

June 1, 2022

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Rainbow in sky after summer rain. Photo courtesy of D. Cepelis.

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 Cepelis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGhIH, FAIC, (Volunteer Editor)

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Fair Trade Handbook Webinar Series

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cftn-webinar-series-fair-trade-hand-book-session-1-tickets-315885290407>

Panel Discussion - Fair Trade in an Unfair World/ *Mesa redonda - Comercio justo en un mundo injusto*. Session 1 is scheduled for **May 27, 2022**. Join us as we present the CFTN 2022 Webinar Series and Book Club in Three Parts. Read along with each Section of the Fair Trade Handbook, as we present a panel of speakers from each Section of the Book. Bring your questions for the speakers and be prepared to also network with your fellow fair-traders during our interactive speed-networking and trivia activities.

Panelists for this first session include Monika Firl from Coffee4Climate, Roxana Olivera, Joey Pitoello from JustUs! Coffee, and Nelson Melo Maya from SPP. Simultaneous translation will be available from English to Spanish for those requiring it.

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2. Resource Launch: Supporting Survivors of SEA: A How-to Guide for Creating Support Resources

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqdeqvrTksHtWc9_ypfUjYfNeaCl9cwmtp

On **June 8**, Digna will launch a new resource, *Supporting Survivors of SEA: A How-to Guide for Creating Support Resources*. It's a guide on supporting survivors of sexual exploitation (SEA) and abuse that every organization should have. Digna will show you how to use it and why it is important to always be prepared.

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3. Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship

<https://awardfellowships.org/gender-responsive-agriculture-systems-policy-grasp-fellowship/>

Rural women are less likely than men to be able to adapt and diversify agricultural livelihoods in the face of climate change. Submit YOUR application to the #GRASPFellowship now to improve outcomes for smallholders in Africa. A project by AWARD Fellowships USAID - US Agency for International Development, the fellowship will bring professional women in policy together to access networks, mentorship, and funding for #African smallholder empowerment. Applicants must:

- Be a woman working in policy
- Live in Africa, specifically Malawi, Nigeria, or Zambia
- Have at least a master's degree and 10 years of experience

Deadline: 10 June 2022

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4. Podcasts: Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture

<https://fmc-gac.com/influential-agwomen/>

<https://agannex-talks.captivate.fm/>

Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture (IWCA) is a recognition program designed to honour, highlight and celebrate women who are driving the future of Canadian agriculture. Seven outstanding women are being recognized this year. These seven women will share their stories, wisdom and insights on the IWCA podcast series on AgAnnex Talks with the first episode airing on **June 13**, and new episodes following bi-weekly after that.

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5. Turtle Island Indigenous Science Conference

<https://event.fourwaves.com/turtleisland2022/pages>

Tues June 14 to Thurs June 16, 2022. The Turtle Island Indigenous Science Conference invites you to explore the Indigenous scientific legacy and the value of the application of two-eyed seeing to modern science today. Interactive workshops and sessions will explore, scientific knowledge embedded in Indigenous languages, traditional medicine and health, Indigenous engagement with the land and the environment, and novel STEM education approaches that include the Indigenous ways of knowing.

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6. American Association for Advancement of Science - Call for Proposals

<https://meetings.aaas.org/program/2023cfp/>

American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS) is calling for proposals for the 2023 Annual Meeting. The meeting will highlight ground-breaking multi-disciplinary research that advances knowledge and responds equitably to the needs of humanity. You are invited to submit a proposal for **Scientific Session Panels or 10-Minute Lightning Talks before June 16, 2022, or Workshops before July 25, 2022.**

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7. LGBTQ2 projects fund call for proposals

<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/funding/funding-programs/lgbtq2-projects-fund-call-for-proposals/about.html>

Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) works to advance equality with respect to sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression through the inclusion of people of all genders, including women, in Canada’s economic, social, and political life. The objective of this call for proposals is to support community-informed projects that will address key issues facing LGBTQ2 communities.

Projects should aim to advance equality for LGBTQ2 people. They should include new activities that address the unequal treatment of LGBTQ2 people and target their needs. Projects must support actions in one or more of the following areas:

- Policies and practices
- Knowledge, tools, and support
- Norms, attitudes, and behaviours
- Authority, voice, and decision-making
- Increasing impact through cross-sector collaboration

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8. Science Rising

<https://sciencerising.org/>

Science Rising is training a team of leaders to educate and inspire STEM students, faculty, and advocates to participate in America’s democracy. This "Train the Trainer" approach is designed to strengthen a culture of civic engagement within the STEM community and provides opportunities for you to develop your leadership skills, increase your public speaking skills and confidence, and learn about ways to train and engage others on your campus and in your community. Once you complete the training, you will be ready and empowered to lead two trainings before the election. Trainings will be offered **once a month from May to October.**

9. Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education Conference 2023

<https://www.iaee.org/index.php/conference>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iaee> (Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education).

AIAEE Student Community: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AIAEEStudents>

The 2022 conference wrapped up in Greece in April 2022. The next conference is planned for **Guelph, Ontario** in 2023. The AIAEE LinkedIn account has been created to post information about the AIAEE 2023 conference, research and external opportunities, and future webinars. In addition, there is an AIAEE Student Community Facebook account that was created with the purpose of keeping students connected.

This Month's News

1. Climate scientist wins 2022 World Food Prize

<https://www.devex.com/news/climate-scientist-wins-2022-world-food-prize-103127>

Cynthia Rosenzweig, senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has won the 2022 World Food Prize for her work modeling the impact of climate change on global food production.

Rosenzweig is an agronomist and climatologist, and founder of the Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project, known as AgMIP. The international project models how agricultural and food systems are affected by climate change, providing vital data necessary for food system transformation.

