

May 1, 2022

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Crocus sativus. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Careers posted at Manitoba Women in Agriculture & Food (Mwaf)

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

More than 85 career opportunities are posted on the website.

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2. Target Gender Equality

<https://globalcompact.ca/target-gender-equality-program>

Target Gender Equality is a year-long accelerator programme for participating companies of the UN Global Compact to set and reach ambitious corporate targets for women's representation and leadership. Global Compact Network Canada is offering Target Gender Equality from **March 2022 – March 2023**. By joining the Target Gender Equality programme, participating companies will receive the following benefits:

- Confidently set ambitious and realistic corporate targets for women's representation and leadership demonstrating commitment and action to your employees, investors and other stakeholders
- Engage in accelerated learning opportunities, identify enabling policies and practices, and develop a tailored action plan to support accountability
- Understand your current gender equality performance through the facilitated use of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Gender Gap Analysis Tool and explore aggregate results with peers to identify common challenges and opportunities
- Build a network of peers, UN partners and experts to support your gender equality strategy and work collectively to tackle persistent barriers to gender equality
- Network with colleagues across all regions in an exclusive Target Gender Equality LinkedIn Group
- Showcase women leaders in your company who are driving contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals

The Programme Activities and Timeline begin with Recruitment from **March 15 – May 30, 2022**. Register for the Information Session.

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3. Internship on Parliament Hill for Young Leaders in Sustainable Agriculture

<https://www.greenpac.ca/internship-application>

Are you a young leader who is passionate about sustainable agriculture? GreenPAC is offering Parliamentary Internship for the Environment program, which runs from September 2022 to June 2023.

Now entering its fifth year and delivered in partnership with Sustainability Network, the PIE program offers outstanding young leaders, aged 18-30, the opportunity to work and learn alongside some of Canada's top environmental champions in Parliament. Successful applicants to the program receive a ten-month, paid internship placement in the Parliament Hill office of a Member of Parliament (MP) or Senator with a proven record of environmental leadership. Reflecting GreenPAC's commitment to non-partisanship, host MPs come from every major national party.

The GreenPAC team will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis, but all applications must be received by 11:59 PM EST **Sunday, May 1st** to ensure a review.

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4. The Parliamentary Center - National security through a feminist lens

<https://parlcent.org/event/national-security-through-a-feminist-lens>

From the crisis in Ukraine to the powerful influence of Big Tech, a new era of security challenges is upon us. Interest is growing around feminist foreign policy. But, as national security threats increasingly dominate the news, how can feminist foreign policy keep us safe? This special edition of the Global Democracy Dialogues, which will be presented on **May 6th**, takes a look at how feminist approaches contribute to diverse areas of national security.

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5. Bananas, eh? Canada's role in fixing the banana problem

<https://business.fairtrade.ca/en-ca/bananas>

Fairtrade Canada is bringing together a panel to examine how Canada can help improve the sustainability of banana production. Amid spiking production costs for packing materials and fertilizers combined with the economic fallout of climate change, COVID-19, and the fight against plant diseases like Fusarium TR4, banana producers are coming under increasing financial pressure, placing their livelihoods, sustainable farming practices, and food security at risk.

How can Canada go from being a laggard to a leader in the fight for sustainable banana supply chains? Join us for a candid conversation exploring these issues with leaders in this space. Our diverse panelists span each touchpoint of the banana supply chain, offering us insight into the unique challenges they face.

This event will be available in English, French, and Spanish. **May 25, 2022.**

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6. AWARD Launches New \$5million Fellowship to Strengthen the Design of Gender-responsive Agriculture Policies in Africa

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

The inaugural call for the Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship, an initiative of African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD), is now open to female policy practitioners in **Malawi, Nigeria, and Zambia.**

The GRASP Fellowship, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is a career development program that targets African women working in agriculture and food systems with an interest in policymaking. The call closes on **June 10, 2022**, at 23:59 East Africa Time (GMT+3).

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7. The Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) 2022 National Conference

<https://c2022.evaluationcanada.ca/>

The Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) 2022 National Conference is being held in **Winnipeg, June 13-15, 2022**. To unpack the diversity of evaluation, the following two streams have been developed:

- Stream One: Diversity Within Evaluation
- Stream Two: Diversity of Evaluators

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8. Advancing Women in Agriculture Conferences

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

Whether you are in a career with an organization, starting your own business, looking for your dream job, running your own farming operation, operating a company in ag or food, or want to hone our overall life skills, this conference is for you.

AWC WEST 2022 — **June 21 & 22, 2022, Hyatt Regency Calgary, AB**

AWC EAST 2022 — **November 21 & 22, 2022, Sheraton on the Falls, Niagara Falls, ON**

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9. OECD Rural Development Conference

<https://www.oecd.org/rural/rural-development-conference/>

The Government of Ireland is proud to host the 13th OECD Rural Development Conference 2022 on the theme of *Building Sustainable, Resilient and Thriving Rural Places*. As OECD Member States contend with multiple policy challenges, including emerging from COVID-19, Ireland welcomes the in-person participation of Ministers, senior policy makers and civil society for a wide-ranging discussion on the future of rural places in **28-30 September 2022**.

The Programme will contain sessions with Ministers and Senior Officials from OECD countries on a range of issues including rural economy and services, connectivity, climate action, innovation, and social cohesion. There will also be a special focus on the youth and women. The event will include cultural and rural development activities on Friday 30 September, departing from the Conference venue.

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10. Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Conference

<https://www.iied.org/principles-for-locally-led-adaptation>

The Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) conference is the leading forum for CBA practitioners to share solutions, experience and learning, while developing the ideas that will inspire greater climate ambition.

CBA16 will take place on **3 – 4 October 2022**. In the lead up to this two-day digital conference in October we will also be holding an online event as part of London Climate Action Week from **29 June – 3 July 2022**.

