



Autumn colour on Northern Gem (Fraxinus nigra Marsh. x F. mandshurica Rupr.). Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Agricultrices du Québec Co-development groups in English

<https://agricultrices.com/>

Co-development is a way for participants to learn by sharing their individual experiences to resolve a situation that a group participant is going through. Groups of women farmers gather on a voluntary, regular basis to share their expertise and knowledge and reflect on problems they have in common.

Who is welcome? All current, aspiring, and next-generation women farmers who are anglophone or bilingual (with English as a mother tongue) living and working in Quebec. Meetings will start in **October**, with more to come later this year.

To learn more about our program, please contact Maria: [malkayed@upa.qc.ca](mailto:malkayed@upa.qc.ca)

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### 2. Results-Based Management 101 | Self-Paced Learning Opportunity

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/rbm101/>

This self-paced eLearning course covers basic RBM concepts, how RBM can be applied and provides participants with hands-on practise using basic RBM tools. This course is out-of-this world as it uses gamification, storytelling and a science-fiction theme to spark your interest and to facilitate learning. If you work for a Canadian small or medium organization (SMO) involved in global development, then this course is for you!

RBM 101 will be a prerequisite for our RBM 201 offerings coming soon.

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### 3. Dream Business Program for rural Manitoba & Saskatchewan residents

<https://mashuplab.ca/communityfutures/>

Do you have a great business idea but just don't know where to start...this FREE Virtual Business Incubator Program can help! Our six week program will guide you through some valuable tools and resources to help you figure out the business model around your idea. What else can you expect from this program?

- 1:1 Coaching Opportunities
- Certificate of Completion
- New connections with other entrepreneurs

There will be six (6) weekly sessions beginning on **November 2nd, running until December 7th, 2022.**

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### 4. Grow Our People Summit

<https://www.cama.org/grow-our-people-summit/>

<https://loft32.ca/growourpeople/>

The Grow Our People Summit will create an opportunity for people in Canadian agriculture and food to come together to learn, connect and grow. **November 2 - 4, 2022, Sheraton Fallsview, Niagara Falls, Ontario.**

The Grow our People summit will have engaging sessions focused on developing your business and people skills. Sessions will be hosted by partners Agriculture in the Classroom Canada, Canadian Agri-Business Education Foundation, Canadian

Agri-Food Marketers Alliance, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council [CAHRC], Do More Ag, Outstanding Young Farmers, Rural Ontario Institute, and the team from Utensil.ca.

As part of this event, CAHRC is a partner supporting the summit with two sessions on retention: “The Human Side of Agriculture: Let’s keep our employees” as well as the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion in ag “Moving beyond the tagline: Creating inclusive spaces in Canadian agriculture”.

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## 5. Webinars: What Works for Women on Collective Lands?

<https://resourceequity.org/webinars-what-works-for-women-on-collective-lands/>

As you likely know, women around the world live on lands that are collectively managed by their communities. Yet they’re often sidelined and left out of discussions regarding land governance, conservation, and resource management. How can we empower them and help them realize gender equity — especially within the context of climate change?

We’ll be exploring practical, field-tested strategies for working with and empowering women within the context of collective lands during two upcoming webinars in November, one best suited for time zones in the Americas and West Africa; the other best suited for all other regions.

Specific to each of their projects, our expert panelists will share their experiences regarding:

- The process for engaging specifically with women and men in the community and key takeaways
- Adapting project goals to meet women’s needs and realities of daily life
- Identifying and collaborating with allies in the community
- Working with and addressing both customary and formal laws pertaining to women’s land rights
- Recommendations for the replication and scaling of key project features, processes, learnings, and implementations

Join us as we explore proven strategies for empowering women living and working on collective lands.

**Thursday, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 18:30 UTC/GMT.** Ideal for time zones in the Americas, Atlantic, and West Africa regions. Panel will be presented in English and simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish and Portuguese.

**Wednesday, Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 07:00 UTC/GMT.** Ideal for time zones in all other regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Pacific). Panel will be presented in English and simultaneous interpretation will be available in Arabic, French, and Russian.

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## 6. Manitoba Farm Women’s Conference

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

The Manitoba Farm Women’s Conference (MFWC) will be on **Nov 15 and Nov 16 in Brandon, Manitoba**. The Manitoba Farm Women’s Conference is a non-profit organization run by volunteer farm women. A conference is planned once a year in one of three cities in Manitoba. Its aim is to provide farm and rural women from around the province with an opportunity to expand knowledge, inform and communicate ideas and, above all, enjoy. The Conference registration fee is \$100.00 due by November 1, 2022.

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## 7. Northern Directions Conference

<https://www.northernpolicy.ca/northern-directions>

The 2022 Northern Directions conference is scheduled to be a two-and-a-half-day event on **November 16, 17 and 18, 2022 in North Bay, Ontario**. The main theme of Northern Directions 2022 is “Working to Scale.” This theme touches on how rural and remote communities, especially those in Northern Ontario and similar locations, can scale best practices,

initiatives, and programs to best fit their communities. Discussions will develop around subthemes such as reconciliation, revitalization and reinvestment, population retention and welcoming, regional transportation, and revenue generation, all focused on rural and remote contexts.

The event will consist of 3 keynote presentations, multiple paper presentation sessions, 2 panels, and your choice of one of four unique field trips to experience rural policy innovation on the ground in Northern Ontario.