Rosenzweig, who has farmed in Italy and New York, was one of the first scientists to show that climate change was directly affecting food production. The methodology she used has become fundamental to climate change impact assessments, and she has worked on three Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change global assessments. Her research has also contributed to the scientific underpinnings of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The World Food Prize, which comes with a \$250,000 award, is awarded each year to someone who has dedicated their career to eradicating global hunger through improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food. It is considered the "Nobel Prize" for food and agriculture.

2. Ethiopian drought leading to 'dramatic' increase in child marriage, Unicef warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/apr/30/ethiopian-drought-leading-to-dramatic-increase-in-child-marriage-unicef-warns>

Drought-afflicted areas of Ethiopia are seeing "dramatic" increases in child marriage as the worst climate-induced emergency for 40 years pushes people to the brink, the head of Unicef has said.

Three consecutive failed rainy seasons have brought hunger, malnutrition and mass displacement to millions of people in the Horn of Africa, including parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Many girls in Ethiopia now face being married at a young age as their parents seek to find extra resources through dowries from the husband's family, and hope their daughters will be fed and protected by wealthier families, warned Catherine Russell, Unicef's executive director.

The drought threatens to set Ethiopia back in its attempts to lower its levels of child marriage, which are among the highest in the world. According to demographic data from 2016, 40% of girls in the east African country are married before the age of 18 and 14% are married before their 15th birthday.

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3. Breaking Vicious Cycle of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/breaking-vicious-cycle-trafficking-sexual-exploitation/>

Activists say the number of young women from rural areas trafficked into the sex trade across many East African countries is growing. The young women are lured with the promise of good jobs or marriage. Instead, they are sold into prostitution in cities such as Nairobi (Kenya) and Kampala (Uganda). Both activists and lawmakers warn that people with hidden agendas could target young women from Rwanda.

The process of trafficking most of these young women into neighboring countries is complex. It involves false promises to their families and victims in which they are promised a “better life”, activists say.

In many cases, traffickers lure young women from rural villages to neighboring countries with the promise of well-paid work. Then, victims are transferred to people who become their enslavers – especially in dubious hotels and karaoke bars.

Driven by the demand for cheap labor and commercial sex, trafficking rings across the East African region capitalize primarily on economic and social vulnerabilities to exploit their victims, experts said.

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4. Call to Freedom for Millions of Children Trapped in Child Labour as Global Conference Comes to Africa

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/05/call-freedom-millions-children-trapped-child-labour-global-conference-comes-africa/>

Nairobi, May 13 2022 (IPS) - Children washing clothes in rivers, begging on the streets, hawking, walking for kilometres in search of water and firewood, their tiny hands competing with older, experienced hands to pick coffee or tea, or as child soldiers are familiar sights in Africa and Asia.

Child rights experts at Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation reiterate that tolerance and normalisation of working children, many of whom work in hazardous conditions and circumstances, and apathy has stalled progress towards the elimination of child labour.

Further warnings include more children in labour across the sub-Saharan Africa region than the rest of the world combined. The continent now falls far behind the collective commitment to end all forms of child labour by 2025.

The International Labour Organization estimates more than 160 million children are in child labour globally.

How to achieve the Sustainable Development Target 8.7 and the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour that focuses on its elimination by 2025 will be the subject of the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour to be held in Durban, South Africa, from May 15 to 20, 2022.

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5. OPINION Food and People

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/05/food-and-people/>

The world’s population of approximately 8 billion or more than double its size at the start of the Green Revolution in the mid-1960s, is again facing a food crisis across many countries and areas. And that food crisis is expected to worsen in the near term.

The food crisis in dozens of countries, which are located primarily in Africa and Asia, is largely due to the three Cs: conflict, climate change, and COVID-19. Also, the recent conflict in Ukraine due to Russia’s military invasion has further exacerbated the food crisis.

As a result of the conflict in Ukraine, a growing number of governments are erecting new barriers to stop the exports of food products and other important commodities at their borders. Those barriers are expected to worsen the food crisis with shortages and higher prices for a variety of goods in many food insecure countries.

Today an estimated 800 million people, or 10 percent of the world’s population, are hungry. Also, projections show that the world is not on track to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030, i.e., Sustainable Development Goal 2.

The future growth of world population, which is currently increasing by approximately 80 million per year, is expected to be concentrated in regions that contain most of the countries suffering from hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

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6. Stewards of the forest: the pioneering women’s collective harvesting the Gambia’s oysters

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/may/03/stewards-of-the-forest-the-pioneering-womens-collective-harvesting-the-gambias-oysters>

Unlike other fishing in the Gambia, the oyster trade is entirely run by women, who pick, process, cook and sell them. About 500 women in the Tanbi area are members of the TRY Oyster Women’s Association, a collective founded by a social worker, Fatou Janha Mboob, in 2007. A community-based, non-profit organisation, TRY aims to improve harvesters’ lives through environmental and social initiatives, and training in financial management, food hygiene and water safety.

Mboob wanted to make the harvesters a cohesive part of the ecosystem, rather than a force acting against it. In 2012, she successfully lobbied the Gambian government to make Tanbi a “special management area”, within which TRY members have exclusive harvesting rights. Before the TRY, the harvesters worked Tanbi’s mangroves very differently, hacking off roots entirely and picking even small, unsaleable oysters. Through educational initiatives organised by Mboob and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), TRY members were encouraged to consider themselves stewards of the mangroves; roots are now left intact, and harvesters prevent others from chopping them for firewood.

TRY is also involved in reforestation; as part of a UNDP-funded project, members planted more than 50,000 mangrove seedlings. In 2011, they voted in favour of a closed harvesting season, from March to June, and to set a minimum size for collecting oysters.