This year CBA16 will be focussing on the *Principles for Locally Led Adaptation*. CBA’s dialogue-based sessions will explore what the principles mean for practitioners, how we can bring them to life at the local level, and how we continue to build momentum towards COP27.

Eight principles for locally led adaptation have been developed to help ensure that local communities are empowered to lead sustainable and effective adaptation to climate change at the local level. IIED is among almost 70 governments, leading global institutions and local and international NGOs that have already endorsed these principles and are advocating their endorsement by others.

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This Month’s News

1. Accelerating Systemic Change: The Case for Gender Equality Leadership for Sustainable Recovery

<https://globalcompact.ca/accelerating-systemic-change-the-case-for-gender-equality-leadership-for-sustainable-recovery/>

Global Compact Network Canada received funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada through the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund to execute a project designed to increase women’s participation and opportunities in the labour market while addressing discriminatory legislation, policies, and/or practices that prevent women from fully participating in the social, political, and economic life in Canada.

By employing a GBA+ framework to guide the project, “Accelerating Systemic Change: The Case for Gender Equality Leadership for Sustainable Recovery” will amplify the voices of women and others who have been systemically marginalized in the private sector in conversations related to post-pandemic recovery and organizational resiliency in order to build more diverse and inclusive workspaces that can better adapt and respond during periods of crisis.

Beginning in September 2021, the “Accelerating Systemic Change: The Case for Gender Equality Leadership for Sustainable Recovery” project will run until March 2024, when the final project deliverables and resources will be made publicly available.

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2. SCWIST Tackles Challenges for Women and Girls in STEM

<https://www.innovatingcanada.ca/diversity/advancing-women-leadership/scwist-programs-tackles-challenges-for-women-girls-in-stem>

The pandemic’s disproportionate effects on women are a clear call to action to remove barriers affecting women and girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST) has delivered high-impact programs to support diversity and promote representation in STEM since 1981.

SCWIST advocates for the next generation of women in STEM to ensure they have a more inclusive and equitable experience by empowering girls to be confident and instilling a sense of belonging in these fields at an early age. The society has broadened its influence in the last 40 years.

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3. How four women farmers in Canada are connecting through social media

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-taking-the-farm-to-instagram-how-four-women-farmers-are-connecting/>

A new generation of women farmers are using social media to lift the curtain about what modern agriculture looks like.

Sisters Cassandra and Stephanie Lepp, fourth-generation grain farmers near Rivers, Man., launched @thetulepps, where the pair can be seen looking equally at home running heavy farm machinery, modelling Canadian-made clothing and goofing around with their dogs.

Lesley Kelly, who operates Evergreen Wood Creek Farms near Watrous, Sask., with her family, says she started her blog, High Heels & Canola Fields, to help dispel myths about how crops such as canola, wheat, barley, oats and lentils are produced.

In 2017, Ms. Sandi Brock launched Sheepishly Me, posting roughly three videos per week (more during lambing season), and spending roughly ten hours apiece on editing. She struck a chord, garnering millions of views and more than 570,000 subscribers to date.

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4. Ministerial Roundtable on Gender Equality: Civil society briefing note

https://cooperation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Gender-Equality-Ministerial-Roundtable_CivilSocietyBrief2022-1.pdf

Members of Canada’s international cooperation sector welcome the Minister’s ongoing commitment to dialogue with the sector. Canada’s ambitious Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) continues to have unwavering support from the international cooperation sector and features prominently in the Minister’s mandate letter. As the FIAP moves into its sixth year of implementation, we look forward to working with the Minister to safeguard and enhance Canada’s feminist global leadership. This briefing note outlines two sector priorities, notably reaffirming Canada’s commitment to the FIAP through policy coherence and addressing existing gaps; and action on specific challenges to Canada’s ability to support feminist partnerships and effective delivery of official development assistance.

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5. New Food and Human Nutritional Sciences department head at U of Manitoba

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/new-food-and-human-nutritional-sciences-department-head-looks-forward-to-opportunities/>

Dr. Cristina Rosell joined the Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences as Head and Professor on January 16, 2022. Trained as a pharmacist, Cristina shifted her interest to the design and development of innovative foods based on grains. During her professional career she went from synthesis of antibiotics to process engineering till reaching food science and technology.

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6. U of Manitoba soil scientist seeks to address agroecosystem challenges through lens of sustainability

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/soil-scientist-seeks-to-address-agroecosystem-challenges-through-lens-of-sustainability/>

Dr. Afua Mante joined the Department of Soil Science at U of Manitoba as Assistant Professor in Soil Physical Processes on January 16, 2022. She was born and raised in Ghana and moved to Manitoba to pursue her PhD and then postdoctoral work that looked at Indigenizing engineering education, as well as land remediation.

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7. Non-Destructive Analysis of Pulse Flours

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/3mt-finalist-studies-food-microstructure-to-create-nutritious-and-delicious-products>

The University of Manitoba’s Biosystems Engineering PhD student Chitra Sivakumar shared her research into food processing at the University of Manitoba Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition finals on April 7. The event broadcast can be viewed on YouTube (jump to the 23:50 mark for Chitra’s presentation <https://youtu.be/Jg-Dsx7Thuk>)

My presentation is about studying the microstructural properties of pulse flours to produce tailored food products such as breads, cookies, and pasta with increased nutritional content and textural properties like crispiness, crunchiness, and mouthfeel.

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8. Opinion: Engage dads in nutrition and parenting for better child outcomes

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/opinion-engage-dads-in-nutrition-and-parenting-for-better-child-outcomes-102813>

The team — Global Communities, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Purdue University, and the Africa Academy for Public Health — in 2019 launched Engaging Fathers for Effective Child Nutrition and Development in Tanzania, or EFFECTS. This five-arm cluster randomized controlled trial was implemented in the Mara region of northern Tanzania and designed to evaluate the effects of engaging fathers and bundling nutrition and parenting interventions on a range of child- and caregiver-level outcomes.

