



Ghanaian woman carrying firewood on her head and baby on her back. 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. SCWIST Announces New Pilot Project “Supporting Safe STEM Workplaces”

<https://scwist.ca/scwist-announces-new-pilot-project-supporting-safe-stem-workplaces/>

SCWIST is pleased to announce new funding from the Department of Justice Canada for a project to support safe STEM workplaces. The project, in partnership with WomanACT, aims to prevent sexual harassment within the Canadian STEM industry through improving access to legal supports and providing resources for victims of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment is a prevalent issue across Canada that permeates into places of work. Research has shown that one in four Canadians have experienced sexual harassment at work or at a work function. Sexual harassment in the workplace can negatively impact productivity and motivation in the workplace, increase stress, as well as increase the likelihood of employees leaving their jobs.

To help address these issues, the project will provide tailored support and training to companies within the STEM field. The support will help prevent sexual harassment through developing comprehensive policy, establishing trauma-informed reporting mechanisms, and developing avenues for resolution and referral pathways.

SCWIST and WomanACT are **currently accepting applications from STEM workplaces** that would be interested in becoming involved in the pilot project. Partner companies will receive the following support:

- Development and deliverance of training on legislation, rights and responsibility of employers and employees, and bystander intervention.
- Support with development of policy and trauma-informed reporting mechanisms.
- Establishing avenues for resolution and referral routes to support.
- Develop strategies for increasing transparency within workplaces.

If your organization may be a good fit as a partner for this project, please refer to the Letter of Interest (LOI) for more information and a form to contact us. Any questions may be submitted to Amanda Mack, Project Coordinator.

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## 2. Closing the digital gender gap: lessons from the pandemic

<https://www.iied.org/closing-digital-gender-gap-lessons-pandemic>

Technology and the internet can be a great enabler. But while easy and cheap access to digital tools and channels has opened opportunities for some during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people still face barriers and are being left behind. This IIED Debates event on **27 October** will explore why and how the digital world should consider the needs of both women and men of all ages to enable progress.

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## 3. Canadian Evaluation Society Conference | Call out for Committee Volunteers

Planning for the C2022 conference in **Winnipeg** has begun. Pending health restrictions within the province, the C2022 conference will be held in person from **June 13th to June 15th, 2022**. However, we still require volunteers to commit 8 to 10 hours a month leading up to the conference to help with organizing/reviewing presentations, workshops, a thematic breakfast, marketing, on-site volunteering, and completing an evaluation of the conference itself.

All volunteer requirements may be completed virtually (i.e., you do not have to reside within Winnipeg or Manitoba to help). If you are interested in serving on any committee please contact the conference Co-Chair, Ryan Catte at [president\\_cesmb@evaluationcanada.ca](mailto:president_cesmb@evaluationcanada.ca)

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## 4. Workshop | Intersectional Monitoring and Evaluation

<https://equalfuturesnetwork.ca/events/workshop-on-intersectional-monitoring-and-evaluation-2/>

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is rooted in intersectionality and can be applied throughout the policy, program or project cycle including in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) phase. As GBA+ has become a mainstream practice throughout the Government of Canada, its application in federally-funded projects has increased.

Join SEASONOVA and the Equal Futures Network for a free two-part interactive workshop on **November 1st and 3rd** from 11:30 – 2:30 pm EDT. Participants will learn practical ways to integrate intersectionality and GBA+ into a program or project’s evaluation framework and gain further understanding of intersectional feminist approaches to evaluation.

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## 5. 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)

<https://ukcop26.org/>

The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in **Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021**. Some examples of events with a gender focus:

- November 1: Preserving the Planet – women in agriculture
- November 1: Earth Observers: From space frontiers to frontline farmers; a women-led debate on climate justice.
- November 3: Women in Finance Climate Action Group: practical steps to deliver finance for climate action and gender equality
- November 4: Business and Climate Justice: Empowering Women Through a Just Transition
- November 5: Climate justice, education and gender equality: targeting the connections
- November 7: STEM and the climate
- November 8: The role of gender equality in decarbonising transport
- November 9: African Women’s Grassroots Climate Action
- November 11: The nexus between Gender-based climate adaptation and localisation – Lessons from Indonesia
- November 12: Action on Climate Empowerment (ACE) and the Clean Energy Transition

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## 6. Development and Climate Days at COP26

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/development-climate-days-2021-dc-days-tickets-188301834857>

Join us at Development and Climate Days (D&C Days) online from **9-10 November 2021** during COP26. Don't miss the fantastic, two-day digital event that will bring together grassroots representatives, researchers, development practitioners and policymakers from across the world to discuss how to work together to build a climate-resilient future for all.

