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# GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



*Rudbeckia, Lilium, Delphinium. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.*

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

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

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

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

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Microloan fund for all Canadian Women entrepreneurs

<https://ncfdc.ca/delia/>

With the support of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED Canada), we are now able to make DELIA available across all of Canada. Our goal is to ensure that by 2024, DELIA stands as a revolving and evergreen microloan fund for all Canadian Women entrepreneurs for start up, stabilization and expansion. DELIA will take its place alongside StrikeUP Canada (NCFDC's annual digital conference for Women entrepreneurs) as part of our commitment to gender equity in economic advancement.

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### 2. Growing Opportunities: Post-Secondary Student Wage Subsidy

<https://cahrc-ccrha.ca/programs/agri-talent>

AGRI Talent. The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) Growing Opportunities wage subsidy program supports agriculture employers as they hire post-secondary students for Work Integrated Learning (WIL) placements. Funding covers up to 50% of wages, unless you hire a student that is one of the following: a first-year student, woman in STEM, Indigenous student, a newcomer to Canada, visible minority or persons with disabilities. In that case, funding covers up to 70% of wages.

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### 3. Girls Belong Here program

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx>

Women and girls belong in leadership roles, in any and every sector. Plan International has been giving women and girls opportunities to step into positions of leadership with their Girls Belong Here program since 2016. The program has connected girls with opportunities for two-way knowledge sharing and consultation with some of Canada's most important leaders: executives at some of Canada's largest organizations and corporations, and federal government officials right up to the Prime Minister.

Applications to take part in Girls Belong Here 2022 are open to women and girls ages 14-24. **The deadline to apply is July 27th.** Two cohorts will take part in the program in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023, coinciding with International Day of the Girl and International Women's Day.

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### 4. 24th International Aids Conference

<https://aids2022.org/>

Canada is hosting this year's International AIDS Conference. What is this conference about? Organized by the International AIDS Society, this conference is held every 2 years to bring the world together to follow the science and define the future of the fight against the HIV epidemic around the globe.

The International AIDS Society is the world's largest association of HIV professionals. It was created in 1988 to build global solidarity with people with HIV and promote collaboration on scientific discovery and implementation of stigma-free policies.

Canada has supported AIDS programming nationally and globally for decades. We advocate for an intersectional approach to close the gaps that are preventing progress toward ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. In partnership with

other donors, Canada continues to stand up for the rights of key populations and other groups disproportionately affected by HIV, especially women and girls.

The 24th International Aids Conference kicks off **July 29 in person in Montréal and virtually, until August 2**. This conference supports Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5.

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## 5. Fellowship Opportunity for African Women in Agriculture and Food Systems Policy

<https://awardfellowships.org/grasp>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) has opened the Call for the Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship to African female policymakers in **Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda**.

An initiative of AWARD funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the GRASP Fellowship is fostering policy change across regional, sub-regional and national levels for gender equality and women's empowerment. Through the GRASP Fellowship, AWARD seeks to grow a pool of confident, capable, and influential African women to lead policy changes to improve African women and men's smallholders' livelihoods.

**The Call for applications closes on August 31, 2022.**

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## 6. International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA16)

<https://www.iied.org/cba16-putting-lla-principles-practice>

CBA16 takes place **online from 3-4 October 2022**. The virtual agenda brings wider access to climate practitioners globally, reduces our carbon footprint and lowers our environmental impact. It creates interactive networking opportunities. Participants gain more ideas, inspiration and connections for climate action at this pivotal moment in time. This year, CBA's focus is on the principles for locally led adaptation (LLA).

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## 7. Registration Opens for the Clean Cooking Forum 2022

<https://cleancooking.org/forum2022/>

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) and the Government of Ghana announced today that registration is open for the Clean Cooking Forum 2022. Taking place **October 11-13 in Accra, Ghana**, clean cooking's flagship event will convene investors, executives, government officials, academics, and advocates from around the world working to accelerate access to clean cooking.

Across high-level plenaries and over 20 curated breakout sessions, attendees will engage on topics such as financing and investment, technology and business innovation, climate funding and results-based financing, national policymaking that supports market growth, youth and women's empowerment, and much more. The Forum will also feature an Innovation Expo, showcasing the latest developments in clean cooking technologies and business models.

