



Winter sunset through bare branches. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Fair Trade Handbook Webinar Series

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/cftn-webinar-series-fair-trade-hand-book-session-3-tickets-442467671717>

December 1. Join us virtually to hear from four authors from the third section of the Fair Trade Handbook, theme will be Pursuing Global Justice. This interactive session will include time for virtual networking, plus some fun trivia to round out the panel discussion. You can RSVP your spot.

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2. SCWIST is proud to introduce STEM Streams

<https://scwist.ca/programs/stemstreams/>

The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST) was founded in 1981 as a not-for-profit association to encourage and advance women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

STEM Streams is our new pilot pre-employment and skills development training program that provides support for women* interested in STEM careers. We are looking specifically for women* who identify as any of these underrepresented groups: racialized, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQ+, living with disabilities and/or prolonged detachment from the labour force.

Participants will receive a FREE series of 8 workshops centred around boosting employment skills and preparedness for STEM jobs. This program will be delivered in **British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba**. Enrolment is now open, so fill out an Expression of Interest Form or visit our website to learn more.

SCWIST acknowledges we are guests on the traditional and often unceded lands of numerous First Peoples and have a responsibility towards decolonization.

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3. Learning Opportunity | Reporting Mechanisms and Community Engagement

https://cooperation.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/cooperation/event.jsp?event=278&mc_cid=21e1ee4eae&mc_eid=0c1ee662c3

Digna, the Canadian Centre of Expertise on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, is pleased to hold a virtual training from **December 5-8** on good practices for reporting and responding to sexual violence, developing a sexual violence reporting mechanism for your organization, and community engagement.

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4. Call for Nominations for the Cooperation Canada Awards is Now Open

<https://cooperation.ca/awards-2022/>

The Cooperation Canada Awards recognizes excellence and merit in the field of international cooperation by awarding prizes to individuals or organizations that have distinguished themselves in the past year.

The *Karen Takacs Award* is presented annually to an individual who has notably, by virtue of working collaboratively, made a difference in the lives of women globally. The award honours outstanding collaborative leadership and commitment to promoting women's equality.

World University Service of Canada (WUSC) and Cooperation Canada, in collaboration with the trustees of the Lewis Perinbam Award, jointly present the call for nominations for the *Innovation and Impact Awards* in honour of Lewis Perinbam. These awards recognize Canadian individuals and civil society organizations that are doing impactful and innovative work in the field of global development.

The call for nominations is now open until **December 11th**.

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5. Online Course - What Works for Women on Collective Land?

<https://resourceequity.org/institute/course-201-intensive-collective-lands/>

During this intensive online course, we will share and discuss proven strategies that ensure women are included in decisions of governance, management, conservation, and development of the collective lands on which they live and work.

Application Deadline is December 14th!

Guided by examples from projects that have successfully worked to improve women's land tenure security and women's meaningful participation in governance and decision-making, this practical intensive course will specifically highlight:

- Gender-transformative project design
- Concrete actions that can be taken at the national and local level
- Strategies that address climate change and its impact on women
- A summary of challenges and lessons learned
- Recommendations on how these approaches can be scaled and/or replicated in other regions

Each session will focus on a separate project, with one session dedicated to summary, concepts, and synthesis of key learnings. **January 17th, 19th, 24th & 25th**. Tuition: \$650 USD.

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6. Conversation Series on RBM and Gender Equality

<https://icn-rcc.ca/en/call-for-speakers-rbm-gender-equality/>

Spur Change, an Inter-Council Network initiative focused on Small and Medium Organizations SMOs, has launched a Call for Speakers for their upcoming Conversation Series on Results Based Management RBM and Gender Equality. This will take place on **Tuesdays between January 31st to February 14th**. This peer-to-peer learning series will provide opportunities to share organizational experiences and explore best practices.

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7. Education/Employment Opportunity with AAFC

https://www.glassdoor.ca/job-listing/come-grow-with-us-as-an-indigenous-research-technician-indigenous-services-canada-JV_KO0,54_KE55,81.htm

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/about-our-department/careers>

Apply to become one of AAFC's Indigenous research technicians. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada supports farmers and Canadians by leading agricultural research and innovation. With locations across the country, we have opportunities for Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast. **Closing date: 8 February 2023**

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8. Canada's 9th National Fair Trade Conference

<https://cftn.ca/conference/>

Save the date. When: **March 10-11, 2023**. Where: **Montreal, Quebec**. Host: Concordia University. Co-Organizers: Canadian Fair Trade Network & Fairtrade Canada. The last in-person conference, #8, was held in 2020 in Calgary. No in-person conferences were held during the Covid19 pandemic.

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9. Call for Presentations and Papers - 2024 Rural Women's Studies Association conference

<https://www.ohio.edu/cas/history/institutes/rwsa>

In consideration of recent events and movements, the theme of the 2024 Rural Women's Studies Association conference, *Gendered Advocacy and Activism, Shaping Institutions and Communities*, emphasizes the central role that women and individuals of all genders and sexualities have played and continue to play in shaping and reforming our institutions and communities. This potentially includes the exploration of such subthemes as: advocacy, education, agriculture, health, reproductive rights, mental health, LGBTQIA+, politics, poverty, race, ethnicity, religion, and Women's Rights issues.

Presentations take many forms at this RWSA conference. Possibilities include workshops, panel sessions, interactive sessions, roundtable discussions, poster presentations, open-mic discussions, performances, readings, and audiovisual presentations. The theme, *Gendered Advocacy and Activism, Shaping Institutions and Communities*, encourages exploration of several sub-themes: grassroots activism; advocacy; women's rights, including reproductive rights; LGBTQIA+ rights and identities; health, including mental health; education; politics; environment; race and ethnicity. Other presentations or papers on any other topic related to rural women/gender/sexuality are also welcome.