D&C Days in 2021 will focus on five ‘evidenced themes’ that we have been building on since 2019. These themes will provide the backbone to the programme, with conference sessions strategically linked to one or more of the following:

- Building resilient agriculture and food systems
- Early warning, early action to leave no one behind
- Financing a resilient future
- Establishing resilient cities and infrastructure, and
- Working with nature to build resilience.

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## 7. Advancing Women Conference Virtual 2021

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

The agenda is complete! 45 speakers. Join in conversations at 12 Table Talk Sessions. And have a seat at a table to network and discuss issues in over 7 networking sessions! **November 22 & 23, 2021**

Join us at the table for direct conversations with other attendees. This is just one way we've made it easier for you to virtually connect at this conference. Don't miss connecting with our speakers and sponsors plus hundreds of women in ag that we are expecting at AWCV2021.

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## **This Month's News**

### **1. Opinion: Women in agriculture are more than just 'farm wives'**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/farm-wife-term-fails-to-recognize-women-as-equal-sask-agriculture-1.6202004>

Many women use the term Farm Wife to identify as members of a community, to understand and support each other. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this. Having that community is so important and it is why we see the term used in other industries.

Unfortunately for women in agriculture, the industry is still struggling to see women as equal. Women are often not asked what role they play and are often labelled Farm Wife by default.

Farm Wife often has a negative connotation. For many, it means the woman should not be included in business decisions and communications. It means a woman's primary role should be cooking meals and raising children. It means women should not be put forward for board positions. It means girls are not thought of as the next generation capable of taking over the family farm.

Women are leaving the industry or stepping back because being a female in agriculture comes with harassment, slander, defamation and the fear of one's career being ruined for speaking up or speaking out.

If agriculture is truly to be the sector of the future, and to be respected as the industry it can and should be, we need to create equality for all within it. We need to stop attacking those who raise questions and challenge status quos. We need to support all within to define their roles, careers and next steps.

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### **2. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2021**

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2021/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2021>

In September, UN Women published a report about progress on the SDGs that contained more bad news.

The pandemic has tested and even reversed progress in expanding women's rights and opportunities. Women have not recovered lost jobs and income, hunger is on the rise, and school closures threaten girls' educational gains. Women's participation in government, research, and resource management remains far from equal. Vulnerable groups of women, including migrants, those with disabilities, and those affected by conflict, are frequently left behind. Disparities between rich and poor countries are preventing equal access to lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, putting women in poorer countries at disproportionate risk.

Moreover, despite women's central roles in responding to COVID-19, including as front-line health workers, they do not have the leadership positions they deserve. Building forward differently and better will require placing women and girls at the centre of all aspects of response and recovery, including through gender-responsive laws, policies, and budgeting.

Women's food insecurity levels were 10% higher than men's in 2020, up from 6% in 2019.

“Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2021” presents the latest evidence on gender equality across all 17 Goals, highlighting the progress made since 2015 but also the continued alarm over the COVID-19 pandemic, its immediate effect on women’s well-being, and the threat it poses to future generations.

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### **3. Snapshot Report Shows 17 SDGs through Lens of Gender Equality**

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/snapshot-report-shows-17-sdgs-through-lens-of-gender-equality>

UN Women released a gender snapshot of progress towards the SDGs, presenting evidence on gender equality in the context of each of the 17 Global Goals.

It also assesses progress on the indicators for SDG 5 (gender equality).

Two indicators are farthest from target: the ratio of unpaid domestic and care work, by sex (SDG indicator 5.4.1) and the proportion of women and girls who make informed decisions on reproductive health (SDG indicator 5.6.1).

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### **4. The Women Transforming the Rural Gambia through Horticulture**

<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/the-women-transforming-the-rural-gambia-through-horticulture/>

With financial support by IFAD and partners, the Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ROOTS) is expected to advance SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 5 (gender equality) simultaneously, given the linkages between rural development, food security and gender.

The project has an ambitious target of reaching 320,000 people, which represents more than 10% of the country’s population. These beneficiaries are primarily: smallholder farmers organized in formal or informal associations (locally known as kafos); female and male youth from 18 to 35 years old, involved in farming and off-farm activities; and farmers and entrepreneurs involved in cooperatives and agricultural small- and medium-sized enterprises (agri-SMEs) engaged in Public-Private Producers’ Partnerships (4P) arrangements for commercialization and value addition.

But the make-up of this group is asymmetrical: women account for 80%, with the reason lying at gender gaps in the rural Gambia. Despite conventionally growing lower-value subsistence crops – as opposed to men who commonly manage cash crops –, Gambian women are transforming horticulture into a profitable business at the service of sustainable development.

