

**August 1, 2023**

**GEM Digest of the Month**

**Published monthly since December 2009**



*Canola crop in flower. 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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**Contents**

**Opportunities and Coming Events**

1. Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership ..... 3

2. 2023 is the International Year of Millets ..... 3

3. Canada announces First-Ever Express Entry invitations for skilled newcomers with STEM experience..... 3

4. Application Period Open - Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council..... 4

5. Request for Proposals: Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship..... 4

6. Agricultrices du Québec: Dimension E Survey ..... 5

7. Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame ..... 5

8. Advancing Women Conference AWC EAST 2023 ..... 5

**This Month's News**

1. The politics of street food: the South African chef championing Zulu cuisine ..... 5

2. Celebrity Chefs Enlisted to Put Climate-Hardy Millets Back on the Menu ..... 6

3. Six Nations knowledge keeper shares traditional Haudenosaunee agricultural practices ..... 6

4. Water Song Gathering & Learning ..... 6

5. Grey Market Charcoal East Africa — Why Prohibitionist Interventions Are Failing..... 7

6. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Newsletter: July 2023 ..... 7

7. Women aid forests in Nepal ..... 8

8. Quest for Safe Water in One of India's Most Isolated Villages..... 8

9. Water Harvesting Boosts Agriculture in Brazil's Semiarid Northeast..... 8

10. Wood Smoke Continues to Make Women Sick in El Salvador..... 9

11. Invisible Women in Energy: Millions of Household Biomass Producers ..... 9

12. Nigerian Authorities Declare State of Emergency on Food Security ..... 10

13.	Violence in Sudan likely to spark record levels of hunger .....	10
14.	UN unable to feed 100,000 Haitians this month amid ‘catastrophic’ conditions .....	11
15.	Empowering Agriculture Entrepreneurs: LadyAgri and the Future of Women-Focused Investments .....	11
16.	Opinion: Re-thinking Disability Inclusion for the SDGs.....	12
17.	Canada's Agriculture Minister first woman ever to chair the FAO.....	12
18.	Canadian Organic Growers - new Executive Director.....	12
19.	Women Deliver 2023 Conference – Opening Day .....	13
20.	IDRC events at Women Deliver.....	13
21.	Solutions to improve women’s access to livestock vaccines.....	13
22.	Did Women Deliver?.....	14
23.	Canada announces funding for women and girls’ health and rights, and gender equality at 2023 Women Deliver Conference.....	14
24.	Uniting for gender equality in Egypt’s date palm sector .....	14
25.	How Prairie women helped the Second World War effort as 'farmerettes' in B.C. ....	15
26.	School meals are 'low hanging fruit' for food systems transformation .....	15

## Reports, Publications, Resources

1.	Training Manual on Bundled Climate Smart Agriculture, Climate Information Services and One-Health Technologies for Priority Value Chains.....	16
2.	Men Can Cook: Approaching Gender Equity Through Indigenous Knowledge and Customs .....	16
3.	Market Analysis of Pilot Run Fortified Parboiled Rice in Burkina Faso.....	16
4.	Loss and Damage to Land: Voices from Asia .....	17
5.	Film: “Picture a Scientist” .....	17
6.	Report: Are policies in Africa conducive to sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector? .....	17
7.	Report: The status of women in agrifood systems.....	18
8.	Making African Food Systems Gender-Responsive for Equitable Livelihoods .....	18
9.	Digitally powered ‘learning to earning’ for displaced young people and adolescent girls and young women.....	18
10.	Gender equality in Togo .....	19
11.	Fairtrade Cocoa in Ghana .....	19
12.	Women's Voices on Climate Change in Ghana and Kenya .....	19
13.	Tracing the Geography of NGOs: Exploring Where Canadian Development Organizations Work and Why .....	19
14.	Canada’s Small INGOs: Growth Aspirations, Strategies, and Constraints .....	20
15.	Canada's Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals .....	20
16.	Skills Training + Tools + Water = Food Security for Impoverished Women.....	21
17.	The Gender Nutrition Gap: A Call for Collective Action.....	21
18.	Explore the Gender Climate Tracker.....	22
19.	BRIDGING THE GAP: Policy Innovations to Put Women at the Center of Food Systems Transformation in Africa .....	22
20.	Let’s Chat: RBM and Gender Equity.....	22

21.	Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse .....	22
22.	New Report: “Sustainable Development by Shifting the Power” .....	23
23.	Gender, wheat trait preferences, and innovation uptake: Lessons from Ethiopia and India .....	23

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

<https://www.manitoba.ca/scap/>

The Governments of Canada and Manitoba have announced a new \$221 million agreement for strategic agricultural initiatives in Manitoba under the new Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

The Sustainable CAP is a five-year, \$3.5-billion investment by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments that supports Canada's agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

Manitoba Agriculture looks forward to receiving funding applications for projects that will support the sustainable growth of the agriculture and agri-food sector.

Programs will be opening for scheduled intakes over the coming weeks. Follow Manitoba Agriculture on twitter at [twitter.com/MBGovAg](https://twitter.com/MBGovAg) for new program and intake announcements.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 2. 2023 is the International Year of Millets

<https://www.fao.org/millets-2023/en>

The United Nations General Assembly declared **2023 the International Year of Millets** (IYM 2023). FAO is the lead agency for celebrating the Year in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders. Millets can grow on arid lands with minimal inputs and are resilient to changes in climate. They are therefore an ideal solution for countries to increase self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on imported cereal grains.