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7. Clean Cooking Alliance Adds Five Companies to its Venture Catalyst Program

<https://cleancooking.org/venture-catalyst/>

The Venture Catalyst portfolio currently consists of 33 companies operating in 14 countries. These include biofuel, LPG, and biogas fuel distributors; pellet, ethanol, and char-briquette producers; and ethanol, gas, electric, and biomass stove manufacturers.

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) has expanded its Venture Catalyst program, adding five companies in West Africa to its existing portfolio. As an industry development initiative, the Venture Catalyst helps entrepreneurs build innovative and scalable companies that accelerate clean cooking access.

The companies joining the Venture Catalyst – Powerstove Energy, Safi Energy, NENU Engineering, Southline Coast, and Goods and Services 360 – are based in Ghana and Nigeria and range from pre-revenue to early-stage enterprises. They will

join CCA's existing portfolio of 25 companies, which operate in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and South-East Asia and represent a diverse range of fuels and technologies, such as LPG, biogas, ethanol, electricity, pellets, and improved biomass stoves.

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8. Challenging patriarchal land rights in India

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/may/06/challenging-patriarchal-land-rights-india-shreya-kalia>

Ideas over inheritance in India follow gender lines. Women grow up to 80% of India's food, but own 11% of its farmland. Laws may have advanced – in 2005, for example, the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act granted equal inheritance property rights – but some parents believe girls should not inherit because they are given a dowry when they marry.

Dowries – outlawed six decades ago – continue to be paid in 95% of marriages. Others fear that land will pass to a son-in-law's family if it is given to married daughters. Women can come under enormous pressure to relinquish land ownership to male relatives.

In Gujarat, the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership (WGWLO), a network of 35 organisations, has helped about 9,000 women to secure land rights.

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9. Women in rural Bangladesh pay more for rising cost of climate disasters

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220518143335-m17kx>

DHAKA, May 18 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Rural families in Bangladesh are using a large chunk of their budgets to protect themselves from climate change, especially households headed by women who are allocating up to 30% of their spending for that purpose, researchers said on Wednesday.

The high share of spending by female-led households - many based in the flood-prone north - is double the average of 15% because women have lower incomes than men, said a study by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Often men from Bangladesh's northwest regions migrate on a seasonal basis to work elsewhere, leaving women to run the home.

Common measures taken by rural families to adapt to climate change and reduce risks include raising the plinth of their houses above flood-water levels, planting trees and making shelters to keep livestock safe.

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10. OPINION: How drought is shifting gender dynamics in northeast Syria

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220429075706-u1ytk>

After more than a decade of war, northeast Syria is now facing the worst drought in 70 years due to record low rainfall and higher-than-average temperatures.

The gender imbalances in the northeast are deeply long-standing and only getting worse due to the drought. Alarmingly, women are now bearing the brunt of this climate crisis, both at work and at home. New research — commissioned by the global humanitarian organization Mercy Corps and carried out by the research institute Triangle — has found that the loss of jobs in the devastated agriculture sector in the war-torn regions of Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa is pushing women to find alternative ways to make ends meet.

The challenges that come with women’s increased workload cannot be left unaddressed, especially now that droughts are expected to become more frequent, severe, and prolonged due to climate change. But the shifting gender dynamics in northeast Syria is also bringing opportunities. The time is ripe to capitalise on or build upon these changes to ensure women have the skills and opportunities to engage in safe work while reducing household burdens.

Supporting childcare or flexible work solutions is one needed area for investment. Men and boys also need to be engaged in the design and implementation of programs to impact social norms related to gender roles and equitable decision-making.

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11. In Zimbabwe, a women-only gem mine gives abuse survivors new hope

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220330151242-vl8om>

Workers at Africa’s first all-female mine say their jobs have given them a fresh start and financial independence. Zimbaqua bills itself as the first mining firm in Africa to be staffed entirely by women. Zimbaqua was opened in 2019 by Iver Rosenkrantz, a Danish gem expert who has lived in Africa for more than 15 years, and Zimbabwean Patrick Tendayi Zindoga.

Women in rural areas are often forced to remain in violent marriages because they rely on their husbands financially, said Rumbidzai Gwinji, a mine manager at Zimbaqua, which is located in the farming area of Karoi in northern Zimbabwe.

Zimbaqua's workers dig for the mine's rich deposits of aquamarine, a pale blue to light green gem that is highly prized by jewellery designers and collectors around the world. It is hard labour. The women use hammers to break up rocks and reveal the aquamarine, which is easily visible due to its bright colour shining out from the surrounding stone. In return, they get a salary equivalent to about \$295 per month.

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12. Women as Farmers in Australia

<https://resourceequity.org/not-so-silent-partners/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jan/15/the-myth-of-the-manly-farmer-why-do-we-still-assume-women-dont-work-on-the-land>

As recently as 1994 in Australia, women couldn't list "farmer" as their occupation. This gendered perspective on farming continues to impact women's rights to land. We talk about the fact that terms such as “farmer” are often interpreted as male quite often in our work. Even though women play a significant role in farming, they often aren’t considered equal or valuable partners and this assumption of maleness has negative repercussions for women who are farmers.

Rights to land play a part in this discrimination — in Australia women inherit only around 10% of farmland and women farmers typically access farmland through a male relative, though around 47% of farmers are women. We see this in our work on women’s rights to agricultural land globally, and this is an example of how it plays out in Australia.

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13. USA: Despite Legal Changes, Women Still Face Barriers to Inheriting Farmland

<https://www.agriculture.com/news/business/despite-legal-changes-women-still-face-barriers-to-inheriting-farmland>

Though the United States granted women legal equality for property rights decades ago, women are still not inheriting farmland as often as their male relatives. The legal obstacles for women farmers may be gone, but social expectations are still a big problem, said sociologist Ange Carter. Carter said that girls and women are less likely to be groomed to take over farm operations than their brothers.

14. Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture

<https://fmc-gac.com/influential-agwomen/>

Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture (IWCA) is a recognition program designed to honour, highlight and celebrate women who are driving the future of Canadian agriculture. Seven outstanding women are being recognized this year. Please join us in congratulating:

- Heather Watson, Executive Director, Farm Management Canada
- Valerie Carney, Lead, Poultry Innovation Partnership
- Lisa Mumm, Owner, Mumm's Sprouting Seeds
- Christine Noronha, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Lana Shaw, Manager, Southeast Research Farm
- Karen Tanino, Professor, University of Saskatchewan
- Mary Ruth McDonald, Professor/Research Program Director, University of Guelph

These seven women will share their stories, wisdom and insights on the IWCA podcast series on AgAnnex Talks (<https://agannex-talks.captivate.fm/>), with the first episode airing on **June 13**, and new episodes following bi-weekly after that.

The 2022 program will culminate with a virtual event this fall, bringing together this year's recipients and women from across the industry to share in their experiences, offer guidance and advice in an interactive setting.

15. Do species names perpetuate gender bias in science?

<https://www.science.org/content/article/do-species-names-perpetuate-gender-bias-science>

"The scientific names of nearly 3,000 recently identified bloodsuckers, hijackers and other banes of the biological world mostly honor men," according to a new study. Science reports that "of the 596 parasite species honoring an eminent scientist, only 18% immortalized women researchers".

16. Federal government announces \$2.1 million for youth in agriculture

<https://www.realagriculture.com/2022/05/federal-government-announces-2-1-million-for-youth-in-agriculture/>

The federal government has announced up to \$2.1 million for three organizations to support development opportunities for Canadian youth in agriculture. With funds under the AgriCompetitiveness Program, these organizations will deliver important programming and initiatives that help to develop the future generation of agricultural leaders.

This includes Canadian 4-H Council (4-H Canada), Canadian Young Farmers' Forum (CYFF), and Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers (COYF).

17. Prince Edward Island women urged to consider careers in farming

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-agriculture-department-advisory-council-status-of-women-gender-inclusion-1.6447048>

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is applauding the province's Department of Agriculture and Land for being the first to develop and implement a gender diversity and inclusion policy.

It's something the group looks at as part of its Equality Report Card: encouraging government departments to make strategic plans when it comes to making the province more inclusive to any people or groups who may be systematically excluded.

Since 2018 the department has focused on encouraging opportunities for women in the industry. It has funded projects aimed at increasing diversity. And developed policies to promote gender, diversity and inclusion in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries.

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18. Fairtrade International announces Sandra Uwera as new Global CEO

<https://www.fairtrade.net/news/fairtrade-international-announces-sandra-uwera-as-new-global-ceo>

Fairtrade, the world's most recognized label for social justice and sustainability, is excited to announce the appointment of its new Global CEO, Sandra Uwera.

"Fairtrade means a fairer future for farmers, a more sustainable future for our planet, and a better future for consumers committed to making a difference," Ms. Uwera says. "This is the Fairtrade vision I look forward to growing alongside the millions of Fairtraders who support our mission."

Ms. Uwera comes to Fairtrade with a wealth of experience in Eastern and Southern Africa and brings a unique set of skills, perspectives, and relationships to lead Fairtrade into the future. She most recently served as CEO of COMESA Business Council (CBC), the leading Business Member Organization in Africa and a private sector institution of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which represents 34 business sectors across 21 countries.

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19. Scaling Up Nutrition Movement

<https://scalingupnutrition.org/news/sun-movement-coordinator-announcement>

Gerda Verburg, coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, will not seek a fourth term but will stay on until a successor takes over. Since 2010, the SUN Movement has inspired a new way of working collaboratively to end malnutrition, in all its forms. With the governments of SUN Countries in the lead, it unites people—from civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers—in a collective effort to improve nutrition.

The SUN Movement Strategy and Roadmap (2016-2020) has helped illuminate the importance of nutrition as a universal agenda – and one which is integral to achieving the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

65 SUN Countries and 4 Indian States lead the charge, including through involvement in other systemic approaches.

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20. Why young women should be on boards

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-why-young-women-should-be-on-boards/>

Young women may feel they don't have the experience or status to take on a position as a board member, but they can contribute valuable skills and perspectives.

Last year, Statistics Canada released data on the representation of women on government and corporate boards which highlighted an ongoing discrepancy. In 2018, women represented just 18 per cent of all directors on boards. Moreover, almost two-thirds of corporate boards were entirely composed of male directors.

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21. Alberta Greenhouse Drive Map

<https://www.stalberttoday.ca/lifestyle/alberta-now-a-leader-in-greenhouse-mapping-thanks-to-deb-foisey-5344478>

Thanks to the innovative thinking of Deb Foisey, Alberta is a leader in greenhouse mapping. In 2021 Foisey, owner of Deb's Greenhouse, plotted a Google map of Sturgeon County greenhouses — both established and start-ups. The online map was designed for gardeners and nature lovers as an open, self-guided greenhouse tour. By May 2021, she had pinned 26 family-owned and operated nurseries on a Google map and available at www.debsgreenhouse.com.

Officially dubbed the Alberta Greenhouse Drive Map, it has morphed into a novel form of agri-tourism with direct economic benefit to growers. And for consumers, it offers an engaging, self-directed experience rooted in fun and relaxation.

As the current past president of the Albert Greenhouse Growers Association, Deb Foisey is experienced in leadership roles and sees the big picture for the industry's future growth.

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22. Women are owning their roles on the farm and Canada's census shows it

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/farm-women-census-statistics-canada-1.6454854>

Census 2021 says number of female farm operators increased for the first time in 30 years. Statistics Canada's latest census release on the state of agriculture in Canada found the number of women operating farms increased in 2021 compared to 2016. According to the census figures, in 2021 79,795 women counted themselves as female farm operators, an increase from 2016 when there were only 77,970.