Submissions should be sent electronically to: rwsa2024@gmail.com **by April 15 2023**. Submissions must include: (i) title of paper, session, workshop/performance, (ii) 250-word description/abstract of paper or proposed session/workshop, (iii) brief vita/biography of presenter or session participants, and complete contact information for all, and (iv) indicate whether or not you grant permission for RWSA to publish your description or abstract on the RWSA blog.

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This Month's News

1. Female farm operator numbers in Canada increase for the first time in 30 years

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/96-325-x/2021001/article/00013-eng.htm>

The number of female supervisors and workers in technical occupations increased in recent years. The Labour Force Survey reported a 19.4% increase from 2017 to 2021 in the number of combined female supervisors and workers in Canada working in natural resources, agriculture and related production.

Data from the 2021 Census of Agriculture show that female farm operator numbers increased for the first time since 1991, when the Census of Agriculture started collecting data for up to three farm operators. In 2021, there were 79,795 female farm operators reported in Canada, up from 77,970 in 2016. This number was an increase of 2.3% (+1,825). By comparison, male farm operator numbers dropped by 5.8% over the same period.

This article identifies where the net increase in female farm operators is coming from. It then looks at how female farm operator numbers are reflected in the face of the modernization and adaptation of the agriculture industry.

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2. A portrait of Canada's female farm operators

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2022053-eng.htm>

The infographic, according to the Census of Agriculture, shows there were 79,795 female farm operators in Canada in 2021, the first increase in 30 years.

- British Columbia has the highest share of farm operators who are female.
- Sheep and goat farms reported the highest proportion of farm operators who are female.
- Nearly 1 in 2 (48.3%) female farm operators reported working off the farm in 2020.
- Among these female farm operators, 57.7% worked off the farm 30 or more hours per week.
- Less than half (47.8%) of female farm operators worked on farms that reported less than \$50,000 in revenues in 2020, compared with 39.8% of male farm operators.
- Conversely, 17.8% of female farm operators worked on farms with revenues of \$500,000 or more, compared with 22.8% of male farm operators.
- In 2021, 6 in 10 female farm operators were 55 years and older.

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3. Diversity and inclusiveness networks with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/about-our-department/careers/diversity-and-inclusiveness-networks>

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has been selected as one of the "Best Diversity Employers" in Canada since 2017, and we continue to be a leader in this area. We have five active Diversity Networks led by employees and senior management. These Networks, along with our corporate Diversity Team coordinate many initiatives, programs, events and learning activities work to ensure that we have a welcoming, diverse, respectful and inclusive environment for all employees.

- Gender and Sexual Diversity Inclusiveness Network (GSDIN)
- Indigenous Network Circle (INC)
- Persons with Disabilities Network (PwDN)
- Visible Minorities Network (VMN)
- Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (WiSTEM) Network

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4. What the USA midterm elections mean for development

<https://www.devex.com/news/what-the-us-midterm-elections-mean-for-development-104383>

When Americans voted on Nov. 8, foreign aid probably wasn't at the top of their minds, but the closely contested congressional elections are likely to have an impact on global development funding and priorities.

Foreign aid has been a rare area of bipartisan cooperation in recent years, despite deep divisions among lawmakers. The election is unlikely to change that, though everything may become harder as the election ushers in some leadership changes, shifts priorities, and continues to put pressure on the aid budget.

Bipartisanship will be tougher on some issues such as gender equality — a trend we've already seen, said Justin Fugle, head of policy at Plan International USA. For example, the Keeping Girls in School Act, which was approved by HFAC earlier this year, had to remove any references to child marriage or early pregnancy to gain support because those issues were seen as related to abortion, he said.

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5. Director says African Development Bank lagging on gender equality

<https://www.devex.com/news/director-says-african-development-bank-lagging-on-gender-equality-104276>

Even as they promote lending to female entrepreneurs, development banks need to do more to ensure gender equality internally — that was the message from three top officials from the African Development Bank, Development Bank of Rwanda, and European Investment Bank, in Côte d’Ivoire last month.

According to AfDB’s latest organizational chart, three of its eight vice presidents are women, along with six of the 15 people in other senior roles listed as reporting to bank President Akinwumi Adesina.

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6. Close to 8 Million South Sudanese Are Food Insecure

<https://www.voanews.com/a/un-close-to-8-million-south-sudanese-are-food-insecure/6819164.html>

Josephine Lagu, South Sudan's minister of Agriculture and Food Security, said a report produced by the World Food Program, UNICEF and the Food and Agricultural Organization points to a very worrying situation for South Sudan. According to the U.N. report, eastern Equatoria, in the country's southeast, has seen the most significant deterioration in food security among South Sudan's drought-affected counties. Meshack Malo, FAO representative in South Sudan, said South Sudan needs urgent support to promote self-reliance through smart agricultural practices that mitigate the impact of climate change.

Experts say the decline in food security and the high prevalence of malnutrition is linked to a combination of conflict, poor macroeconomic conditions, climate change, and spiraling costs of food and fuel. A drop in the funding of humanitarian programs despite the steadily rising need also has been cited as a major contributor to the worsening situation.

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7. Somalia on the Brink of Famine

<https://devex.shorthandstories.com/the-cavalry-hasn-t-arrived-somalia-on-the-brink-of-famine-brink-of-famine/index.html>

Four rainy seasons in a row have failed in the Horn of Africa since late 2020, a climatic event not seen in at least 40 years. The chances are high that the next rainy season, expected to start in October, will also fail, which would be unprecedented. Exacerbating an already dire situation, the war in Ukraine has caused food prices to spike; the cost of a food basket in East Africa has risen 49% in the past year.