These women farmers are now growing high value crops that attract international market demand such as chill pepper and okra as opposed to the traditional crops that were mainly for subsistence.

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### **5. Can alternative energy protect women from assault in IDP camps?**

<https://www.devex.com/news/can-alternative-energy-protect-women-from-assault-in-idp-camps-101707>

A new United Nations program providing displaced people with gas for cooking means displaced women no longer have to venture into the bush to find wood for cooking.

More than 1.4 million people in Burkina Faso have been displaced by violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State, creating the fastest growing displacement crisis in the world last year. More than 50% of displaced people are women — according to the U.N. — who have become subject to increasing sexual assault by both jihadists and civilians.

In the center north region, which has the largest displaced population in the country, rape cases increased five-fold — from two to 10 reported cases — during a three-month period last year, according to a report by humanitarian groups.



In an attempt to address the problem, last February, UNHCR launched a pilot program providing 900 displaced families in Kaya with one six-kilogram cylinder of gas. Some of them also received \$45 to buy food and roughly \$360 to invest in businesses to generate income so they could afford to buy gas refills.

But even if the government and organizations start giving displaced people gas, one of the biggest challenges is getting people to shift their mentality. Gas is considered dangerous in Africa because people think it will explode, he said.

In July, Bboxx announced its first clean energy program in the country, in a joint venture with Geocoton Advens Group, a French agro-industrial group. The goal is to increase energy access — only 5% of people in the country’s rural areas have access to energy — by bringing clean energy to two million people. While it’s not currently targeting displaced populations in Burkina Faso, Bboxx has provided areas in Congo and Rwanda with high numbers of displaced people, solar power services, as well as in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

Those participating in UNHCR’s program say that since they’ve shifted to gas, they’ve actually been saving money.

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## 6. Disparities in Poverty Between Ethnic Groups & Across Genders Show Why We Need to Dig Deeper into Poverty Data

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/10/disparities-poverty-ethnic-groups-across-genders-show-need-dig-deeper-poverty-data>

LONDON, Oct 12 2021. (IPS) - During the pandemic, we learnt a new word – at least I did: comorbidity. It means that one or more additional conditions co-occur (all happen at the same time for a person) alongside a primary condition – in this case the virus.

Our and other teams working on poverty also scrutinise disadvantages that strike a person all-at-once. Instead of calling these comorbidities, we call them deprivations. And a large package of deprivations is called multidimensional poverty.

Let me give an example from the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) this year.

We studied two layers of ‘co-morbidities’. First, we looked at a set of 10 indicators spanning conditions like child mortality, school attendance, electricity, water, and assets, and found out how many people are deprived in at least one-third of weighted indicators.

Second, we looked at poverty across ethnic groups, and through a gendered and intrahousehold lens. Data are pre-covid but provide the most up-to-date assessment of all-at-once deprivations – of multidimensional poverty – that we have.

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## 7. The disappearing Senegalese sardines

<https://newint.org/immersive/2021/09/20/disappearing-senegalese-sardines-fjf>

Why is a nutritious superfood being routed away from communities in West Africa to feed salmon, pigs and pets? On the beaches of Senegal, we hear from women fish workers whose jobs are threatened by a deeply inequitable exchange. A member of a women’s association for fish processors (or *transformatrices* as they are known here) explains that fishers are selling their catch elsewhere. In the last five years, fishmeal factories have multiplied along the coast of West Africa. They are in direct competition with the women in Thiaroye-sur-Mer for yaboy, a small oily pelagic fish in the sardine family.

Listen out for the two-part radio documentary *Tale of a Tiny Fish*, which will be broadcast on the BBC World Service **on 26 October and 2 November 2021.** [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc\\_world\\_service](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_world_service)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct2z28> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct2z29>

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## 8. No land, no problem: How a lady farmer converts an idle backyard into a productive urban vegetable garden

<https://www.permaculturenews.org/2021/10/05/no-land-no-problem-how-a-lady-farmer-converts-an-idle-backyard-into-a-productive-urban-vegetable-garden/>

Ocean Grove Farm measures 16 metres by 10 metres. After she cleared the area, Abi set up 11 main veggie beds, which measured 7m long by 1 metre wide. She also built 4 raised beds that are 2 metres long x 50 cm wide built over old pathways.

Abi used the no-dig, no-till planting method and put lots of compost to work. She also called on lots of compost worms to help nurture soil health. To minimise water consumption, she installed a drip water irrigation system that she can adjust according to the seasons.

