



Native deer searching for alfalfa under the snow. 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)

Starting the 13th year of compilation and distribution!

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Putting gender at the heart of climate security

<https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/event/putting-gender-at-the-heart-of-climate-security/>

Climate-related threats to human security affect millions of people worldwide, but not equally. This expert panel discussion will present and discuss entry points and opportunities for empowering women and other marginalised groups, as well as simultaneously advancing gender equality, climate adaptation, and peace efforts.

Tuesday 30 November | 4 - 5pm CET

Host Nicoline de Haan, Director of the CGIAR GENDER Platform. Moderator, from the Global Dispatches podcast, Mark Leon Goldberg. Panel:

- Sophia Huyer, Gender and Social Inclusion Research Leader, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and Director of Women in Global Science and Technology (WISAT).
- Oladosu Adenike, Founder, I Lead Climate
- Jessica Smith, Research and Policy Manager, Institute for Women, Peace & Security, Georgetown University
- Adriana Abdenur, Executive Director, Plataforma CIPÓ

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2. Survey: Assessing Gender Inequalities in the Offgrid Solar Energy Sector

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WomeninOGS>

This survey, created by Lighting Global, ESMAP and GOGLA, examines the gender gaps that currently exist within the OGS sector and avenues potential paths to close the gaps. The survey is divided into 5 sections:

- Initiatives & products supporting gender equality
- Workforce & labour & customer base
- Professional networks
- Individual/organizational participation
- Personal information

Filling out the survey will take you approximately 10-15 minutes.

THE PROBLEM: Women are essential for the off-grid solar (OGS) sector’s ability to fully embrace diversity and inclusivity to achieve universal energy access goals. The industry’s limited gender Inclusion across the customer base, workforce and leadership hinders the sector’s full potential for impact and achieving SDG 7 before 2030.

THE RESPONSE: In this vein, GOGLA and the World Bank Group (with support from the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program - ESMAP) are seeking to better understand the realities and resources that exist across the sector,

among consumers, and within the workforce in an effort to promote an inclusive agenda for the sector. The results of this survey will help inform the creation of multiple gender inclusion activities by GOGLA and the World Bank Group-ESMAP.

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3. The State of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Canada 2021

<https://umanitoba.ca/asper/wekh-manitoba>

How are women’s entrepreneurs driving the economy in Canada? The Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub - Manitoba is excited to invite you to a special presentation on **Wednesday December 1, 2021** on the State of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Canada 2021.

Join us as Dr. Wendy Cukier, one of Canada’s leading experts in disruptive technologies, innovation processes and diversity, speaks on the importance of women’s entrepreneurship as an economic driver in Canada. An internationally renowned researcher and speaker, and national director of the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH), Dr. Cukier will present the most recent findings and implications of WEKH’s ground-breaking research. Cost: This event is free to attend.

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4. Voluntary Sustainability Standards and Poverty Reduction

<https://iisd.swoogo.com/trade-and-sustainability-hub-2021/session/709649/session-25-high-level-panel-sustainability-standards-smallholder-farmers-opportunities-to-address-poverty-through-trade>

Attend a virtual event on **Friday, December 3** at 1:30-2:45 (CET) to launch our forthcoming publication: *IISD’s SSI Review: Standards and Poverty Reduction*. This novel report explores how voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs) can help reduce poverty amongst the world’s 500 million smallholder farmer families that account for a large percentage of the world’s poor.

During this virtual event, we will share new findings from our examination of the criteria of 13 widely adopted VSSs and our review of existing evidence—all focused on understanding how VSSs can improve the three dimensions of poverty reduction: access to resources; opportunities and choice; and power and voice.

Additionally, the report includes our assessment of the key factors that limit and enable smallholder farmer access to VSS-compliant markets, based on interviews with 57 actors in six countries (in a joint field study by IISD and UNCTAD). Enabling smallholder market access is critical for VSSs to contribute to poverty alleviation.

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5. 2022 Youth Champions Program

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/youth/>

Spur Change has officially launched the recruitment for the 2022 Youth Champions Program. Small and Medium Organizations who are collaborating with youth (18-35) on topics such as the Sustainable Development Goals and feminist perspectives are invited to engage.

The program provides an opportunity to incorporate youth perspectives into organizations’ policies and practices, as well as to make informed decisions around youth engagement. Applications are open until **December 3rd**.

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6. Safety at Home for LGBTIQ Communities in Sub-Saharan Africa

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/slf-pride-talkssafety-at-home-for-lgbtqi-communities-in-sub-saharan-africa-registration-205687415597>

In Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Kenya, as well as in many countries around the world, LGBTIQ people face discrimination and violence from their governments, communities, and families. While some LGBTIQ activists must flee for their safety, most continue to live and work in their home countries and communities.

In recognition of Human Rights Day, be part of a dynamic conversation with community leaders who are defending human rights in Kenya and DRC as they tackle these questions:

- How can we support activists and community-based organizations seeking to create safety at home for LGBTIQ communities in sub-Saharan Africa?
- What actions can each of us take to grow the global LGBTIQ-rights movement?
- How do we build solidarity between communities with different lived experiences, power and privilege?

Online on December 9 at 11:00 a.m. EST. Sponsored by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The event will also feature a short video that will highlight how groups in Tanzania, Kenya and DRC are providing supports.