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## 8. Women's Leadership and Management Course

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/apply-for-the-award-womens-leadership-and-management-course/>

We are excited to announce the upcoming virtual African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowships Women's Leadership and Management Course which offers just-in-time interactive online sessions to equip women leaders globally with up-to-date skills and knowledge. This customized course builds the leadership skills of women leaders, addressing the unique challenges women face at different times, including the current demands of leading amid a global crisis. The course is designed for women currently in mid-senior leadership roles, scientists, and managers with supervisory and higher-level responsibilities working for national, regional, and international organizations. It is broken down into eight sessions, each focusing on building an online learning community of women leaders.

The course will be delivered from **October 4-27, 2022**. Course Fee: \$2,500 per person.

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## This Month's News

### 1. Gender and variety trait preferences in Uganda, Tanzania, and Mozambique

<https://cipotato.org/blog/gender-variety-trait-preferences-uganda-tanzania-mozambique/>

To ensure better adoption of vitamin-A rich sweet potato, it is paramount to develop varieties that satisfy the needs and desires of both men and women. Whereas men who farm sweet potato may prefer qualities such as storability and yields, women will tend to favor taste and cookability.

The SweetGAINS project implemented by the International Potato Center and partners is focusing on this question with studies in Mozambique, Tanzania, and Uganda, hoping to gain insights to help strength markets and value chains for sweet potato, and, in the process, boosting incomes, and food and nutrition security for millions.

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### 2. Trees, tech and people help Mozambican park reverse nature losses

<https://longreads.trust.org/item/Mozambique-park-mount-Gorongosa-tackles-climate-shocks>

What does conservation that effectively protects nature and also helps people look like? Something like Gorongosa National Park, in central Mozambique. After the reserve was ruined by civil war, local people and an American philanthropist have joined forces to restore it, turning it not just into a sanctuary for pangolins and pygmy chameleons but also a huge source of jobs, as well as an educational centre offering everything from classes for schoolchildren to one of the first master's degrees taught fully in a national park.

"We are a human rights national park," 23-year-old Gabriela Curtiz, Gorongosa's first female guide, told our correspondent.

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### 3. Culinary kudos: The trailblazing chef showcasing the cuisine of rural west Africa

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jun/30/culinary-kudos-the-trailblazing-chef-showcasing-the-cuisine-of-rural-west-africa-fatmata-binta>

Fatmata Binta's pop-up restaurant brings her nomadic food culture to a wider audience – and helps girls to follow in her footsteps. Now age 37, Binta is a trailblazing chef based in Ghana, who last week became the first African to win the Basque

culinary world prize for her work showcasing nomadic food culture and exploring the diaspora of west African cuisine through her Dine on a Mat pop-up.

But the experiences of her childhood, from growing fonio – an ancient grain – on her grandparents’ land to picking cockroaches out of rice, have stayed with her. From them have sprung a desire to celebrate and support both the sustainable, low-waste culture of the Fulani people – and the women who make it possible.

With the €100,000 (£86,000) prize money, she plans to build a centre where women can come to practise arts, crafts and other activities – including growing fonio – that are authentic to the Fulani people. “We’re going to focus on traditional methods and have a space where women can grow economically and socially,” she says. “A safe space.” Binta has 1.5 hectares (four acres) of land in Daboya, northern Ghana, where the centre will be built. She also loves using moringa, baobab fruit, and dawadawa, as the Ghanaians call it: a seasoning made from the seeds of the African locust bean tree.

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## **4. Kenya’s widows fight disinheritance**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/jul/01/kenya-widows-property-legal-rights>

While Kenya protects widows’ inheritance in theory, the patriarchal culture and the influence of colonial legislation that restricted married women’s property rights means the law is often not enforced. Human rights groups report that discriminatory practices in marriage limit women’s capacity to own land. According to the Kenya Land Alliance, only 1% of land titles are registered to women, and another 6% are registered jointly with a man.

While children have equal inheritance rights, land is more often passed on to sons, leaving daughters with fewer assets, and making a future wife vulnerable to eviction if her spouse’s family regard the property as theirs. For young widows, it can be even harder to hold on to marital property.

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## **5. Zimbabweans abroad switch to food delivery apps to help family at home**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/apr/06/zimbabweans-abroad-switch-to-food-delivery-apps-to-help-family-at-home>

An increasing number of Zimbabweans who have settled overseas are taking advantage of a range of food-delivery apps and websites that have sprung up in Zimbabwe to help their families survive the country’s deep economic crisis. Zimbabwe’s diaspora – 3 million of whom live in neighbouring South Africa – has for years been instrumental in keeping the economy afloat and keeping people from going hungry, often sending money through money-transfer agencies such as Mukuru, WorldRemit and Western Union. The central bank reported diaspora remittances totalled \$1.4bn (£1.06bn) last year, up from \$1bn in 2020, defying expectations that the amount might drop during the pandemic.