#IYM2023 will be an opportunity to raise awareness of, and direct policy attention to the nutritional and health benefits of millets and their suitability for cultivation under adverse and changing climatic conditions. The Year will also promote the sustainable production of millets, while highlighting their potential to provide new sustainable market opportunities for producers and consumers.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 3. Canada announces First-Ever Express Entry invitations for skilled newcomers with STEM experience

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2023/06/canada-announces-first-ever-express-entry-invitations-for-skilled-newcomers-with-stem-experience.html>

Recognizing the immense value and transformative potential that STEM professionals bring to the country, Canada's Express Entry system is now tailored to provide a streamlined and efficient pathway for individuals with expertise in these critical fields. By prioritizing the invitation of skilled newcomers with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

(STEM) experience, Canada aims to meet the growing demand for talent and fill key positions that contribute to the nation's economic growth and technological advancement.

Key sectors across Canada are experiencing worker shortages, and immigration is helping to fill these labour gaps. Last month, Minister Fraser announced new changes to Express Entry through category-based selection. These changes help address labour needs that support an identified economic goal, and strengthen Francophone immigration by inviting candidates with specific work experience or language ability to apply for permanent residence.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, on behalf of the Honourable Minister Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced the first STEM round for category-based selection **will open the week of July 5**. This focus on candidates with STEM expertise – including data scientists, software developers and programmers, mathematicians, statisticians and actuaries, and electrical and electronics engineers – will help Canada's science and technology sector, bringing in the skilled talent that businesses need to drive innovation and achieve their growth potential.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 4. Application Period Open - Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/department/initiatives/food-policy/advisory-council>

Do you have expertise and experience that would help improve Canada's food systems? If so, apply today to become a member of the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council.

The Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council is a volunteer advisory body that brings together people with diverse perspectives and experiences to advise Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to help address food systems challenges and opportunities. We welcome applicants from across Canada, who are motivated to collaborate with a diverse group of individuals, to bring about positive change to Canada's food systems.

The Council is seeking new members from across Canada's food systems, including from the food and agriculture sector, academia, civil society, and Indigenous communities, with a focus on ensuring Indigenous and equity-deserving groups have a voice on the Council.

Canadians and permanent residents with demonstrable expertise and experience, on issues related to Canada's food systems are encouraged to apply to the Council **by August 17, 2023**.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 5. Request for Proposals: Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship

<https://indigenouinnovate.org/request-for-proposals/request-for-proposals>

We are pleased to launch the program: Advancing Indigenous Gender Equality through Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship. We are seeking bold and transformative projects that are led by First Nations, Métis, or Inuit female, Two Spirit, queer, trans, non-binary, or gender-diverse persons in Canada that align with one (1) of our four (4) investment priority areas:

- Land story (environmental sustainability) – solutions that directly address or mitigate climate change.
- Food sovereignty (agriculture) – solutions that help address food security, including supply chains, food production and food access.
- Tech (digital access and data sovereignty) – tech innovations that increase digital access or data sovereignty for Indigenous communities.
- Wellness – solutions that address the mental health and well-being of people using an Indigenous approach. We are particularly inviting projects that focus on youth mental health.

All projects should speak to how their project will directly and/or indirectly honour the Lands, Waters, and Skies (environmental sustainability practices) and how they are grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. **Apply by August 22nd, 2023.**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 6. Agricultrices du Québec: Dimension E Survey

[https://bit.ly/Sondage-Survey\\_DimensionE](https://bit.ly/Sondage-Survey_DimensionE)

The Agricultrices du Quebec have launched a new project, Dimension E: Cultivating one's agricultural potential.

The Dimension E survey aims to understand issues facing women farmers in Canada, to adapt and improve the services they offer and identify topics on which women farmers would like to receive training from experts. It is addressed to Canadian women (producers, producers' spouses, helpers, workers, students or aspiring/retirees) in the agricultural sector.

The Dimension E program offers customized services to women entrepreneurs in the agricultural and forestry sectors across Canada. It helps enhance the potential of each female farmer by equipping and supporting them in their entrepreneurial endeavours. The link to complete the survey will be active from **July 11 to August 31, 2023.**

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 7. Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame

<https://lethbridgenewsnow.com/2023/07/10/inductees-named-for-2023-class-of-canadian-agricultural-hall-of-fame/>

All seven of the 2023 inductees into the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame are male. The 2023 induction ceremony will be held on **November 4, 2023** in Charlottetown, PEI.

- Nominations must be made by Individual or Corporate members of the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame Association. Membership info is available at <https://www.cahfa.com/en-us/membership>
- Nominations must be received by **May 1, 2024** to be considered in 2024.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 8. Advancing Women Conference AWC EAST 2023

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2023east/>

Advancing Women Conference AWC EAST 2023 is a 3-day conference being held on **November 19-20-21, 2023** in **Niagara Falls, Ontario**. Invest in yourself and network with others passionate about agriculture. If you are a student, farmer, entrepreneur in ag and food, member of a grower association, or a representative of corporate agri-business – celebrate with us. Join our special sessions on Women's Health and Mental Health Training Sunday, the Student/Sponsor Reception and 2 days of Workshops and Plenary sessions featuring 25 speakers.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## This Month's News

### 1. The politics of street food: the South African chef championing Zulu cuisine

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jun/27/the-politics-of-street-food-the-south-african-chef-championing-zulu-cuisine>

Part of a new generation of African chefs celebrating the continent's cuisine, Mmabatho Molefe is keen to bring the food she grew up eating at her mother's table to the rest of the world. Diners at Carousel in London, England, will be served a

seven-course romp through the Zulu diet, taking in dishes such as sweetcorn custard with chickpea shoots and mealie bread, seared scallops with corned beef tongue and spicy tomato broth, and ending in a fermented maize porridge with lemon verbena ice-cream.