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7. Canadian National Women in Ag Organization Survey

Vision: https://mcusercontent.com/e58ce6ebd50ddea783e6c1044/files/c770b6b6-4994-0ce8-5b10-836b8daa21eb/210921_NWiA_TheoryOfChange_visual_final_updated.pdf

The English-language survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CYFDTDDB>

The French-language survey is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N8698JT>

For several months now, the leaders from Ag Women’s groups across Canada have been working toward the common goal of the development of a national organization for women in agriculture. You can learn more about our vision and respond to the survey. Now, we now want to hear from you! Tell us how you think a national group could help us achieve our goal of 30% of the Ag Industry being led by women by the year 2030. The survey will close on **December 12**.

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8. Vacancy: Director of the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University

<https://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/files/2021/11/RDI-Director-internal-2021.pdf>

The search is on for a New Director of the Rural Development Institute at Brandon University. This is a tenure track position at the rank of Professional Associate, tenable on the BU campus, and is an exciting opportunity to join the RDI team.

Deadline to apply: Review of applications will begin December 15, 2021.

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9. The Empowering Lasting Leadership Excellence (ELLE) program

<https://www.country-guide.ca/guide-business/elle-program-helps-women-take-the-next-step-in-agriculture/>

<https://www.agrifoodtraining.com/elle-empowering-lasting-leadership-excellence>

The Empowering Lasting Leadership Excellence (ELLE) program is a management leadership program developed by Agri-Food Management Excellence (AME). The program will be offered using a hybrid delivery model: participants will gather in cohorts of around 10 at local hubs, where instructors will virtually present to them all simultaneously. “Café chats,” additional virtual meetings, will allow participants to network and be mentored by others from across Canada. An optional add-on to the program is a virtual peer group — or “Master Class” — for more in-depth learning opportunities.

ELLE will run from **January to December 2022** and involve two full training days per month, excepting April and November, which will each have a single training day. Virtual café chats will happen every other month for one hour.

Tuition is \$2499 Canadian (+applicable tax) for Instructional Classes and Virtual Cafe Chats.

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10. University of Kentucky has multiple Masters' graduate assistantships

https://aiaee.org/images/AIAEE/CLD_MS_Assistanship_Marketing.doc

The Community of Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky has multiple Masters' graduate assistantships open for qualified candidates. Qualified candidates seeking a M.S. degree will receive assistantship funding which supports doing research and teaching undergraduate courses in Community Development and Engagement, Agricultural Leadership, Agricultural Sciences, Community Education and Extension. Please see the link for more details regarding qualifications, assistantships specifics, and the application process.

If you know anyone who is qualified and/or interested, please encourage them to apply (application process included in the attachment). Preference will be given to applicants who **apply before February 15, 2022**.

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11. Training: Design and deliver policies and programs that advance women's land rights

<https://resourceequity.org/institute/>

<https://148xta2vllc83mjdm73f9yt1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/RE0005-WLRI-Promotional-A4-v4.pdf>

Join us in an accredited ten-week online course. Explore what works to advance women's land and resource rights and address gender inequality. Gain expert insights into how to avoid the unintended and harmful consequences of gender-neutral thinking in land laws, policies, and programs. **Early in 2022**. Tuition: \$1200 USD.

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12. Girl Geek X: Elevate 2022 Virtual Conference

<https://girlgeek.io/speaker-submissions-for-elevate-2022-virtual-conference/>

We are seeking session proposals for the 5th annual Girl Geek X: Elevate 2022 Virtual Conference to be held **March 8th, 2022**. We invite women technologists, innovators and tech leaders from around the world to participate in Elevate Virtual Conference to share the latest in tech and leadership with fellow mid-and-senior level women in technology, business, and entrepreneurship

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13. Formation of Gender and Environment Data Alliance

<https://wepnigeria.net/index.php/gender-and-environment-data-alliance-geda-launched-at-generationequality/>

<https://wedo.org/wedo-launches-generation-equality-forum-commitments/>

WEDO and IUCN, together with a group of multi-stakeholder partners, committed to launch a diverse multi-stakeholder alliance to advance gender-just climate action at all levels through improved accessibility, understanding and application of gender-environment data. We are kicking off initial actions and conversations around next steps this November, and we are eager to build out the network of organizations engaged in the Alliance. To learn more or join the alliance, contact WEDO.

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14. Women Deliver Conference (WD2023)

<https://www.wd2023.org/>

Press Release <https://womendeliver.org/press/rwanda-to-host-wd2023/>

The next Women Deliver Conference (WD2023), the largest convening for gender equality and the health, rights, and wellbeing of girls and women in the world, will take place in **Kigali, Rwanda and online from 17-20 July 2023.**

WD2023 will convene thousands of decision-makers from diverse fields, including civil society, government, the private sector, and international agencies, alongside women’s rights organizations and movements, youth-led and LGBTQIA+ organizations, and advocates representing the intersectional identities of girls, women, and underrepresented populations, to identify solutions and drive change.

As a part of Women Deliver's USD four million programming investment around gender equality, WD2023 will serve as a critical policy moment and an opportunity for stock-taking and accountability at the midpoint of the Generation Equality Forum’s five-year process for global gender equality action, to achieve irreversible progress towards gender equality by 2026, founded on a series of ambitious actions.

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This Month’s News

1. Manitoba farmer joins agriculture delegation to COP26

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-farmer-cop26-climate-summit-glasgow-1.6229510>

A western Manitoba farmer is among the Canadian delegation attending the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. Anastasia Fyk, who operates a farm near Garland, Man., about 300 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg, is among seven members of the National Farmers Union travelling to the summit. Fyk decided to go because she feels farmers can play a pivotal role in fighting climate change, even as they feel the brunt of a warming climate.