Primary study outcomes included child diets and child cognitive, language, socioemotional, and motor development. We also measured changes in child growth, maternal and paternal care practices and mental health, and household gender equality.

The results are exceptionally clear. Engaging fathers in nutrition and parenting interventions had greater benefits to child and maternal diets; maternal and paternal nutrition, hygiene knowledge, and care practices; household gender equality; and women’s empowerment compared with interventions that engage only mothers. Moreover, bundling nutrition and parenting content has greater benefits to child development, child diets, nutrition and parenting practices, and household gender equality compared with nutrition-only interventions.

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9. School Feeding Is Now the World’s Largest Social Safety Net

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/school-feeding-now-worlds-largest-social-safety-net/>

Worldwide 388 million students, or 1 in 2 schoolchildren, received at least one meal or snack per day at school before the COVID-19 pandemic in what the World Food Programme (WFP), quoting the World Bank, calls the world’s “most extensive social safety net.”

Nepal is in a unique position because it is poised to completely take over school feeding from the WFP, which still serves some remote areas of the South Asian country, by 2024. Canada is also being watched because it is just now taking steps to create a centrally managed programme, the last G7 country to do so, to buttress current patchwork provincial initiatives.

In a written response to questions, Karina Gould, Canada’s Minister of Families Children and Social Development, wrote that the school food policy being developed would “provide access to healthy, diversified and balanced food as a matter of equity, which is essential to addressing food insecurity, reducing the risk of chronic disease and enabling every child to reach their full potential.”

Thirty-five percent of publicly funded schools in Canada offered a programme in 2018-2019, covering 21 percent of students, from junior kindergarten to Grade 12, found a recent survey. But coverage varied immensely, with one province covering at least 90 percent of schools another just 10 percent.

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10. School Meal Programs Getting Back on Track in Central America, Despite Hurdles

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/school-meal-programs-getting-back-track-central-america-despite-hurdles/>

ZARAGOZA, El Salvador, Apr 11 2022 (IPS) - A group of preschool students enthusiastically planted cucumbers and other vegetables in their small school garden in southern El Salvador, a sign that school feeding programs are being revived as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the impacts of coronavirus are still being felt, schools in Latin America, particularly in Central America, have reopened their doors to on-site and blended learning classes. Gradually, important components of school meal programs, such as vegetable gardens, have begun to come back to life.

With difficulties, because coronavirus hasn't gone away, schools in Central America are making efforts to continue the school feeding programs, which were making good progress before the pandemic.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), these programs benefit 85 million students in Latin America and the Caribbean. Moreover, for nearly 10 million children, they are one of the main reliable sources of food received each day.

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11. Boosting Food Security and Education in Schools in Brazil

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/boosting-food-security-education-schools-brazil/>

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the schools in Brazil closed their doors from March 2020 until the gradual return of students to the classrooms began in mid-2021, along with the return of school meals, which ensure adequate nutrition for a large part of Brazil's poor children.

To carry out the program, the municipal and state governments receive funds from the National Education Development Fund (FNDE), administered by the Ministry of Education.

In 2009, a new law established a requirement with positive effects on child nutrition and local economies: that a minimum of 30 percent of PNAE purchases in each municipality must be of products from local family farms. This is what makes it possible for elementary school students in Itaboraí to eat fresh vegetables and a variety of fruits. Banana, orange, tangerine, guava, cassava, pumpkin, sweet potato, lettuce and kale are the most purchased foods from local farmers, said Ana Beatriz Garcia, coordinator of school food programs in the prefecture.

To plan purchases, design the menu and provide orientation for the schools, the Itaboraí Municipal Department of Education has a central team of 13 nutritionists, in addition to a nutritionist in each school. "We have to be flexible in the plans, each product has its harvest time and can be scarce because of too much or too little rain, or can be ready early as is happening with the persimmon harvest this year," said Larissa de Brito, one of the chief nutritionists. "That's why we are in constant dialogue with the farmers," she added. "Our relationship with the farmers has improved, because we visit them at the beginning of the year and now accept purchases from individual producers, whereas before purchases were only arranged through their associations," explained coordinator Garcia.

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12. Cadbury's chocolate is made with cacao farmed by suppliers using child labour

<https://inews.co.uk/news/long-reads/cadburys-chocolate-made-using-child-labour-1553331>

Channel 4's Dispatches team [UK] began investigating the chocolate industry last year after we obtained evidence of child labour on cocoa farms in Ghana. These days, nearly every Cadbury bar or Creme Egg you pick up has a green Cocoa Life logo on its purple packaging, suggesting to consumers that its cocoa beans come from ethical sources.

Cocoa Life is run by the \$86bn US confectionary giant Mondelez International, which bought Cadbury in 2010.

For our investigation into the truth behind these statements – which airs on Monday night in *Cadbury Exposed: Dispatches* – we spent 12 days visiting farms in a region of Ghana that we knew had hundreds of farms in the Cadbury supply chain.

Mondelez publishes coordinates of Cocoa Life farms on its website, so we used GPS technology to ensure we were visiting ones it has listed. We carried out additional checks on the ground to confirm the beans were part of Cadbury's supply chain – including visiting the depots where the beans are dispatched.

Under Ghanaian law, no child under 13 should be working on cocoa farms. Any hazardous tasks that are harmful to a child's health or safety are classed by the United Nations as the "worst forms of child labour" and this is supposed to be banned in Ghana for anybody under 18.

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13. Virtual conferences exclude most African women – how can we be heard?

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/mar/23/african-womens-voices-and-experiences-need-to-be-heard-at-un-global-conferences>

At the UN headquarters in New York, ministers, activists, feminists and advocates are meeting to discuss gender equality and women's rights. But the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – the UN's biggest global gathering to discuss these issues – is an event African women and girls struggle to attend and participate in.

This year's priority theme at CSW is for the first time the climate crisis, but the technical language and framing makes it difficult for many African women to contribute meaningfully, despite their vast local knowledge.