More people are opting to send groceries directly now, rather than money, because it is cheaper. Cooking oil, for example, costs \$3.50 to send to someone in Zimbabwe and paid for from South Africa, while it costs \$4.50 to buy in Zimbabwe.

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## **6. Gender-smart agriculture: The only way forward for women and climate**

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/gender-smart-agriculture-only-way-forward-women-and-climate>

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is the only way forward for food and nutrition security and the planet’s resilience. But we need to make sure that the climate-smart agriculture policies, technologies, and tools also work for women who, despite being a significant percentage of the world’s farmers, face major gaps in capturing the benefits provided by CSA.



Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. As part of project roll-out, AICCRA developed a “gender-smart agriculture” framework to plan, implement and assess gender-responsive CSA. It includes gender gap analysis, identification and prioritisation of gender-responsive CSA, participatory and consultative implementation models as well as gender-targeted climate information services and value chain approaches.

“Gender-smart indicators” measure gender results in five main areas to measure the degree of gender empowerment, based on the Gender Profile of Climate-smart Agriculture in Ghana and the Gender Empowerment Index: 1) access and control of CSA technologies, farm inputs, personal assets; 2) increased production; 3) access to climate information services; 4) access to credit; and 5) decreases in workload, and how these affect women’s participation in decisions at household and community levels.

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## **7. Climate risk insurance that works for women farmers in Zambia**

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/climate-risk-insurance-works-women-farmers-zambia>

Not enough insurance products – designed to protect farmers from climate change – meet the needs of women in Zambia. But if private sector providers bundle climate insurance with other services, demand from women could soar. AICCRA Zambia explored the issues for International Women’s Day 2022. Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture.

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## **8. How women leaders are getting better social protection for the vulnerable**

<https://www.iied.org/how-women-leaders-are-getting-better-social-protection-for-vulnerable>

Gram Sabha (village assembly) meetings in India have traditionally been male bastions, where women sit quietly to one side and respond with occasional nods to agenda items that require their approval. But this situation has been transformed in Dumardih village in Jharkhand province: here, women proudly identify themselves as community leaders and implement their agenda in Gram Sabha meetings with poise and confidence.

This transformation has been achieved by the PHIA foundation, a grassroots NGO that motivates women to voluntarily nominate themselves as women leaders. PHIA then trains and supports the women, helping them to emerge as women leaders, advance their priorities in local decision-making and contribute to the development and climate-resilience agenda.

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## **9. Differently Abled Farmers Integrate Digital Technology, Aim To Set Example For Others**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/07/differently-abled-farmers-integrate-digital-technology-aim-set-example-others/>

Hidden in Pathumthaini province just outside of Bangkok, 0.24 hectares of land adjacent to Seangsan temple has been turned into an urban vegetable farm managed by members of the Association of the Physically handicapped of Pathumthani.

The shift to soil-based agriculture happened when the association partnered with Bangkok University three years ago and started to receive annual funding and support, including the greenhouse. The farm now has 28 raised beds in total. All are designed to a certain height to accommodate wheel-chaired farmers. The aisles are accessible by wheelchairs too.

One additional boost came in the form of a partnership between the farm and the Thai Government’s Digital Economy Promotion Agency. Rittirong Chutapruttikorn, dean of the School of Architecture at Bangkok University, who led the design

of the greenhouse, says that he was looking for ways to make the farmers' lives easier. He had seen how tending to the crops, such as watering while sitting in wheelchairs, was both time and energy-consuming for them.

One of the first steps after partnering with DEPA was to install a digital watering system using a mobile phone application. Automated water sprinklers were hooked up along with mist sprayers. Temperature-controlled, the system delivers four minutes of mist watering five times a day.

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## **10. Recovering Edible Food from Waste Provides Environmental and Social Solutions in Argentina**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/07/recovering-edible-food-waste-provides-environmental-social-solutions-argentina/>

For 30 years, Tomasa Chávez visited the Central Market of Buenos Aires and rummaged through the tons of fruits and vegetables that the stallholders discarded, in search of food. Today she continues to do so, but there is a difference: since 2021 she has been one of the workers hired to recover food as part of a formal program launched by the Central Market.

Covering 550 hectares in the municipality of La Matanza, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, it is full of life; to describe it merely as a central market that supplies fruits and vegetables to a metropolis of 15 million inhabitants would be an oversimplification. The 12 gigantic bays where fruits and vegetables are sold wholesale are the heart of the Central Market, which employs 800 people and where a total of 10,000 people work every day.

