



Traditional clothing of Latvian tribes. 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. Launch of the first PSEA case study

<https://www.digna.ca/developing-a-psea-policy-lessons-learned-recommendations/>

<https://www.digna.ca/fr/developper-une-politique-de-peas-lexperience-du-bccic>

Beginning in July, Digna will start publishing a series of case studies on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. This was developed in collaboration with Cooperation Canada's membership. The first of this series showcases the experience of the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) in developing a policy to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

The materials provide a comprehensive overview of the process of constructing a PSEA-dedicated policy, including good practice, lessons learned, and working with local communities and partners.

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### 2. Becoming a director of the Rural Ontario Institute

<https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/about/becoming-a-director>

ROI delivers programs that develop strong leaders who are critical voices around opportunities and key issues facing rural and northern Ontario. The board of directors includes 12 or more individuals from across Ontario who give of their time and talents to ensure that the programs and services offered by ROI are relevant and in keeping with the mission and mandate of the organization. For further information on the director recruitment process, please review the documents at the website.

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### 3. Interactive Dialogue: Envisioning Frameworks to Address Systemic Causes of the Persisting Gender Gap in Science

<https://awardfellowships.org/events/interactive-dialogue-envisioning-frameworks-to-address-systemic-causes-of-the-persisting-gender-gap-in-science/>

On **September 3, 2021**, AWARD will be hosting an interactive dialogue that will explore opportunities and strategies toward strengthening frameworks to bridge the gender gap in science. The webinar will also highlight the role of mentoring and innovative partnerships to facilitate the inclusion of more women scientists in global conversations, STEM leadership, and approaches that advance the inclusion and retention of women in science.

Speakers will include leading global voices working to shape the career pathways for emerging African scholars, leaders of research institutions, global research funders, actors from higher learning institutions, and emerging women in science.

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### 4. Public Engagement Specialist at MCIC

<https://www.mcic.ca/about/careers>

MCIC is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the role of Public Engagement Specialist. This position is primarily responsible for MCIC's classroom workshops for Manitoba students, professional development sessions for Manitoba educators, engagement with youth and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals. **Application Deadline: September 7, 2021.**

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### 5. Webinar: What works for women's land tenure security?

*A panel sharing findings on the effectiveness of interventions to improve women's land tenure security in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Kyrgyzstan.*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_R9cgOFMQRICS6fuhev\\_b4A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_R9cgOFMQRICS6fuhev_b4A)

<https://resourceequity.org/webinar-what-works-for-women-a-panel-sharing-findings-on-the-effectiveness-of-interventions-to-improve-womens-land-tenure-security-in-kenya-sierra-leone-and-kyrgyzstan/>

Resource Equity supports new research on the question of whether interventions are effective at improving women's land tenure security. With this recent round of funding, we aimed to hear from local researchers and to learn more about the interventions and issues that matter to them. We wanted to both contribute to knowledge on gender-differentiated results of land tenure reform interventions and to understand the attributes of policies or programs that make them better or worse for women. Ultimately, we hoped to help to strengthen local capacity for research on gender and land rights and help local actors shape policy and practice in their country. **Date: Wednesday 8th September 2021**

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### 6. MCIC's Lunch & Learn: Innovation on the Road to Equality

<https://www.mcic.ca/get-involved/upcoming-events/event/20>

**September 14, 2021, 12pm (Central Time):** Want to learn more about what FIT-funded SMOs are doing to advance gender equality? Make sure to attend MCIC's Lunch & Learn: Innovation on the Road to Equality, featuring two FIT SMOs, Change for Children and Canada Students Offering Support (SOS), who have completed the testing of their innovative education projects in Latin America. Join to hear more about these projects, lessons learned while testing these approaches, and how they work with local partners to implement.