This is why this year we sought an alternative: African women have launched the first "Africa CSW". We convened 60 representatives from 18 African countries in Nairobi to hold concurrent meetings during the opening sessions of CSW66 in New York. We posted our discussions using #AfricaDisruptCSW66, which were then fed to our team, who are closely following the negotiations of an agreed set of conclusions expected to be signed on Friday.

We are calling for the meaningful inclusion and participation of African women and girls, in all their diversity, in decision-making forums such as CSW and the UN climate change conference (COP27) to be held in Egypt in November.

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14. Female farmers lead regenerative farming efforts globally

<https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/news/female-farmers-lead-regenerative-farming-efforts-globally/>

Many female farmers here are champions of sustainable farming, but their global counterparts have long been feeding the world using these management practices. That approach is even more prevalent on small-scale subsistence farms in developing countries, where most farmers are women, according to Trina Moyles, author of *Women Who Dig*, a book that explores the stories of female farmers around the world.

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15. Gates Foundation awards \$11M to FAO for African food policy program

<https://www.devex.com/news/gates-foundation-awards-11m-to-fao-for-african-food-policy-program-103012>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded \$11 million to the Food and Agriculture Organization as part of its ongoing support for a program that helps countries in sub-Saharan Africa develop more efficient food policies.

FAO's Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies program, which has long been funded by the Gates Foundation, is housed within the agrifood economics division of the United Nations agency. MAFAP aims to reduce food loss and waste while also "scaling up investment," "achieving more transparent markets and trade," and creating "inclusive rural transformation" in eight countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda.

As part of MAFAP's new phase, FAO intends to help countries better understand how their national policies affect the prices of commodities and products, as well as how to prioritize the policies and investments that will most effectively reduce poverty and create jobs.

Additionally, MAFAP helps evaluate whether farmers and traders are getting fair and transparent prices for their products and whether those prices are encouraging them to grow and produce food, Lawson said. All of that information is collected and posted on MAFAP's data hub.

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16. Mumbai heatwave leaves fewer fish in the sea for women sellers

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220408150056-1upax/>

As the ocean warms and India's weather becomes more extreme, shrinking fish catches are sparking calls for aid and insurance for all workers across the industry. India has about 28 million workers in fisheries and related activities, with 70% of all post-fishing activity handled by women, government data shows.

- Mumbai's 40,000 women fish sellers see sales drop as waters warm
- Extreme weather hits business with smaller catches, high prices
- India heatwave spurs push for aid, insurance across fish sector

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17. Nigeria's women shopkeepers forced to scale back as prices soar

<https://news.trust.org/item/20220412100532-kjy5a/>

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine fuels rising global energy and food prices, small business owners in import-dependent African countries such as Nigeria are feeling the pinch.

Nigeria's annual inflation accelerated to 15.7% in February, according to the latest official data, causing a major headache for the country's 41 million micro businesses - about 40% of which are run by women.

Problems have been compounded by a strike by Nigerian university lecturers, frequent electricity cuts and fuel shortages in the oil-exporting country.

Nigeria's neighbours in West Africa are also experiencing inflationary pressures due to a cocktail of factors including COVID-19 supply bottlenecks, depreciating currencies and a heavy reliance on imports, economic analysts said.

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18. Afghanistan's Girls' Education is a Women's Rights Issue

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/03/afghanistans-girls-education-womens-rights-issue/>

The late-night reversal of a decision by Taliban authorities in Afghanistan to allow girls from grades 7 to 12 to return to school has been met with distress from within the country and internationally – and fear that it could herald further restrictions.

A Taliban spokesperson from the Ministry of Education on March 23 made the announcement reversing an earlier decision that all students would be expected to return to school, including girls.

The right to education has been an oft-discussed, critical human rights issue for Afghanistan, especially when it comes to how, or even if, this right is extended to girls. This concern had already been compounded by the forced closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted all school-going children and adolescents. While alternative learning pathways, including Community-Based Education centers based in rural and remote provinces for children to attend, have been available, girls’ education in government schools remained a lingering question.

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19. Which green energy technologies will boost jobs and income? Farmers in Kitui, Kenya decide

<https://www.iied.org/which-green-energy-technologies-will-boost-jobs-income-farmers-kitui-kenya-decide>

Informed by the needs and priorities of local communities, a project in Kitui county, Kenya has been exploring how green energy technologies can create employment and generate more profit for agriculture and poultry farmers.

The workshops were highly inclusive to ensure views of marginalised groups were captured: farmers, energy investors and local government representatives were joined by youth representatives, the elderly, civil society organisations, people with disabilities and religious groups among others. We presented the business models in workshops to four different communities: 42 women and 25 men.

Poultry businesses are cheaper to start up and run, and women farmers tend to dominate this sector. But due to inequitable gender norms across Kenya, women farmers do not have access to capital, nor collateral to secure loans for investments to grow their businesses.

While women run their poultry businesses and generate income, it is the man – considered the head of the household – who controls most of the major investment decisions. And one study shows that the more successful women’s farming businesses become, the more likely it is that the man will step in and take control.

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20. Tailored cooking solutions to close the gender gap

<https://www.iied.org/tailored-cooking-solutions-close-gender-gap>

An IIED study in Kitui, Kenya, explores how understanding households’ cooking needs can help improve the uptake of improved cooking devices and promote gender justice in the cooking space.

We considered three cleaner cooking solutions:

- Improved charcoal stoves which, compared to traditional charcoal stoves, consume less fuel, reduce the cooking time and produce less smoke
- Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) stoves, which are cheaper and quicker to use than charcoal stoves, and
- Electric pressure cookers, which use little energy and significantly simplify cooking.

More than one-third of households that started using an electric pressure cooker or LPG stove observed that men took a more proactive role in cooking chores. As well as being attracted to the technical aspect of these devices, they were more likely to use them because they are cleaner and/or easier to use.