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## 8. Virtual Training: Working with partners to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse

[https://cooperation.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/cooperation/event.jsp?event=273&mc\\_cid=72f3e32b44&mc\\_eid=f0d315c026](https://cooperation.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/cooperation/event.jsp?event=273&mc_cid=72f3e32b44&mc_eid=f0d315c026)

Digna, the Canadian Centre of Expertise on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, is pleased to hold a training entitled "Working with partners to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse".

**Dates: November 16, 22 & 23.** Session times: 10am-1pm EST. Cost: \$90

Working with partners: from due diligence to participatory collaborative approaches. Divided into three sessions, the training covers essential basics and draws participants' attention to key issues to take into consideration when working with partners. Participants are provided with sufficient tools "to go further" that they can draw upon in their work with partners after the training. The training will be in English, with a French co-facilitator and materials.

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## 9. Advancing Women Conference

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

Whether you are a student, farmer, entrepreneur in agriculture and food, a representative of a grower association or agribusiness, you will find AWC will motivate you and provide you with information to be a better manager with your organization and inspiring leader in your community. Join us at the largest gathering of women in agriculture in Canada. AWC EAST 2022 on **November 21 & 22, 2022 at the Sheraton Fallsview in Niagara Falls, Ontario.**

One of the sessions is entitled "Violence Experienced by Rural Women: What We Don't Talk About": *Learning what the signs and symptoms of abuse look like for women in rural areas. Addressing why women stay in unsafe situations and how support can be offered.*

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## This Month's News

### 1. From Great Lakes to Great Lakes: African Center for Aquatic Research and Education

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/michigan/stories-in-michigan/great-lakes-african-women-science/>

The African Women in Science (AWIS) program, led by the International Institute of Sustainable Development-African Center for Aquatic Research and Education Program (IISD-ACARE), supports and guides African women scientists to catalyze positive change on the African Great Lakes and their tributaries.

In May 2022, IISD-ACARE sent a delegation from their AWIS program to the North American Great Lakes. The cohort from Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, consisting of teachers, fisheries experts, a meteorologist and PhD students,

spent two weeks meeting with their North American counterparts. This group of women are helping ensure more female scientists' perspectives are part of conversations surrounding fresh water.

African Women in Science have landed in Canada in late September 2022 and are getting their feet wet—figuratively and literally—at IISD Experimental Lakes Area.

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## 2. Women play a lead role in the Canadian alpaca industry

<https://mwaf.ca/women-play-a-lead-role-in-the-canadian-alpaca-industry/>

The alpaca sector is a niche of Canadian agriculture that is run almost exclusively by women and highlights the way in which women are helping to diversify the industry. There are around 100 alpaca farms across the country, and more women have been starting new alpaca farms over the past few years. That is partly because alpacas are environmentally friendly animals to raise, and that's especially important to younger women farmers.

Sandra Brown is owner of Enchanted Grove Alpacas at Komarno, Manitoba, about 60 kilometres north of Winnipeg. Sandra's farm store sells a range of items from alpaca socks and mitts, alpaca bears and stuffies to smaller items like finger puppets, keychains and pen toppers. She offers felted dryer balls and insoles made from the secondary fibre and sells salted soaps that are made by another local person. She's now working to develop an online store, as currently most of her sales are through farmer's markets, craft sales or from the farm, where she also hosts tours.

Sandra plans to diversify the farm and business in a number of ways. She and husband Clint are increasing the herd size from 45 to 120 animals over the next five years to produce more products. She is also starting to breed Sarplaninac, livestock guardian dogs from Macedonia, both to protect their own herd and sell to other alpaca farms as guardian animals. She wants to expand on the farm tours and offer an agri-tourism program to increase people's awareness and knowledge of what an alpaca is, and the many uses for their wool.

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## 3. World Food Prize 2022

[https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/laureates/2022\\_rosenzweig/](https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/laureates/2022_rosenzweig/)

Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig of the United States will receive the 2022 World Food Prize for her seminal contributions to understanding and predicting the impacts of the interaction between climate and food systems. Through designing and leading rigorous, collaborative observational and modeling research, she provided the evidence used by thousands of decision-makers in more than 90 countries to both mitigate and adapt to climate change in local, national and global food systems.

Models are powerful computational tools used in climate, agricultural and economic research to conceptualize current interactions and project future trends. Rosenzweig is an innovator in modeling science, leading vital studies that have shaped the global debate on climate change and agriculture. An agronomist and climatologist, she has been a leader in the field of food and climate since the early 1980s. She has shaped our understanding of the tight relationship between food systems and climate change—that is, severe fluctuations in climate threaten our capacity to feed and nourish humanity while effective mitigation and adaptation strategies both curb climate change and enhance sustainable food production.

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## 4. USAID Announces New Actions to Fight Global Hunger

<https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/oct-19-2022-administrator-power-delivers-feeding-world-we-now-face-speech>

USAID Administrator Samantha Power called for an acceleration and expansion of agricultural innovation and investment as a critical pillar of addressing current and future global food crises and announced new USAID initiatives to improve



agricultural production around the world, strengthen resilience, and address the root causes of hunger, malnutrition, and poverty.