At 2:00 a.m. the activity begins every day in the market with frenetic movement of crates containing local products from all over Argentina and neighboring countries, which are a festival of colors. Each bay has 55 stalls.

Since August 2021, much of that energy has been poured into the Waste Reduction and Recovery Program, which is based on two main ideas: to use food fit for consumption for social assistance and the rest for the production of compost or organic fertilizer to promote agroecology.

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## **11. How a Kenyan Agribusiness is Thriving on Solar Cold Storage**

<https://www.clasp.ngo/about/impact-stories/locally-grown-herbs-for-global-markets-how-a-kenyan-agribusiness-is-thriving-on-off-grid-cold-storage/>

A family-owned agribusiness situated in Thika, a bustling agricultural and industrial town about an hour's drive from Nairobi, uses a Solar Cooling Engineering cold room since 2021. The middle-aged couple jointly runs a profitable and growing herbs-for-export business, Jungle Harvest Limited, with Jane more actively involved in the day-to-day operations.

As the team explored the 0.75 acres of land under cultivation, Jane told us of her family's nearly two-decade-long journey of establishing their now-thriving business. Since occupying the property, Jane's family has tried their hand in various ventures, including dairy, pig and poultry farming and producing bananas, avocados, vegetables and strawberries.

The family shifted their sights to how best they could maximise the farm's income generation. Now, with the cold room, Jane can store over 1000 kilograms of herbs for up to a week and take more time to sort and pack the product for transport to the airport. They have been using a SunCulture solar water pump to irrigate their crops since 2015.

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## **12. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Newsletter**

<https://awardfellowships.org/>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) works toward inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for Africa by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender-responsive agricultural research and innovation. We invest in African scientists, research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa's agricultural value chains.

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## **13. Nature science icon Jane Goodall gets special Barbie made from recycled plastics**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/shopping/2022/07/13/barbie-jane-goodall-recycled-plastic/10046751002/>

Trailblazing ethologist and conservationist Jane Goodall now has her own Barbie doll made from recycled, ocean-bound plastic by toymaker Mattel. In partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute, Goodall's Barbie was introduced alongside Barbie's "2022 Barbie Career of The Year Eco-Leadership Team" – a doll set that includes a conservation scientist, a renewable energy engineer, a chief sustainability officer and an environmental advocate.

According to Mattel, both Goodall's Barbie and the new doll set have been certified as carbon neutral by Climate Impact Partners. And most of the dolls' plastic parts were made from recycled plastic that was sourced from waterways in areas without formal waste collection systems.

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## **14. How climate change could drive an increase in gender-based violence**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-01903-9>

As extreme weather events occur more frequently — something that climate scientists say is inevitable — so, too, will violence towards women and people from gender minorities. That's the conclusion of a review examining events in the aftermath of floods, droughts, cyclones and heatwaves, among other weather disasters, over the past two decades.

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## **15. A learning agenda on gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture**

<https://gender.cgiar.org/learning-agenda-CSA>

To be able to inform research, development and policy priorities that can make CSA gender smart, the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform is co-creating a learning agenda that includes key evidence and knowledge gaps, priority learning questions and associated activities. A learning agenda is a set of proposed questions and activities, identified based on documented knowledge gaps, that can help guide future research toward under-studied areas where more evidence is sorely needed.

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## 16. Analyzing the Landscape of Women's Land Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, and North Africa

<https://resourceequity.org/analyzing-the-landscape-of-womens-land-rights-in-sub-saharan-africa-middle-east-and-north-africa/>

Advocates around the world have successfully positioned women's land rights on both global and regional development agendas. But while much of the development community recognizes their importance in the context of broader social and economic issues, the question remains: How has this focus translated into practical and meaningful land rights for women?

It's true that there remains a need for making stronger and more strategic cases at all levels to raise additional funding and demand greater attention to women's land rights. To this end, the World Bank reached out to Resource Equity to lead the analysis of the landscape of women's land rights in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and North Africa. This project has three phases.

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## 17. A fairly fed world

<https://aeon.co/essays/how-we-could-end-child-hunger-by-making-different-choices>

Soils, Food and Healthy Communities (SFHC) is a non-profit group working in northern Malawi. Their goal is to reduce childhood malnutrition through sustainable agriculture. In 2000, SFHC began as an alliance between staff members at the nearby Ekwendeni Mission Hospital and social scientists in Malawi and Canada

Legumes such as pigeon peas, cowpeas, groundnuts and soybeans are a nutritious food for the family and for the soil, the stalks and leaves turned in as a natural fertiliser. The farmers in this village were actively engaged in enriching their soil and growing more crops through composting and judicious planting.