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21. Strengthening the Capacity of Women Farmers in Rural Areas in Antigua and Barbuda

<https://ihoab.com/interamerican-foundation>

The Project will increase the capacity of female rural farmers in Antigua and Barbuda through the production of disease resistant coconut trees for reforestation, and the baseline study of water access and solutions. It will also increase empowerment through training and collaboration. Women farmers participate in and lead innovations that increase food security while also mitigating climate change. Project Timeline: July 2021-July 2023

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22. Beekeeping Trainer Project in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

<https://ihoab.com/promoting-livelihoods>

The Beekeeping Trainer Project, launched by Antigua and Barbuda WVL-Caribbean grantee partner Integrated Health Outreach, promotes sustainable environmental practices through climate-smart agriculture. The project will provide marketing and management training and mentorship to 60 women to establish a women's honey entrepreneurship team through a 9-month training and mentorship programme. Beneficiaries will be women with an emphasis on the unemployed and under-employed.

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23. Women, Youth and Climate in Focus at Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/women-youth-and-climate-in-focus-at-arab-forum-on-sustainable-development/>

- The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2022 reviewed progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the Arab region.
- Challenges facing women, youth, and displaced people were highlighted in opening statements and in the annual report on the region's SDG progress.
- Discussions also pointed to Egypt's hosting of the next UN Climate Change Conference as an opportunity to emphasize climate adaptation and financing for adaptation.

On SDG 5 (gender equality), the authors report weak availability of data, which impedes the assessment of efforts to end discrimination, guarantee equal rights and access to resources, and eliminate violence against women and girls. It notes that the representation of women in elected local governments is steadily catching up with the world's average, but no visible improvement can be seen in the rate of women in managerial positions, and rates of child marriage and female genital mutilation remain high.

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24. Chitetezo Mbaula: When Women Take the Lead to Fight Deforestation

<https://www.unsustainablemagazine.com/when-women-take-the-lead-to-fight-deforestation/>

A new type of home cooking stove, called the Chitetezo Mbaula, is proving to be a safer, cleaner, and more portable solution that is now sweeping across rural Malawi, making lives easier, providing job opportunities for those who critically need them, and all while encouraging environmental conservation.

Touted as a fast, efficient, affordable and portable means of cooking, the cookstove is being promoted by United Purpose (an NGO formerly known as Concern Worldwide) as one of the tools to combat deforestation, which is one of the leading causes of climate change.

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25. Investigating the Chitetezo Mbaula Cookstove

<http://aprovecho.org/newsletters/>

The Aprovecho Research Center ARC worked with stakeholders to see how small changes in the stove might translate into fuel and emissions reductions in lab tests. Of course, this information is only useful to researchers in the field as possible iterations. They determine if the changes might translate into practical conservation. The collaboration continues as possibilities are examined.

The lab test can point out theoretical “improvements” but only field testing can determine actual performance and practicality. On the other hand, if cooking takes place outdoors, as in the photo above, exposure to harmful smoke can be estimated to be dramatically reduced by the increased air exchange rates.

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26. Teaching approaches for decolonising and diversifying the curriculum

<https://www.teaching-matters-blog.ed.ac.uk/teaching-approaches-for-decolonising-and-diversifying-the-curriculum/>

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies – R(D)SVS – at the University of Edinburgh has embarked on a process to promote modifications in undergraduate and postgraduate degrees as well as changes in teaching practices that support the decolonisation and diversification of the curriculum.

The presentation, delivered by Dr Sílvia Pérez-Espona, focused on teaching practices that she has implemented to provide diverse lecture content, activities and assessment, in particular focusing on increasing representation of audio-visual material and research in courses from two collectives: women, and people from different ethnic backgrounds and countries of origin. Finding this type of audio-visual material is still challenging due to the scarce portrayal of non-white people, and to a lesser extent women, leading wildlife-related research or conservation activities rather than assisting such activities.

Another strategy highlighted in Sílvia’s presentation was to make sure to include examples of research conducted by women and researchers from different countries, and hence potentially diverse ethnic backgrounds, and having diverse local contextual challenges.

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27. New Hostel for Tanzanian Students

<https://canadianharambee.ca/newsletters/>

The Canadian Harambee Education Society reports that a new hostel has been completed in April 2022 for female students attending Mwahu Secondary School in Tanzania. Stelly’s Secondary in Central Saanich on Vancouver Island started construction in 2019.

A tomato plant fundraiser is taking place in May 2022 with horticulturists in Saskatoon. See the newsletter for more details.

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28. Cooperation Canada’s Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

<https://cooperation.ca/statement-on-the-situation-in-ukraine/>

Read the full statement at the link. “Cooperation Canada urges Canada to deploy its feminist leadership in its response to the crisis resulting from the attack on the sovereign territory of Ukraine. We call on Canada to continue to address humanitarian needs, contribute to peace processes, and stand up for democracy and human rights.”

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29. GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice - Newsletter

<https://www.gendercc.net/resources/newsletter.html>

Our first newsletter of the year 2022 features an overview of our work including current GenderCC projects, a number of recent publications and a range of updates from the gender and climate change community.

This year marks an important one for GenderCC as it has been active with several projects including two new projects, one on the LGBTIQ+ community and climate change, and one on a novel approach to consider gender issues in youth organisations who engage in climate change. This edition also includes a final and concluding update on our ‘Gender into Urban Climate Change Initiative (GUCCI)’, along with the GAMMA booklet which is highly advisable to be used by more civil society groups and cities that wish to adopt our approach.

Along with some news on GenderCC @UNFCCC, including the agenda of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 56) which will take place in Bonn, Germany, this June, we would like to keep you up to date about the activities of the Gender and Climate Change community. Lastly, in this issue you can find some interesting and recent publications on the field of gender and climate change.

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30. Digital Mentorship: The Key to Women’s Labour Force Participation in India?