She recognises that, in the culinary industry of South Africa, still largely “dominated by white males”, the decision to hire an all-black and, for a time, all-female staff to run Emazulwini in Cape Town has been vital. As the restaurant has expanded, she has hired some men, she adds – but only those who “have learned how to respect women”.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 2. Celebrity Chefs Enlisted to Put Climate-Hardy Millets Back on the Menu

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/celebrity-chefs-enlisted-put-climate-hardy-millets-back-menu/>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CnzCd7tts7-/>

A recipe for soupu kanja with fonio was recently presented by celebrity chef Fatmata Binta to launch the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Global Chefs Challenge. The aim of the online challenge is to show the multitude of ways fonio and the other cereals belonging to the millet family can be used in order to encourage people to put them back on the menu. Millets, a diverse group of small-grained, dryland cereals, are an excellent source of fibre, antioxidants, proteins and minerals, including iron. The United Nations has declared 2023 the International Year of Millets to promote their cultivation.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 3. Six Nations knowledge keeper shares traditional Haudenosaunee agricultural practices

<https://www.thestar.com/th/news/hamilton-region/2023/06/28/six-nations-knowledge-keeper-shares-traditional-haudenosaunee-agricultural-practices-with-her-home-community-and-neighbours.html>

<https://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.com/who-we-are/>

Six Nations knowledge keeper Terrylynn Brant is maintaining a living link to traditional Haudenosaunee agriculture. Brant’s initial garden club broadened into educational sessions and workshops, not exclusively for Indigenous participants, but with a cultural and practical emphasis in that direction.

Agriculture is endemic to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, which along with the Hopi differentiated from other Indigenous nations through farming.

Traditionally, residential longhouses, outbuildings and small gardens would be enclosed by a palisade, she says, surrounded by fields, which were the domain of the women. Men would help prepare the land, she added, “but women planted.” Haudenosaunee staples included corn, beans, potatoes and squash, but a far wider variety is reflected in Brant’s collection.

As well as being a huge fan of tradition and ceremony, Brant has a serious practical streak, encouraging transition to seeking tangible outcomes, enhancing and improving life from her educational efforts. Her young farmers group recognizes the financial challenges of land ownership, focusing on training those with access in a more holistic homesteading approach incorporating gardening.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 4. Water Song Gathering & Learning

<https://www.iisd.org/ela/blog/engaging-with-science/i-went-to-a-water-song-gathering-for-the-first-time-and-this-is-what-i-learned/>

For the Anishinaabe people, *nibi* (water) gatherings are a traditional ritual that has endured the test of time. Along the shores of Lake of the Woods, Grand Council Treaty #3 and Decolonising Water created space for Elders, women, youth, and IISD-ELA's very own team to congregate for what is called a water song gathering.

The overwhelming presence of women at the *nibi* gathering was no coincidence; for the Anishinaabe, women bear a sacred connection to water. It is understood that women possess the ability to bring life into the world and are the ones who carry birth water. Consequently, this unique relationship links to the central notion that water is life. With that relationship comes responsibilities, which is why women are seen to have an especially sacred duty to protect water—which is not to say that men and two-spirit people do not also share their respective responsibilities in the work.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 5. Grey Market Charcoal East Africa — Why Prohibitionist Interventions Are Failing

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/07/grey-market-charcoal-east-africa-why-prohibitionist-interventions-are-failing/>

Charcoal is a popular source of cooking energy for urbanites in Uganda and most of East Africa. It also has immense social-economic importance, but it is getting scarce and expensive. A household study by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2021 found that charcoal provides the primary energy of up to 80% of Kampala's population. While charcoal, wood, and other forms of biomass together provide more than 90% of the total primary energy consumed in Uganda. Most of the charcoal supplies to Uganda's capital Kampala, neighbouring municipalities, and districts have been from formerly war-torn Northern Uganda, but there has emerged pressure against it over environmental concerns.

In February this year, a former member of Parliament, Samuel Odonga Otto, and others mobilised vigilantes to enforce bans on charcoal burning and illegal trade in a region which has a tree cover relatively better compared to other parts of Uganda. The vigilantes would intercept trucks loaded with charcoal cutting off supplies to markets like Nakawa and others.

As the vigilante group got more sympathizers, President Yoweri Museveni swiftly responded by issuing an order banning commercial charcoal trade in northern Uganda and districts bordering South Sudan and DRC and Kenya to the northeast of Uganda.

While the ban was celebrated by some in the region, a number of questions have emerged. What alternatives to charcoal? How can governments address the conflict between the charcoal ban versus lives and livelihoods?

Only 1.7 million of about 8 million households in Uganda are connected to grid electricity while small-scale charcoal burners wondered how else to survive as the ban took effect.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 6. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Newsletter: July 2023

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/>

- Following the selection and launch of the inaugural cohort of our Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), we convened the pioneer AWARD Policy Fellows for their first face-to-face activity, which included an immersive training on leadership and management.
- We partnered with the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF) to convene a policy dialogue targeting our stakeholders in Francophone Africa. The policy dialogue, "Toward Gender-Responsive Agricultural and Food Systems Policies in Africa", highlighted how we can foster policy change for equitable agri-food systems.