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2. COP26 Discussions Must Prioritize Agriculture

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/11/cop26-discussions-must-prioritize-agriculture-in-africa/>

One of the issues that must be on the table at COP26 is the worrying impact of climate change on agriculture in Africa.

Agriculture accounts for over 25 percent of Africa’s GDP while employing over 70 percent of people that live in rural communities. When agriculture is impacted, women, who work in the agricultural sector suffer the consequences. The entire agriculture value chain is threatened by climate change. According to a recent World Bank Report, unless urgent actions are taken, climate change could force millions of Africans to migrate to new areas.

Impacted the most are vulnerable groups that include African small holder farmers, women and girls, children, disabled and elderly people.

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3. Glasgow Women's Leadership on Gender Equality and Climate Change

<https://enb.iisd.org/iclei-gender-equality-climate-change>

A panel of female heads of governments (Scotland, Tanzania, Estonia, Bangladesh) discussed gendered impacts of climate change and the importance of women's leadership, launching the Glasgow Women's Leadership Statement.

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, discussed work to ensure gender balance and emphasized the need to prioritize the voice of women “across all that we do.” She explained that the Glasgow Women’s Leadership Statement was created with the aim of recognizing both the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and the need to amplify and support women to lead with creative solutions.

Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania, highlighted the critical role women play in Tanzania, and shared how the involvement of women in decision making and development in both the National Climate Response Strategy Plan and Tanzania’s Nationally Determined Contribution ensure that women are part of the solution.

Kaja Kallas, Prime Minister of Estonia, lamented that of the 140 leaders present at COP 26, only 10 are women. Noting this is “a big problem,” she called for a more balanced representation in decision making. She welcomed the call for action on gender equality and called for more women to be elected to leadership positions.

Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reiterated how women and children are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to structural inequalities in human societies.

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4. Gender & Energy Compact

<https://www.linkedin.com/video/live/urn:li:ugcPost:6863826275950313472/>

On COP26’s “Gender & Innovation Day,” the launch of the Gender & Energy Compact kicked off with a panel of women experts and leaders, including two CCA Leadership Council Members — Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, and H.E. Samira Bawumia, Second Lady of the Republic of Ghana – who called for greater action to achieve a just and inclusive energy transition while highlighting the importance of integrating gender approaches in policy and practice.

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5. Gender Equality Experts Begin Advising UNGA

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/gender-equality-experts-begin-advising-unga/>

A board of experts has been appointed to help mainstream a gender equality perspective across the priorities, initiatives, and mandates of the 76th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

On the purpose of the Board, UNGA President Abdulla Shahid said advancing gender equality has taken on new urgency as COVID-19 is challenging the achievement of SDG 5. The Board is intended to “facilitate critical thought and advice on gender issues” and “help mainstream a gender perspective” across the priorities, initiatives, and mandates of UNGA 76.

The Board held its first meeting on 28 October 2021. Shahid said gender inequality is “an embarrassment and moral failure for which we can no longer make excuses”.

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6. U.S. Agency for International Development

<https://www.devex.com/news/samantha-power-lays-out-her-vision-for-usaid-102003>

U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power has laid out her vision for the agency — one focused on increasing local partnership and participation and making development more inclusive of marginalized groups. The three key pillars of the new strategy, Power said, are to make aid more accessible by diversifying the types of partners USAID works with, more equitable by focusing on the needs of those who are most marginalized and incorporating their voices, and more responsive by better listening to partners in the countries where the agency works.

USAID is also launching a new website — <https://www.workwithusaid.org/> — intended to be a “one-stop shop” to help organizations pursue partnerships with the agency, she said. It will offer information and online courses about how to apply for USAID awards and otherwise engage with the agency.

USAID is expanding its workforce to make up for shortfalls, and as it does so, it will focus on hiring and retaining diverse staffers. The agency will also look to make its programs more inclusive, in part by strengthening its inclusive development office. It will also aim to have a dedicated officer focused on gender equality and inclusive development at every mission.

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7. Women in Australian Agriculture

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/earth/agriculture/women-farmers-are-changing-the-rules-of-australian-agriculture/>

How are women changing the rules of Australian agriculture? Found out more about how women motivated by social and environmental justice are challenging traditional stereotypes and thriving in a male-dominated industry in this article by Manuela Callari.

In Australia, women's role in agriculture has been recognised and ignored in equal measure throughout history. Census data show that women made up 32% of Australia's agricultural workforce in 2016. Today, they produce at least 48% of real farm income in Australia. Yet gender-specific obstacles, such as financing, lack of access to land, education and training, equal treatment, and lack of representation in the industry bodies, put female farmers at a significant disadvantage before they even sow a seed.

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8. How Indigenous innovation is forging new pathways for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people within the green-building sector

<https://www.powherhouse.com/i3-innovator-building-greener-together/>

The Indigenous Innovation Initiative is hosted at Grand Challenges Canada and supports the development of innovation that is by and for First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples across Canada. Through the round 1 cohort of the inaugural Indigenous Gender Equality Program, the Cheakamus Centre is creating ground-breaking partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, the North Vancouver School District, Van City, B Collective, BCIT and others to create career pathways for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the green-building sector.

This work is taking place on the unceded traditional territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), səliwətaʔt (Musqueam), and xwməθkwəyəm (Tsleil-Waututh) people, and these partnerships are creating the conditions for this project to thrive through shared values, collaboration, mutual respect, humour and trust.