Over 7 million people in Somalia — nearly half of the population — need urgent assistance for acute malnutrition and at least 330,000 children need treatment for the deadliest form of malnutrition. The country now has one million people who are displaced. Over 755,000 were displaced this year because of the drought.

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8. UN Women wants to give African women farmers a voice at COP 27

<https://www.devex.com/news/un-women-wants-to-give-african-women-farmers-a-voice-at-cop-27-104344>

With women-led organizations receiving just 1-3% of global financing for climate adaptation, UN Women is calling for women and specifically African women to get a much larger share — as well as a bigger voice in discussions — at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP 27.

The success of the U.N.’s own joint program shows what can happen when money is invested in helping women farmers face climate change. The decade-old Accelerating Progress Towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women initiative, a food security program managed by four U.N. agencies, has seen up to 80% increases in agricultural productivity in the countries where it operates, according to Jemimah Njuki, chief of the economic empowerment section at UN Women. Further, 77% of the producer organizations the U.N. agencies work with are women-led, she said.

Launched in 2012, the initiative provides women farmers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America with “climate smart technologies” such as rainwater collection tanks and other tools. Last month, the U.N. announced it would expand the program to Tanzania, along with Nepal, Niger, the Pacific Islands, and Tunisia in its second phase.

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9. Young reporters bring the voices of COP27 to Africa's radios

<https://www.context.news/climate-justice/young-reporters-bring-the-voices-of-cop27-to-africas-radios>

From Zambia to DRC, young journalists armed with recorders are bringing news of the world's progress on climate change back to local listeners. Half a dozen young African reporters attending the global conference will produce a climate change podcast series that will be broadcast on 15 radio stations around the continent. There are some 2,000 local radio stations in sub-Saharan Africa, providing a vital source of information for millions of listeners in rural areas and informal settlements with little to no internet access, according to South Africa's Wits Journalism school.

- Young African radio reporters received training for COP
- Radio is a key source of information in areas without internet
- Africa wracked by climate impacts, produces only 4% of emissions

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10. Women's economic empowerment: The missing piece in low-carbon plans and actions

<https://odi.org/en/insights/womens-economic-empowerment-the-missing-piece-in-low-carbon-plans-and-actions/>

Our investigation focused on the status of women's work in low- and middle-income countries, where climate impacts are biting hardest, and the gender development gap is often high. We looked specifically at whether women's empowerment is integrated into low-carbon economic transitions.

We looked for works that were centrally about 'women' or 'gender' and climate change mitigation (how to sustain economies while avoiding, cutting or locking up greenhouse gas emissions). That left very little of substance on women's ability to access secure, decent-paying, low-carbon work – either in theory or in practice.

Some programmes learned and adapted rapidly to early documentation in the sector. The most inspiring propositions we found for gender-equitable, low-carbon and climate-resilient development were also in the agriculture and forestry sectors. For example, CGIAR has done progressive thinking and test-piloting in this area.

At whole-of-economy level, most discussion of 'social inclusion' in low-carbon transitions is vague on gender issues – and far short of actionable propositions.

To delegates at COP27 and those developing budgets at home, we offer these specific recommendations on Gender Day:

Governments, multilateral organisations, international financial institutions:

- Do not treat gender equality and climate change mitigation goals and policies in isolation. The risks are too high. The missed opportunities are too great. Sustainable development depends on an integrated approach.
- Follow the lead of these pioneering governments. Unlock more concessional finance for implementing climate plans which have credible, actionable gender equality and social inclusion goals as a fundamental component (and recognising that adequate funding for inclusive, democratic assessment and planning processes is needed, as well as for implementation).

Research funders:

Other research funders must fund more applied research on the intersections between gender equality, including women's economic empowerment, and opportunities associated with low-carbon, green economies, following IDRC-GLOW's lead.

11. Advancing gender equality and social inclusion through climate action

<https://idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/advancing-gender-equality-and-social-inclusion-through-climate-action>

IDRC’s understanding and approaches have evolved over more than 15 years of supporting research on climate change adaptation and, more recently, mitigation. Findings from successive projects have shown that understanding how climate change risks, vulnerabilities and response options differ between men and women — and across different social groups and livelihoods — is fundamental to supporting climate action.

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12. Creating opportunities for women to lead the low-carbon recovery

<https://idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/creating-opportunities-women-lead-low-carbon-recovery>

The IDRC-supported initiative Gender Equality in a Low Carbon World puts women’s leadership at the heart of low-carbon transition strategies. Launched in 2021, 12 action research projects in 17 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East are exploring innovations that simultaneously boost women’s economic progress and support low-carbon livelihoods. The research is exploring ways to remove gender barriers, such as the disproportionate burden of unpaid care on women, and promoting opportunities in sectors where women can flourish.

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13. Earthshot Prize finalists

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63507781>

<https://royalfoundation.com/prince-william-unveils-the-finalists-for-the-second-earthshot-prize-awards/>

The Earthshot Prize is given to innovative ideas for the environment. Five winners will be announced in Boston on December 2 - each will be given £1m to develop their projects. Prince William unveiled the shortlist, saying there are "many reasons to be optimistic" about the planet's future. Among the 15 finalists:

- Mukuru Clean Stoves, from Kenya, provides cleaner burning stoves to reduce unhealthy indoor pollution and a safer way to cook. It is a female-led start-up. Today, 200,000 people in Kenya use Mukuru Clean Stoves, saving \$10 million in fuel costs, saving lives, and saving time.
- Fleather, a leather made of floral waste in India
- Indigenous Women of the Great Barrier Reef group from Australia who use a mix of ancient knowledge and digital technologies in their efforts to protect the land and sea.
- The Great Bubble Barrier, from the Netherlands, sees air pumped through a perforated tube to create a curtain of bubbles, which brings plastic up to the surface and into a waste collection system.
- London start-up Notpla Hard Material, which makes packaging from seaweed and plants as an alternative to single-use plastic. The company has already created a million biodegradable food boxes for online food ordering firm.