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23. Alarm Bells for Africa, Child Labour in Agriculture Requires Urgent Action

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/05/alarm-bells-for-africa-child-labour-in-agriculture-requires-urgent-action/>

Durban, May 15 2022 (IPS) - The Global Estimate on Child Labour estimates 160 million children are in child labour worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19.

The report, jointly released by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF in 2021, warned that in sub-Saharan Africa, population growth, recurrent crises, extreme poverty and inadequate social protection measures have led to an additional 16.6 million children in child labour over the past four years.

One of the key findings in the report included the state of the agriculture sector, which accounts for 70 percent of children in child labour (112 million), followed by 20 percent in services (31.4 million) and 10 percent in industry (16.5 million). The prevalence of child labour in rural areas (14 percent) is close to three times higher than in urban areas (5 percent).

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24. Bridging the career-advancement opportunity gap for women researchers in LMICs

<https://www.intvetvacnet.co.uk/blog/bridging-the-career-advancement-opportunity-gap-for-women-researchers-in-lmics>

Women researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face a big mentorship opportunity gap. In the 2018 International Veterinary Vaccinology Network IVVN member survey, nearly half of the women from LMICs who participated

listed a lack of mentoring opportunities as one of their greatest professional challenges. In contrast, not a single male respondent from a high-income country reported this to be a challenge. This finding motivated the IVVN, in partnership with Canada's International Development Research Centre, to develop a mentoring fellowship programme specifically for female researchers in LMICs.

The underrepresentation of women from LMICs in scientific research, especially in senior academic positions, is a consequence of unevenly distributed opportunities for career advancement. In turn, this results in a lack of gender parity and LMIC representation on boards, expert review panels and other forums that influence and shape entire fields of research.

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25. Has menstrual activism lost sight of the bigger picture?

<https://www.devex.com/news/has-menstrual-activism-lost-sight-of-the-bigger-picture-103341>

Over the past decade menstruation has emerged as a critical issue in global development, with funders earmarking aid money each year to provide free menstrual pads to girls. In 2014, May 28 was declared the annual Menstrual Hygiene Day.

In the absence of a holistic approach that extends beyond hygiene, menstruation is seen only as a women's issue, said Mahbuba Kumkum, a Bangladeshi menstrual activist with the non-profit Simavi. If it is not linked with gender equality, the human rights aspect of menstruation is lost, she added.

The focus on products is indicative of the broader attitude toward menstruation, according to Bobel. "Menstruation is a vital sign, but we don't see it that way. We see it as a problem to be fixed: 'What are you going to do to clean it up?'" she said, adding that more energy must be diverted to "aggressively challenging menstrual stigma."

Non-profits often promote menstrual products that are not well suited to menstruators' lived realities.

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26. Gender Sensitivity Key to Achieving Climate Justice

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/05/gender-sensitivity-key-achieving-climate-justice/>

A person's vulnerability to climate change varies depending on their position in society, such as socioeconomic status, dependence on natural resources, and capacity to respond to natural hazards. Since different genders often experience different social standings, gender has emerged as a key element to consider for effective climate planning and adaptation.

Because social groups experience climate change differently, gender has become more central to the United Nations (UN) climate process and the international discourse around climate action.

Target 13.b of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on climate action recognizes the gender-environment nexus. It states that focusing on women is key for increasing climate change planning and management capacity.

Key frameworks encouraging the integration of gender considerations for climate action, such as the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan, have also been established at recent UN Climate Change Conferences. Agreed upon at COP 25 in 2019, these frameworks promote gender mainstreaming for the parties and the integration of gender considerations throughout the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) work and processes.

Still, gender representation remains limited in climate decision-making spaces, and considerations of gender in national policy are inconsistent.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Report: How to Involve Women in Climate Change Mitigation

Report <https://landwise-production.s3.amazonaws.com/2022/04/WB-REDD-Deep-Dives.pdf>

Synthesis and Selected Country Profiles <https://resourceequity.org/new-report-how-to-involve-women-in-climate-change-mitigation/>

Effective forest and land management and conservation are key in mitigating climate change. The World Bank wanted to ensure that the rights and needs of women were incorporated into any programs developed to address and manage climate change.

Over the past 18 months, we interviewed indigenous people in 17 countries to learn more about how women are involved in solution development and implementation. We've synthesized our findings and provided further detail on a selection of countries. Selected Country Profiles: Costa Rica, Chile, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Laos, Madagascar.

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2. Brief: Do Inheritance Law Reforms Work for Women?

<https://resourceequity.org/do-inheritance-law-reforms-work-for-women/>

Brief: <https://resourceequity.org/record/3175-evidence-brief-do-inheritance-reforms-work-for-women/>

Resource Equity recently sat down with Australian Broadcasting Corporation ABC Radio National to discuss how women's land rights are impacted by inheritance laws around the world. In more than 30 countries, women do not have the right to inherit land, either because the laws specifically prohibit it or customary practices ignore any legal protections women may have.

According to the World Bank, 38 countries around the world have unequal inheritance laws for daughters and sons. Since 2009, only five of the 190 countries needing inheritance reforms have passed new laws; if this pace continues, equality in property rights for women will be a long time coming.

Inheritance rights for women are part the 2030 Development Agenda (the SDGs) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) calls on states to eliminate discrimination of women with regard to land and inheritance.

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3. Webinar: Elimination of Discriminatory Laws: Accelerating Action for Gender Equality

<https://www.idlo.int/Accelerating-action-for-gender-equality>

The event through the panel discussion will focus on the comprehensive reviews of legislation in three countries – Ethiopia, Philippines and Sierra Leone, illustrating how legal reviews and reforms can be carried out, while addressing these questions:

- How do we bring about the end of discriminatory laws?
- What challenges persist in expanding political will and supporting gender-responsive legal reform?
- What are promising approaches and practical entry points in achieving gender equality in law and practice?