- Advancing our agenda of building a vibrant and robust intergenerational network of African and European scientists equipped to deliver gender-responsive climate adaptation solutions for African smallholders, we welcomed 60 emerging African and European scientists into the One Planet Fellowship.
- We are happy to announce that registrations are now open for the 2023 AWARD leadership series designed for middle to senior-level male and female managers who want to strengthen their leadership skills.
- At the 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW) convened by the Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA) and partners, we led a consortium of partners to convene a parallel session anchored on this report. The session, "Making African Food Systems Gender-Responsive for Equitable Livelihoods", featured diverse expert voices who highlighted what the new evidence means for our agri-food systems and some of the commitments that are required to make equitable food systems a reality.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 7. Women aid forests in Nepal

<https://www.context.news/nature/trees-like-women-best-nepals-forests-thrive-with-female-bosses>

Are women the best guardians of forests? A pioneering 30-year scheme in Nepal gives evidence that they are. "In comparison to other community forests in the country, the ones managed by women are doing exceptionally well," Nabaraj Pudasaini, joint secretary of the government's Department of Forest and Soil Conservation said. Pudasaini said that three decades of efforts to favour women for leadership has produced more robust forests. Women spend more time in forests than men, engendering a "deeper love and understanding" of forests, he said.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 8. Quest for Safe Water in One of India's Most Isolated Villages

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/07/quest-for-safe-water-in-one-of-indias-most-isolated-villages/>

According to government records, 80% of India's rural drinking water comes from underground sources. One-third of India's 600 districts do not have safe drinking water because fluoride, iron, salinity, and arsenic concentrations exceed tolerance levels. India's water quality is poor, ranking at 120 of 122 nations.

Champad, a village inhabited by a tribal community, has 105 households per the 2011 census. Until 2022, the community depended on only two tube wells as their source of drinking water. There has been a rise in waterborne diseases, particularly affecting the health of women and children. The need to travel long distances for safe drinking water has increased women's workload, increasing their workload.

The village representatives were taken on board, and a proposal was submitted to the water department of the district.

The solar water towers were equipped with solar panels, enabling them to operate sustainably and with minimal environmental impact. 45 families now directly benefit from the convenience of having clean drinking water channelled to their homes through pipelines. The water provided is of good quality and considered safe, in contrast to the open well water that was previously relied upon. This development has significantly alleviated the burden on women, who no longer have to travel long distances to fetch water from various sources.

The impact of this intervention was significant. The community's health improved, and they were no longer at risk of waterborne illnesses. The women and children, who were often responsible for collecting water from distant sources, could now spend their time on other activities. The community's overall quality of life improved, and they could focus on their livelihoods and education.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 9. Water Harvesting Boosts Agriculture in Brazil's Semiarid Northeast

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/water-harvesting-boosts-agriculture-brazils-semiarid-northeast/>

Nearly 1.2 million tanks that collect 16,000 liters of potable rainwater from the roofs of homes now form part of the rural landscape of the semiarid ecoregion, an area that covers 1.1 million square kilometers and is home to 28 million of Brazil's 214 million people, which extends throughout the interior of the Northeast and into the northern fringe of Brazil's Southeast region.

The water tanks are a symbol of the transformation that the Northeast, the country's poorest region, has been undergoing since the beginning of this century. During the longest drought in its history, from 2011 to 2018, there was no repeat of previous tragedies of deaths, mass exodus of people to the south and the looting of businesses by desperate people, as seen in the 1980s and 1990s.

According to the Articulação Semiárido Brasileiro (ASA), a network of 3,000 social organizations that created the program, adopted as public policy by the government in 2003, some 350,000 families are still in need of water tanks.

Another battle is to increase fourfold the more than 200,000 "technologies" for collecting water for production, or "second water", which already benefit family farming and are decisive for food security and poverty reduction in the region. A complex of pipes carries the wastewater to the so-called "fat box" and then to the Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket (UASB) reactor and a tank for "polishing", exposed to the sun, and another for the water ready for irrigation. This system filters contaminating components, such as fecal coliforms (bacteria), and prepares the water with fertilizers for irrigation of the fields and fruit trees.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 10. Wood Smoke Continues to Make Women Sick in El Salvador

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/07/wood-smoke-continues-make-women-sick-el-salvador/>

Many women in El Salvador and other parts of the world, especially in the countryside, where dire economic conditions as well as ingrained habits and traditions lead families to cook with firewood, result in negative repercussions on their health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that in 2019 approximately 18 percent of global deaths were due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 23 percent to acute respiratory infections. Ambient pollution, including wood smoke, plays a decisive role in respiratory diseases, especially among rural women, who do the cooking in line with the roles of patriarchal culture. Back in 2004 the WHO warned that about 1.6 million people were dying annually from charcoal and wood smoke used in cooking stoves in many developing countries.

In El Salvador, 29,365 cases of acute respiratory infections per 100,000 inhabitants were reported in 2022, well above the 19,000 reported in 2021. Pneumonia reached 365 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in the same period, and the case fatality rate stood at 13.6 percent, up from 11.4 percent the previous year.

One possible answer to reduce exposure to smoke, especially in rural areas, is the spread of eco-stoves, which due to their combustion mechanism are more efficient in producing energy and release less smoke. These stoves have been around for decades in developing countries, including El Salvador, but they have not yet become widespread enough to make a difference, at least in this country.

There are socio-cultural aspects that hinder the expansion of the stoves and lead to the continued use of wood-burning stoves, environmentalist Ricardo Navarro, of the Salvadoran Center for Appropriate Technology, a local affiliate of the international organization Friends of the Earth, told IPS. For example, he mentioned the practice by small farmers of placing corn or beans on bamboo or wooden platforms on top of wood stoves, so that the smoke prevents insects from eating the food.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 11. Invisible Women in Energy: Millions of Household Biomass Producers

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/07/clean-cooking-invisible-women-energy-millions-household-biomass-producers/>

An estimated 2.4 billion people currently lack access to clean cooking fuels, with the majority relying on biomass (firewood, charcoal, dung) to meet household cooking needs. This is only a slight decrease from 2017, when 2.5 billion people lacked access to clean cooking fuels.

Of those who continue to lack this access, the majority—923 million—live in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by 490 million in India. While India decreased its population without access by about 30 percent from 2010 to 2020, Africa has seen an increase of more than 50 percent over the same period, driven by a rising number of poor, tepid government policies to address this issue, and overarching poverty challenges.