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9. Gender Just Climate Solutions awards

Video: <https://youtu.be/kkkSeBicNNY>

The Women and Gender Constituency's 6th annual Gender Just Climate Solutions award ceremony celebrates local and grassroots solutions to the climate crisis. The incredible awardees included:

Winner, Non-technical Solutions: Todos Juntos | Guatemala. Since 2016, Todos Juntos has worked with indigenous women in Guatemala to improve their nutrition, food sovereignty and environment, as well as preserve indigenous knowledge. The association trains women to set up mealworm farms that ensure an affordable and sustainable source of protein and supported a catalog to transfer ancestral knowledge to children and set up gardens for local plants.

Mention of Honor: AIWC | India. A big mention of honor was given to AIWC in recognition of its powerful indigenous and women-led mangrove restoration project.

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10. Making a Development Case for Transformative Feminist Leadership

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2021/10/women-voice-and-power-making-a-development-case-for-transformative-feminist-leadership/>

Men make up 76% of national parliamentary decision-making structures and control 86% of the world's corporations. This 'male 75%' leadership dominates global and local decisions on who has access to quality school and health services; how we do or do not protect the planet; who pays and who avoids taxes; and when and where weapons are sold or fired.

As the world collectively commits to 'just recoveries' in the wake of the health, economic and social devastation still being caused by COVID-19, who gets to decide what 'just' means?

What does the 'conspicuous absence' of women's knowledge, experience, feminist analysis and priorities mean for the quality of our intelligence and of our collective decision-making?

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11. WTO Heads for a Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Gender

<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/wto-heads-for-a-ministerial-declaration-on-trade-and-gender/>

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has just issued the text of a Draft Ministerial Declaration on the Advancement of Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment in Trade. This sets the course for members to adopt the Declaration during the WTO Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12), which starts later this month.

The Declaration commits members to mainstream a gender equality perspective in Aid for Trade programmes, mandates increased gender-disaggregated data collection, and gives the WTO Secretariat a role in coordinating trade and gender research, including on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women. The Declaration further recommends building a work plan towards MC13. It sets the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender on course to continue its work around its existing four work pillars: 1) best practices on increasing women's participation in trade; (2) understanding what a "gender lens" is; (3) reviewing gender-related research; and (4) contributing to the WTO's Aid-for-Trade Work Programme.

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12. Food Security Policy Must Consider Local Context: "Climate Change and Poverty Are Inherently Sexist"

<https://foodtank.com/news/2021/11/food-security-policy-must-consider-local-context-climate-change-and-poverty-are-inherently-sexist/>

During the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) on November 9, an international panel of experts gathered at the World Health Organization Pavilion in Glasgow to discuss the nexus between climate change and health, particularly in relation to food security.

Climate change is having an increasingly negative impact on global food security, specifically, and panelists emphasized that effective food security policy must consider local contexts.

The impacts of climate change also fall disproportionately on women. Women and children are affected by negative socioeconomic outcomes more than men, and policymakers must address this, according to Food Tank President Danielle Nierenberg.

Professor Ros Cornforth, Director of the Walker Institute at the University of Reading, agrees that linking the global understanding of issues like climate change, nutrition, food security, and gender equality to local action is critical.

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13. 'Unsung hero' of science laid the groundwork for epoch DNA discovery

<https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/obituary-unsung-hero-of-science-laid-the-ground-work-for-epoch-dna-discovery>

June Broomhead Lindsey, who died in Ottawa earlier this month at the age of 99, is considered by some to be one of the unsung heroes of science. Her death has renewed calls that she be formally recognized — both at Cambridge University and in Canada — for her contribution to one of science’s greatest discoveries: DNA. That contribution is significant. The structural work she completed for her PhD thesis was seen as essential to the discovery of the double helix by James Watson and Francis Crick just four years later in 1953.

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14. Louise Slade, Scientist Who Studied the Molecules in Food, Dies

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/30/dining/louise-slade-dead.html>

Louise Slade, a ground-breaking food scientist whose work you can thank for soft-from-the-freezer ice cream, extra-chewy cookies and potato chips that retain their satisfying crunch despite being baked and not fried, died on Oct. 7 in Morristown, New Jersey, USA. She was 74.

Dr. Slade’s great insight, which she developed over some 25 years as a scientist at General Foods and Kraft, was to consider food not as a combination of discrete ingredients but as a system of interacting molecules. By understanding those interactions, one could build predictive models for how, for example, to tweak a bread recipe to make it stay fresh longer without chemical preservatives.

Over the next two decades, she and Dr. Harry Levine, her partner in both life and research, developed what they called food polymer science. Considered novel at the time, it now provides the basic research paradigm for an estimated 75 percent of processed foods.

In 2005 the Department of Agriculture and a group of universities in the Northwest USA honored Dr. Slade by naming a new wheat strain Louise in her honor. Developed according to her research, it is described, in the scientific literature, as “biscuit friendly.”

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15. Canadian Women in Science

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/canadas-agriculture-sectors/fields-science>

Women are an integral part of the Canadian agricultural sector and continue to play a vital role in climate action. Learn how Canadian Women in Science are ensuring food products are safe, of high quality and produced sustainably.

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16. Rich Food from Poor Fish, Making Food and Health Sustainable

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/11/rich-food-poor-fish-making-food-health-sustainable/>

Fish-enriched maize meal, developed by a local team of researchers under the NutriFish project and donated to the local Mulago Hospital in Kampala, helps tackle widespread nutritional deficiencies, particularly among women of reproductive age and children under five years.