This event will also provide the occasion for the online launch of the legal assessments conducted in Ethiopia, Philippines and Sierra Leone.

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4. Gender Equity in Land and Forest Tenure in REDD+ Programming

<https://resourceequity.org/record/gender-equity-in-land-and-forest-tenure-in-redd-programming/>

“The purpose of this study is to understand the legal and policy constraints and opportunities in each of the 17-carbon fund (CF) countries affecting women’s land and forest tenure. The study also explores women’s ability to exercise land and forest rights in statutory and customary systems; how these rights may be affected by the CF programs (ERPs and BSPs); as well as what is needed to further protect and strengthen women’s rights to land and forest tenure along with their ability to govern in the CF countries.” The documents include Gender Equity in Land and Forest Tenure in REDD+ Programming: Deep Dive Country Profiles, Synthesis Report, and Report Summary. Report Summary can be found in English, French, and Spanish.

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5. Top 10 gender research reads from 2021

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news-events/top-10-gender-research-reads-2021>

In our series of recommended reading lists, gender experts provide starting points for researchers, students, practitioners and others looking to dive deeper into research on gender and a wide variety of topics.

This time, we asked the CGIAR GENDER Platform team members to pick out their top gender research reads from 2021. Explore below for their selection of the most interesting, important and captivating publications released last year.

- 1) Rural Youth in Southern Nigeria: Fractured Lives and Ambitious Futures
- 2) Gender Equality in Climate Policy and Practice Hindered by Assumptions
- 3) Negotiating Gender Expertise in Environment and Development
- 4) Masculinities in Forests: Representations of Diversity
- 5) Diffusion and Dilution: The Power and Perils of Integrating Feminist Perspectives into Household Economics
- 6) A Review of Evidence on Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment and Food Systems
- 7) introduction to Advancing Gender Equality through Agricultural and Environmental Research
- 8) How Women Saved Agricultural Economics
- 9) Food and Agriculture Systems Foresight Study: Implications for Gender, Poverty and Nutrition
- 10) How Many and Which Women Own Land in India?

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6. Case Study: Delivering impact: supporting women's voices in Ghana

<https://www.iied.org/delivering-impact-supporting-womens-voices-ghana>

In the first of a series of case studies showing how IIED is contributing to positive change, we look at how we supported forest and farm producers in Ghana as they put gender equality at the heart of a new national federation, assisting women producers to get their concerns addressed at the national level.

In Ghana, Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) worked with 11 forest and farm producer organisations to establish the Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP). This national federation aims to advance the collective voice and priorities of the country's forest and farm producers. Today the organisation represents more than one million producers, 46% of whom are women.

Previously, women producers’ strategic needs were dealt with in silos, if at all. Now, a mixed-gender national federation of producer organisations is implementing a governance structure designed to ensure that women members’ priorities inform discussions at all levels.

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7. Austerity is not the answer to Africa's colliding crises: it's time to invest massively in public services and decent jobs

Blog: <https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2022/04/austerity-is-not-the-answer-to-africas-colliding-crises-its-time-to-invest-massively-in-public-services-and-decent-jobs/>

Report: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/africas-extreme-inequality-crisis-building-back-fairer-after-covid-19>

In this blog, Anthony Kamande introduces a new Oxfam Pan Africa briefing based on our index that scores governments on how committed they are to cutting inequality. He sets out key challenges, including droughts and spiking prices that are pushing millions into hunger and poverty; a debt crisis (debt servicing for African nations is now six times spending on health, eating up half of all tax revenue); and the pandemic. Instead of the austerity promoted by the International Monetary Fund, what's needed is huge investment in public services and small-scale agriculture; more revenue from progressive taxation; and Covid vaccination. The international community also has a crucial role through debt cancellation and increased aid.

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8. What's in a name? Taxonomic and gender biases in the etymology of new species names

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rspb.2021.2708>

<https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.2708>

Abstract

As our inventory of Earth's biodiversity progresses, the number of species given a Latin binomial name is also growing. While the coining of species names is bound by rules, the sources of inspiration used by taxonomists are an eclectic mix. We investigated naming trends for nearly 2900 new species of parasitic helminths described in the past two decades. Our analysis indicates that the likelihood of new species being given names that convey some information about them (name derived from morphology, host or locality of origin) or not (named after an eminent scientist, or for something else) depends on the higher taxonomic group to which the parasite or its host belongs. We also found a consistent gender bias among species named after eminent scientists, with male scientists being immortalized disproportionately more frequently than female scientists. Finally, we found that the tendency for taxonomists to name new species after a family member or close friend has increased over the past 20 years. We end by offering suggestions for future species naming, aimed at honouring the scientific community's diversity and avoiding etymological nepotism and cronyism, while still allowing for creativity in crafting new Latin species names.

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9. Canada's 2021 Census of Agriculture: A story about the transformation of the agriculture industry and adaptiveness of Canadian farmers

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220511/dq220511a-eng.htm>

Some facts: The aging of Canadian farmers is not a new phenomenon and follows general population trends. The average age of Canada's farm operators increased by 1.0 year, to 56.0 years in 2021.

The number of female operators has increased for the first time since 1991. In 2021, there were 79,795 female farm operators, up from 77,970 in 2016. In 2021, 30.4% of total farm operators were female, up from 28.7% in 2016.