These figures are likely to remain persistently high at about 2.2 billion over the next decade, roughly split between India and other parts of developing Asia on the one hand, and sub-Saharan Africa on the other.

Hidden behind these figures are the people who produce the biomass that powers most of this energy use: often it's women and girls who are tasked with this labor. In this article, the authors discuss why it's important to see these women and girls—potentially the largest segment of the energy labor force today and in the foreseeable future—as producers and workers.

In understanding them as a formidable workforce of biomass producers, their knowledge and experience can inform ongoing efforts of electrification, clean cooking alternatives, gender rights, and overall poverty alleviation. It is also equally important to recognize this workforce in order to improve its working conditions on the path to building a more inclusive energy workforce toward net zero emissions.

Calculating the number of women and girls in their capacity as biomass producers reframes the perception of them as passive consumers (i.e., cooks) to active self-producers of the household energy sector.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **12. Nigerian Authorities Declare State of Emergency on Food Security**

<https://www.voanews.com/a/nigerian-authorities-declare-state-of-emergency-on-food-security-/7181330.html>

Nigerian authorities have declared a national emergency on food security as record inflation has made basic foods unaffordable for many and has pushed up malnutrition rates. Food prices jumped after Nigeria controversially removed a long-held, costly fuel subsidy. Officials say they will use those funds instead for the agricultural sector and to provide fertilizers and grains to farmers and households struggling with high prices.

The president ordered that all matters pertaining to food and water availability and affordability be included within the scope of the National Security Council. Authorities also ordered the immediate release of fertilizers and grains to farmers and households to mitigate the effects of the subsidy removal.

The president's spokesperson also said authorities would boost the security architecture to protect farmers. He said the ministries of agriculture and water would work together to guarantee irrigation for farmers to produce food year-round.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **13. Violence in Sudan likely to spark record levels of hunger**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136517>

In an alert on the situation, the World Food Programme (WFP) said that it expected between two and 2.5 million more people to face acute hunger in the coming months, because of conflict that erupted on 15 April between forces loyal to rival Generals Abdel Fattah Al Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. This development would take the already dire food insecurity in Sudan to a “record high”, WFP said, with two-fifths of the country’s population affected.

According to the UN agency, the biggest spikes in food insecurity could occur in West Darfur, West Kordofan, Blue Nile, Red Sea and North Darfur states.

UN humanitarian experts expect the price of basic food items to increase by 25 per cent in the next three to six months. If the situation in the country bars farmers from accessing their fields and planting key staples between May and July, food prices could rise even more, WFP said.

Overall, the agency aims to support 4.9 million vulnerable people in areas where the security situation allows, in addition to “preventing and treating moderate acute malnutrition” for 600,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The UN agency is also providing emergency food assistance to thousands who have fled Sudan to neighbouring Chad, South Sudan, Egypt and the Central African Republic, amid dire funding shortages. In South Sudan for instance, where more than 40,000 returnees have fled across the border, WFP says that it is “cash-strapped” and that any extra pressure on resources could force it to take food and funding from others to support new arrivals.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **14. UN unable to feed 100,000 Haitians this month amid ‘catastrophic’ conditions**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jul/17/un-world-food-programme-haiti-hunger-crisis>

The World Food Programme (WFP) will be unable to feed 100,000 Haitians this month as the UN agency has insufficient funding to meet burgeoning humanitarian needs in the embattled Caribbean nation.

Haitians grappling with dire malnutrition will have to endure the absence of vital food and financial support amid the worst hunger crisis the country has ever witnessed, the WFP announced on Monday.

Surging food inflation in Haiti means the cost of feeding each person has increased while the number of those in need of assistance has also grown, driving up the cost of delivering WFP aid. At the same time the programme’s donors have cut funding, meaning many in dire need of assistance will not receive it.

For many Haitians supported by the WFP – including more than 450,000 schoolchildren in the first half of this year – the full meal provided to them is the only one they eat each day, the agency says. Without an injection of funds, nearly half of those children will lose access to school meals when they return to class in September.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **15. Empowering Agriculture Entrepreneurs: LadyAgri and the Future of Women-Focused Investments**

<https://foodtank.com/news/2023/07/empowering-agriculture-entrepreneurs-ladyagri-and-the-future-of-women-focused-investments/>

LadyAgri Impact Investment Hub is trying to transform the future of agri-business by empowering women-led projects and investments. Through initiatives aimed to support agri-entrepreneurs in Africa and Small Island Developing States, LadyAgri brings together women entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, philanthropists, and donors.

LadyAgri is built on three pillars: technical assistance; access to agri-finance; and access to markets, equipment, and technology. By providing technical capacity building, LadyAgri hopes to support women at all phases of their growth cycle. They train women agri-entrepreneurs to source responsibly and sustainably, confront unprecedented challenges such as the climate crisis, boost local production, and meet market demands.

LadyAgri's finance focused pillar aims to connect women in agri-business to the finance community. Their team works with international financial service providers to bridge public and private investments, while also prioritizing social responsibility and the interests of the agri-businesses.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 16. **Opinion: Re-thinking Disability Inclusion for the SDGs**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/07/re-thinking-disability-inclusion-sdgs/>

This year marks halfway towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an ambitious agenda which set out to transform our world. We have always known that the goals cannot be realized without the inclusion of persons with disabilities. From poverty to inequality, climate to health the promise to leave no-one behind is the bedrock of the SDG call to action.

Unfortunately, the midway indicators should give us all cause for concern. The UN Secretary-General recently announced that progress on 50 percent is weak and insufficient, and we have stalled or gone into reverse on more than 30 percent of the goals. And what can this lack of SDG progress tell us about disability inclusion?