There are five categories: protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world, and fix our climate. Last year's winners included a project in Costa Rica paying local citizens to restore natural ecosystems and an India-developed portable machine that turns agricultural waste into fertiliser.

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14. Farm-Kids-Turned-Scientists Give Back on the Climate-Crisis Front Line

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/10/farm-kids-turned-scientists-give-back-climate-crisis-front-line/>

Dr Alice Karanja knows from personal experience the tough choices the climate crisis is putting people before in the Global South. Choices such as whether to have a healthy diet or give your children an education. Choices such as whether to go hungry or allow your children to have any schooling at all. Having grown up on a small farm in Kenya, Karanja's family made those tough calls and the huge sacrifices necessary to enable her to go all the way in education, obtaining a PhD in Sustainability Science from the University of Tokyo, Japan.

She is a post-doctoral research fellow at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya, where her research focuses on restoration of agricultural landscapes based on regenerative agriculture for biodiverse, inclusive, safe, and resilient food systems. She also plans to pilot food-tree portfolios in Zambia to help smallholder families obtain year-round access to nutritious foods, diversify their incomes, and boost their resilience to increased food prices and climate change.

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15. We now know feminism is good for boys

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/08/feminists-war-on-men-misogyny-boys-gender-stereotypes-masculinity>

The State of UK Boys report released today by the Global Boyhood Initiative shows that, instead of being victimised by feminism, boys are facing an entirely different crisis. Violence and being "tough" is normalised as a natural part of being a man, which encourages boys to see violence (particularly male-on-male violence) as an inevitable part of growing up. The study, which comprised a literature review alongside interviews with experts, also found that these kinds of stereotypes are present from birth, with families, schools and peer groups all playing their part.

Instead of reinforcing these stereotypes, the report's authors suggest, all children would benefit from a feminist approach to learning (something that will come as no surprise to many feminists, who have been arguing for this for decades). For example, boys would benefit from learning about the problems with gender stereotypes, and also from a de-stigmatisation of close friendships between boys, which are often discouraged by homophobic ideals of masculinity. Encouraging male friendships, the study finds, would provide opportunities for boys to learn reciprocity, empathy and intimacy.

Instead of feminism harming boys, the report has found that the opposite is true: challenging male violence and misogyny, encouraging different types of masculinity and seeing women as allies, all contribute to better mental health and educational attainment among boys.

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16. CGIAR workshop deliberates on discovering pathways to gender-inclusive digital innovations in agriculture

<https://agriculturepost.com/agri-research/cgiar-workshop-deliberates-on-discovering-pathways-to-gender-inclusive-digital-innovations-in-agriculture>

The One CGIAR Digital Innovation initiative aims to develop and accelerate the use of digital innovations that can support inclusive, equitable, and sustainable transformation of food, land, and water systems. The initiative will also work with vulnerable and unreached smallholder women and men farmers to enhance their knowledge and capabilities to use digital innovations.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To understand the digital ecosystem in food, land, and water systems including the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of the existing infrastructure and services, with a focus on women and other unreached vulnerable farmers.
- To identify key opportunities and challenges in promoting an inclusive and beneficial digital ecosystem, especially for the rural women of India; and
- To identify the challenges associated with data security and governance.

The inclusion of women and smallholder farmers was at the centre of all these deliberations, focused on the probable pathways for reducing the existing digital divide and developing more inclusive and gender-responsive digital innovations and services for transforming the food, land, and water systems.

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17. Farm Radio International: Nature-based Solutions

<https://farmradio.org/canada-invests-in-radio-to-broadcast-nature-based-climate-solutions-in-africa/>

Farm Radio International is implementing a five-year project with financial support from Global Affairs Canada. The gender-inclusive Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate change adaptation project will use Farm Radio's interactive local radio programming to achieve enhanced rural community climate action using locally-relevant, gender-inclusive NbS. This project will help to create a common understanding of how NbS can be used to prepare for and adapt to changing climate risks and impacts, while simultaneously protecting and restoring local biodiversity and ecological services.

Farm Radio International, a globally recognized Canadian charity, will work with 200 radio stations across Africa to share stories of rural communities adapting to climate change by partnering with nature. In six countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia), "on air dialogues" with rural communities will be hosted by 20 radio stations to discover local priorities about, ideas for and experiences with harnessing nature to adapt to a changing climate.

The "What people are saying about Nature-based Solutions: initial findings from our research in sub-Saharan Africa and Canada" webinar's main objective is to share the findings related to Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation through: "state of play" reports in 6 countries; a first On Air Dialogue with rural people in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia and an opinion poll conducted in Canada to assess Canadian attitudes about NbS for CCA, particularly in Africa.

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18. Enabling Vegetable Business Development in East Africa

<https://snv.org/project/veggies-4-planet-and-people>

Veggies for Planet and People (V4P&P) is a four year, (2020-2024), € 2M project funded by the IKEA Foundation and will be implemented in partnership with World Vegetable Center.

The project aims to take advantage of the "vegetable gap" in Kenya and Ethiopia to create jobs and income and at the same time improve nutrition. It will accomplish this by working toward a strong and competitive vegetable sub-sector through a combination of supply- and demand-side interventions.