Depending on the season, Abi plants a wide variety of veggies and herbs that include broccoli, spinach, chard, kale, Asian greens, shallots, kohlrabi, English spinach, radishes, leeks, celery, fennel, all the leafy salad greens, rockets mizuna, mustard greens. She usually has 8 different kinds of lettuce and lots of herbs.

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## 9. Table Banking Helping Women in Kenya to Put Food on the Table

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/10/table-banking-helping-women-kenya-put-food-table/>

A table banking group under the name Joyful Women Organization (JOYWO) is a registered NGO focused on the economic empowerment of women in Kenya. As the name suggests, women place their savings on a table and immediately loan each other accumulated funds. The simple concept of table banking, where a group of 10 to 35 members use the group-based strategy to fundraise by saving, placing their savings on a table, and borrowing immediately, has turned tables on the systematic and systemic financial exclusion of women.

JOYWO, whose current patron is Rachael Ruto, the wife of Deputy President William Ruto, claims to have a revolving fund of at least \$27 million in the hands of its estimated 200,000 members across 1,200 table banking groups in all parts of the country.

Despite their contribution to agriculture, financing is still largely not affordable, available, and accessible to women farmers. In this East African nation where the table banking movement is more concentrated in rural areas, women now have a lifeline to fund agricultural activities with loans taken under friendly terms and conditions.

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## 10. Solar Ironing Vendor

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09yjm17>

14-year-old Vinisha has found a clean energy solution to help tackle air pollution in India. Ironing vendors are common across the country and normally heat the irons using charcoal, a polluting fuel. Vinisha has created a clever alternative. Hear more about her invention, which has been nominated for this year's Earthshot Prize: <https://bbc.in/3FKhdXq>

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## 11. Bovine Practitioner of the Year award

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

The top honor that an American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) member can obtain in his or her career is the AABP Bovine Practitioner of the Year award sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim. At the 2021 54th AABP Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 7-9, Dr. Kelly Barratt, Listowel, Ontario, received this prestigious honor. This award honors a



veterinarian in active practice who is active in organized veterinary medicine and has made significant contributions to bovine medicine. Barratt is the first woman to receive this award from AABP.

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## 12. Gender friendly farm tools for climate adaptation

<https://pragya.org/india/gender-equity-india>

Recognising the crucial role they play in food security and family nutrition of rural farmer households, Pragya NGO has been working with female farmers in India to provide them with weather updates, soil testing facility, hands-on trainings on climate smart agriculture, and other services at their doorstep through a cadre of trained local youth extension workers. Surveys conducted across 6 districts in Assam and Uttarakhand states in India showed that the female farmers are engaged in time-intensive agricultural activities, with rudimentary tools that are not ergonomic. The women reported experiencing severe pain and discomfort during land preparation, sowing/planting, weeding, harvesting, post-harvest processes. The research team worked with technical experts to identify gender friendly tools for these specific agricultural activities for the target districts according to their crop varieties and terrain characteristics and created a series of videos and digital database on the tools, their benefits, etc. Village level trainings were held with appropriate precautions for COVID-19. The team is now equipping 700+ female farmers of 59 women's Self Help Groups with these gender friendly farm tools to enhance their participation in agricultural activities, while reducing physical drudgery.

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## 13. Securing land tenure for women in Zambia

<https://www.iied.org/her-name-securing-land-tenure-for-women-zambia>

Gender expert Thais Bessa describes how inclusive technology, a gender-responsive documentation process and shifting gender norms are empowering women through secure land rights. Taking agricultural land from widows is common across much of the world, including in sub-Saharan Africa, where most land – around 90% – is undocumented. When land is documented, the property is often registered in the name of men, who are considered ‘heads of the household’. Women are left off the documentation, and when their spouses die, they regularly lose access to the family land.

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## 14. 4-H Canada Board of Directors

<https://4-h-canada.ca/board>

Carlie Whetter of Manitoba is the new Chair of the 4-H Canada Board of Directors. Carlie was raised on a mixed farm in southwestern Manitoba. She was a member of the Kenton Kraftsmen 4-H Club, and a Manitoba 4-H Ambassador as an alumnus. Now, as the progressive and innovative head leader of the Alexander 4-H Club, a large multipurpose club, she has adapted and flexed programming to meet the needs of over 40 club members. Carlie has been active in zone, area and provincial associations, most recently as president of Manitoba 4-H Council with her term ending November 2018. Carlie and her husband Darren have 3 kids, all involved in 4-H, and operate a grain farm growing certified seed. Carlie also works part-time as a consultant for a real estate company.