The collection of disability-specific SDG data is also a priority. Persons with disabilities are often excluded from participating in data collection processes, leading to an under-representation of their perspectives. Data collection mechanisms designed by and with persons with disabilities and their respective organizations, including disaggregated data on disability types, age and gender, are vital yet currently missing.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 17. **Canada's Agriculture Minister first woman ever to chair the FAO**

<https://www.discoverwestman.com/articles/canadas-agriculture-minister-first-woman-ever-to-chair-the-fao>

Federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau chaired the biennial Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Conference in Italy in July. This year's theme was water resource management. Bibeau was the first woman to ever chair the FAO conference and the first Canadian to do it since 1997.

During her visit, she also met with Italian agri-food stakeholders, Canadian industry associations, and Canadians working at Rome-based international organizations and agencies. She highlighted the strong economic ties and common values between Canada and Italy, specifically around Canadian durum wheat, and discussed how they could work together to increase trade and investments.

**Update** <https://www.producer.com/news/macaulay-back-in-ag-bibeau-moves-to-new-job/>

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a sweeping July 26 cabinet shuffle, moved Marie-Claude Bibeau to the national revenue portfolio. Canada's new agriculture minister is a familiar face as Prince Edward Island MP Lawrence MacAulay returns to the portfolio. MacAulay was Trudeau's first agriculture minister in 2015 until moving to veterans' affairs in 2019.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 18. **Canadian Organic Growers - new Executive Director**

<https://cog.ca/>

Canadian Organic Growers is thrilled to announce that Karen Murchison has joined our team as our new Executive Director. Karen will move into her role as Executive Director beginning July 24, 2023.

Karen comes to COG following seven years with the PEI Certified Organic Producers Cooperative. During her tenure, organic production expanded to more than 12,000 acres. Alongside sector leaders, Karen was instrumental in developing comprehensive strategies for water use, carbon capture and most recently, agroforestry. The launch of Growers Station, a local food distribution hub, in 2021 stands as her greatest achievement in her capacity as research coordinator.

Karen studied agronomy at Dalhousie University and business at the University of Prince Edward Island. She is a professional agronomist and practicing agronomist and has held numerous volunteer positions, most often with food-related community organizations. She has three grown children and currently lives in downtown Charlottetown, PEI.

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

## 19. Women Deliver 2023 Conference – Opening Day

<https://www.devex.com/news/feminists-descend-on-kigali-for-women-deliver-105890>

<https://womendeliver.org/conference/wd2023/>

An array of feminists had plenty of quotable words for governments at the conference’s first day — namely that we cannot achieve gender equality without free and open democracies. “At this point in time, we are in a sad situation where it could take us 131 years before we reach gender equality. This is because the majority of the countries in the world are not open democracies,” said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the former deputy president of South Africa and board chair of Women Deliver. She added that democracies need to include women, men, and all other gender-nonconforming people, lamenting that countries are moving backward on LGBTQ+ rights, affirmative action, and racial equality.

Helen Clark, the former prime minister of New Zealand and also a Women Deliver board member, argued that movements against abortion and gay rights are fueling these rollbacks. “Let’s face it, it’s had voice and power all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States of America and legislatures in the country, through to the Parliament of Uganda cracking down on LGBTQI+ rights, or Russia banning gender reassignment surgery,” she said.

The host country Rwanda was not spared as former Irish President Mary Robinson pointed out the country’s less-than-stellar human rights record: “We’re talking about open and safe space, that can be a real problem here in Rwanda and there are other human rights issues, but I’ll leave it there.”

Hungarian President Katalin Novák: While she’s her country’s first female president, Novák has also been an advocate for traditional gender roles, making her a lightning rod for many attendees.

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

## 20. IDRC events at Women Deliver

<https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/stories/advancing-southern-solutions-gender-equality>

IDRC is gathering with thousands of gender equality leaders and advocates from all over the world in Kigali, Rwanda, for the Women Deliver 2023 conference, from July 17–20, 2023.

IDRC’s innovative research programming promotes solutions at the intersection of some of the greatest challenges and opportunities facing women in the Global South: the use of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly in health; climate change; and inequality in the care economy.

IDRC is committed to supporting transformational change that addresses deeply rooted and structural power relations to move the needle on women’s equality. A co-hosted panel discusses gender transformative approaches that have helped position women livestock farmers to participate in, and benefit from, livestock vaccine value chains.

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

## 21. Solutions to improve women’s access to livestock vaccines

<https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/research-in-action/solutions-improve-womens-access-livestock-vaccines>

Women livestock smallholders are critical players in food systems around the world and represent two-thirds of livestock smallholders. Yet the gender-specific needs, preferences and constraints of women livestock smallholders are often overlooked as part of efforts to eradicate devastating livestock diseases that threaten food security, harm livelihoods and undercut opportunities for economic empowerment.

To address this gap, a set of four IDRC-supported projects are researching the barriers faced by women in livestock vaccine systems across six countries — Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda. Together, they are generating new evidence on how women can better benefit and participate in these systems, and how livestock-based interventions can shift community gender norms.

The research is supported by the Livestock Vaccine Innovation Fund (LVIF), a partnership between Global Affairs Canada, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and IDRC that supports the development of affordable livestock vaccines, targeting diseases that impact women and men livestock smallholders, and facilitates their access and use at scale.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 22. Did Women Deliver?