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## 7. Women in Food & Agriculture Networking Session

<https://www.wfasummit.com/networking-session/>

Are you wishing you could expand your network in the food and ag industry? Want to meet like-minded women from all over the world? Take 30 minutes out of your day for a fun-filled, virtual speed networking session with members of the WFA community taking place on **Thursday 16 September at 16.00 CET | 10.00 EDT**.

Whether you are a CEO of an agribusiness, a farmer, a food scientist or a farming machinery executive, there's always value in meeting and learning from others from throughout our industry's many value chains. So everyone is welcome, regardless of your experience and background!

With icebreaker questions to keep things light and the opportunity to share contact details at the end of your discussions, it's the perfect opportunity to expand your network and meet new people.

This is an event for members of our WFA Community platform (sign up if you're already a member) BUT we are opening up 50 free places to those outside the community to try and give more people the chance to get involved.

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## 8. Empower Women 2021 Awards in Manitoba

[https://www.gov.mb.ca/msw/empower\\_awards.html](https://www.gov.mb.ca/msw/empower_awards.html)

The Government of Manitoba announced is re-launching the Empower Awards to recognize two outstanding Manitoba women working to advancing gender equality, i.e., one adult and one youth. Nomination forms and information about the evaluation process for nominees can be found on the Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat website. The awards will be presented in a small ceremony, pandemic permitting, on October 22, 2021 during Women's History Month.

**Deadline September 17, 2021**

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## 9. Manitoba Women in Agriculture & Food (MwAF) Careers Page

<https://www.mwaf.ca/careers>

Sixty opportunities are currently posted.

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## 10. Volunteer Opportunities: CESO / Virtual Assignments

<https://www.ceso-saco.com/initiative/virtual-assignments-ceso/>

Canadian Executive Service Organization CESO/SACO is looking for Advisors who are enthusiastic about sharing their professional skills in information technology, marketing, human resources and, importantly for Canadian Evaluation Society CES BC membership, because of recent Global Affairs Canada (GAC) awarded projects, a requirement for expertise in agribusiness and agroforestry, tourism and hospitality, health and nutrition, natural resource management, and many other areas which can help build a more resilient and sustainable world.

Given the impact of COVID-19, CESO has temporarily suspended the deployment of volunteers for in-country assignments and is offering the opportunity to provide support through Virtual Assignments.

The CESO Advisor brochure, STRONGER ECONOMIES FOR BETTER LIVES, tells you all about what to expect as a CESO Advisor, what an assignment might look like, and the rewarding experiences found in advancing a partner's mission.

To learn more about becoming a CESO Advisor follow the link or contact Volunteer Services at [volunteerservices@ceso-saco.com](mailto:volunteerservices@ceso-saco.com).

## **This Month's News**

### **1. Coping with COVID-19: Researching resilience in young agripreneurs**

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/stories/coping-covid-19-researching-resilience-young-agripreneurs>

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Kenya, it exacerbated two familiar issues for young entrepreneurs in the agriculture sector: resilience and inequalities, particularly gender inequality.

That is the main finding of a study led by the United States International University (USIU)-Africa through the Cultivate Africa's Future initiative (CultiAF). The results of the USIU-Africa study showed that the shock of the pandemic reduced sales and incomes, prompted job cuts, disrupted supply chains, and forced business closures in the sector. The research also revealed an outsized impact on female business owners.

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### **2. Keeping Indigenous food practices alive**

<https://www.devex.com/news/keeping-indigenous-food-practices-alive-100574>

The Khasi are an Indigenous people living in the eastern part of Meghalaya, a state in northeastern India. Far from the capital New Delhi, the remote region is known for being one of the rainiest in the world. For generations, the Khasi have used their traditional knowledge and growing techniques to create a food system that remains strong and resilient to this day.

But a lack of government recognition and an education system that drives the youth to the cities are posing challenges to the preservation of their techniques. Another concern is climate change, which is being felt acutely in both northern Thailand and northeastern India.

An opportunity for more international support is the creation of Indigenous-led organizations, so that communities like the Khasi and Pgas K'Nyau can create mechanisms and opportunities for the youth to carry on traditions and be more involved in global food movements.