After SFHC introduced a more sustainable agriculture, the staff did home visits to see if these methods had helped to significantly reduce childhood malnutrition. They hadn't. The legumes were still not a favoured food in the family. The women complained that the new crops had only increased their workload. And any extra money from selling these crops did not necessarily benefit the women or children.

I would find this true throughout my time in Malawi: almost nothing works to end childhood malnutrition unless you empower women. Empowerment includes healthcare, education, employment opportunities, voting rights, property rights, accessible family planning, and protection from sexual exploitation and domestic violence.

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## 18. Opinion: Africa food security solutions must prioritize women and girls

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-africa-food-security-solutions-must-prioritize-women-and-girls-103645>

Women and girls on the African continent, who face heightened risk due to higher poverty rates, could be particularly harmed by the increase in food prices. Without adequate intervention by African governments and international donors, Russia's invasion of Ukraine could exacerbate existing food crises in Africa, with a disproportionate impact on women and girls.

The rise in food prices could disproportionately impact African women and girls, who are more likely to live in poverty. In 2021, there were 249 million women and girls in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. Although women play a key role in promoting food security on the continent, they have less access to assets and income and are less economically secure than their male counterparts.

A substantial share of employed women in Africa work in agriculture, often at lower levels of productivity than men, due to unequal access to agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, and extension services. Among women working in non-agricultural jobs, most are employed in the informal sector or in female-dominated occupations that earn significantly less than formal and male-dominated jobs.

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## **19. HLPF Declaration Reaffirms SDGs as Blueprint for Accelerating Action**

<http://sdg.iisd.org/news/hlpf-declaration-reaffirms-sdgs-as-blueprint-for-accelerating-action/>

The 2022 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration that strongly reaffirms commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, “recognizing it as the blueprint for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, leaving no one behind.”

HLPF 2022 conducted in-depth review of SDGs 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land), and 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

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## **20. Canadian Cattlemen’s Association changes name to recognize role women play in industry, says president**

<https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/news/cca-changes-name-to-recognize-role-women-play-in-industry-says-president/>

Last week, CCA announced a rebrand, including a new logo and a new name. Previously known as the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, the national organization changed its name to Canadian Cattle Association, to better include the people in the industry.

“We changed our name and logo because we wanted it to represent who we are today,” says Reg Schellenberg, the president of the CCA. “While we still honour the heritage of our organization, we want to recognize the critical role that the women have always played in the success of our farms and ranches.”

In an interview, Schellenberg says the name change has been in progress for about two years. The CCA represents 60,000 members.

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## **21. Manitoba Canola Growers Scholarships 2022**

<https://canolagrowers.com/in-the-classroom/scholarships/>

Congratulations to these scholarship winners and future leaders. The Manitoba Canola Growers has awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to students who are graduating from grade 12, are from a farm that is a member of the Manitoba Canola Growers Association and are planning to attend post-secondary education in any field within two years of graduating.

- Sydney Gerelus - Shoal Lake, Janik Grenier - Notre Dame de Lourdes, Kate-Leigh Heapy - Oak River, Brookelyn McRae - St. Andrews, Lindsay Wytinck – Glenboro.

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## **22. Biden names former DARPA leader Arati Prabhakar as science adviser**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-01688-x>

US President Joe Biden has nominated Arati Prabhakar, an applied physicist with extensive experience in both government and the private sector, to be head of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and named her as his next science adviser. The appointment comes four months after the controversial departure of Biden's previous science adviser, geneticist Eric Lander. It is a crucial moment, as the Biden administration seeks to advance its agenda on science, innovation and climate. If her position is confirmed by the Senate, it will be up to Prabhakar to put the agency back on solid footing and carry that agenda forward.

Scientists contacted by Nature applauded Prabhakar's nomination, saying her experience and leadership skills would serve the administration well. Arati Prabhakar will be the first woman and first person of colour to serve as the US president's chief science adviser.

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## **23. Bill Gates Should Stop Telling Africans What Kind of Agriculture Africans Need**

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/bill-gates-should-stop-telling-africans-what-kind-of-agriculture-africans-need1>

Africans have long been told that our agriculture is backward and should be abandoned for a 21st-century version of the Green Revolution that enabled India to feed itself. Western science and technology, in the form of seeds modified by science and technology, synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, petroleum-fueled machinery and artificial irrigation were key to that miracle, we are informed, and we too need to tread that path.