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10. The semantics of diversity in higher education: differences between the Global North and Global South

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10734-022-00870-4>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00870-4>

Abstract

Inspired by neo-institutional theory, we explore whether the semantics of diversity appears to be global and universal through computer-assisted content analysis of 2378 publications. Diversity discourses are dominant, but only in the USA and Canada, UK and Ireland and Europe, not being present in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Diversity is interpreted differently across regions influenced by the local socio-political settings. Academic literature on diversity first appeared in the USA and Canada in the mid-1970s in relation to race and gender. In other English-speaking countries, diversity gained momentum only in the mid-2000s, with inclusion, gender, ethnicity and cultural diversity being the dominant terminologies. Later in that decade, diversity appeared in the academic literature in Europe, often framed as inclusion and gender. We did not find any evidence that the semantics of diversity has become global or universal and, therefore, question the cultural globalisation and the worldwide standardisation of academic knowledge around the valorisation of individual and collective differences.

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11. Video: Fix The Gap initiative panel

https://youtu.be/jgA_L6zsc2Y

In April 2022, the Fix The Gap initiative was launched. This is an open-access database consisting of 1,000+ honoraria received by STEMM professionals for speaking engagements. The organization 500 Women Scientists also hosted a panel, featuring Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, Dr. Kaela S. Singleton, and Claire Wasserman, to explore the nuances involved in navigating financial compensation for STEMM expertise. You can watch a replay of the panel recording.

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12. Sustainable Energy SEforALL Forum Programme

<https://www.seforall.org/forum>

https://www.seforall.org/system/files/2022-05/seforall-forum-2022-agenda_23.pdf

The 2022 SEforALL Forum is the landmark global gathering bringing people together to take stock of progress, showcase success and identify solutions to achieve faster, broader gains towards sustainable energy for all. It is a platform to broker new partnerships, spur investment, address challenges and drive action towards realizing Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) and a global clean energy transition.

The Forum takes place at a pivotal juncture in the final decade to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) and will allow us to build on the momentum from the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy and COP26, generate new and bolder commitments, and spur increased ambition at COP27. The conference was held in Rwanda on May 17 to 19, 2022.

Some sessions with a gender focus:

Clean Cooking Must Be a Global Right: This closing plenary on day 1 of the SEforALL Global Forum will feature a panel of esteemed women leaders calling for ambitious, bold, and deliberate action to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030. The conversation will focus on the urgent need for coordinated, systems-wide action on clean cooking – including increased national ambition and integrated energy planning, dramatically scaling public funding and private investment, and delivering people-centred solutions that leave no one behind.

In Her Voice: Entrepreneurship in the Last Mile: Women entrepreneurs in last-mile communities work at the forefront of the energy challenges. Although their needs and rights are often excluded, these women carry the burdens of whole communities. Hear directly from some of these women entrepreneurs to learn how they contribute to energy access and the just energy transition, empowering their communities and advancing gender equality. Lead Organizers: Solar Sister, ENERGIA.

Catalyzing Action for a Gender-Transformative Energy Transition: The energy transition cannot be achieved unless women equally lead, participate in and benefit from sustainable energy. This session will bring together representatives from organizations working to empower women in sustainable energy and women that participated in their programmes. The event will also serve as a call to action to develop gender-transformative initiatives and endorse the Gender and Energy Compact. Lead Organizers: UNIDO, Energia, GWNEN, SEforALL.

Africa-Europe Foundation Meeting of the Women Leaders' Network: Join this side meeting to speak with peers about Africa-Europe energy cooperation, how to achieve an energy transition that is just and equitable for African economies, and what the new energy geopolitics being driven by the Ukraine War may mean for energy security and prosperity, diversification strategies, energy investments, and achieving universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions.

Powering Jobs: Building a Workforce to Meet the SDG7 Challenge: Achieving universal energy access relies on creating and cultivating renewable energy jobs, providing a global opportunity to drive employment and economic growth. However, more workforce investments are needed, especially when it comes to women and youth. This session will highlight several new initiatives working to build the skills and ecosystems required by the energy practitioners of the future. Lead Organizers: Power for All, ARE.

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13. Project: Strengthening women's leadership for climate action

<https://www.iied.org/strengthening-womens-leadership-for-climate-action>

International Institute for Environment and Development IIED and EnGen Collaborative are working with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) to enhance women's climate leadership in state and non-state policymaking and implementation at local and national levels to improve the impact of CIF investments. This project seeks to strengthen women's climate leadership and will help ensure that Climate Investment Funds (CIF) implementation is increasing the agency of women in climate governance and green growth markets.

The Climate Investment Funds' Gender Action Plan highlights the importance of considering the linkages between gender and climate and their intersection with other forms of social exclusion to promote just and sustainable low-carbon development. Project Active: February 2022 - November 2022.

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14. Pakistan's First SDG Status Report

<http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/guest-articles/measuring-progress-through-numbers-pakistans-first-sdg-status-report/>

'Pakistan SDGs Status Report 2021' presents Pakistan's progress on the SDGs using national and provincial data. The first of its kind, the status report, published by the Federal SDGs Support Unit at the Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Pakistan, highlights the country's progress on SDG indicators vis-à-vis their 2014-2015 baseline values. The report presents data on 133 SDG indicators with their corresponding latest values. Overall, the report assesses Pakistan's progress on the SDGs as "modest."

On gender equality (SDG 5), Pakistan shows progress on several fronts. The proportion of women in managerial positions (SDG indicator 5.5.2) nearly doubled between 2015 (2.7%) and 2019 (4.53%). Physical violence reduced by 5.3% from 18% in 2012-2013 to 13.6% in 2017-2018 nationwide. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, which had previously recorded the

highest rates of physical violence against women (31%), saw numbers decline from 2013-2018 to 23.4% and 34.6%, respectively.