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## 15. A School & Cultural Institution Aims to Level the Playing Field in Rural Uganda

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2021/10/school-cultural-institution-aims-level-playing-field-women-girls-rural-uganda/>

While the Tat Sat Community Academy Project (TaSCA) in Kasasa, Uganda, seeks to improve the livelihoods of all community members, there is a particular emphasis on uplifting women and girls. This is of greater importance now, with the COVID-19 pandemic having an outsized effect on women and girls across the world.

TaSCA is a community-led project being implemented by the TaSCA Kasasa Community Board (TKCB) in partnership with the Peace Africa Children’s Ensemble, a local non-profit chosen by the community to help develop the project. Through an innovative model we call roots-up philanthropy, InteRoots is working to support the community members of Kasasa who are building TaSCA, which will include a school, savings and credit co-op, and cultural institution.

We hope TaSCA will provide equity in education, access to financing and financial support networks, and preservation of cultural practices. Additionally, community members also receive support with access to microlending through the Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO), which will provide community financing, student/family financial support and economic education.

The community has said that it is imperative that along with access to microlending, students learn how to handle finances so that they can be equipped in the future for other opportunities.

Of immediate interest to the community is using the SACCO to invest in a mill, which will be used by the farmers in the community to produce locally instead of outsourcing at a high cost. The locally sourced food will also be available to the school’s students and staff members.

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## 16. Fairtrade and Youth

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

Several stories about female youth and fairtrade coffee: from Fairtrade Canada:

*“I dream to be prosperous, and life is not too hard for me and my family. Therefore, I need support to make my work in my own coffee garden easier.”* Hidayah, 26 years old has a small coffee garden in Indonesia. Working to pick coffee cherries is hard work, yet she earns very little. She is part of the producer organization Koperasi Baithul Qiradh Baburrayyan (KBQB), Fairtrade certified since 2007. KBQB invest strongly in training farmers in the improvement of quality and the productivity of their coffee.

*“Specialty coffee changes everything. Coffee is a food, is a fruit, and you have to treat it with all the affection and love.”* Daiane Pinto Souza Carrari is a 30-year-old associate at CAFESUL coop in Brazil. In 2018, alongside her mother-in-law, she joined the women-run group, that now has its own coffee brand, “Póde Mulheres” [Women’s Pow(d)er]. The same year, her family began participating in the Golden Cup coffee quality contest with their cooperative in the Robusta (coffee bean type) category and this year won third place.

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## 17. Why is WASH missing from global food and climate events?

<https://www.devex.com/news/why-is-wash-missing-from-global-food-and-climate-events-101759>

Ahead of COP 26, the WASH sector is asking whether water, sanitation, and hygiene are being neglected within global events. This follows last month’s United Nations Food Systems Summit and Africa Climate week, both of which highlighted the lack of attention paid to WASH.

Currently, around 700 million people in 43 countries do not have enough water every day and climate change will make this worse as droughts dry up water sources, floods contaminate them, and storms inflict damage.

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## 18. Clean Cooking Can Empower Women: A New Financial Tool Could Help Determine What That’s Worth

<https://cleancooking.org/news/clean-cooking-can-empower-women-a-new-financial-tool-could-help-determine-what-thats-worth/>

Carbon finance has been increasingly used to monetize the climate benefits of clean cooking interventions<sup>1</sup>. But why stop there when clean cooking provides so many other social goods? In particular, providing women access to modern energy is a critical but often overlooked means of empowering women and advancing gender equality.

That’s why CCA has partnered with Duke University and C-Quest Capital to develop a framework for a new results-based finance (RBF) instrument. The new emPOWERment bond will produce actionable guidance to quantify, verify, and monetize gendered time-use and productivity benefits of improved biomass cookstove initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa, while also contributing to the broader goal of an inclusive energy transition.

The emPOWERment bond framework takes into consideration the gendered time-use and productivity benefits of clean cooking adoption and sustained use. With clean cooking technologies, a woman could reduce or eliminate her exposure to household air pollution; cut down on cooking time; eliminate or reduce the number of trips she makes to fetch firewood; and reallocate the time saved to engage in productive economic activities, pursue educational opportunities, or simply rest.

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## 19. Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

<https://www.manitobacooperator.ca/daily/bibeau-keeps-role-as-federal-ag-minister-canada-gets-a-new-environment-minister/>

On October 26, 2021, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau was named as the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in the 44<sup>th</sup> Canadian Parliament. She was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Compton—Stanstead in 2015. In March 2019, she became the first woman in Canadian history to be appointed federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Minister Bibeau was born, raised, and educated in Sherbrooke. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a graduate diploma in Environmental Management from the University of Sherbrooke.