The project will design, pilot and scale innovative regenerative vegetable production and post-harvest technologies. And will in addition strengthen the private seed sector in Ethiopia and Kenya, in alliance with the Africa Vegetable Breeding Consortium. Value chain development will particularly emphasize Traditional African Vegetables (TAV) and other commercial vegetables cultivated predominantly in each country.

V4P&P will engage 'business champions' to guide the formation of Vegetable Business Networks (VBNs) of women and youth as they pursue collective action in vegetable production and marketing in urban and peri-urban areas. The champions will facilitate their networks with access to information, business development services, input/output markets, and serve as liaisons with local governments.

19. APA Corporation Announces Partnership with CCA to Support Increased Access to Clean Cooking Fuels

<https://investor.apacorp.com/news-releases/news-release-details/apa-corporation-announces-partnership-clean-cooking-alliance>

On Nov. 9, APA Corporation (Nasdaq: APA) announced a multi-year partnership with the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA). A project of the United Nations Foundation, CCA is focused on building a dynamic, inclusive, and financially sustainable industry with the goal of achieving universal access to clean cooking by 2030. Access to clean cooking improves health, reduces climate and environmental impacts, empowers women, and improves overall livelihoods.

Today, 2.4 billion people around the world depend on stoves and fuels such as wood and charcoal to cook. With APA’s financial support, CCA will facilitate a clean cooking venture accelerator program that will help early-stage entrepreneurs in the clean cooking sector by providing access to technical support, funding and external networks to expand their businesses. This will ultimately help drive a sustainable market for clean cooking solutions, including clean-burning liquified petroleum gas (LPG).

The program will complement CCA’s current venture and market building initiatives and will support early-stage entrepreneurs working to increase access to clean cooking. It will be open to clean cooking distributors and manufacturers at early stages of growth. It includes 12 to 14 weeks of core modules, such as industry and venture fundamentals, pitch day coaching, and possible entry to a CCA venture catalyst program. It is expected to launch by the end of the first quarter of 2023.

20. UN Agencies launch joint programme in Zanzibar to accelerate women empowerment

<https://www.wfp.org/news/un-agencies-launch-joint-programme-zanzibar-accelerate-women-empowerment>

the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Women launched a five-year programme, the Accelerating Progress Towards Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment project.

Funded by Norway and Sweden, the US\$ 5 million project will benefit more than 8,000 rural women in Singida, Dodoma and Zanzibar by helping to secure their livelihoods, through resilience, in the agriculture sector.

The programme will build women’s capacity on climate smart agriculture to respond to climate crisis challenges which disproportionately affect women due to their reduced access to agricultural resources, lack of decision-making authority and weak adaptation strategies.

The COVID-19 pandemic also impacted the agricultural sector and local food systems through restricted market access and increased costs of inputs. The project will provide business development, leadership training and access to markets for self-help groups, by supporting existing and new Village Savings and Loans Associations to become officially registered and access financing.

21. Greenhouse gas monitoring study

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/soil-seeker/>

U of Manitoba Master’s student Shannon Mustard is a soil scientist. She is finding new ways for soil—not just mud, given its nutrient-rich composition and complex microbes from growing crops—to be more sustainable. She’s investigating how

adding an inhibitor to fertilizers can reduce emissions, while her colleagues ponder other angles, from sequestering carbon in the soil by covering crops, to better understanding the varying outputs of perennial growing versus annual.

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22. Five ways to support women’s climate leadership for locally led action

<https://www.iied.org/five-ways-support-womens-climate-leadership-for-locally-led-action>

Calls for women climate leaders are growing louder. But more work is urgently needed to get women, at all levels, into the heart of climate planning and decision-making processes. During last month’s CBA16 international conference, a diverse group of women leaders brought forward concrete recommendations for creating leadership roles for women, and for empowering these women as agents of change.

Supporting women’s climate leadership: five recommendations

1. Challenge structural barriers such as lack of land rights
2. Support women’s leadership within Indigenous, Afro-descendent and local communities
3. Get more finance directly to women and women’s organisations
4. Demand and secure equal representation in decision-making
5. Invest in women’s groups and engage them as equal partners in decision-making

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23. Shelter Pulse

<https://www.shelterpulse.ca/awareness-campaign/>

Did you know survivors of domestic violence in rural areas are more likely to experience multiple acts of violence in a year compared to those in urban centers?

Canadian Women’s shelters all struggle to meet the demand for their services, but rural and remote shelters face even more barriers. These barriers result in chronically underserved communities due to lack of capacity and support for rural shelters. This in turn can lead to underrepresented identities, reduced access to services, and more chances of re-traumatization for survivors and services users when seeking support when compared to urban centres.

Shelter Pulse is building the capacity of Women’s shelters by standardizing shelter policies across Canada, so shelters can focus on supporting survivors and serving their communities. We’re developing an online database of standardized, trauma-informed policies to support rural women’s shelters across Canada. Shelter Pulse is funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada’s Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, and in partnership with Mountain Rose Women’s Shelter Association.

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24. Natural disasters, pregnancy and baby health are linked

<https://acamh.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jcpp.13698>

<https://www.gc.cuny.edu/news/children-superstorm-sandy-decade-later>

In the new study, published in September in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, researchers looked at the children of people who were pregnant during Superstorm Sandy. The 2012 hurricane sent floodwaters surging across parts of New York and New Jersey, killing 181 people and leaving hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers without power for days.

Researchers analyzed data from 163 preschool-aged children, 40.5 per cent of whom were in utero during the hurricane. Those children had “substantially increased” risks for depression, anxiety and attention deficit/disruptive behaviour

disorders compared to the other children in the study who were born before the hurricane or conceived just after it, according to the paper.