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15. Microsoft FarmBeats for Students harnesses data and AI to plant big ideas in young minds

<https://edublog.microsoft.com/en-au/2022/05/microsoft-farmbeats-for-students-harnesses-data-and-ai-to-plant-big-ideas-in-young-minds/>

With funding from Microsoft, CSIRO piloted Australia’s first Microsoft FarmBeats for Students initiative. This initiative allowed students in Years 9 and 10 the opportunity to participate in a hands-on AI sustainable learning experience applying smart farming techniques to food production, which delivered important learning outcomes and digital skills.

Participating students and teachers received lesson plans aligned to the Australian Curriculum, tools, and technology to explore how big data, AI, machine learning and Internet of Things technologies apply to real world agricultural challenges through inquiry-based learning.

Additionally, teachers participating in the Australian FarmBeats for Students initiative received specialised professional development helping them to use the technology and support their students. Schools received FarmBeats kits including a Raspberry Pi device as well as soil moisture, light, ambient temperature, and humidity sensors to be used in student projects.

Using the INDRA platform students were able to gain access to historical data from the local area to examine the changes that have taken place in the climate over time and to consider how those changes impact current and future growing conditions.

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16. The Exploration of Undergraduate Attitudes and Knowledge about International Agricultural Issues and US Agricultural Policy

<https://newprairiepress.org/jiaee/vol29/iss2/2/>

<https://doi.org/10.4148/2831-5960.1010>

Abstract

In today’s globalized world, educators and employers generally agree on the necessity for undergraduate agricultural [ag] students to develop a sound understanding of global ag issues and policy. Because of this, many U.S. universities have promoted internationalizing curriculum and increased international study abroad experiences. However, few studies have examined the impact of international experiences on students’ knowledge and attitudes about international ag issues and policies. This study bridges this gap by identifying the relationship between student knowledge and attitude toward international ag issues and U.S. ag policy, and how international experience and demographic variables play a role in that relationship. Adapted from previous literature, an online survey was developed in 2019 among 196 undergraduate students in ag and non-ag fields to measure student knowledge (global aptitude assessment) and student attitude (attitude index score) towards the importance of global agricultural issues and policy. Results concluded that undergraduate students held a low level of knowledge about global ag issues and policy; in fact, ag students held lower average knowledge scores than non-agricultural students. This emphasizes the urgency for administrators to intentionally design and reevaluate our current curriculum to meet these knowledge gaps. Additionally, study abroad experiences did not contribute to students’ knowledge nor attitudes. The authors discuss several possibilities for such results and highlight the call to similarly reevaluate our study abroad curriculum to be more intentional in impacting student knowledge in global ag food systems and acknowledge differences in policy, getting students excited and interested in the global market.

17. Barriers to Livestock Vaccine Use Among Rural Female Smallholder Farmers Of Nyagatare District in Rwanda

<https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/2096>

Abstract

Women comprise the majority of small livestock keepers, but the productivity of their livestock is constrained by limited access to vaccines that could prevent and control animal diseases. This study examined the factors driving low adoption of vaccination against Newcastle disease (NCD) and Rift Valley fever (RVF) among smallholder women farmers of Nyagatare District in order to identify appropriate strategies that can lead to improved livestock production. Focus group discussions and key informant interviews were used to collect data on the level of women's participation in household decision making and their involvement at different levels along the vaccine value chain (VVC) for the NCD and RVF. Data were collected from 55 chicken and goat farmers—36 of which were women—as well as representatives of chicken farmer cooperatives, sector veterinarians, agrovet shop owners, and personnel from local NGOs working on livestock production and improvement. Our results reveal that women's ability to use livestock vaccines is constrained by cultural norms that limit their decisions over productive assets and income that they can use for buying vaccines. Women are also hindered by unavailability of livestock vaccines, lack of information and knowledge about livestock vaccination, and limited access to veterinary extension services. Our results highlight a need to organize gender training targeting men and women to change the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that affect women's ability to make independent decisions regarding the purchase and use of vaccines. Women also need training on livestock disease management through vaccination and easy access to veterinary services.

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18. Drivers of Poverty among Rural Women in Nigeria: Implication for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development

<https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/1984>

Abstract

Extreme poverty is highly concentrated among rural women in developing countries as they are most vulnerable. High poverty undermines rural women's productivity and lowers their purchasing power thereby denying them access to quality education, health care, and basic needs. Despite this, most previous poverty studies, especially in Nigeria, did not focus on women. This study, therefore, assessed the poverty status of rural women in Nigeria and identified the factors responsible for their poverty status. Multistage sampling technique was used to select 450 rural women. Primary data, collected with the use of a structured questionnaire and interview schedule, was analysed with descriptive statistics, Foster-Greer-Thorbecke and logistics regression. The result revealed that rural women were less educated, had an average age of 47 years and 85.8% of them were married with an average household size of seven persons. They were mostly involved in agricultural activities and had an average income of N22,561 (USD 57.17) monthly. This study further revealed that poverty was pervasive among the rural women in Nigeria. The incidence, depth, and severity of poverty among rural women were 0.6911, 0.1265 and 0.0374, respectively. The factors contributing to the high poverty rate among rural women are age, household size, and cropping system: While education, access to credit facilities, farm size, marital status, and agricultural extension contacts were the inhibiting factors. The study recommends the provision of credit facilities, access to extension services, birth control measures, and intensification of education as a means of alleviating poverty among the rural women.

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19. UPA-Développement international

<http://www.upadi-agri.org/>

UPA DI's mission is to support the family farm as a model of sustainable agriculture by supporting democratic professional agricultural organizations, collective marketing systems for agricultural products and any other initiative that structures the future of agriculture in developing countries. By sustainable development of agriculture, they mean economically equitable, socially just, environmentally sound, culturally appropriate, and democratically directed and managed development with equal opportunities for all.

UPA DI's interventions made it possible to reach 3,638,388 members of partner organizations, 57.5% of whom were women. Of this number, 141,157 agricultural producers participated directly in the activities organized as part of our programming, 47% of them women.

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