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### **3. New standards in Kenya open doors for commercial insect-farming ventures**

<https://idrc.ca/en/news/new-standards-kenya-open-doors-commercial-insect-farming-ventures>

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) has approved new standards to support the development of insect-derived protein-rich food products for human consumption — a promising boost for insect farmers in Kenya.

As part of its mission to pioneer global science in entomology, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) has been collaborating with IDRC to research the use of insects in feed for poultry, fish and pig production in Sub-Saharan Africa (INSFEED). Part of the project has been devoted to training more than 200 small enterprises and 6,000 farmers on rearing, feeding and commercializing insects. Now in its second phase, the project continues to test and review production scaling models and market opportunities for smallholder farmers in Kenya and Uganda.

Dr Chrysantus Tanga, INSFEED project leader and icipe research scientist, explained that, with the development of the standards, "new opportunities have emerged to start the development of the insect value chain in order to harness the prospects across the entire chain that will allow producers, processors and suppliers, especially youth and women, to earn more income from insect farming."

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## 4. New Study Shows Higher Incomes for Fairtrade Cocoa Farmers

<https://www.fairtrade.net/news/new-study-shows-higher-incomes-for-fairtrade-cocoa-farmers>

[https://images.fairtrade.net/FLIRP\\_2pager\\_final.pdf](https://images.fairtrade.net/FLIRP_2pager_final.pdf)

A comparison of Fairtrade cocoa farmers' household income in Côte d'Ivoire over the last 4 years has shown boosted incomes and lower incidences of extreme poverty, a new household income survey has revealed.

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## 5. Opinion: Looking at girls' education through a different lens

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-looking-at-girls-education-through-a-different-lens-100502>

There is an inherent risk in presenting girls' education as a fix-it for the world's problems. On one hand, it places the burden of these problems on girls' shoulders; while on the other, it deflects from the fundamental, structural inequalities that are at the root of these problems and perpetuate girls' and women's marginalization.

Unless we are prepared to confront this risk and tackle the root causes of girls' exclusion and marginalization, we will only unlock a mere fraction of the potential of girls' education.

If we are to take on this challenge, we need to embrace a fresh perspective on girls' education. That means delineating between girls' education and women's leadership so that the former is recognized for what it is: The precursor to a fundamental disruption of the status quo that will ultimately lead to systemic change.

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## 6. WASH facilities can prevent gender-based violence, experts say

<https://www.devex.com/news/wash-facilities-can-prevent-gender-based-violence-experts-say-100228>

Inadequate access to WASH or WASH facilities designed without a gender lens in mind are leaving women and girls at risk of gender-based violence and even death.

Tasks such as collecting water often fall to women and girls and long distances jeopardize their safety, Balasinorwala explained. As can searching for an outside toilet in the dark, not having gender segregated facilities, lockable doors, or a handwashing facility without a light.

According to a report by the Water Governance Facility, women can also feel pressured to flirt with water utility workers to prevent their connection from being cut off. And cases of coercive sex in exchange for water have been reported in Kenya, South Africa, and Colombia.

Even if an assault doesn't take place, the fear of it can prevent women and girls using facilities, said Marni Sommer, assistant professor of sociomedical sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University. This can lead to health issues and discomfort.

Experts that Devex spoke to explained that approaching the design of, and access to, a WASH project or facility through a gender lens can help to reduce the risk of GBV and safeguard women and girls' health and well-being.

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## 7. August Spotlight on Women in Ag

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/spotlite-on-women-in-ag/>

Spotlite is a monthly piece that brings a bit of AWC to you. It includes tips of the trade and stories about women working in agriculture.