- During her remarks, Administrator Power highlighted the launch today of the U.S. Government’s Global Food Security Research Strategy, underscoring the U.S. government’s commitment to ending hunger and malnutrition and building sustainable resilient food systems.
- The Administrator also announced \$75 million in new funding to scale large-scale food fortification efforts – one of the most impactful ways to tackle malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies that increases the nutritional value of commonly consumed food products by adding essential vitamins and minerals during processing.
- Power also announced funding to accelerate the latest seed breeding technologies. USAID will invest \$3.8 million to support the ISAAA AfriCenter, Kenyatta University, and Addis Ababa University to expand the use of their Nobel Prize-winning genome editing technology to develop new varieties of sorghum that are resistant to devastating weed infestations common in most parts of Africa.
- The Administrator announced more than \$27 million in additional funding to expand the Space to Place initiative across sub-Saharan Africa to improve efficient fertilization application. Led by U.S. universities and the International Fertilizer Development Center, the Space to Place initiative uses satellite imagery and remote sensing to help researchers provide farmers with recommendations and training on exactly how much fertilizer to apply, and where to apply it.
- USAID also released the 2022 Snapshot for Feed the Future, providing an update on the scale of the impact of the U.S. initiative to fight global hunger. To date, Feed the Future investments have unlocked more than \$4.8 billion in agricultural financing, leveraged more than \$2.6 billion in private-sector investment in food security, and generated more than \$17.9 billion in agricultural sales for smallholder farmers.

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## 5. IDRC Research Fellowship Recipients

<https://idrc.ca/en/news/bentley-and-hopper-bhatia-research-award-recipients-announced>

The 2022 Bentley and Hopper-Bhatia Award winners are advancing research on the economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs and women's participation in urban agriculture.

The **Hopper-Bhatia and IDRC Research Award** is offered is available to young, early-career scholars doing work related to the empowerment of girls, women, and Indigenous communities. Sandra Sagbohan, doctoral student at the University of Ottawa, received the Hopper-Bhatia and IDRC research grant. Sagbohan studies the impact of mobile money (a pay-per-use digital medium of exchange) on women's economic empowerment in Togo.

The **Bentley Award** is offered to an IDRC-supported researcher doing work related to agriculture. Maude Jodoin-Léveillé, a PhD student at l’Université de Montréal, is the 2022 recipient of the Bentley and IDRC Research Award. Jodoin-Léveillé’s project, part of the Centre’s Climate-Resilient Food Systems program, is focused on strengthening women’s participation in urban agriculture in the cities of Lomé in Togo and Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. Her research will explore the employment trajectory of women in the urban agriculture sector and identify ways to increase women's involvement in the creation of more sustainable green cities, particularly through urban and peri-urban agriculture.

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## 6. Conservative nations block UN gender and food guidelines

<https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-conservative-nations-block-un-gender-and-food-guidelines-104151>

The document, known formally as the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women’s and Girls’ Empowerment, aims to “advance gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights, and women’s empowerment as part of their efforts to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.”

A group of nations is upset with the wording chosen in the United Nations guidelines on gender and food systems and have refused to sign the document, threatening to reverse progress on international gender equality. Apparently, the conservative group — which includes Indonesia, Russia, Malaysia, and China — objects to six phrases: “multiple intersecting forms of discrimination,” “sexual and gender-based violence,” “women and girls in all their diversity,” “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights,” “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” and “an intersectional approach to gender.”

That’s basically everything. Phrases referencing the LGBTQ community were particularly contentious, says Teresa Welsh in her exclusive story. Magdalena Ackermann, who consulted on the draft document, says she was “surprised and concerned” when objections to the text were raised at the last minute.

The problem is the document was drawn up by the U.N. Committee on World Food Security, a Rome-based body that operates on consensus. That means an objection from any country can stonewall the entire process. So now, they’re back to the drawing board.

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## **7. New academics at Faculty of Agricultural & Food Sciences at U of Manitoba**

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/a-new-crop-of-academics-join-the-faculty/>

Four new academic members joined the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences in the last several months. Leslie Redmond joined the Department of Food and Human Nutritional Sciences as Assistant Professor in Food, Culture and Health. Joanne Thiessen Martens joined the Department of Soil Science as Assistant Professor in Soil Chemistry and Fertility. Natasha Jacobson joined the Department of Biosystems Engineering (co-located in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and the Price Faculty of Engineering). Dilshan Benaragama joined the Department of Plant Science as an Assistant Professor and industry research chair in Crop Protection (Weed Science).

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## **8. Successful Climate Solutions Require Investment in the Lives of Adolescent Girls**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/10/successful-climate-solutions-require-investment-lives-adolescent-girls/>

This year commemorates the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child. While the last decade has seen greater attention on the positive development needs of girls, we must move beyond documenting the barriers that girls face to investing in and prioritizing girl-centered solutions to the critical development challenges of our world.

When climate change exacerbates existing inequities or the exclusion of girls – including their protection and access to functional, soft, life and technical skills development – household, community, and national level health and education outcomes are negatively affected, sometimes even for generations.

There is a clear opportunity to connect the dots for those who occupy and are best placed to protect the land and its resources, as well as reinforce the health and safety of their households. In rural areas, especially, adolescent girls will become the next generation’s agricultural labor force.

If women worldwide are 40% of the agricultural labor force and responsible for more than half the world’s food production, and if education and skills training are prioritized for them, households will move beyond subsistence level farming to engage more as micro-businesses supporting farm-to-table supply and value chains.

This strengthens women-led engagement in diversifying agricultural approaches, through aquaculture and apiculture, and the connection of these innovations to economic development, as well as better health and nutrition outcomes.

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## 9. Poverty Impacts on Efforts to End Child Marriage, say Parliamentarians

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/09/poverty-impacts-efforts-end-child-marriage-say-parliamentarians/>

Johannesburg, Sep 29 2022 (IPS) - Child marriage continues to be a scourge in many African countries – despite legislation and efforts of many, including parliamentarians, to keep girls in school and create brighter futures for them. This was the view of participants in a recent webinar held under the auspices of the African Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (FPA) and UNFPA East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO).