It is not hard to see why the food innovation was effective. The fish-enriched maize meal flour is packed with essential micronutrients and protein. A 200g serving of the fish-enriched maize meal, known locally as posho, provides up to 50 percent of a mother’s daily requirements in terms of calories, vitamin A, iron and zinc.

NutriFish researchers developed the nutrient-enriched meal using under-utilized small fish (USF) species. The meal is created by blending maize with Silverfish – a small lake fish species locally known as “mukene”, which is less preferred despite being highly nutritious because of its pungent smell and grittiness.

One of the co-principal investigators in the NutriFish project explained that the enriched maize meal had been developed with other products, including baby food, a seasoning, a snack, and a sauce. All the products contain under-utilized fish and Nile Perch by-products (NPB), rich in calcium, zinc and iron, making them ideal micronutrient deficiency busters for vulnerable groups in Uganda.

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17. Educating girls for the future of Kenya

<https://bold.expert/educating-girls-for-the-future-of-kenya/>

<https://kytabu.africa/girls4girls/>

The platform Girls-4-Girls as an intervention for girls who are either taking care of their siblings or for some other reason unable to go back to class, so they can learn from home. Girls are in a virtual classroom with nearby peers, and access videos, assignments, and daily collaborative problems. The technology is adaptive, so each girl’s learning journey is personalised.

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18. Start listening to rural women before it’s too late

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news-events/listening-rural-women-should-be-first-defense-against-crises-not-last-resort>

It is becoming increasingly clear that routinely ignoring gender biases amplifies existing inequalities, setting back not only women, but everyone, and worsening global challenges for all.

Across the Global South, this means ensuring that rural women have the chance to articulate their needs and influence every decision and policy, including those deployed in haste as part of crisis relief and response.

Rural women were the hardest hit by the pandemic, not because they were most susceptible to the virus, but because pandemic-related policies and restrictions paid little heed to their challenges of accessing fields, markets and assets to continue to earn a living and feed their families.

One crucial aspect for policymakers is to better understand the role and value of rural women’s assets like livestock and land, and agricultural inputs like seeds and fertilizer, to be better positioned to adopt policies that do not undermine or compromise them.

A second key factor is the provision of financial services, aid and benefits for the most vulnerable, including rural women.

Finally, government departments must develop strategies to always include rural women in policy-making processes, so that any response to a crisis does not need to be retrofitted to address both women and men’s needs equally.

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19. Gender equality is essential for farmers’ climate resilience globally

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news-events/building-farmers-resilience-climate-change-means-addressing-gender-inequalities>

Women are stereotyped as victims of climate change impacts, while the structural causes of gender inequalities that cause vulnerability are ignored. Key messages:

- Women farmers are less able to adapt to climate change than men as they have less access to information, technology and decision-making and greater workloads.
- Women need to be supported to adopt climate adaptation and mitigation strategies if we are to meet the 2°C target for warming set by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Gender equality and resilience for all can be achieved by focusing on four dimensions: increasing women’s decision-making ability, reducing their work burdens, increasing their access to resources, and supporting their collective action.

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20. School Meals Coalition

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/11/1105962>

<https://schoolmealscoalition.org/>

In a joint declaration on Nov. 16, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to assisting the School Meals Coalition in which over 60 countries envision a nutritious meal in school for every child in need by 2030.

Led by France and Finland, the coalition also committed to “smart” school meals programmes that combine regular meals in school with complementary health and nutrition interventions for children’s growth and learning.

Each of the five UN agencies will provide a specific set of expertise to the coalition, which includes more than 50 partners from non-Governmental Organizations to civil society and foundations.

The coalition will work to restore the school meals and other health and nutrition programmes that were in place before the COVID-19 crisis, expand them to reach an additional 73 million children who were not covered before the pandemic, and establish standards to raise food quality while linking them to local food production, where possible.

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21. Digital tools amplify the voice of women in Peruvian communities

<https://www.iied.org/digital-tools-amplify-voice-women-peruvian-communities>

Perú’s *ollas comunes* or community-led soup kitchens – a community response to COVID-19 based on solidarity, tradition and resilience that is breaking gender norms – have embraced a hybrid way of working to ensure women’s voices are heard.

The groups have also allowed women to adopt responsibilities beyond their traditional roles of caretaker, mother and wife. They have become teachers, advocates, spokespeople, fundraisers, activists and food recovery experts.

Community leaders in Lima, who are mainly women, are using social networks and online platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and Zoom to organise their *ollas comunes* and community activities locally. They also use them on a larger scale, to connect with wider networks of *ollas comunes* and advocate for people living with daily food insecurity.

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22. Financing, Gender in NDCs Highlighted at COP 26 Side Events

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/financing-gender-in-ndcs-highlighted-at-cop-26-side-events/>

While gender is increasingly being incorporated into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), challenges remain for developing best practices for integrating gender into future NDCs.

Ban Ki-moon, President and Chair of GGGI and former UN Secretary-General, underlined the need to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, catalyze access to green finance; and increase the green share of ODA.

The Catalytic Capital for First Private Investment Fund for Adaptation Technologies in Developing Countries is the first private sector investment fund for adaptation.

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23. **Opinion: IMF must recognize need for just, feminist, green transition**

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-imf-must-recognize-need-for-just-feminist-green-transition-102116>

Misguided advice from IMF, which has promised growth and foreign reserves from fossil fuels, could saddle LMICs with stranded assets as the global economy moves away from them, while also limiting countries' flexibility by advising that they adopt austerity measures to limit public spending.