<https://www.devex.com/news/the-latest-from-women-deliver-who-rotation-and-brac-localization-105938>

The Women Deliver conference in Rwanda ended with song, dance, and a video message from Michelle Obama, who thanked attendees for their work. Though organizers initially received some backlash for including Hungarian President Katalin Novák — an advocate for traditional gender roles — the event yielded some big announcements:

- A new Women Deliver Emerging Leaders Program that will put more trust-based funding into the hands of young activists.
- A campaign launched by over 40 organizations to close the gender nutrition gap.
- The launch of the RESPECT Women website — a partnership including the World Health Organization, UN Women, U.N. Population Fund, and U.N. Development Programme among others, aimed at driving concrete action around preventing gender-based violence. <https://respect-prevent-vaw.org/>
- UNFPA’s Kigali call to action for accelerated efforts to promote women’s and girls’ bodily autonomy. <https://esaro.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-announces-kigali-call-action-women-deliver-calling-accelerated-efforts-promote-women-and>

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 23. Canada announces funding for women and girls’ health and rights, and gender equality at 2023 Women Deliver Conference

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/07/canada-announces-funding-for-women-and-girls-health-and-rights-and-gender-equality-at-2023-women-deliver-conference.html>

During a panel discussion on SRHR, bodily autonomy and abortion rights at Women Deliver in Rwanda, Minister Sajjan announced more than \$200 million in funding for new projects. The projects are part of Canada’s SheSOARS initiative, funded as part of the 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights. Projects funded under SheSOARS support neglected and underfunded areas of SRHR, including family planning, comprehensive sexuality education, advocacy for SRHR, safe abortion and post-abortion care, and sexual and gender-based violence.

During a pre-conference event on strengthening care policies, MP Arielle Kayabaga, Member of Parliament for London West announced \$25 million in funding for a project, in partnership with the International Development Research Centre, that will work directly with women leaders, local experts, and local institutions to scale up solutions for women’s unpaid care work internationally. Other funding announcements were made during the conference.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 24. Uniting for gender equality in Egypt’s date palm sector

<https://www.unido.org/stories/uniting-gender-equality-egypts-date-palm-sector>

In Egypt, the unemployment rate for women is more than three times that of men.

The date sector, a prominent source of income in the region, has traditionally been dominated by men. However, Greens Farm has taken noteworthy strides in promoting gender diversity and inclusion in the industry. For the first time since its establishment in 2016, the farm has opened its doors to women as employees, specifically to assist in the pre-harvesting of dates.

Through the Women's Economic Empowerment for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Egypt project, Greens Farm recruited women employees with the assistance of a training program provided by UN Women and UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and supported by Canada.

The program not only facilitated job placements and offered training in technical skills, such as pre- and post-harvesting activities, but it also helped these women understand their roles as valued employees and what constitutes a supportive work environment.

As of March 2022, UN Women and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, with Canada's collaboration, have improved access to employment and self-employment opportunities for 1,189 Egyptian women and provided training for 572 early-stage women entrepreneurs.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **25. How Prairie women helped the Second World War effort as 'farmerettes' in B.C.**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/farmerettes-second-world-war-1.6892924>

During the Second World War, B.C. recruited Saskatchewan women to work picking fruit in orchards to replace men who had gone off to fight in Europe. Media of the time called them 'farmerettes.'

Eighty years ago, British Columbia faced an agricultural labour shortage driven by the Second World War. It made a call to Prairie women for help. The program, known as the Women's Land Army, recruited women to work in orchards and on farms, to replace the shortage caused by men shipping off to Europe. Hundreds of women participated during and just after the war. Some of the food they were picking was even sent to help Canada's soldiers and allies in Europe.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## **26. School meals are 'low hanging fruit' for food systems transformation**

<https://www.devex.com/news/school-meals-are-low-hanging-fruit-for-food-systems-transformation-105957>

Robust school meals programs are one of the easiest ways for governments to help spur food systems reform, government and United Nations' officials said Monday [July 24] at the opening session at the U.N. Food Systems Summit stocktaking event in Rome. Ensuring that children have access to a nutritious school meal each day provides a host of benefits for the child, society, and food systems.

Providing children with a full school meal, which for many worldwide is the only one they will eat all day, helps increase school attendance, particularly for girls. The meals reduce poverty by purchasing food from smallholder farmers and supporting local markets. Local procurement also builds sustainable and resilient food systems that are less vulnerable to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic — which significantly disrupted food exports globally.

Now an estimated 3.5 million children across all levels are fed daily at school in Rwanda.

Sierra Leone covers 80% of the cost of school meals, increasing school attendance, enrolment, and decreasing stunting levels. The program focuses on building a sustainable supply chain of locally produced food, which boosts incomes for local farmers.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

### 1. Training Manual on Bundled Climate Smart Agriculture, Climate Information Services and One-Health Technologies for Priority Value Chains

Permanent link to cite or share this item: <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/126752>

#### Abstract/Description

The manual is an addendum to the prioritized and bundled Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Climate Information Services Innovations that is One Health Sensitive. The manual is designed as an extension and training tool for trainers of trainees (TOT) and extension agents to support smallholder farmers most especially stakeholders in AICCRA intervention communities. Users will find the manual very useful, and it is hoped that Agriculture Extension Agents (AEAs), farmers, students, and other end users will apply the modules to increase crop production in the target agroecologies. Specifically, the manual provides climate information services, climate smart agriculture innovations and one health intervention that have been prioritized along maize, cowpea, yam, sweet potato, and tomato value chains.

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

### 2. Men Can Cook: Approaching Gender Equity Through Indigenous Knowledge and Customs

[https://ssir.org/articles/entry/approaching\\_gender\\_equity\\_through\\_indigenous\\_knowledge\\_and\\_customs](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/approaching_gender_equity_through_indigenous_knowledge_and_customs)

DOI: 10.48558/p6s3-gc93

In late 2021, a small Zimbabwean community-based organization, Score Against Poverty (SCORE), with help from the Canadian government, decided to test out a different approach. We believed that, as social behavior is based on culture, perhaps the road to behavioral social innovation lies through leveraging culture as a positive disrupter of negative gender norms. We also saw an opportunity to test this theory in our work with Shona men and women in the staunchly patriarchal rural area of Mwenezi, Zimbabwe. We thought that, if husbands could be actively engaged in a community-designed program that (a) respected their culture and (b) recognized and reinforced their importance to the family and community in new ways, then not only would this address the weakness of previous approaches, but it would assist men in redefining masculinity and associated norms in a positive and supportive way. Further, we thought that the most powerful context in which to do this would be that of household labor and family care. Working with the Fund for Innovation and Transformation, Global Affairs Canada, within ten months, this locality and cultural approach was quickly supported by the evidence in practice.