The webinar, supported by the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Japan Trust Fund, heard how progressive legislation prohibiting marriage for adolescents under 18, and in one case, 21, was not enough to stop the practice. Dr Kiyoko Ikegami, Executive Director, and Secretary General, APDA, noted in her opening address that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected child marriage prevention programmes and increased poverty and inequality, which was a driving force in child marriages.

Matthew Ngwale, an MP from Malawi, said, despite “progressive legislation, Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world, where approximately 42% of girls get married before the age of 18, and 9% are below the age of 15. Approximately 7% of boys marry before the age of 18.” He also noted that child marriage is higher in rural than urban areas. Rural girls are 1.6 times more likely to marry early than their urban counterparts. Poverty is a clear driver, with women in the predominantly ‘poor’ south marrying at a slightly lower age than those in the ‘wealthier’ north and central regions. Child marriage impacts secondary school completion rates. In Malawi, only 45% of girls stay in school beyond 8th grade.

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## 10. First ever release of organic cotton varieties in India

<https://www.bioecoactual.com/en/2022/09/16/first-ever-release-of-organic-cotton-varieties-india/>

<https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/news/first-ever-release-of-organic-cotton-varieties-in-india>

<https://youtu.be/ynYCbl-iDa4>

Good organic seeds for cotton were hard to find. Not anymore: Over ten years of breeding resulted in success. Two new organic cotton varieties have recently been made available to farmers. These are the first ever cotton varieties of India bred under organic conditions. The varieties were developed through a decentralised organic participatory breeding program of FiBL Switzerland and partners.

The farmer’s knowledge and needs are reflected well in the two new varieties, which are a result of over ten years of breeding work. These improved varieties are the outcome of joint efforts made under the project “Seeding the Green Future” (SGF). The project is a participatory organic cotton breeding program which directly supports smallholder farmers in India and strongly involves them in the research for development.

Tanay Joshi, SGF project coordinator at FiBL, emphasizes the importance of participatory breeding, “The innovative model of collaboration is an example of the amalgamation of formal and farmer-managed seed system. It has the potential to scale up decentralised cotton breeding initiatives resulting in non-GM cotton varieties that meet the fibre quality requirements of the textile industry.”

The YouTube video provides the following gender data: “For capacity development of farmers and farmers’ organizations, 215 trainers and 425 farmers, including 16% females, have been trained to train fellow farmers in various aspects of plant breeding and management of cotton production.”

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## **11. Opinion: Older people are ignored in emergencies to everyone's peril**

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-older-people-are-ignored-in-emergencies-to-everyone-s-peril-104079>

When emergencies are declared, women and children are often the affected groups we hear about most. This is not surprising — and of course important given the vulnerabilities they face amid human-made and natural disasters, such as food crises, earthquakes, floods, and war. But they are not the only group at risk. Older people, who have their own vulnerabilities, are rarely mentioned or even included as a priority group, despite the obvious challenges they face. It is hard to secure funding for programs focusing on older people.

The drought in East Africa has been a real test case, given that older people are literally starving to death. But their specific nutrition needs are seldom factored into aid responses. They also often lose out to those with greater speed and mobility when food distributions are carried out.

In East Africa, drought is forcing people from pastoralist communities to migrate hundreds of miles in an attempt to find food and water for their livestock. Those who can take the strain of these arduous long journeys leave their young children behind in the care of their parents.

In the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia, 93% of people over 60 have been left caring for their grandchildren, recent research shows. In South Sudan, it's 97%. But many told us they can't feed themselves, never mind the children in their care, and this is causing high levels of anxiety.

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## **12. Lives Hang in the Balance as Kenya's ASAL Region Ravaged by Severe Prolonged Drought**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/10/lives-hang-in-the-balance-as-kenyas-asal-region-is-ravaged-by-a-severe-prolonged-drought/>

Garissa is one out of 23 Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties ravaged by an ongoing severe drought as three years have gone by without a drop of rainfall. Children, pregnant and lactating women are severely affected by the acute food shortage, and diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, and malaria are on the rise across drought-stricken regions.

Government data shows that the ongoing drought situation is the climax of four consecutive below-average rainy seasons in ASAL regions of this East African nation. As a result, an estimated 4.2 million people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, according to the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal.

The ongoing drought is the most severe in four decades, prompting the government to declare a national drought emergency.

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## **13. Planning land use and access in Tanzania: women have their say**

<https://www.iied.org/planning-land-use-access-tanzania-women-have-their-say>

Guest blogger Isabella Nchimbi of the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) describes how an innovative project captures the perspectives of women in rural communities to inform land use planning.

In Tanzania, customary land rights are recognised in the Land Act and Village Land Act. Yet legally recognised rights do not equate to secured rights, and ever-mounting pressures from investments, climate change and population growth are increasingly threatening communities' access to and control over land. Women find themselves on the sharp end of, and undermined by, the growing pressures that threaten rural communities' land rights.

To improve land tenure security for rural communities, promote sustainable land use and reduce conflicts, the government is undertaking village land use planning (VLUP), a lengthy and expensive process which involves demarcating village boundaries and zoning village land for different uses. Examples include identifying residential areas, demarcating land for farming and grazing, and mapping out forests for foraging and harvesting firewood. Once land uses have been mapped out, a land use plan is prepared, and parcels are officially assigned to community members who can apply for Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs). The VLUP is critical for communities: this process determines rights to access, use and control over land and natural resources, and will have a lasting impact on their futures.