- the value of mentorship and building your network in creating your ideal career.
- Two hiring managers share what to know when pursuing your dream career.
- The Connection Between Accountability and Motivation
- fresh ideas and tips for reaching out to clients and colleagues
- Learn about six common body language traps that can undermine your strength and credibility.
- Here's what women entrepreneurs need to know about succession planning

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## 8. Women in Food and Agriculture Newsletter

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

As the world reopens after the pandemic at various rates, this is an interesting time to consider what comes next. In this August edition, we've curated some stories exploring new working conditions and opportunities for women in the food & ag sector.

Firstly, we'll approach the evolution of the workplace and how recent developments may impact the drive for diversity. Then, you'll find a directory for innovators in agri-food tech, stories on how the pandemic has impacted women's work conditions but also a story on how the future of food will be led by women.

You'll also have the opportunity to discover how women are working around the world and learn from international best practices. Throughout all these pieces, the message is simple: women must, and will, be at the forefront of our industry.

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## 9. Program for uplifting agriculture sector in Malawi

<https://malawi24.com/2021/07/13/minister-lowwe-hails-maward-program-for-uplifting-agriculture-sector/>

The Malawi African Women in Agriculture Research and Development (MAWARD) program aims for inclusive and agriculture-driven prosperity in the country. Malawian women are implementing initiatives that promote more inclusive and gender-responsive agricultural research and development that respond to the different priorities and needs of both women and men across the agricultural value chain and those interventions assist to close the gender gap that contributes to the low agricultural productivity.

MAWARD is motivating secondary school girls who participated during the event saying participation of youth in agriculture in Malawi is limited partly also due to their negative perception of the sector as unattractive.

The Malawi African women in agriculture research and Development is a brainchild of the African Women in Agriculture and research Development (AWARD) a career development program based in Kenya which through tailored fellowships equips top women agricultural scientists across sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate gains by strengthening their research and leadership skills.

Malawian women scientists have benefited directly from AWARD fellowship program since its inception in 2018. Among the benefits registered by alumni include promotions, enhanced leadership abilities, increased engagement with farmers and greater visibility.

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## 10. AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science

<https://awardfellowships.org/gofowiser/gofowiser2021/>

The AWARD Leadership Program for Emerging African Women in Science is a customized learning experience targeting young African women in science under the age of 35 years. The program is designed to equip participants with the skills and confidence to lead and innovate in the scientific world.

The call opened on June 15, 2021, and closed on June 23, 2021, with 24 candidates selected from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

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## 11. Solar Energy Revitalises Indigenous and Farming Communities in Chile

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/08/solar-energy-revitalises-indigenous-farming-communities-chile>

SANTIAGO, Aug 16 2021 (IPS) - Communities in Arica y Parinacota, the region in the extreme north of Chile, are using solar energy and are being empowered by projects for shrimp and trout farming, the production of yarn from camelid wool, the production of tomatoes and cheese, and even the sale of surplus solar power to the national electric grid.

Small rural and indigenous settlements in the Andes highlands and foothills and in coastal areas of northern Chile organised and boosted or modified their production and lowered costs by using energy from solar panels, thanks to a project that began in 2015 with an investment of 13.9 million dollars in human capital and implementation.

At the University of Tarapacá, in Arica, 27 students are earning a degree in Water and Solar Energy for Arid Zones, which draws on the experience of indigenous and peasant community members trained in the use of this energy source. In Chile, only two percent of photovoltaic energy is used in agriculture, but the sector's costs could be reduced with the use of solar power, whose potential is enormous in the northern desert area of the country.

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## 12. How Market Knowledge is Powering Africa's Solar Irrigation Sector

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/08/market-knowledge-powering-africas-solar-irrigation-sector/>

In Ghana, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is working with solar pump manufacturers and suppliers, farmers and other stakeholders in irrigated agriculture to boost the adoption of solar technologies that meet target users' needs.

In many off-grid areas, petrol and diesel pumps are commonly used for irrigation. However, they are expensive to run and contribute to environmental pollution. With the abundance of sunshine in Ghana, solar pumps offer small farmers a promising alternative – if they can afford the initial investment. To begin addressing this issue, IWMI joined forces with Pumptech, a distributor of solar pumps manufactured by the German company LORENTZ. The pumps are designed for off-grid water pumping and several models are specifically aimed at smallholders.