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25. Women in Ghana achieving equal access to livestock vaccines

<https://idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/women-ghana-achieving-equal-access-livestock-vaccines>

The Women Rear project is a collaborative initiative between Care International in Ghana, the International Livestock Research Institute, and Cowtribe Technology, a Ghanaian start-up that aims to reach women livestock owners with animal vaccinations and encourage women to take up a greater role in vaccination practice. The project is supported by the Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund (LVIF), a partnership between Global Affairs Canada, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and IDRC.

To encourage women’s participation in vaccination programs, the project has been taking the following four approaches:

- Working with communities and traditional leaders to better understand cultural and traditional practices and to determine how they can influence change.
- Recruiting two female vaccinators (thus far) to vaccinate animals and gain an understanding of the potential of having women reach other women.
- Investing in solar refrigeration facilities for vaccines.
- Rolling out a vaccine delivery app through Cowtribe that enables women and men farmers to access vaccinations.

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26. Empowering and engaging women in livestock vaccine value chains in East Africa

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/research-in-action/empowering-and-engaging-women-livestock-vaccine-value-chains-east-africa>

To tackle the gender imbalance in accessing vaccines, a regional livestock vaccine initiative in East Africa called SheVax+ was launched in 2019 with support from IDRC, Global Affairs Canada and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund (LVIF).

To overcome the lack of animal health service providers, SheVax+ is training and equipping local women with livestock drugs and vaccines and providing solar-powered fridges for vaccine cold storage.

The project creates entrepreneurial opportunities for women by providing them with a valuable source of income and the capability to move into vaccine distribution and manufacturing.

To change beliefs and behaviours that affect women’s decision-making regarding vaccine use, access to training and livestock ownership, men are also being educated. So far, 40 male “role models” have been selected to help raise awareness around cultural and traditional stereotypes and to advocate for women’s roles in livestock vaccination.

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27. Canadian Centre For Agricultural Wellbeing

<https://ccaw.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087880784194>

The newly launched Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing is the only research to action national organization with decades of expertise to tackle farmer mental health issues, with grassroots research to evidence-based programming.

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28. UN Forum tackles 'digital poverty' facing 2.7 billion people

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1131142>

The annual UN forum on Internet governance is under way this week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, aiming to deliver bold solutions for an open, free, inclusive, and secure digital future for all, in particular for the 2.7 billion people with no Internet access.

Globally, more men use the Internet at 62 per cent, compared with 57 per cent of women. And in nearly all countries where data are available, rates of Internet use are higher for those with more education.

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29. From \$1.90 to \$2.15 a day: Updated International Poverty Line

<https://ourworldindata.org/from-1-90-to-2-15-a-day-the-updated-international-poverty-line>

To track progress towards its goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, the UN relies on World Bank estimates of the share of the world population that fall below the International Poverty Line.

In September 2022, the figure at which this poverty line is set shifted from \$1.90 to \$2.15. This reflects a change in the units in which the World Bank expresses its poverty and inequality data – from international dollars given in 2011 prices to international dollars given in 2017 prices.

In this article we consider what the World Bank's revised methodology means for our understanding of global poverty. We then also explain the updated methodology: what international dollars are, what the change to 2017 prices mean, and how this change affects the International Poverty Line and the World Bank's poverty estimates.

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30. Rural Futures initiative at U of Guelph

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/projects/rural-futures-mobilizing-knowledge-sustaining-partnerships>

The University of Guelph is actively engaged in rural research across Ontario, Canada, and the world. A new knowledge mobilization initiative is promoting rural research generated at the University of Guelph and by its rural partners. Over the coming months, the initiative will highlight recently published rural research to showcase the diversity of knowledge generated by the university's students and faculty.

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31. Ugandan Women Tackle Domestic Violence with Green Solutions

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2022/11/ugandan-women-tackle-domestic-violence-green-solutions>

With the increasing levels of domestic violence in rural Uganda, Okollet is now championing using climate change solutions to curb its occurrence in this East African nation.

The latest estimates by the World Bank indicate that 51% of African women report that being beaten by their husbands is justified if they burn or refuse to prepare food. Yet acceptance is not uniform across countries. The report shows that the phenomenon appears deeply ingrained in some societies, with a 77% acceptance rate in Uganda.

Okollet's organization currently empowers and educates women on how climate change affects their village resources. Most importantly, it provides resources for entrepreneurship and counseling to women affected by domestic violence and advocates for their emancipation by empowering them to be self-reliant by becoming green entrepreneurs.

With 2,000 members engaged in various climate solutions, including carbon farming, clean energies, and tree planting, the tradition of abuse has slowly started to fade in rural Uganda as many women who used to depend financially on their husbands have taken bold steps in investing in green projects.

32. No gender justice in the Gender Action Plan

<https://womengenderclimate.org/no-gender-justice-in-the-gender-action-plan-gap>

<https://womengenderclimate.org/press-release-collective-power-shines-amid-a-process-that-fails-on-urgent-climate-action/>

As feminists and women’s rights advocates strategized daily at COP27 to advocate for gender-just and human rights-based climate action, negotiators once again ignored the urgency of our current climate crisis.

In a press release from the Women and Gender Constituency, members acknowledged that while developing countries, grassroots movements and civil society pushed forward a once unthinkable collective demand for a fund on loss and damage, negotiators played politicking and wordsmithing at the cost of substance and action to deliver climate justice. In particular, Parties failed to take urgent action to keep 1.5 alive and refused to call for the full phase-out of all fossil fuels, while allowing carbon offsetting and loopholes drive us deeper down the path of false solutions.

On gender equality, specifically the expected mid-term review of the UNFCCC gender action plan (GAP), the WGC left COP27 deeply frustrated with both the process and outcome.