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## 14. Overcoming obstacles to women's land tenure security in Guinea

<https://www.iied.org/overcoming-obstacles-womens-land-tenure-security-guinea>

As Guinea launches a new reform of its land governance, Nentébou Barry, director of C-DEV, an NGO that campaigns for the rights of vulnerable populations, recounts her organisation's successful efforts to strengthen women's access to land by giving them a voice.

Although mining has been carried out in Boké since the early 1970s, it is only since around 2015 that it experienced a real boom. Around 15 mining companies now operate there. These extractive activities put huge pressure on land, and particularly on land used for agriculture, which threatens the livelihoods and food security of local communities. Because their access to land is so precarious, women are first to be impacted by these pressures.

Indeed, according to customary practices, which are highly prevalent in rural areas, women typically have only insecure access to land and cannot own it.

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## 15. Re-launch of the GENDER Impact Platform

<https://gender.cgiar.org/conferences/gender-science-exchange-2022/re-launch-gender-impact-platform-and-opening-plenary>

In its role as an impact platform, learn how CGIAR GENDER will support CGIAR to put equality and inclusion at the heart of food systems research by providing cutting-edge robust evidence and methods and by setting strategic directions for current and future research efforts. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, the CGIAR GENDER Platform was relaunched as a CGIAR Impact Platform. To set the stage for the CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform's new mandate on gender equality, youth and social inclusion, a panel provided insights on opportunities and challenges for young agripreneurs.

The link to Gender Research is <https://gender.cgiar.org/gender-research>.

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## 16. Opinion: What can be done to address widespread 'hidden hunger'?

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-what-can-be-done-to-address-widespread-hidden-hunger-103995>

For decades it was widely believed that 2 billion people suffer from the “hidden hunger” of micronutrient deficiencies. But a new study by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, or GAIN, shows that it's likely far higher: 2 in 3 women between 15 and 49 years of age are deficient in one or more micronutrients, and in some countries, that soars to 9 in 10.

In an op-ed for Devex, Ty Beal and Mduduzi NN Mbuya of GAIN, and Lynnette Neufeld of FAO say poor access to nutritious foods is a major driver of this type of malnutrition. And this has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the food and fuel price crises resulting from the war in Ukraine, and droughts and other extreme weather events.

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## 17. Small Farmers in Peru Combat ‘Machismo’ to Live Better Lives

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/10/small-farmers-peru-combat-machismo-live-better-lives/>

In this South American country of 33 million people, tolerance of violence, particularly gender-based violence, is high, and there is a strong division of roles within couples. Katherine Pozo, a Cuzco lawyer with the rural development program of the Flora Tristán Peruvian Women’s Center, told IPS that masculinity in Peru, particularly in rural areas, is still very machista or sexist.

Based on that analysis the Center decided to involve men in the work they do in rural communities in Cuzco to help women exercise their rights and have greater autonomy in making decisions about their lives, promoting the approach to a new kind of masculinity among men. In 2018 the Center launched this process, convinced that it was necessary to raise awareness among men about gender equality so that women’s efforts to break down discrimination could flourish. The project will continue until next year and is supported by two Spanish institutions: the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation and Muguen Gaietik.

IPS visited different Quechua indigenous villages in Cuzco’s Andes highlands to talk to farmers who are working to shed gender prejudices and beliefs that, they acknowledge, have brought them unhappiness. Now, they are gradually taking significant steps with the support of the Center, which is working to generate a new view of masculinity in these communities.

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## 18. Top Ten Reads: Careful Attention to Gender Can Help the World Build Back Better Post COVID-19

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/top-ten-reads-careful-attention-to-gender-can-help-the-world-build-back-better-post-covid-19/>

As of 2021, about 828 million people in the world are facing hunger, and reports indicate that 50 million of this face chronic hunger. While there had been promising progress in reducing global hunger and malnutrition, the COVID-19 pandemic dealt a major setback, pushing an additional 150 million people into hunger and plunging the world into a worse situation as the number of undernourished people increased, compounded by climate change and conflict.

In Africa, there’s already significant evidence of the severe impacts of climate change and the pandemic. This has further pushed back concentrated efforts around ending hunger by 2030. Across the region, women smallholders bear the brunt, experiencing more negative impacts than men.

On the bright side, the current crisis has brought renewed energy by governments, private and public sectors, and other agricultural value chain actors to call for urgent transformation of our food systems. Amidst these conversations is the increasing need to provide more gender-responsive strategies and policies capable of building equitable agri-food systems and climate resilience. This month, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) provides top ten expert articles, opinions, and recommendations on the potential opportunities of integrating gender in building back better.

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## 19. Rural Women Work the Hardest, Produce the Most, Eat the Least

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/10/rural-women-work-hardest-produce-eat-least/>

Some facts on the occasion of this year’s International Day of Rural Women on 15 October:

- Rural women are less able to access land, credit, agricultural inputs, markets, and high-value agrifood chains and obtain lower prices for their crops,
- Structural barriers and discriminatory social norms continue to constrain women’s decision-making power and participation in rural households and communities.

- Women and girls in rural areas lack equal access to productive resources and assets, public services, such as education and health care, and infrastructure, including water and sanitation,
- Much of their labour remains invisible and unpaid, even as their workloads become increasingly heavy due to the out-migration of men.
- Globally, with few exceptions, every gender and development indicator for which data are available reveals that rural women fare worse than rural men and urban women,
- Rural women disproportionately experience poverty, exclusion, and the effects of climate change.
- In short, women account for a substantial proportion of the agricultural labour force, including informal work, and perform the bulk of unpaid care and domestic work within families and households in rural areas.