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/04/digital-mentorship-key-womens-labour-force-participation-india/>

BENGALURU, India, Apr 27 2022 (IPS) - Today, approximately 19 million young women are accessing post-secondary or tertiary education in India. Yet, such education has not translated into expected gains in female labour force participation. Only 34 percent of women in India with post-secondary education are active in the labour force, compared to 81 percent of men.

The relatively low number of women in the workforce includes both women who are employed and those actively searching for jobs. The author examined the impact of three interlinked factors that uniquely constrain young women’s capabilities or choices to participate in the workforce: a skills deficit, a network gap, and restrictive gender norms.

- *Skills deficit:* Post-secondary curricula rarely address eight of the ten skills employers currently value most, which relate to problem-solving, self-management, and working with people, and they are seldom built through traditional instructional approaches in classrooms.
- *Network gap:* Women in India tend to have small professional networks because social norms restrict them from engaging freely. A small network means a lack of role models, which limits aspirations and reduces the likelihood of women breaking gender stereotypes and pursuing career paths where they do not see other women. It can also mean access to fewer job-market opportunities at the time of planning for entry into the labour market.
- *Restrictive gender norms:* Indian social norms define a woman’s role as primarily that of a caregiver, and thus discourages female labour force participation. In urban areas, women’s participation in the labour force drops off in their early- to mid-twenties—when marriage- and family-related responsibilities tend to increase.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Report: The National Climate League

<https://www.climatereality.ca/ncl>

The National Climate League is a yearly project developed by The Climate Reality Project Canada, first launched in Winter 2018. The NCL is an exercise in participative democracy, highlighting local solutions that help improve the lives of everyday Canadians and sets Canadian municipalities on a path to carbon neutrality by 2050.

To quantify those positive impacts and #MeasureWhatMatters, we track progress on fifteen primary and fifteen complementary indicators across our twenty-three hub cities.

Gender Equality is one of the indicators.

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2. Clean Cooking Explorer

<https://cleancookingexplorer.org/>

The Clean Cooking Explorer CCE is an online, open-source, and interactive spatial platform for accelerating clean cooking access throughout a country. The platform enables data-driven planning, coordination, and decision-making by integrating and supporting analysis of geospatial datasets related to both the potential demand and supply of clean cooking services, to support the uptake and adoption of clean cooking in the study area.

The CCE is designed to help the Government of Nepal (GoN) and other governments achieve their ambitious clean cooking targets. The CCE will play a vital role in implementing the Country Action Plan that CCA developed in close collaboration with AEPC to achieve clean cooking for all in Nepal. “The government of Nepal is deeply committed to achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030, with a quarter of the population primarily using electricity for cooking by 2030,” said Madhusudhan Adhikari, Executive Director of AEPC, the agency responsible for formulating and implementing energy policies in Nepal.

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3. 2022 SDG Gender Index

<https://www.equalmeasures2030.org/2022-sdg-gender-index/>

Less than a quarter of countries are making ‘fast’ progress towards gender equality, and one in every three countries is either making no progress at all or is moving in the wrong direction. At the current pace, the 2030 deadline to achieve gender equality will not be met.

The 2022 SDG Gender Index sounds the alarm on global progress towards gender equality and unveils a blueprint for change.

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4. Workshop Report: Expanding Opportunities for Farmers, Women & Youth in India

<https://www.youtube.com/c/AccessAgriculture>

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

A virtual workshop was held on 6 April 2022 under the theme “Learn & Earn from Natural Farming Videos — Access Agriculture: Expanding Opportunities for Farmers, Women & Youth”. The Workshop is organised jointly by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), the National Coalition for Natural Farming (NF Coalition), and Access Agriculture.

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Raise awareness about these resources, digital tools and youth-based entrepreneurship model in order to put them at the service of the natural and organic farming communities, women and youth in India,
- Hear from our partners about their experiences on the use of these videos, and
- Collect perspectives on the way forward from all organisations active in natural and organic farming

The event was live streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

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5. Blog: Want to beat poverty in south-east Asia? Start by supporting its women farmers

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2022/03/want-to-beat-poverty-in-south-east-asia-start-by-supporting-its-women-farmers/>

<https://www.isea-group.net/transformationalavcguidelines/about/>

This blog introduces a new guide that sets out how to empower women small-scale farmers (i.e., those typically farming small patches of land with little machinery or capital) in south-east Asia. The authors summarise the guide’s recommendations for policy makers, including to promote innovations such as e-commerce; back women to take up roles beyond production such as processing and marketing; invest in sustainable systems to contribute to a green economy; build partnerships with social enterprises via, for example, dedicated units in agriculture ministries; and develop collaboration among enterprises through communities of practice. Read the blog and the full guidelines.

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6. Multilingual Factsheet: A Guide to Employment Standards in Agriculture in Manitoba

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/labour/standards/doc,guide-agriculture,factsheet.html>

<https://mansomanitoba.ca/resources/multilingual-factsheet-a-guide-to-employment-standards-in-agriculture>

This fact sheet provides an overview of the minimum standards that employers in the agriculture sector need to be aware of. The original document is available in both official languages on the Government of Manitoba website.

In 2022, with funding from the Province of Manitoba, MANSO coordinated the translation of the document to Tagalog and Spanish to better help our members in engaging and supporting migrant workers.

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7. Podcast: Shifting the power – climate justice means gender justice

<https://www.iied.org/shifting-power-climate-justice-means-gender-justice-make-change-happen-podcast-episode-16>

IIED’s ‘Make Change Happen’ podcast provides an opportunity to hear our researchers and guests discuss key global development challenges and explain what we are doing to support positive change.

In this episode of the Make Change Happen podcast, we discuss how gender equity and intersectionality approaches are central to climate justice, and that means putting people’s rights, lived experiences and priorities at the centre of every response.