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## 20. USAID's new food security strategy centers climate, COVID-19 recovery

<https://www.devex.com/news/usaid-s-new-food-security-strategy-centers-climate-covid-19-recovery-101902>

The United States has updated its Global Food Security Strategy to “adapt to a rapidly changing global context” and support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the new five-year document released on Oct. 21.

The strategy, the second of its kind, will guide the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Feed the Future initiative from 2022 to 2026 with the goals of reducing poverty and stunting — or low height for age — by 20% in places where its programs operate.

The new GFSS has three objectives: “inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth”; “strengthened resilience among people and systems”; and a “well-nourished population, especially among women and children.” It details what it calls “intermediate results” and outlines plans for achieving them.

Reducing hunger will also require “Working Across the Food System” from production to consumption, the new strategy said, as well as an additional priority: “Equity and Inclusion” of marginalized groups such as women, LGBTQ people, youths, Indigenous people, and migrants.

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## 1. Innovation in Agriculture

<https://www.climateshot.earth/innovation-stories>

As one of the largest greenhouse gas emitting sectors of our global economy, tackling the climate crisis must put the transformation of global food systems at the heart of change. But improvements to current technologies and practices will not get us even halfway in reaching our climate mitigation and adaptation goals. We must close the innovation gap in agriculture, with new technologies and new methods of producing the nutritious food we need for a growing world while protecting nature. With only days left until COP26, we must close the 'innovation gap' in our food systems for a climate-smart future.

See the link for stories on innovation, such as:

- DRIVING CONSERVATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS THROUGH FINANCE
- GROWING FOOD IN IMPOSSIBLE PLACES
- USING PRIZE COMPETITIONS TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

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## 2. Engaging Men as Gender Equality Champions

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Engaging-Men-as-Gender-Equality-Champions>

In our world, people of all genders are impacted by the roles, expectations, and behaviors placed upon them by society. Gender, as opposed to sex, is learned, and describes the ways that people are influenced by our family, community, country, and the world. Through our work with Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), MEDA understands that women and marginalized populations do not exist in isolation, their lives are interwoven with others. If changes take place in a woman's life, such as increased agency and realization of rights or increased access to opportunities, it will impact others in her family. For this change to be meaningful and sustainable, men must be included in the process, so that they understand the reasons for and benefits of these changes and are not threatened by them. In the same way, men must change to recognize harmful perspectives and behaviors associated with masculinity and patriarchy, that are ultimately disempowering for everyone. They must also act in a way which accounts for historical injustices which wrongfully benefitted men at the expense of women. For example, women are pressured to stay at home and focus on being caregivers at the expense of their personal and economic development, while men may be expected to engage in risky behavior, violence, and suppression of emotions at the expense of their personal safety and emotional development.

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## 3. Strengthening Small Business Value Chains (SSBVC) Gender Equality Assessment Research Brief

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Strengthening-Small-Business-Value-Chains-SSBVC-Gender-Equality-Assessment-Research-Brief>

MEDA's Strengthening Small Business Value Chains (SSBVC) project aims to contribute to Tanzania's economic growth and increase job creation by sustainably improving the business performance of women- and men-led small and growing businesses (SGBs), and women and men small entrepreneurs (SEs). The Gender Equality Assessment was carried out in the fourth year of the project to capture and measure gender equality (GE) impacts as a result of the project. Key findings and recommendations for SSBVC and the design of future market system development projects are included in this brief.

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## 4. Women's Access to Agricultural Technology

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Women-Access-to-Agricultural-Technology>

This learning paper explores women's access to agricultural technology in three corridors in Tanzania: Arusha, Morogoro and Mtwara. The SSBVC project implemented an eVoucher activity which provides an electronic voucher to small entrepreneurs (SEs) in order to receive a price discount on agricultural equipment to improve productivity. The purpose of the eVoucher price discount is to stimulate market interaction between market actors incentivizing supply and demand. It strategically promotes sustainable change as the price discount is geared towards those most in need of the discount while demonstrating the benefit of agricultural equipment upgrading and allows for a demonstration effect to create demand from other SEs to adopt this equipment. When measuring SEs reached through the eVoucher activity the project focused on who purchased the agricultural equipment to analyze who was benefitting from this activity. However, this study aims to dive deeper into "rights to an asset" which includes purchasing but also usage, ownership and control.