But IMF must do more to ensure its policy advice helps — or at least does not undermine — countries' ability to move away from economic models that depend on fossil fuels. It must support a feminist, just, and green energy transition, placing the care and well-being of people and the planet at the center of policymaking. It is time to recognize that the current macroeconomic model is failing people and planet while pushing us to the brink of ecological collapse amid growing inequalities.

This necessitates IMF undertaking serious reforms to its policy orthodoxy and embracing a deep institutional shift. It should abandon its common austerity prescriptions, which make it harder for countries to undertake a rapid, just transition away from fossil fuels.

The lowest-income economies require new funds from wealthy nations and multilateral development banks to increase investment in renewables, decent green jobs, and gender-responsive public services. IMF can play a constructive role in helping nations to judge the costs of this transition and mobilize sources of public finance needed to achieve it.

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24. **Opinion: Gender, Education and Drop-Outs**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/11/gender-education-drop-outs/>

The global plight of girls and young women has for several years been rightly emphasized. However, this focus may overshadow a phenomenon that increasingly is occurring in both developed and developing countries – boys are increasingly dropping out from schools, while young men to a higher degree than young women are not attracted by higher education. All over the world, more women than men are currently entering tertiary education. In all OECD countries with available data, women have a higher degree frequency than men.

However, in several countries, the importance of gender roles is more pronounced in schooling at first – and secondary levels, than at the tertiary one. Economic concerns tend to be decisive for children's schooling. Safety concerns related to school attendance affect girls' well-being. Girls' lack of schooling is detrimental to national growth and general health.

In many poor countries, opportunities for jobs after graduation are limited, making alternative lifestyles more attractive, even if they might go against accepted values and behaviour. The article points out a few examples of how education, both positively and negatively, is affected by gender and socioeconomic change.

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25. **From Fruit Waste to Gourmet Grub**

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/11/fruit-waste-gourmet-grub/>

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Nov 23 2021 (IPS) - When Bonolo Monthe's neighbours discarded bucketsful of fallen ripe morula fruit from their backyard, she saw food and fortune going to waste.

Monthe took a tasty interest in the fruit of the morula (*Sclerocarya birrea*), a hardy indigenous tree that grows naturally across Africa. The morula fruit is rich in vitamins and nutrients, with eight times the vitamin C of oranges.

Monthe – a serial entrepreneur and agro processor – has turned the morula waste fruit into award-winning, low to zero-sugar preserves and jams through Maungo Craft, a social enterprise co-founded by Monthe and Olayemi Aganga in 2017. In addition, the company makes marmalades and sugar-free onion and baobab chutney. Maungo Craft is helping eliminate food waste while providing delectable food and creating jobs in the agriculture value chain.

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26. Taza Dorada (Golden Cup) competition

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

<https://peru21.pe/peru/taza-dorada-peru-2021-cafes-de-cusco-y-cajamarca-fueron-los-ganadores-del-concurso-taza-dorada-2021-cafe-cusco-cajamarca-noticia/>

The Taza Dorada (Golden Cup) competition continues with some of the best Fairtrade coffee in Peru. Habilia Vigoria Oyola is a national judge of coffee quality. The contest is an opportunity for her to interact with the buyers and with the consumers around a cup of coffee. Daughter of a coffee producer, member of the San Fernando Fairtrade cooperative, she supports small producers and enjoys buying and trying specialty coffees. The competition is important for local producers to gain recognition for the quality of their product.

"It is a very nice, unique experience, I have learned a lot and tasted good-quality coffees. As a woman, it is a space for me to lead the way to participate in these events."

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27. Opinion: Time to come clean on hand-washing investment

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-time-to-come-clean-on-hand-washing-investment-102136>

At the current rate of progress, only 78% of the global population will have basic hand-washing facilities by 2030, leaving 1.9 billion people at risk of illness and disease. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, health experts highlighted hand-washing as a key measure, yet an estimated 3 in 10 people worldwide were not able to wash their hands with soap and water at home.

What are the consequences of failing to invest in this basic public health measure? The lack of clean running water has negative consequences for gender equality. Women and girls bear the greatest burden of domestic chores, and may spend hours every day trekking on foot to collect water. As a result, many girls miss schooling or even drop out altogether.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. SDG7 Multi-Stakeholder Energy Compact of Clean Cooking Alliance

https://cleancooking.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Clean_Cooking_Energy_Compact.pdf

Approximately one-third of the world's population today – 2.6 billion people – still lack access to clean cooking solutions, costing trillions of dollars in damage to the climate and local economies and contributing up to 4 million premature deaths each year. To date, the level of funding and investment in the clean cooking sector has not matched the global magnitude of the challenge. We are running out of time to deliver SDG7. This is the moment to prioritize access to clean cooking solutions in global and national arenas and dramatically scale up public and private financing.

Within the frame of the United Nations' High-Level Dialogue on Energy, the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) has launched a multi-stakeholder Energy Compact to "Unlock the SDGs and Net-Zero with Clean Cooking." Changing the way families cook

their food each day will slow climate change, drive gender equality, reduce poverty and provide enormous health benefits. Quite simply, there can be no just energy transition without universal access to clean cooking.

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2. Women and Gender Constituency COP26 Key Demands

<https://womengenderclimate.org/wgc-cop26-key-demands/>

The Women & Gender Constituency has laid out our collective demands for Parties to meet the climate crisis and advance key issues such as loss and damage, robust financing, and advancing gender justice through the Gender Action Plan and beyond.

We share these views in the reality of a world of ever-increasing climate impacts and disasters, where a global pandemic has worked to deepen gross inequities between and within countries and to further exacerbate inequalities and drive millions into greater poverty and instability, especially in the Global South.