Hosted by Liz Carlile, the podcast episode features Heather McGray, director of the Climate Justice Resilience Fund; Vitumbiko Chinoko, project manager at the Open Forum on Agriculture and Technology in Nairobi; and IIED’s Tracy Kajumba, principal researcher and institutional lead for intersectional disadvantage and inequality.

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8. Report: Standards and Investments in Sustainable Agriculture

<https://www.iisd.org/ssi/reviews/standards-investment-sustainable-agriculture/>

This report looks at voluntary sustainability standards (VSSs) from the investor’s perspective and shows that sustainability standards can reduce financial risks and promote synergies between sound business practices and better environmental and social performance to catalyze much-needed investment in sustainable agriculture.

The report benchmarks the production criteria of 12 widely adopted VSSs against the themes of 10 popular sustainable finance frameworks. We also surveyed 51 financial service providers (FSPs) active across the globe to understand how sustainability affects investment decisions.

We found that, in many cases, VSSs and investment criteria overlap. With standards compliance, farmers improve their practices in many ways that facilitate financing, such as by keeping detailed records; conserving water, soil, and forests; and building good relationships with workers and communities.

However, much more can be done to leverage standards to increase investment in sustainable agriculture. Accordingly, the report presents opportunities for standard-setting bodies, FSPs, and governments to leverage VSSs to attract much-needed investment in sustainable agriculture.

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9. 500 Women Scientists’ New Honoraria Database

<https://500womenscientists.org/fix-the-gap>

In spring 2021, we launched a survey to crowd-source speaking fees and honoraria from across STEM disciplines, career stages and geographies. Picture this: you've been invited to deliver a workshop or participate on a two-hour panel unrelated to your work. The organizers have asked for an honoraria estimate. How do you navigate this? What do you propose?

That’s easy: head to 500 Women Scientists’ new Fix The Gap database to explore 1,000+ honoraria for speaking engagements!

In our new open-access honoraria database, you can filter honoraria by various factors, including country, gender, age range, and the type of speaking engagement (e.g., talks, panels, workshops, keynotes, and guest lectures). This database is best viewed on a computer or laptop, rather than a small screen.

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10. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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

The preliminary figures for 2021 show:

- Official development assistance for 2021 was 0.33% of the combined gross national income of the 30 donors on the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee. That’s unchanged from 2020 and below the United Nations target of 0.7% ODA to GNI.
- Foreign aid from official donors rose to an all-time high of \$179 billion in 2021, up 4.4% in real terms from 2020. However, 3.5% of that went to providing COVID-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries. Excluding ODA for donated COVID-19 vaccines, ODA was up 0.6%.

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11. Study on “Family poultry: Multiple roles, systems, challenges, and options for sustainable contributions to household nutrition security through a planetary health lens”

DOI:[10.1111/mcn.12668](https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.12668)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328359947_Family_poultry_Multiple_roles_systems_challenges_and_options_for_sustainable_contributions_to_household_nutrition_security_through_a_planetary_health_lens

Abstract

Achieving sustainable production of eggs by family poultry production systems that meet both environmental health and welfare standards is a complex endeavour. Humans have been raising different species of poultry for thousands of years across many different agroecological zones. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has identified four different family poultry production systems: small extensive, extensive, semi-intensive, and intensive. Each of these systems varies in terms of inputs, outputs, gender dimensions, poultry health and welfare, and environmental impacts. This paper addresses key issues associated with the production of family poultry eggs in support of both improved maternal and child nutrition and sustainable, nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices. It provides an overview of the history of poultry raising; characteristics of the different family poultry production systems; challenges and solutions to poultry production in low-and middle-income countries; poultry husbandry (including breeds, nutrition, and shelter); infectious disease prevention and control in line with national and international animal health regulations; and food safety (microbial pathogens, toxins, and egg storage). To ensure that bird, human, and environmental health can flourish, it is essential for interdisciplinary research and development teams to work in collaboration with communities to ensure the long-term environmental and economic sustainability of family poultry production enterprises that are a good fit with local circumstance

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12. Strengthening food and nutrition security through family poultry and crop integration in Tanzania and Zambia

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/science/our-research/research-areas/veterinary-science.html>

Goal: The aim of this project is to reduce childhood undernutrition by analysing and testing opportunities to enhance the key role that women play in improving poultry and crop integration and efficiency to strengthen household nutrition. Date: 31 January 2014 - 30 January 2019.

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13. Changes in employment during the COVID-19 pandemic - Ontario

<https://www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/blog/changes-in-employment-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

The Rural Ontario Institute’s latest *Focus On Rural Ontario* fact sheet explores the impact of COVID-19 on rural and urban employment. This fact sheet compares employment trends during the pandemic to a pre-pandemic baseline of February 2020.

Overall, employment levels across all industries recovered to approximately 3.5% above pre-pandemic levels by December 2021 in both urban and rural areas. Employment numbers recovered earlier and more consistently in rural areas.

Females and younger people had higher unemployment rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment for males and females was high after the first provincial shutdown. In rural areas, female unemployment rose again during the second shutdown period, reaching 10%. Male unemployment started to improve in June 2020, while female unemployment continued to increase until February 2021.

Young people had higher rates of unemployment in both urban and rural areas. This is probably due to business closures and capacity restrictions in the retail, accommodations and food services industries, which are more often staffed by people in younger age groups. People in the 15-24 age group had the highest level of unemployment in May 2020, with an urban peak of 34% and a rural peak of 25%.

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14. Fiction Review: “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/apr/19/lessons-in-chemistry-by-bonnie-garmus-review-the-right-comic-formula>

There’s been a renewed interest in stories of pioneering women fighting to prove themselves in traditionally male arenas in the years – late 50s and early 60s – before second-wave feminism took off. Elizabeth Zott, the heroine of *Lessons in Chemistry*, follows firmly in their footsteps. By training she is a research chemist, though her academic career has foundered despite her obvious talent, and as the narrative jumps back 10 years we understand why. Female scientists are viewed with suspicion by their male colleagues; from her earliest undergraduate days, Elizabeth has been subject to attacks on her reputation and her person, from the major – sexual assault and theft of her work – to the casual everyday misogyny meted out by people, including other women, who see her independence and single-mindedness as a threat.