A primary proponent of this view is the Cornell Alliance for Science (CAS), founded in 2014 to "depolarize the charged debate" around genetically modified (GM) seeds. With \$22 million in funding thus far from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the CAS in fact consistently defends GM seeds, arguing that they are healthy, productive and environmentally friendly, while attacking agroecology as economically and socially regressive.

In contrast, the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), which represents more than 200 million farmers, fishers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, women, consumers and others across all but five African countries, holds that agroecology is what our continent needs. Small-scale, ecofriendly cultivation methods using indigenous knowledge and inputs and cutting-edge science increase the variety, nutritive value and quantity of foods produced on farms while stabilizing rural economies, promoting gender equity and protecting biodiversity.

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## **24. USAID is providing \$476 million in humanitarian assistance for Somalia**

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jul-24-2022-united-states-provides-476-million-urgent-development-assistance-somalia>

USAID's critical assistance comes as Somalia is experiencing four back-to-back drought seasons, and more than 200,000 people currently face an imminent risk of famine. A confluence of crises, including COVID-19, desert locust infestations, and continued recovery from previous droughts have grinded away at people's livelihoods across the country. Meanwhile, climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of droughts globally.

Today's announcement includes \$461 million in humanitarian assistance that will allow USAID partners to urgently scale-up assistance to millions of people across Somalia. This includes:

- Urgent supplies of food for millions of people, staving off starvation
- Life-saving nutrition to treat malnourished children
- Safe drinking water and emergency health care to prevent disease exacerbated by hunger
- Protection for women and children to prevent gender-based violence

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## 25. The gender-neutral farm

<https://www.country-guide.ca/columns/big-idea/the-gender-neutral-farm/>

There have been a lot of conversations about women's roles in agriculture over the past few years. Here's my conversation starter: if we had gender-neutral farms in Canada, what would that even look like in practice? Would it generate more and better opportunities for women? Would it have unintended, unforeseen consequences? More importantly, how would it affect a farm's bottom line?

In 2022 — well into the Third Wave of feminism — we are still having conversations about how women are not equally represented in farming in Canada and do not have equal access to funding and other types of business opportunities.

Louise Erskine, who works at the International Center for Research on Women and is an advocate for gender equity and strong rural communities, fleshes out the concept. Erskine's recent research explored true cost accounting, a method of costing food that includes the social, economic, labour and environmental costs of producing and distributing it. Her research led to recommendations for how farm businesses can reduce discrimination and increase visibility and opportunities/engagement in decision-making for farm women.

Three key themes emerged from her analysis: representation, recognition and redistribution.

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## 26. Locally led adaption in practice: a community-based adaptation expert shares lessons

<https://www.iied.org/locally-led-adaption-practice-community-based-adaptation-expert-shares-lessons>

The locally-led adaptation (LLA) principles have been developed to shape climate-change adaptation efforts. They are a guide to creating more effective, locally owned, socially just and transformative adaptation, aimed at donors, governments and others delivering adaptation.

The Rural Women Network in Kenya led a project to set up grassroots climate information learning centres to share nature-supportive agricultural and adaptive climate solutions, and to test new technologies to support local livelihoods and food security.

We recognise that women support their communities in many ways. As carriers of the family and community, women are agents of change, educating children, connecting families and local livelihoods and cottage industries. They are often the first responders to climate risks.

We have found that building women's confidence through training encourages them to see themselves as climate leaders, willing to continually engage and improve climate responses over time – a commitment that is essential in managing unpredictable and variable future climate risks.

But it is also important to start small, piloting activities via existing social groups rather than creating new parallel structures. Beyond providing information, creating forums for participatory and practical engagement with new knowledge

– such as climate information or technologies such as climate-smart and conservation agriculture that regenerates landscapes, is critical.

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## **27. Women’s Voice & Leadership–Caribbean Grantee Partner: Helen’s Daughters**

<https://equalityfund.ca/wvl-grantee/helens-daughters/>

Helen’s Daughters is an organization founded in 2016 to promote the economic development of rural women through adaptive agricultural techniques, capacity-building, and improved market access. More specifically, the organization aims to expand opportunities for rural women who work in agriculture; promote financial and digital inclusion for rural women in aspects of agricultural outputs; foster female entrepreneurship and enhance the productivity of women-owned enterprises; enhance the voices of rural women in decision-making related to agricultural policy and beyond; eliminate legal barriers to female economic empowerment; and reduce gender pay gaps in the agricultural sector.