IWMI is currently working with several companies in West and East Africa to refine this payment plan, so that it can be tailored to each client, including women and resource-poor farmers.

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## 13. Women's Land Rights Institute of Resource Equity

Podcast <https://anchor.fm/wlri/> You can hear more about past students and why they work on women's land rights.

<https://resourceequity.org/womens-land-right-institute-building-what-works-for-women-in-kenya/>. You can read longer interviews with students about their work and what the course meant to them.

Video <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXRKyv8zj8uawpU7u3EqxZg>. Watch video testimonials.



The Women’s Land Rights Institute of Resource Equity has been a great success. Our graduating class of 16 students represented women and men from local communities and indigenous groups, private sector actors, government, local and international NGOs, civil society organisations, researchers, and practitioners, from Sub-Saharan Africa, UK, France, the Middle East, and the Pacific. There are too few occasions to both step back and look at the big picture as well as to delve deeply into specifics, and the course tries to do both; we share evidence, practice, and personal experience of working on collectively held lands and natural resource governance, land titling and registration, climate change and other significant pressures on land, as well land rights and social change. The course is designed to be interactive, so that students can engage with course leaders as well as each other.

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## **14. Government of Canada to launch a new Regional Development Agency for the Prairie Provinces**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-to-launch-a-new-regional-development-agency-for-the-prairie-provinces.html>

For the first time in more than three decades, the Government of Canada will enhance its federal economic development presence and services in Western Canada by creating two new regional development agencies for the Prairie provinces and British Columbia. This approach recognizes that economic drivers and conditions are different in each of the two regions, and entrepreneurs, innovators, institutions, and communities have unique needs linked to where they are located.

Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) will be the new regional economic development agency for businesses and communities in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It will build on Western Economic Diversification Canada’s (WD) 34-year legacy by playing stronger roles as convenors, pathfinders, advisors, investors, and collaborators to achieve better economic outcomes for regional economies across the Prairies.

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## **15. Woman Farmer Shows Way as Small Island Developing State Battles Pandemic’s Impacts**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/08/samoa-woman-farmer-shows-way-as-small-island-developing-state-battles-pandemics-impacts>

APIA, Samoa, Aug 23 2021 (IPS) - A woman farmer in Samoa is using innovation and technology to overcome economic hardship as the Pacific Island nation seeks ways to adapt to the challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Domestic growers and farmers, who had relied on the steady and frequent influx of visitors, suddenly found themselves on the back foot. An organic vanilla farm, which profited from the tourism industry, was booming prior to the pandemic.

Like other farmers, Shelley Burich needed to be innovative to survive. Outside-the-box thinking and digitalization were critical to transforming her fortunes. “I decided to go full-time into the social media realm. I created an online store, and I had to figure out a way to keep my business generating products and getting it out of Samoa. My products are now being sold to Ireland, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the (United) States and all over.” While Covid is an unwelcome challenge, Burich said it forced her to diversify.

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## **16. Youth Ag Summit**

<https://www.bayer.com/en/ca/2021-youth-ag-summit-canadian-delegates-announced>

100 delegates from more than 44 different countries will make up Bayer’s 2021 Youth Ag Summit cohort this November. The global forum and biennially organized conference selected young leaders between the ages of 18 and 25 with a passion

for sustainable global agriculture for the opportunity to learn and collaborate with others on solutions to issues challenging food security. This year's delegates come from more than 2,000 applicants representing nearly 100 countries.

Among this year's delegation are two Canadians, Emily Robb from Brandon, MB and Amanda Hardman from Stony Plain, Alta., who are bringing their scientific-driven solutions to the table. Both have achieved accolades at the Canada-Wide Science Fair for their research and are active members of 4-H Canada—a foremost youth leadership development organization.