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3. The State of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Canada 2021

<https://wekh.ca/research/the-state-of-womens-entrepreneurship-in-canada-2021/>

This report sheds light on the state of women entrepreneurship in Canada for 2021 by synthesizing new academic, industry, and government research on the opportunities and challenges faced by women in the current innovation ecosystem. It builds on The State of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Canada (SOWE) 2020 report, with particular emphasis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges faced by diverse women entrepreneurs, the inclusive innovation ecosystem, and the evaluation of emerging initiatives to support women entrepreneurs. It concludes with recommendations for next year.

In addition to gender bias and systemic discrimination, many women entrepreneurs face barriers to financing, services, and supports. These challenges are amplified for women entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups, such as racialized and Indigenous women, those living with disabilities, or those identifying as LGBTQ2S+.

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4. Guide to strengthening gender integration in climate finance projects

<https://wedo.org/guide-to-strengthening-gender-integration-in-climate-finance-projects/>

This guide is a framework of recommendations for strengthening gender integration in climate finance projects—with concrete examples and resources to show how it can be done.

The guide’s new set of recommendations provides a simple framework for identifying the inflection points that lead to greater success in advancing gender equality across climate finance projects. Stemming from interviews with key project development stakeholders and experts, they highlight important processes that should be more standardized and supported—regardless of the project or funding entity. These include:

- Lead with local gender expertise
- Leverage local women’s groups and national gender institutions
- Collect the right gender data from the start
- Integrate gender specialists within the team
- Ensure continuity between design and implementation
- Pursue team-wide capacity-building opportunities

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5. Video: How these Nova Scotia farmers are reducing their carbon footprint

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/farmers-reducing-carbon-footprint-1.6234515>

John Duynisveld, along with his daughter, Maria Duynisveld, are farmers at Holdanca Farms in Wallace Bay, N.S. They raise sheep, beef, poultry and pigs, and they're doing their best to be climate-smart farmers.

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6. Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development C4D's report and policy brief on climate finance

<http://aidwatchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2021-Final-Canada-Climate-Paper.pdf>

Prepared by Brian Tomlinson, executive director of AidWatch Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development (C4D), the report entitled *The Reality of Canada's Climate Finance 2021* delves into Canada's \$ 5.3 billion post-2020 climate finance. A policy brief around this topic is also available. See page 60 *Gender Equality in Canada's Climate Finance*.

Gender Equality in Canada's Climate Finance – Key Points

- 1. The vast majority (94%) of Canada's principal purpose climate finance disbursement are considered to have mainstreamed gender equality issues, based on the application of the DAC's Gender Equality Purpose Marker. Gender equality is one among many other objectives for these projects.*
- 2. A higher proportion of principal purpose adaptation projects have no gender objectives indicated (13%), compared to principal purpose mitigation projects (3%).*
- 3. A focused approach to gender equality in Canada's climate finance has been limited. Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 there was only one project marked gender equality, principal purpose, worth \$90,000, among principal purpose climate projects. All other principal purpose gender equality projects were among 13 projects that were marked significant purpose climate finance.*
- 4. More recent project approvals indicate a stronger focus on gender equality and the application of FIAP in Canada's climate finance.*

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7. Equality Fund Annual Report for 2020-2021

<https://breakingthrough.equalityfund.ca/>

English: https://equalityfund.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EF_AnnualReport_EN_2020-2021.pdf

Français: https://equalityfund.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/EF_RapportAnnuel_FR_2020-2021.pdf

As chronicled in our new annual report, the Equality Fund is boldly breaking through to deliver on that promise. In a time of global uncertainty and crisis, our courageous community is showing up with renewed clarity and resolve: moving money to feminist activists, investing in gender equality, cultivating feminist philanthropy, and putting women, girls, and non-binary people at the centre of the global agenda.

In our first full year of operations, we are:

- Supporting 128 fearless feminist organizations—a nearly 200 percent increase from last fiscal year.
- Expanding our global reach, with grantee partners in 66 countries across 5 continents.
- Delivering emergency response funding to organizations on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Activating an investment portfolio that is 100 percent gender-aligned.
- Deepening our Women’s Voice and Leadership – Caribbean program with 27 new partnerships.
- Shifting power with a pilot participatory grant-making approach and input from dynamic advisors.
- Unleashing the power of transformative philanthropy with a year-long learning journey; and
- Championing feminist movements and women’s rights organizations on a global stage.

Through it all, we are breathing new life into our belief that feminist movements deserve funding that is as revolutionary and reliable as they are. With growing momentum and collaboration, we’ve never been more confident that we can achieve that vision.

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8. Digna’s PSEA Organizational Assessment Tool

<https://www.digna.ca/psea-organizational-assessment-tool/>

Every organization has the obligation to think about the implications of their work, and the safety and well-being of the people they are working with. Are you sure your organization is not putting your program participants at serious risk of sexual exploitation or abuse by your staff, volunteers, and partners?

Digna’s no-obligation, customizable self-assessment is a useful tool that helps organizational leaders to gain a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their organization’s *prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)* implementation. This is the first step of a journey that will enable your organization to implement the best and most appropriate PSEA measures.

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9. Risk Factors for Gender-based Violence: The Case of Indian Agriculture

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/risk-factors-for-gender-based-violence-the-case-of-indian-agriculture-621301/>

The study documents the incidence of domestic and workplace violence among Indian female agricultural workers, and the factors that put these women at risk of violence. Multiple years of nationally representative domestic violence data are analyzed, focusing on agricultural laborers. This analysis is supplemented by a literature review on working conditions for female tea plantation workers, who form the bulk of hired female agricultural labor in India, focusing on factors that enable workplace violence in this setting.