On June 25th, 2022, The “FarmHers” of WVL–Caribbean and Equality Fund grantee partner Helen’s Daughters hosted their very first public Farmers Market at the Courtyard of Alliance Francaise building in Castries, St. Lucia. The members of the FarmHer network had everything under the sun, from fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs and spices to kombucha and vegan pastries! It was also more than a Farmers Market since patrons could also engage in face painting and learn to play the drums. The turnout was spectacular, and Helen’s Daughters hope this venture expands and becomes a fixture of its activities. <https://www.instagram.com/helensdaughters.slu/>

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## **28. Maasai women using photography as a way to preserve Kenya's Loita forest**

<https://newint.org/features/2022/07/25/conservation-behind-lens>

Loita forest in southern Kenya has been under the strict protection of the people who live in and around it. As forests across the world are destroyed through logging and encroachment, residents of Loita village in southwest Kenya have taken it upon themselves to defend their forest. Loita forest, dubbed ‘entim e Naimina Enkiyio’ (forest of the lost girl) by local people, is estimated to cover over 330 square kilometres and is one of the last remnants of closed canopy indigenous forest in Kenya.

One of the more unusual forest protection activities carried out by local people is photography. Iloitai Maasai women have been using cameras to curb illegal logging and poaching in the Loita forest, which is of great cultural significance to the Iloitai, one of 15 ‘sub-tribes’ of the Maasai community in southern Kenya.

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## **29. Meet SCWIST’s Board of Directors**

<https://scwist.ca/meet-new-board/>

Society for Canadian Women in Science & Technology (SCWIST) is happy to announce its new Board of Directors, who will continue the organization’s mission to create an environment where women and girls in Canada can pursue their interest, education, passion, and careers in STEM without barriers. SCWIST’s values – to empower, include, inspire, connect, and sustain – will guide the new Board of Directors to innovate for a future where everyone, regardless of gender, works together to build a better Canada.

Lily Takeuchi, Saina Beitari, Aska Patel and Poh Tan are back for the second year of their term. Jasmine Parmar, Melanie Ratnam, JeAnn Watson, Gigi Lau and Phyllis MacIntyre have joined the team.



## Reports, Publications, Resources

### 1. Report: Gender and Climate Adaptation Planning

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/gender-responsive-nap-processes-progress-promising-examples/>

Midway through the UNFCCC’s Gender Action Plan, how are developing countries integrating gender considerations in adaptation planning processes? A new NAP Global Network synthesis report analyzes progress and potential.

The progress shown in this report demonstrates the potential of NAP processes as a mechanism for ensuring that climate action addresses gender and social inequalities. As countries increasingly move from planning to implementation of adaptation actions, more opportunities are created to work with diverse stakeholders to build resilience while also creating more equitable communities and societies.

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### 2. How to partner with feminist movements for transformative change

<https://odi.org/en/publications/how-to-partner-with-feminist-movements-for-transformative-change/>

This ODI Policy brief is intended to help those working towards gender equality to better meet the aspirations and needs of those they aim to support. It departs from a growing base of evidence that those who seek to advance gender justice will accelerate progress when they intentionally channel resources to feminist social movements – one of the most important historical drivers of change.

At a time when reproductive rights are in extreme jeopardy, financing feminist activism has never been more urgent. By centring the expertise of those with deepest roots in social movements, donors can learn to better adapt funding modalities and objectives to the nature of activist work. Many key takeaways emerge from ODI's Global Dialogue on Unlocking feminist activism, which called for us to imagine a world in which feminist movements are responsibly resourced, enabling them to grow and develop feasible agendas for change, to meet their gender justice aspirations.

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### 3. Make Change Happen podcasts

<https://www.iied.org/make-change-happen-podcast>

The ‘Make Change Happen’ podcast provides informal insights into IIED’s work to create positive change and make the complex issues we face more accessible to wider audiences. The title refers to IIED’s 2019-2024 strategy, which sets out how IIED plans to respond to the critical challenges of our time.

- Episode 17 “Making sustainable development a reality – movements that inspire change” was recently released.
- Episode 16 is titled “Shifting the power – climate justice means gender justice.”

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### 4. Six steps for evaluations to assess “what will work”

<https://www.iied.org/changing-world-needs-changing-methods-six-steps-for-evaluations-assess-what-will-work>

Climate change is creating unpredictable futures for sustainable development. Yet, evaluation methods for assessing development progress have remained unchanged.