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## 20. The Search Is on for Mysterious Banana Ancestors

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/17/science/banana-ancestors-genes.html>

“Hybridization, missing wild ancestors and the domestication of cultivated diploid bananas”

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2022.969220>

The banana family tree as a whole is even more diverse, and mysterious, than previously thought, according to a study published earlier this month in the journal *Frontiers in Plant Science*.

“The diversity of bananas is not as well described, as well documented, as we thought,” said Julie Sardos, a botanist at the Bioversity International research group, and an author of the study. “It was really overlooked by past researchers.”

She and her colleagues analyzed genetic material from hundreds of different bananas and found that there were at least three wild banana ancestors not yet discovered by botanists. They found that there were three ancestors that they couldn’t account for. One seemed to have a strong genetic imprint on bananas in Southeast Asia. Another was localized around the island of Borneo. The third seemed to be from New Guinea. But other than leaving their genetic mark in certain geographic clusters of domesticated banana plants, these wild ancestors remained completely mysterious to the scientists.

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## 21. In tying a sacred thread, Indian villagers restore their forests

<https://www.context.news/nature/in-tying-a-sacred-thread-indian-villagers-restore-their-forests>

During the annual Vriksha Raksha Bandhan festival, villagers celebrate their connection to nature, pledging to keep away loggers and only use the forest sustainably. In an annual ritual that has been performed in Lukaiya for the past 20 years, people consecrated the trees with floral garlands and smears of vermilion and turmeric paste as they pledged to protect the forest from the axe and the saw. An all-women brigade is dedicated to protecting the forest near Lukaiya. The ritual, part of an annual festival, stems from the ancient Hindu celebration of Raksha Bandhan, when sisters tie embellished bracelets called rakhi around their brothers' wrists to symbolise love and protection.

Today the once-bare stretch of land is covered in 100 hectares (247 acres) of native trees, mainly sal and mahua, also known as honey tree. The tree protection festival helped boost forest cover across Jharkhand state by 85,000 hectares between 2005 and 2020.

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## 22. Why some women in Pakistan are being left behind in the floods

<https://odi.org/en/insights/left-behind-in-pakistan-why-some-women-cant-flee-the-floods/>

Encircled by rising floodwaters, the remote community of Basti Ahmad Din in Punjab Province has become an island, cut off from its neighbours and only accessible by boat. Despite chronic shortages of food and supplies and the spread of

waterborne disease, only the men were permitted by community elders to travel to the nearest relief camp for aid and supplies. The women of Basti Ahmad Din stayed put. Not because they were physically unable to move, but because their leaders were unwilling to risk compromising their honour.

A strict honour system prohibits women in conservative communities in Pakistan from mixing with men outside of their families. Moving to higher ground would compromise this, as it entails leaving the seclusion of home, passing through public spaces and resorting to emergency shelter often shared with strangers.

The women of Basti Ahmad Din are similarly displaced in place. While they themselves haven't physically moved, the world around them is changed and almost unrecognisable, with farmland, buildings and roads now underwater. And, trapped in a community cut off from assistance, their experiences of hardship and suffering echo those endured by IDPs who have had to move elsewhere.

As the scale and intensity of climate change becomes increasingly apparent, more attention must be paid to the nuanced and gendered experiences of women and children who are often most at risk, but least able to move.

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## 23. Four key messages from CBA16

<https://www.iied.org/four-key-messages-cba16>

Just a month before COP27, the 16th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation offered a timely opportunity for practitioners and policymakers to set out important messages on supporting locally led adaptation.

- Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) is essential for climate justice
- The power of local knowledge in local climate action
- Reforming delivery of climate finance
- Climate change adaptation is a process

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## 24. AICCRA Senegal launch gender-smart accelerator challenge

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/aiccra-senegal-launch-gender-smart-accelerator-challenge>

AICCRA Senegal are launching a gender smart accelerator challenge and a post-accelerator program, dedicated to women entrepreneurs and agri-SMEs with a strong gender component, that will contribute to scaling climate smart business models through gender-smart investment in Senegal.

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## 25. Vandana Shiva on why the food we eat matters

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20210127-vandana-shiva-on-why-the-food-we-eat-matters>

Q: You're a vocal food sovereignty advocate. What's your definition of food sovereignty and how do you feel food sovereignty helps enhance the world's biodiversity and preserve local cultures?

*For me, food sovereignty is sovereignty over your life, livelihood and health. We are interconnected, therefore food sovereignty is an ecological process of co-creation with other lifeforms. It begins with seed sovereignty: saving and using living seeds. It involves care for the land and soil. We cannot have food sovereignty if we do not feed the soil organisms.*

*Food sovereignty is based on organic farming and avoiding chemicals and poisons. Food sovereignty includes knowledge sovereignty, economic sovereignty and political sovereignty.*



Q: As you've pointed out many times, women plant and cultivate most of the world's food. Why is food sovereignty especially relevant for women?

*I have realised over four decades of research and action that most farmers of the world are women. They grow food as nourishment, not as commodities. They grow food for health, not disease. Through wars and famines, through floods and droughts, they have kept alive the memory of their seeds and foods.*

*Women have the potential to lead the transition to regenerate the Earth, her biodiversity and our health and nutrition.*

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## 26. Clean Cooking Forum

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

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) and the Government of Ghana welcomed more than 700 in-person attendees from over 60 countries to the global Clean Cooking Forum in Ghana from October 11-13.

The landmark event, also watched by 2,500+ virtual attendees, showcased the need – as well as the path forward – for mobilizing the necessary investment, innovations, partnerships, and policies to achieve clean cooking for all and accelerate progress toward global climate and development goals.