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15. Gendered impacts of climate-smart agriculture on household food security and labor migration: insights from Bihar, India

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJCCSM-01-2020-0004/full/html>

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at:

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/1756-8692.htm>

A new study by researchers from #CIMMYT & Asian Development Bank investigates how climate-smart agricultural practices (CSAPs) affect food security and, consequently, male labor out-migration in the state of Bihar, India.

The paper also provides insights into how the enhancement of gender equitable knowledge on CSAPs is key to safeguard sustainable farming systems and improved livelihoods.

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16. The Totaljobs Gender Bias Decoder

<https://www.totaljobs.com/insidejob/gender-bias-decoder/>

Is gendered language putting people off applying to your job advert? The Totaljobs Gender Bias Decoder reveals hidden gender-specific words and offers alternatives to make your text less biased.

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17. Who’s in Your Wallet?

<https://pudding.cool/2022/04/banknotes/>

This is an interesting example of ways to represent data for engaging readers. Refer to the link for the visuals.

In many places, paper money still fails to represent a portion of the population it serves, with many countries preferring to showcase people (usually men) in positions of power or of national acclaim on their banknotes.

We wanted this analysis to be as international as possible, so we inquired into 38 countries from all 22 sub and sub-subregions of the world, based on the United Nations’ Statistics Department geoscheme. Our dataset represents 236 unique banknotes and 241 unique individuals. Twenty-one percent of the individuals depicted on banknotes are female.

Nineteen percent of people featured on banknotes are Writers (45 people from 23 countries). Writing was the most common profession among women and the second most common for men.

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18. Changing gender role declines maize yield, but remittances offset: Findings from migrant households in the central Himalayas, Nepal

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00307270221097984>

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00307270221097984>

Abstract

In this paper, we investigate the interplay between labor out-migration, changes in gender roles, and their effects on the maize farming system. The paper unravels these interactions using the data collected from 1053 migrant households in the mountains of Nepal. The result shows that household size positively and the number of 17–60-year-old household members negatively influence maize yield. Remittance income and raising farm animals enhanced maize yield. Geography, especially maize farming in the mountains, showed a reduction (25.6%) in yield. The migrants' wives stated less maize yield (5%) compared to the other household members. In addition to these contextual factors, women's increased participation in the household chores, rearing and caring of farm animals, and community activities significantly compromised maize yield. However, the remittance income offsets the loss. As women's role in agriculture is central, especially in the context of male labor out-migration, gender-transformative approaches to research and development practices would ensure social justice and equitable benefit sharing. Accounting for their choices and preferences in developing and designing agricultural interventions is thus vital for the long-term sustainability of the mountain farming systems.

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19. Blueprint for Gender Equality Leadership Report

<https://globalcompact.ca/blueprint-for-gender-equality-leadership-in-the-canadian-private-sector/>

The *Blueprint for Gender Equality Leadership in the Canadian Private Sector* is a comprehensive, actionable roadmap designed to guide and assist organizations and individuals that are looking to improve workplace gender equality.

As the Gender Equality Leadership in the Canadian Private Sector project has demonstrated, when it comes to the benefits associated with advancing gender equality in the workplace, the evidence is in: gender equality is an imperative factor for the private sector's long-term success and the overall strength of Canada's economic development.

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20. Impacts of war on food prices and food security in potentially vulnerable countries

<https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/resources/impacts-war-food-prices-and-food-security-potentially-vulnerable-countries>

The war in Ukraine may be far from countries in Africa and the Near East, but because the war is driving up commodity prices (especially oil and gas, cereals and fertilisers), people living in these countries face threats to their food security. This policy brief explores these threats.

Two sets of questions are addressed in this brief.

- What may happen to people in potentially affected countries? How vulnerable are they to the consequences of a war in Europe? Who is most at risk?
- What may be learned from previous crises where commodity prices have spiked?

To focus the brief, four countries were selected to represent a range of circumstances in low- and lower-middle-income countries: Kenya, Mali, Sudan and Yemen. These countries regularly face threats to their food security from the vagaries of weather, crop and livestock pests and diseases, pandemics and, in some areas, conflict. The shock of spiking world prices for wheat, maize, fertiliser, oil and gas adds another layer to the challenges already faced.

All four countries, in common with the rest of the world, will need to invest in changed farming practices to ensure agriculture is environmentally sustainable, adapted to climate change, and with low emissions of greenhouse gases. Renewed agricultural development can be combined with these imperatives.

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21. Why some homeowners are sharing their yards with gardeners and farmers

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-yard-sharing-1.6434216>

Toronto Urban Growers' garden sharing toolkit <http://torontourbangrowers.org/garden-sharing-network>

Some people hate mowing, pruning and landscaping their yard. Others love growing flowers or vegetables but have no place to do so. Now, neighbours from both camps are being brought together through programs that promote yard or garden sharing — and advocates say it's a win for everyone, including the environment.

In some cases, individual gardeners and landowners are paired up, as with Edmonton Yard Share and the Halifax Garden Network. In others, urban farms such as City Street Farms in Regina, Backyard Harvest in Hamilton and City Beet Farm in Vancouver are using people's front and backyards to grow produce to feed people in the neighbourhood.

The Toronto Urban Growers' garden sharing toolkit, for example, suggests things that should be discussed and agreed upon in writing, such as whether the landholder and gardener will communicate by phone, email or another method; how pests will be dealt with; how conflicts will be resolved; and how costs and the harvest will be shared. Toronto Urban Growers suggests that the landholder receive at least a small portion of the harvest as a thank you for offering the space, and more if the costs and work are also being shared.

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