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## 5. Ramping up Rice Processing: Mamboleo Farms Business Case

<https://seepnetwork.org/Resource-Post/Ramping-up-Rice-Processing-Mamboleo-Farms-Business-Case>

MEDA's Strengthening Small Business Value Chains (SSBVC) is working with over 25,000 men and women small entrepreneurs (SEs) and 30 lead firms in the manufacturing, agriculture, and construction sectors to grow their businesses and increase their contribution to rural economies in the Arusha, Morogoro, and Mtwara corridors of Tanzania.

In March 2017, the business won an impact acceleration matching grant (herein referred to as 'grant') from MEDA's Strengthening Small Business Value Chains (SSBVC) Project. The grant, valuing \$382,003 CAD, wrapped up in December 2020. The objectives of the matching grant included:

1. Extend contract rice farming scheme to reach 1,000 farmers, including a target of 80% women, and increase rice production of these farmers with extension support and productive assets (three tractors, including one plough and one rotavator, the latter used to level and aerate the soil).
2. Establish irrigation systems for over 100 hectares to allow 300 farmers, 240 of them female, to produce rice year-round (two seasons: one rain-fed, one irrigated).
3. Upgrade to a larger rice milling machine. The grant will increase the factory's capacity to allow for more and increased quality paddy rice to be processed and dried.
- 4.. Promote environmental sustainability to manage rice husk waste, a by-product of processing. The grant included the purchase of a carbonizer and briquette-making machines to allow Mamboleo to protect the natural environment.

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## 6. Ag in the Classroom develops new virtual farm tour program

<https://aitc.mb.ca/teachers/programs-field-trips/follow-the-farmers>

Follow the Farmers is our new virtual farm tour program! Students will have the opportunity to tour local Manitoba farms and engage with Manitoba farmers to learn about where their food comes from right from their classroom!

Register once to receive ongoing updates and FREE access to:

- links to attend 4 livestream events offered throughout the year that will include a farm tour and a live Q&A with the farmer.
- curriculum-based grade 4 & 5 classroom activities to extend students' learning

The events are great for grades 3-6.

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## 7. Women Deliver's 2020 Annual Report

<http://womendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Women-Deliver-Annual-Report-2020-FINAL.pdf>

As we reflect on last year and look to the next, we are reminded that the need for effective and inclusive advocacy for gender equality and SRHR is more critical than ever. We look forward to continuing to advocate for, with, and alongside all girls and women, everywhere and in all their intersecting identities, in creating a more gender-equal world and future.

We know that a world where the guaranteed health and rights of all girls and women is possible, and guided by our Transformation and new Strategic Framework, we are re-dedicating ourselves and our mission to achieve that goal. We count on you, our partners, to take big and bold action alongside us.

Over the next five years, Women Deliver will have a deeper focus on three overlapping areas within gender equality: Health and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Women’s Economic Rights and Justice, and Climate Action, with SRHR continuing to serve as an entry point and foundation for our advocacy efforts.

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## 8. This Is How Everyday Sexism Could Stop You From Getting That Promotion

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/10/14/opinion/gender-bias.html>

How much does everyday sexism at work matter? Most would agree that outright discrimination when it comes to hiring and advancement is a bad thing, but what about the small indignities that women experience day after day?

To explore the aggregate impact of routine gender bias over time, I teamed up with Kenny Joseph, a computer science professor at the University at Buffalo, and a graduate student there, Yuhao Du, to create a computer simulation of a workplace. We call our simulated workplace “NormCorp.” Here’s how it works.

We simulated 10 years of promotion cycles happening at NormCorp based on these rules, and here is how women’s representation changed over time.

Our model does not take into account women who quit their jobs after experiencing an unmanageable amount of bias. But it visualizes how these penalties add up over time for women who stay, so that by the time you reach more senior levels of management, there are fewer women left to promote. These factors not only prevent women from reaching the top ranks in their company but for those who do, it makes the career path longer and more demanding.

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## 9. Climate & Gender podcast series: Connecting Women's Voices on Climate Justice

<https://www.unhscotland.org.uk/podcasts>

UN House Scotland, a volunteer-run, women-led civil society organization based in Edinburgh, invites you to listen to and participate in our Climate & Gender podcast series, Connecting Women's Voices on Climate Justice. We are bringing together women climate activists to dialogue on shared strategies and common goals for climate action and have so far covered topics including food security and women in farming, the Sustainable Development Goals, child marriage and climate change, and women in WASH careers.

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## 10. Working Paper: Gender sensitive social protection in the face of climate risk in India

*Gender sensitive social protection in the face of climate risk. A study in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, India*

<https://pubs.iied.org/20456iied>

Climate change is likely to exacerbate gendered vulnerabilities and compound intersecting forms of discrimination against women. International donors and policymakers are increasingly interested in strengthening social protection programmes to address such adverse impacts, but there is a lack of evidence about how this can be achieved.