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## 27. “Extraordinary Women in Business” List

<https://cleancooking.org/news/fortune-magazine-names-clean-cooking-alliance-ceo-dymphna-van-der-lans-to-its-extraordinary-women-in-business-list/>

Fortune Magazine names Clean Cooking Alliance CEO Dymphna van der Lans to its “Extraordinary Women in Business” List.

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## 28. India's women farm workers suffer job losses from climate shocks

<https://www.context.news/climate-risks/indias-women-farm-workers-suffer-job-losses-from-climate-shocks>

Extreme weather - from droughts and floods to heatwaves - are hurting Indian farmworkers, with women the hardest hit.

- Indian women farm workers lose out due to extreme weather
- Women in agriculture bear brunt but have little recourse
- Activists say many rural women unaware of government aid

Farming accounts for nearly 15% of India's almost \$3 trillion economy and sustains half of its population. Yet as its rural agricultural workforce becomes more female-dominated due to male migration to urban areas, erratic weather often leaves women having to deal with the fallout alone.

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## 29. We Can't Fight Climate Change Without Fighting for Gender Equity

<https://hbr.org/2022/07/we-cant-fight-climate-change-without-fighting-for-gender-equity>

*Summary:* Gender equity and environmental sustainability may seem like unrelated issues, but research shows that they are in fact closely intertwined. Women and other underserved groups are disproportionately impacted by the global climate

crisis, but they are also uniquely positioned to lead the fight for sustainability. In this piece, the authors offer six strategies to help business and political leaders empower women and address environmental challenges through an intersectional approach to sustainability. Ultimately, they argue that to tackle climate change (as well as the myriad other sustainability challenges that face today’s organizations), leaders must acknowledge the complexity and interconnectedness of these issues — and work to develop integrated solutions that will improve them all.

1. Promote women’s representation in climate policy and decision-making.
2. Craft narratives that inspire girls and women to pursue STEM careers.
3. Narrow the gender data gap.
4. Report on your performance for E, S, G...and their intersections. ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance.
5. Normalize men caring about climate.
6. Self-educate.

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### **30. Sierra Leone has new land rights law to promote gender and tribal equality and social justice**

<https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/sierra-leone-now-has-new-land-rights-law-to-promote-gender-and-tribal-equality-and-social-justice/>

After sixty years of procrastination, the Parliament of Sierra Leone has passed into law “The Customary Land Rights Act 2022”, which the government says will address deep inequalities and discrimination in the ownership and control of land, especially in the provinces. The new law will give rights to all Sierra Leoneans to own land anywhere, irrespective of their tribe or gender.

Addressing centuries old discrimination against the Creoles, who under existing laws cannot own land in the provinces, the minister said that with the passing of the Customary Land Right Act 2022, the Creoles will have the right to own land everywhere.

The new law will also promote gender equality and ensure that marriage couples can jointly register land ownership. Title to land will be registered in family names to ensure collective consent is secured in disposing of family-owned land.

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### **31. Opinion: Wanted — Women’s empowerment guidelines to fight food crisis**

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-wanted-women-s-empowerment-guidelines-to-fight-food-crisis-104255>

Food insecurity is one more obstacle in the slow march toward gender equality. Globally, women are 27% more likely to be food insecure than men and that gap is expected to rise amid the current food crisis, Noline de Haan, director of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research GENDER Impact Platform, writes in an op-ed for Devex.

Countries ought to adopt women’s empowerment guidelines to ensure women gain access to the food and nutrition that they need during the crisis as well as access to agricultural finance tools that will set them up for a more promising future, according to de Haan.

What does that look like? Well, it could look like Tanzania’s national action plan for gender and equality in small-scale fisheries, which was inspired by voluntary United Nations’ guidelines and officially adopted in 2021, she says. It also could mean calling for the inclusion of women and girls in food systems decision-making and leadership, de Haan writes.

In Kenya, for example, the grassroots women’s organization GROOTS convened women farmers to advocate for policy change. Several members have since gained positions in county governments, where they have a direct voice in ensuring

programs serve their needs. For instance, they have advocated for greater access to finance and investment that support women farmers.

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## Reports, Publications, Resources

### 1. Global Girlhood Report 2022: Girls on the Frontline

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/report-girls-living-conflict-face-20-higher-risk-child-marriage>

Save the Children’s flagship annual report on gender equality, the Global Girlhood Report 2022: Girls on the Frontline was released on October 11. This year’s adolescent-friendly report provides a new resource for girl advocates featuring first of its kind data analysis on the quantitative effect of conflict on child marriage, as well as longitudinal research based on more than 600 interviews with young women and girls married as children.

Among its recommendations to end child marriage, Save the Children is calling on governments to:

- Increase funding and efforts to address gender-based violence against girls, including funding for child protection in humanitarian crises.
- Invest in scaling up initiatives to end child marriage that rely on evidence and make them available to more girls in more places.
- Support and fund girls to define solutions to the challenges they face by strengthening girl-led movements.
- Develop and fully-fund national action plans to end child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence and violence against children.
- Develop research to better understand how to prevent the "four C's" (COVID, conflict, climate change and the rising cost of living) from reversing progress to end child marriage.
- Ensure they uphold their promises to girls made in their own laws and global agreements like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, SDGs and Generation Equality Global Acceleration Plan.

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### 2. Plan International asks young women about gender bias and politics

<https://www.planusa.org/report/equal-power-now-girls-young-women-and-political-participation/>

Plan International’s 2022 State of the World’s Girls report is focused on girls’ and young women’s political participation, based on a survey of close to 29,000 girls and young women ages 15-24 from 29 countries. Findings reveal they feel undervalued and say gender bias is the biggest barrier to participating in politics.