Emily's current research is based around her interest in managed ecosystems and ecological practice application for sustainable agricultural production—primarily economic nutrient optimization in hydroponic arugula production.

Amanda's project idea for the Youth Ag Summit is focused on biodegradable food packaging to replace plastic clamshell packaging—her prototypes are created using nano-crystals derived from wood and wheat by-product (pulp).

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## Reports, Publications, Resources

### 1. Rural Canada Statistics Portal Launched

[www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects-start/society\\_and\\_community/rural\\_canada](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects-start/society_and_community/rural_canada)

The Centre for Special Business Projects (CSBP) at Statistics Canada recently announced the launch of the Rural Canada Statistics Portal. This portal offers a hub for Canadians to find Statistics Canada's data and analyses that have a rural perspective. It also features related resources of value to rural stakeholders. Check out the new portal.

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### 2. Discussion Paper: Centring Gender and Power in Evaluation and Research

*Discussion Paper: Centring Gender and Power in Evaluation and Research: Sharing experiences from Oxfam GB's quantitative impact evaluations*

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/centring-gender-and-power-in-evaluation-and-research-sharing-experiences-from-o-621204/>

Bringing a feminist intent to research, monitoring and evaluation practices leads to defining these as tools to contribute to transforming the lives of women, girls and non-binary people, and to bringing about social justice. This has meant putting gender and power at the centre of our practice, which has in turn shaped the technical choices made specifically in quantitative impact evaluations. This paper focuses on describing how these technical choices, as well as ethical considerations, are changed by this feminist intent. The paper also presents the lessons learned and questions raised along the way, which may be useful for MEAL and research practitioners, as well as programme managers. How can we bring intersectionality to the fore? What does it mean to go beyond the gender binary? How can this work be transformative?

This paper details three technical considerations, and related ethical ones:

1. Paying attention to who is represented in the data – in other words, sampling strategies;
2. Deciding which topics are prioritized in measurement tools;
3. Systematically highlighting gender differences and differential impacts in the analysis.

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### 3. Covid-19 and food security: Novel pathways and data collection to improve research and monitoring efforts

<https://odi.org/en/publications/covid-19-and-food-security-novel-pathways-and-data-collection-to-improve-research-and-monitoring-efforts/>

In this policy brief, we set the frame to think about the pandemic’s impacts on food security by summarising evidence on the hypothesised causal links. Key messages:

- The Covid-19 pandemic may create new types of food insecurity. These are focused not on food supply, but rather on the indirect effects of mobility restrictions and social distancing measures on household purchasing power and access to food.
- Existing food insecurity forecasting systems may need to be complemented with additional data and methods to capture these novel pathways of food insecurity.
- So far, evidence on Covid-19’s effects on food demand (e.g., household purchasing power) is mixed. The impact on food supply is limited to certain supply chains for inputs and higher-value, perishable foods.
- The effects vary strongly by context, possibly due to the role of relief packages. More information is required on social protection coverage, including of low-income households and informal workers.
- Evidence also suggests that actors in the informal midstream food supply chain played an important role in explaining the resilience of food systems in low- and middle-income countries. However, they are often overlooked in current data collection and research efforts.

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### 4. Harnessing Feminist Technology and Innovation

<https://forum.generationequality.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/UNW%20-%20GAP%20Report%20-%20EN.pdf>

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF), under the theme, ‘Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality,’ launched a global 5-year action journey to accelerate gender equality by catalyzing collective action. By 2026, governments, women’s organizations, feminist and youth-led organizations, international organizations, and the private sector are aiming to cultivate a gender-equal world that invests in the development of inclusive, ethical, and community-driven digital spaces and accountability mechanisms. This includes by reducing harassment and other forms of online violence against women, as well as supporting women’s leadership. Throughout the GEF, decision makers spanning sectors and generations shared a deep recognition that real—and lasting—progress can only be achieved and sustained with the meaningful engagement and co-leadership of adolescents and young people—online and offline. Today, young people are coming together to build on the momentum of the GEF by calling for and creating the inclusive digital spaces needed for co-creation, co-learning, and the reduction of existing power imbalances.