Among the findings, we observe that women whose families have a history of domestic violence, and women whose partners drink frequently, are about 20 percent more likely to be survivors of domestic violence themselves. Importantly, women who are employed are more likely to be survivors of domestic violence, especially women who are employed in commercial plantations, which further confirms the need to look at domestic and workplace violence in connection with each other.

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10. Videos: WOMEN IN AGRI "CULTURE" CELEBRATION

<https://www.mwaf.ca/agri-culture>

This virtual event consists of a collection of videos that highlight women with diverse backgrounds and culture from the Portage la Prairie Region of Manitoba. The event also includes a discussion panel on Nov 18 featuring local farm women and agricultural organizations. The topic is: *What does it take to run a farm business?* The panelists will discuss their own experiences farming, issues they face and the tools they use to solve them.

This project celebrates and highlights the contributions women make to agriculture and the local economy, which unfortunately, are largely invisible. This virtual event will be followed by a large, in-person event in 2022. We hope it will create significant economic benefits for the community and for rural women. More details will be provided later.

This celebration is the first ever of its kind and the product of the collaborative effort of multiple organizations in Portage la Prairie region, MB, under the lead of the Portage la Prairie Local Immigration Partnership and in partnership with MAAF.

- Yanara Peters - Stone Shed Gardens
- Marg Rempel - Rempel Family Farm
- Leslie Stepler - Prairie Cricket Farm
- Arlene Harris - Pick it Fruit Farms
- Elaine Kalberg - My Tiny Kitchen
- Fort la Reine Museum (FLRM) - Museum Ag Footage
- Fort la Reine Museum (FLRM) - A History of Women in Agriculture
- Erika Pugh - Mommy&Me
- Ask aunty ROBBIE - Indigenous Ag
- Agriculture Filipina
- Jill & Rachael Verwey - Verwey Farms
- Nicolea Dow
- Agriculture - Diwali & Henna
- Ashley Nelson
- MWAF's short videos:
 - Our Kids - Future Manitoba Farmers
 - Farm Women Buckets
 - Farm Gate Girls

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11. Video: Women's Engagement in Governance of Drylands

<https://youtu.be/l104PT8V3vc>

Renee Giovarelli presented "Women's contributions in drylands: enhancing action to (re)flourish" at an FAO webinar focused on gender issues in dryland areas on September 21. The webinar discussed women's contributions to countering drylands degradation.

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12. Resource Library | New Gender Equity Resources Available

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/teacher-share-learn-series-gender-equity-in-the-classroom>

Share & Learn on Gender Equity in the Classroom session recording and resources presented are available on our Resource Library. This session was co-facilitated by Amy Bosche, Education Program Coordinator with SCIC, and Jaclyn Roach, Teacher with Regina Public Schools. This session guided teachers in understanding what is gender equity, how it relates to issues in their students' lives, and ways to teach gender equity in their classrooms in order to provide their students with the knowledge and skills to empower themselves and others throughout their lives. Teachers left this session with a teaching module to use in their classrooms full of peer reviewed lesson plans, resources, and materials focussed on the intersectionality of gender equity.

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13. Report: Customer Insights on the Productive Use of Energy

https://endev.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EnDev-Tanzania-Green-Economic-Recovery-Fund_Customer-Insights-on-the-Productive-Use-of-Energy.pdf

The organization 60 Decibels, working with EnDev Tanzania, listened to customers of six Tanzanian energy companies. They found that they are reaching low-income customers (72% live below \$3.20 / day), and 25% of customers are using their solar home system for income generation. Twenty percent of the customers are women.

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14. Technology Measuring the Effectiveness of Clean Cooking Solutions

<https://impactentrepreneur.com/technology-measuring-the-effectiveness-of-clean-cooking-solutions/>

The organization 60 Decibels, working with Autodesk Foundation and Nexleaf, uncovered lots of insights about how electric pressure cookers are being used - including that time-savings is a top reason for purchase.

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15. Verification and customer insights for implementing energy service subscriptions in Zambia

<https://beyondthegrid.africa/news-events/>

Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa published 60 Decibels' analysis of their work in Zambia. We learned that 83% of customers said their quality of life had 'very much improved' because of off-grid energy, compared to our benchmark of 51%. Also, for those who like to geek out on methodology: for this study, 60 Decibels conducted both phone-based and in-person interviews. We found that there was no significant difference in the results by data collection method.

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16. Mainstreaming Gender in Trade Policy: Practice, evidence, and ways forward

<https://www.iisd.org/publications/mainstreaming-gender-trade-policy>

Gender-related provisions are becoming more and more common in trade agreements. But to what extent do they help — or hinder — efforts to achieve gender equality? This report analyzes the success of existing provisions to help maximize the impacts of future agreements.

Trade must be inclusive to contribute to sustainable development. This means there must be equal opportunities for women to benefit from trade, and women should not be more adversely impacted by trade or trade-related policies.

This report analyzes different types of gender-related provisions in trade agreements. It proposes a gender equality framework to evaluate these provisions to ensure trade is gender responsive. It also describes mechanisms for anticipating the effects of planned trade agreements on women.

The report concludes by asking how our knowledge of the differential impacts of trade on women and men is—and can be—reflected in trade agreements in such a way as to promote inclusive trade, gender equality, and sustainable development.

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