IIED has published a new practical guide for integrating climate risks into sustainable development evaluation. The guide presents six essential steps for evaluators and commissioners to move their evaluations from assessing “what works” to “what will work”. It also includes practical tools to help users integrate climate risks into their evaluation designs. The

publication incorporates learning from IIED's extensive monitoring, evaluation and learning work linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, national and devolved climate evaluation frameworks, biodiversity and life under water.

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## 5. Data training videos from Statistics Canada

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/wtc/data-literacy>

As Canada's national statistical organization, Statistics Canada is committed to sharing our knowledge and expertise to help all Canadians develop their data literacy skills. The goal is to provide learners with information on the basic concepts and skills with regard to a range of data literacy topics.

The training is aimed at those who are new to data or those who have some experience with data but may need a refresher or want to expand their knowledge. We invite you to check out our Learning catalogue to learn more about our offerings including a great collection of short videos. Be sure to check back regularly as we will be continuing to release new training. For example:

- Data ethics: An introduction <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/wtc/data-literacy/catalogue/892000062022001>
- FAIR data principles: What is FAIR? <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/wtc/data-literacy/catalogue/892000062022002>
- What is Data? An Introduction to Data Terminology and Concepts <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/wtc/data-literacy/catalogue/892000062020006>

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## 6. SuperPot

<https://www.ssmstoves.com/Product/Accessories/49.html>

summary report: <http://aprovecho.org/publications-3/> , scroll down to "Pots" section.

In 2014 the UNHCR (The UN's Refugee Agency) conducted pilot testing of the SSM SuperPot in seven refugee camps in four countries in East Africa: Kenya (Kakuma, Dadaab), South Sudan (Yida, Maban), East Sudan (Kilo 26), and Ethiopia (Dollo Ado; Bambasi).

Summary: "Results indicate that the super pot is fuel efficient, effective in saving time, safe and well accepted by the community."

Recommendation: In their summary report, the UNHCR Food Security and Nutrition Unit advised "Procurement and distribution of SuperPot in select humanitarian contexts within priority countries according to needs of the most vulnerable households."

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## 7. Extreme events and gender-based violence: a mixed-methods systematic review

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(22\)00088-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(22)00088-2/fulltext)

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-01903-9>

### Summary

The intensity and frequency of extreme weather and climate events are expected to increase due to anthropogenic climate change. This systematic review explores extreme events and their effect on gender-based violence (GBV) experienced by women, girls, and sexual and gender minorities. We searched ten databases until February, 2022. Grey literature was searched using the websites of key organisations working on GBV and Google. Quantitative studies were described narratively, whereas qualitative studies underwent thematic analysis. We identified 26 381 manuscripts. 41 studies were

included exploring several types of extreme events (ie, storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires) and GBV (eg, sexual violence and harassment, physical violence, witch killing, early or forced marriage, and emotional violence). Studies were predominantly cross-sectional. Although most qualitative studies were of reasonable quality, most quantitative studies were of poor quality. Only one study included sexual and gender minorities. Most studies showed an increase in one or several GBV forms during or after extreme events, often related to economic instability, food insecurity, mental stress, disrupted infrastructure, increased exposure to men, tradition, and exacerbated gender inequality. These findings could have important implications for sexual-transformative and gender-transformative interventions, policies, and implementation. High-quality evidence from large, ethnographically diverse cohorts is essential to explore the effects and driving factors of GBV during and after extreme events.

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## 8. The Farmer's Survival Guide for Women

<https://farmerssurvivalguide.com/farmers-survival-guide-home/farmers-survival-guide-for-women/>

While calling it a survival guide is a bit tongue-in-cheek, this compilation of insights, resources, and tools is meant to help #womeninag navigate an industry that still has a significant Dream Gap (you can read about that on the site) and a way to go until women farm business owners have become the norm.

In FSGwomen you'll find out that being "bossy" is not as terrible as many people would have you believe, and you'll learn how to channel all your frustration and energy for good.

You'll learn about the barriers girls and women in agriculture must overcome (some of them created by ourselves!) and what Canada's agriculture industry could look like if we drew on the strengths and skills of everyone.

And you'll learn how to leverage the three Cs – Contribution, Credibility, and Confidence – to claim your space and offer guidance for others.

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## 9. UNAIDS 2022 Global AIDS Report

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2022/in-danger-global-aids-update>

Parliamentary Secretary Vandenbeld participated in the launch of UNAIDS 2022 Global AIDS Report. The report shows that an emphasis on women and girls is more important than ever to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. It also reinforces the importance of investing in resilient health systems, so that pandemics like COVID-19 do not hold health systems back from delivering life-saving care, prevention, and treatment.

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