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. African Women's & Girls' Demands for COP27

<https://womengenderclimate.org/african-womens-girls-demands-for-cop27/>

Ahead of the climate negotiations (COP27) held in Egypt from 6-18 November, African girls’ and women’s activists have gathered from all five regions of the continent to launch a set of collective demands that must be addressed. African women, girls, and feminists have for decades advocated for major emitters to take greater responsibility in climate response actions, as well as for their own equal representation in climate negotiations and decision-making spaces—from local to global. Available in multiple languages including Swahili, Portuguese, Arabic and French.

The African feminists who contributed to this document work within the climate ecosystem to drive and scale actions across a range of priority themes, including women’s and youth leadership in climate processes, energy transition, climate finance, technology, and the interrelated demands for climate, social, and economic justice.

“Greater variability in rainfall has led to more intense droughts and flooding, aggravating already disaster-prone areas. With increasing temperatures, existing water stress will be amplified, putting even more pressure on the agricultural system, particularly on smallholder farmers and food producers—the majority of whom are women.”

2. Hungry for gender equality: The 2022 Global Food 50/50 Report

<https://doi.org/10.56649/WIQE2012>

<https://globalfood5050.org/2022-report/>

This is the second annual Global Food 50/50 Report, which provides data and analysis on the gender- and equity-related policies and practices of 51 global food system organizations. The report shines a light on the progress, and lack of progress, made by food organizations in promoting diversity and equality in their leadership and decision-making and in putting gender equality at the heart of their work. The data reveals not only gender inequalities in board representation, but that board seats are also dominated by nationals from high-income countries. The Report asserts that this skewed distribution of power and privilege undermines global efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

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3. New guide: Applying a gender lens to sustainable procurement

<https://unglobalcompact.org/library/6095>

This addition to the *Decent Work for Sustainable Procurement Toolkit* is an overview for buyers on why it is important to include a gender lens to procurement strategies and practices. It provides a practical step-by-step guide on how buyers can advance gender equality and promote non-discrimination through procurement decisions and explains the business benefits of sourcing from women-owned or gender-responsive businesses.

By including a gender lens in your buying strategies and practices, you can expand your company's markets, diversify its supply chains, enhance its reputation, and unlock innovation. Learn how buyers can advance gender equality and promote non-discrimination through their procurement decisions.

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4. Cooperation Canada's 2021-2022 Annual Report

<https://cooperation.ca/annual-reports/>

Since 1968, Cooperation Canada (formerly the Canadian Council for International Cooperation) has brought together civil society organizations working in the international development and humanitarian sector. We advocate for these groups by convening sector leaders, influencing policy and building capacity.

Cooperation Canada is the national independent voice for international cooperation. As a coalition, we convene, coordinate, and collaborate with Canadian civil society to inspire and implement policies and programs for a fairer, safer, and more sustainable world.

The annual report details the work accomplished in 2021-2022 in the areas of advocacy and policy, collaboration and capacity building. The report also highlights the programs housed within Cooperation Canada - the Anti-Racism Cooperation (ARC) Hub, the Canadian Center of Expertise on PS&E (Digna), and the Humanitarian Response Network (HRN).

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5. Watch: Food Security in East Africa – Beyond the Headlines

<https://farmradio.org/food-security-in-east-africa-town-hall/>

In early 2022, 12 million East Africans faced acute food insecurity, meaning that they did not even manage to eat one meal a day. By November 2022, that number has increased to 21 million people. It's important to go beyond the headlines and statistics and remember that these are individual women, men and children who are suffering from hunger every day.

That's what Farm Radio International strove to do in our online town hall on Nov. 2, 2022. In this engaging event, we explored the causes and consequences of the food crisis in East Africa, as well as solutions that are being developed on the ground.

The town hall featured an impressive array of speakers, including Sibi Lawson-Marriott, of the World Food Programme; Betty Mujungu, a Ugandan radio broadcaster; and Brenda Mugwisagye Murangi, a Farm Radio Uganda staff member and former broadcaster. Also speaking was Farm Radio's own Gizaw Shibu.

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6. Podcast: "The Grass Ceiling of Women in Ag and AgTech"

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-grass-ceiling-of-women-in-ag-and-agtech/id1164772579>

<https://soundcloud.com/femalefarmerpodcast/the-grass-ceiling-of-women-in-ag-and-agtech>

Women in Ag and AgTech are creating solutions to agricultures' biggest challenges. AgTech is an emerging category with potential to impact those challenges. Yet women founders remain underfunded and underrepresented. How do we challenge the status quo and the structural bias? Our guest Amy Wu tackles that issue by storytelling through her project, From Farms to Incubators.

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7. Diversity Is Our Strength: Improving Working Conditions in Canadian Non-profits

<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/resource-download/diversity-is-our-strength>

Imagine Canada's report demonstrates what the sector has long known but not had the data to prove: our workforce is incredibly diverse but undervalued. 77% of non-profit workers are women, 47% immigrants and 35% Indigenous and racialized people. Our workers tend to be older and better educated than the economy-wide averages but face lower salaries and difficult employment conditions.

To improve conditions for the non-profit sector's diverse workforce, we need immediate action from funders, governments, and non-profit leaders. Read the full report to learn more about the non-profit workforce.