Addressing this gap, this paper examines the potential of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to reduce women’s vulnerability to climate risks in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh in India. It provides lessons on priority action areas for integrating gender within the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the programme to better meet women’s needs in the face of climate risk.

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## 11. USA National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/22/fact-sheet-national-strategy-on-gender-equity-and-equality/>

On October 22, 2021, the White House released the first-ever National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality. The strategy identified 10 “interconnected priorities,” which include gender-based violence, climate change, and security and humanitarian relief.

“The whole-of-government approach embraced in this strategy, which makes it the mission of all federal agencies including those focused on migration, trade, and defense to tackle long-standing gender inequalities, could be a real game changer for women and girls across the globe,” Center for Global Development’s Megan O’Donnell said in a statement.

The strategy identifies ten interconnected priorities: 1) economic security; 2) gender-based violence; 3) health; 4) education; 5) justice and immigration; 6) human rights and equality under the law; 7) security and humanitarian relief; 8) climate change; 9) science and technology; and 10) democracy, participation, and leadership. These priorities are inherently linked and must be tackled in concert.

The strategy also adopts an intersectional approach that considers the barriers and challenges faced by those who experience intersecting and compounding forms of discrimination and bias related to gender, race, and other factors, including sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, and socioeconomic status. This includes addressing discrimination and bias faced by Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American people, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and other people of color.

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## 12. Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship through Savings Groups | Recording Now Available

<https://seepnetwork.org/Webinar-Post/Virtual-Roundtable-Promoting-Womens-Entrepreneurship-through-Savings-Groups-exist>

The SEEP Network and the Savings Learning Lab had a lively and interactive discussion on promoting and supporting women’s entrepreneurship through Savings Groups. Expert panelists shared insights from seven countries, featuring topics from financial literacy and business training to promoting climate smart agriculture to addressing harmful gender norms, and more.

We then jumped into breakout discussions hosted by each panelist, allowing participants to share and discuss their initiatives and what they have learned with fellow attendees.

### **13. Podcast: Why women and girls lose the most in the absence of WASH**

<https://www.devex.com/news/podcast-why-women-and-girls-lose-the-most-in-the-absence-of-wash-101622>

When it comes to poor access to WASH, the repercussions are often disproportionately felt by women, Barbara Schreiner, executive director at the Water Integrity Network, tells Devex.

“Women, because of pregnancy and menstruation, have particular needs for hygiene, sanitation, and for being able to wash. When those aren’t provided, there are problems,” she says.

For example, a lack of adequate facilities in schools might mean girls having to stay at home during their menstruation, impacting their ability to learn; collecting water instead of working can limit their opportunities to earn a living, and using a toilet without a lock can leave them open to gender-based violence.

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### **14. Video: A Conversation on Clean Cooking, Women, and Trade**

[https://youtu.be/4\\_kZipXrnCA](https://youtu.be/4_kZipXrnCA)

Cooking without clean stoves and fuels releases toxic pollutants into the environment and endangers the health and well-being of billions across the globe. Women disproportionately bear the brunt of these harmful impacts, but are also key to improving access to clean cooking technologies.

Join the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and partners to discuss the critical role of women in achieving universal access to clean cooking and the importance of engaging the trade community in establishing an inclusive, enabling environment.

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### **15. The EnDev Tanzania Green Economic Recovery Fund – customer insights on the Productive Use of Energy**

<https://endev.info/the-endev-tanzania-green-economic-recovery-fund-customer-insights-on-the-productive-use-of-energy/>

Report [https://endev.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EnDev-Tanzania-Green-Economic-Recovery-Fund\\_Customer-Insights-on-the-Productive-Use-of-Energy.pdf](https://endev.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EnDev-Tanzania-Green-Economic-Recovery-Fund_Customer-Insights-on-the-Productive-Use-of-Energy.pdf)

EnDev Tanzania through SNV implemented the Green Economic Recovery Fund (GERF) between October 2020 and March 2021. The GERF built upon EnDev Tanzania’s successfully established RBF mechanisms and structures to support recovery of solar firms at a national scale in the wake of the early stages of the pandemic. Through the support of the fund 128,000 solar units were sold to rural customers throughout Tanzania.

The report presents aggregated and summarised insights to highlight key takeaways and trends across the following indicators:

- Customer profile: occupation, income-level, gender, household size, etc.,
- Prevalence of agricultural activity within household and crops under production,
- Productive use of SHS (and appliances),
- Ownership and demand of productive use appliances,
- Interest to purchase/willingness to pay for appliances

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