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### 3. Micronutrient deficiencies among preschool-aged children and women of reproductive age worldwide

*Micronutrient deficiencies among preschool-aged children and women of reproductive age worldwide: a pooled analysis of individual-level data from population-representative surveys*

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(22\)00367-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(22)00367-9/fulltext)

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(22\)00367-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(22)00367-9)

The research “Micronutrient Deficiencies Among Preschool-aged Children and Women of Reproductive Age Worldwide” was a collaborative project led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, through the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Advancing Nutrition project, along with a team of global micronutrient experts, including an advisory panel brought together by the Micronutrient Forum.

Micronutrient deficiencies compromise immune systems, hinder child growth and development, and affect human potential worldwide. Yet, to our knowledge, the only existing estimate of the global prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies is from over 30 years ago and is based only on the prevalence of anaemia. We aimed to estimate the global and regional prevalence of deficiency in at least one of three micronutrients among preschool-aged children (aged 6–59 months) and non-pregnant women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years).

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## 4. Women and Water Webinar

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlduGtrTloH9C3qTV97rnjrp\\_QCq167fWt](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlduGtrTloH9C3qTV97rnjrp_QCq167fWt)

The webinar took place on October 12th hosted by WaterAid, The Canadian Coalition on Climate Change & Development and the United Nations University. It included statements and presentations to demonstrate water security evidence, WASH as a pathway for gender equality, and the essential element of gender-responsive climate finance that includes investment in water, sanitation, and hygiene.

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## 5. Climate-Smart Agriculture in African Countries: A Review of Strategies and Impacts on Smallholder Farmers

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/one-planet-laureate-candidates-publish-a-review-of-climate-smart-agriculture-in-africa/>

<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/18/11370/htm>

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su141811370>

### *Abstract*

The agricultural sector contributes approximately 10–20% of the total anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions. Consequently, climate change can negatively affect crop yields and livestock production thus threatening food security, especially in a vulnerable continent like Africa. This review provides an overview of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and their impacts on smallholder farmers in five African countries (Algeria, Senegal, Benin, Nigeria and Zambia). A total of 164 published articles on CSA practices were reviewed. Analysis of extracted data showed that CSA practices are classified as follows: agricultural practices, restoration practices of degraded lands, forest and cropland regeneration practices, practices in the livestock sub-sector, water resources and use of weather and climate information services. Moreover, climate change effects differed alongside strategies adapted from one country to another. Adoption of these strategies was often influenced by financial means put in place by governments, the role of policy legislation, access to climate information and farmers' intellectual level. To address this deficiency, scientific-outcome-based research should be used to increase the effectiveness of climate adaptation management programs. In conclusion, to enhance the uptake of climate-smart agricultural practices in Africa, this review recommends the use of scientific-research-driven adaptation measures and prioritization of climate change in governments' agendas.

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## 6. Taking stock of smallholder inclusion in modern value chains: ambitions, reality and signs of change

<https://www.iied.org/do-women-have-meaningful-role-global-value-chains-why-does-matter>

<https://www.iied.org/21086iied>

This report examines the promise and reality of including smallholders from developing countries in modern value chains as a path to sustainable development. Drawing on an extensive literature review and interviews with diverse stakeholders, we

lay out the ambitions, expectations and assumptions hanging on smallholder inclusion with regard to income, gender equity and environmental sustainability. We describe the gaps between expectation and reality, suggesting that inclusion — as conceptualised and implemented — is poorly suited to the complex challenges faced by farmers. We identify five signs of change in the discussion about smallholder inclusion and reflect on what these might mean for its future.

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## **7. Women are the driving force behind the clean cooking transition.**

<https://cleancooking.org/forum2022/program/#tab-2>

*Day 2, October 12-2022 at the Clean Cooking Forum in Ghana: Fearless Leadership: Women Building a Better World*

Women are the driving force behind the clean cooking transition – feeding their families, working in sales, leading enterprises, implementing policy and structuring finance. They spark innovation despite all odds, they persist in the face of obstacles and insist on building a better future for all.

For too long the conversation around gender and clean cooking has focused on women as victims – suffering the disproportionate impacts of poor health and safety – or merely as passive beneficiaries, receiving improved solutions delivered by well-meaning donors. But this historic narrative does not reflect reality.

Accelerating access to clean cooking is a critical tool for empowering women and advancing gender equality. Women are essential to the widespread adoption and use of clean cooking solutions. Their agency as household decision makers and consumers should not be underestimated. Their involvement as employees & entrepreneurs helps businesses thrive. Their leadership in policy and finance is essential to achieving progress at scale.

This session will delve into the stories and experiences of women working across the clean cooking ecosystem – as policy makers, entrepreneurs and investors – discussing the unique issues impacting women and how we can ensure that women have equal opportunities to lead, participate in and benefit from a just and inclusive energy transition.

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## **8. LandWise Legal Library and Women’s Land Rights**

<https://resourceequity.org/landwise-updates-october-2022/>

Our LandWise legal library represents the most comprehensive collection of laws and legal materials related to women’s land and resource rights.

- During the month of September, we added new and updated laws and resources sourced from Nepal, Nicaragua, and Vietnam.
- During the month of August, we added new and updated laws and resources sourced from the Dominican Republic, Madagascar, and Mexico.
- During the month of July, we added legal updates from Chile, Costa Rica, and Ghana to the library:

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