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8. Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Change Conference - November 2022, Summary Report

<https://enb.iisd.org/sharm-el-sheikh-climate-change-conference-cop27-summary>

Gender is included in several aspects of the final report. For example:

On **enhancing implementation**, particularly action by non-party stakeholders, the COP, inter alia: encourages parties to increase the full, meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action and to ensure gender responsive implementation and means of implementation, including by fully implementing the Lima Work Programme on Gender and its gender action plan;

COP Decision: In its decision (FCCC/CP/2022/L.13), the COP, inter alia, welcomes the increased allocation of resources to SIDS and LDCs under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources, calls on the GEF to enhance its support for the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its gender action plan, and urges more support for technology training and capacity building;

Gender and Climate Change: This item considered the intermediate review of the gender action plan's implementation, including amendments to the activities under the gender action plan. On 6 November, the COP referred this item to the SBI, under which informal consultations convened, co-facilitated by Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez (Panama) and Salka Sigurdardottir (United Kingdom). Debates centered on the need for additional resources to support developing countries to implement their gender action plans. In its closing plenary, on 12 November, the SBI adopted conclusions (FCCC/SBI/2022/L.32), which forwarded this item to the COP Presidency for additional consideration. Consultations on this item continued into the second week under the COP, facilitated by Hana Al Hashimi (United Arab Emirates).

On 20 November, the COP adopted a decision. Additional language on support for gender-related activities appears in the overarching COP cover decision and the decision on guidance to the GEF.

COP Decision: In its decision (FCCC/CP/2022/L.15), the COP, inter alia:

- urges parties to accelerate their efforts to advance implementation of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its gender action plan;

- encourages parties and relevant organizations to strengthen the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in implementing climate policies, plans, strategies and action;
- invites the International Labour Organization to consider organizing a workshop or dialogue focused on the same topic;
- underscores the need to promote efforts towards gender balance and improve inclusivity in the UNFCCC process by inviting future COP Presidencies to nominate women as high-level climate champions, parties to promote greater gender balance in national delegations, and the Secretariat, relevant presiding officers, and event organizers to promote gender-balanced events;
- encourages parties and relevant public and private entities to strengthen the gender responsiveness of climate finance;
- requests the Secretariat to support the attendance of national gender and climate change focal points at relevant mandated UNFCCC meetings; and
- adopts the amendments to the gender action plan contained in the annex.

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9. Canadian Census of Agriculture Toolkit

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/census/census-engagement/agriculture>

The Census of Agriculture provides community-level data on a wide range of topics, such as:

- land use
- crops
- livestock
- agricultural labour
- machinery and equipment
- land management practices
- farm finances

It identifies trends and provides information on emerging issues, opportunities and challenges within the agricultural community. In the Census of Agriculture Toolkit, you will find tools and resources to help you and your organization share information about the upcoming data releases with your networks.

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10. Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology (CCWESTT) Resource Hub

<https://ccwestt.org/resource-hub/>

As a member of CCWESTT and a collaboration partner, SCWIST is proud to contribute STEM resources towards the recently launched CCWESTT Resource Hub. The Resource Hub contains strategies, action plans, research, policies and programs from across Canada and globally. Some highlights include:

- the STEM Diversity Champions Toolkit by SCWIST
- Make Possible Mentoring Network by SCWIST, and
- the new What Works Toolkit for the 50-30 Challenge: Your Diversity Advantage.

The Hub is designed to help you and your organization support gender equity and inclusion in the workplace. You can also contribute resources to help others advance their journey in equity, diversity and inclusion.

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11. Measuring Social Impact

<https://60decibels.com/>

Gender & Inequality <https://60decibels.com/expertise/gender-inequality/>

Agriculture <https://60decibels.com/expertise/agriculture/>

60 Decibels had a ~soft launch~ of its new website, where we've centralized all important toolkits, impact reports, case studies, blog posts, and more. 60 Decibels gets you actionable, benchmarked social performance data, gathered from (and by) real human beings.

Check it out and please share it far and wide! It's just as beautiful as before, and now it does an even better job of explaining how we help you listen to the people who matter most.

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12. Physical Activity Among Older Women Living in Rural Areas in Canada: A Scoping Review

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12062-022-09380-8>

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12062-022-09380-8>

Abstract

Although there is strong evidence linking physical activity in older age with wellbeing and health benefits, these relationships tend to be under-researched in a rural context. A scoping review was conducted to identify what is known about physical activity among older women living in rural Canada. The search strategy was intentionally broad, with eight databases, academic journals, and websites scanned for research and grey literature related to Canada, in English, from 2000 to 2022. 33 studies, reviews, and reports were included in the final selection. These articles indicate that physical activity among older women living in rural Canada is influenced by a multitude of layers, contexts, conditions, and environments, with outcomes dependent on a mixture of personal, relational, community, societal, and governmental factors. In general, the women are committed to creating and maintaining an active lifestyle, and supporting their local rural community to enable these activities. While the social environment can proscribe physical activity through ageist attitudes and restrictive socio-cultural norms, social support from family and community members mitigates against these constraints. Rural infrastructure, geography, climate (seasons and weather), as well as transportation and policy issues may also impede the physical activity opportunities of the women. Some of the problems related to sustaining and resourcing recreational activity in rural communities are partly addressed through the implications presented in the articles. Among others, these suggestions relate to leadership and learning opportunities, public engagement, and the partnership working involved in supporting physical activity in rural areas. However, further research is long overdue.

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13. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of BC's Canadian Evaluation Society

<https://evaluationbc.ca/DEI-Materials>

CESBC continues to work toward advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the evaluation field. We recently developed a DEI statement showing our commitment to this work. We have also added more information to the CESBC DEI community resource document.

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14. Gender Data Must Be the Bedrock of Climate Justice

<https://data2x.org/resource-center/gender-data-must-be-the-bedrock-of-climate-justice>

This policy brief, produced in partnership with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and Women’s Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), highlights the importance of gender data to climate change adaptation and resilience, and calls on leaders to recognize, advocate for, and use gender data as a tool to advance climate justice and gender equality.

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