplace, and advice for businesses of all sizes aiming to create an inclusive environment.

This story is not one to miss for those who want to be inspired to make a difference within their own organisation and make the world more inclusive place to live.

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10. Feminist International Assistance Gender Equality Toolkit for Projects

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/gender_equality_toolkit-trousse_outils_egalite_genres.aspx

Partners seeking international assistance from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) are expected to ensure active and meaningful participation and decision-making by women and girls in all initiatives—from project design to implementation and through monitoring and evaluation. It is important that women and girls know about their rights, and that they have advocates working on their behalf, to promote and defend those rights. To do so, it is necessary to work closely with stakeholders that advance women’s rights—including local women’s organizations.

This toolkit provides guidance for designing and implementing feminist international assistance programming. Stronger projects are those that are rights-based and that focus on addressing the root causes of gender inequalities within historical, social, cultural, economic and political barriers.

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11. Male Allies for Gender Equality

<https://parlgendertools.org/en/male-allies-gender-equality/>

Although women's empowerment is a critical element of gender equality, gender equality is not a "women's issue," nor can it be advanced solely through women's efforts in public or private spheres. Men are important actors who can share the responsibility and participate actively in this agenda.

Men's action is furthermore necessary in the gender equality equation, because men continue to hold most of the influential decision-making positions in the region. Working in partnership with women, male parliamentarians can be game-changers in transforming the political cultures and institutions that uphold harmful gender norms.

This toolkit provides resources for parliamentarians to deepen their understanding of the dynamics and impacts of gender inequality. It provides simple techniques for addressing these shared concerns through legislative functions and in day-to-day life. The tools can also be employed to motivate colleagues to join in these efforts.

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12. Solar-Powered Fans Can Help Support Sustainable Futures

<https://efficiencyforaccess.org/publications/solar-powered-fans-can-help-support-sustainable-futures>

Appliances like fans can be lifesaving in rising temperatures, especially for women and the elderly who traditionally spend more time at home. Many people who need fans do not currently have access to them. Efficient, solar-powered fans are a low-cost and practical solution to keep people cool. In our first Human Success Story, we share the experiences of fan owners living in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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