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### 5. Canada’s Rural Economic Development Strategy: Progress Report August 2021

<https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/alt-format/pdf/rural-strat-august-2021-aout-eng.pdf>

In June 2019, the Government of Canada released *Rural Opportunity, National Prosperity: An Economic Development Strategy for Rural Canada* – the first comprehensive federal document to provide a roadmap for supporting rural communities. This strategy complements the Government of Canada’s plan for growing the middle class, strengthening the economy, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and supporting diversity and inclusion across the country.

The Government of Canada recently released a progress report. The report outlines key activities on the priorities identified in the strategy, such as broadband, infrastructure, housing, and climate change. Learn more about the progress to date and upcoming priorities.

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## 6. Climate Anthology “All We Can Save”

[https://www.allwecansave.earth/anthology?te=1&nl=in-her-words&emc=edit\\_gn\\_20210823](https://www.allwecansave.earth/anthology?te=1&nl=in-her-words&emc=edit_gn_20210823)

*All We Can Save* is an anthology of writings by 60 women at the forefront of the climate movement who are harnessing truth, courage, and solutions to lead humanity forward.

There is a renaissance blooming in the climate movement: leadership that is more characteristically feminine and more faithfully feminist, rooted in compassion, connection, creativity, and collaboration. While it’s clear that women and girls are vital voices and agents of change for this planet, they are too often missing from the proverbial “table.” More than a problem of bias, it’s a dynamic that sets us up for failure. To change everything, we need everyone.

Intermixing essays with poetry and art, this book is both a balm and a guide for knowing and holding what has been done to the world, while bolstering our resolve never to give up on each other or our collective future. We must summon truth, courage, and solutions, to turn away from the brink and toward life-giving possibility. Curated by two climate leaders - Katharine K. Wilkinson and Ayana Elizabeth Johnson - this book is a collection and celebration of visionaries who are leading us on a path toward all we can save.

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## 7. Impacts of Resettlement on Women’s land Tenure Security in Lao PDR

<https://resourceequity.org/impacts-of-resettlement-on-womens-land-tenure-security-in-laos-pdr/>

The systematic titling and registration experience of Laos is often looked upon in the literature as a positive example for women, and a source of important lessons on gender and land administration.

Lao PDR is centering the energy sector as a major driver of economic growth and is pursuing aggressive land use and administration reforms. Hydropower is a key component of the government’s plan to achieve near universal electrification and its development plan includes 429 hydropower projects by 2030.

This paper assesses resettlement, land laws and policies, and related safeguards in seven representative resettlement villages from four large scale hydropower projects to determine how effective they are in ensuring gender equitable results.

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## 8. Power for All Podcast Sheds Light on Gender Equality in the Clean Energy Sector

<https://www.powerforall.org/news-media/interviews/interview-shaily-jha-improving-womens-productivity-and-incomes-through-clean-energy>

In their latest podcast episode, Power for All speaks with Shaily Jha of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). Jha is CEEW’s energy access programme lead, with a focus on integrating gender and social inclusivity. The interview is based on a recent CEEW report, ‘Improving Women’s Productivity and Incomes Through Clean Energy in India,’ which outlines barriers to inclusion and mechanisms and recommendations for the clean energy sector to empower women.

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## 9. Case Study: Developing a PSEA Policy

<https://www.digna.ca/developing-a-psea-policy-lessons-learned-recommendations/>

In July, we started publishing a series of case studies developed in collaboration with Cooperation Canada's membership. The first of this series showcases the experience of the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) in developing a policy to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

The materials provide a comprehensive overview of the process of constructing a PSEA-dedicated policy, including good practice, lessons learned, and working with local communities and partners.

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