[Go to Top](#). ++++++

### 3. Market Analysis of Pilot Run Fortified Parboiled Rice in Burkina Faso

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/market-analysis-of-pilot-run-fortified-parboiled-rice-in-burkina-faso-621530/>

This research documents the results of the piloting of an innovative technology with a limited-water fortification parboiling method developed by the University of Arkansas with eleven women rice parboiling cooperatives in Burkina Faso. The technology is easily adaptable to the parboiling method currently used in Burkina Faso (with some modifications), reduces water use and cost of fortificants contributing to food and nutritional security—particularly for women and children—and promotes economic empowerment of women in Burkina Faso. The paper also synthesizes two research papers on consumer preferences and willingness to pay for fortified rice products in Burkina Faso.

The results suggest that it is technically feasible to produce fortified rice using the limited-water method and brown rice as a feedstock, particularly for iron and zinc, for which the concentration levels were close to the recommended dietary

allowance (RDA). From the sensory analysis, although there is nothing particularly wrong with fortified rice, urban and rural consumers preferred conventional and modified parboiled rice; and of all three rice products, consumers were more likely to buy the two rice alternatives rather than fortified rice.

The results from the experimental auctions show that most consumers were willing to pay the same price for fortified rice as for the conventional parboiled rice currently available on the market. Results showed that creating awareness on the benefits of fortified rice had a positive impact on consumers' willingness to pay for it, and this was seen across all income levels. These results highlight the importance of designing an appropriate marketing campaign/awareness-raising to promote the nutritional benefits of fortified rice to increase the consumers' willingness to pay for it.

This study is unique in that, to our knowledge, fortified rice is not available in Burkina Faso, and therefore there is no information about its technical and market feasibility. The results can be used by the government and private and public sector actors to develop strategies for the adoption of fortified rice as another potentially relevant tool to fight malnutrition in Burkina Faso.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 4. Loss and Damage to Land: Voices from Asia

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/loss-and-damage-to-land-voices-from-asia-621531/>

Oxfam listened to women and men from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste who shared their stories on how the climate crisis caused loss and damage to their lands and impacted their lives.

The stories demonstrate that land ownership is a key factor in determining people's eligibility to receive assistance to overcome loss and damage. Those who can prove land ownership receive compensation, alternative land or relocation benefits, while it proves challenging to access these benefits for those who do not own land and hold proof of their rightful ownership and tenure. Similarly, land ownership gives access to membership of farmer societies through which government extension services relating to climate adaptation and mitigation as well as climate finance are channelled. These stories show the importance of secure land tenure to avoid, minimize and address loss and damage, particularly for the most vulnerable, and to increase their climate resilience.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 5. Film: "Picture a Scientist"

<https://www.pictureascientist.com/>

The film Picture a Scientist chronicles the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. Biologist Nancy Hopkins, chemist Raychelle Burks, and geologist Jane Willenbring lead viewers on a journey deep into their own experiences in the sciences, ranging from brutal harassment to years of subtle slights. Along the way, from cramped laboratories to spectacular field stations, we encounter scientific luminaries - including social scientists, neuroscientists, and psychologists - who provide new perspectives on how to make science itself more diverse, equitable, and open to all.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 6. Report: Are policies in Africa conducive to sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector?

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3413en>

This publication presents the key findings from a preliminary assessment of the policies of African countries relevant to charcoal value chains. The main objective of this study is to assess the extent to which national energy and environmental policies and strategies in Africa have the potential to provide enabling conditions for sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector. The study was limited to the 31 countries that have pledged commitment to the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). A content analysis of their environment and energy policy documents was undertaken to

assess: (i) how charcoal is portrayed; (ii) what types of intervention are proposed; and (iii) who they recognize as legitimate and valuable stakeholders to contribute to the sector. The information obtained was used to assess countries' potential conduciveness, based on 42 criteria.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 7. Report: The status of women in agrifood systems

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

The status of women in agrifood systems report uses extensive new data and analyses to provide a comprehensive picture of women's participation, benefits, and challenges they face working in agrifood systems globally. The report shows how increasing women's empowerment and gender equality in agrifood systems enhances women's well-being and the well-being of their households, creating opportunities for economic growth, greater incomes, productivity and resilience.

The report comes more than a decade after the publication of the *State of food and agriculture (SOFA) 2010–11: Women in agriculture – Closing the gender gap for development*. SOFA 2010–11 documented the tremendous costs of gender inequality not only for women but also for agriculture and the broader economy and society, making the business case for closing existing gender gaps in accessing agricultural assets, inputs and services. Moving beyond agriculture, *The status of women in agrifood systems* reflects not only on how gender equality and women's empowerment are central to the transition towards sustainable and resilient agrifood systems but also on how the transformation of agrifood systems can contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment.

It provides a comprehensive analysis of the available evidence on gender equality and women's empowerment in agrifood systems that has been produced over the last decade. The report also provides policymakers and development actors with an extensive review of what has worked, highlighting the promise of moving from closing specific gender gaps towards the adoption of gender-transformative approaches that explicitly address the formal and informal structural constraints to equality. It concludes with specific recommendations on the way forward.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 8. Making African Food Systems Gender-Responsive for Equitable Livelihoods

[https://youtu.be/q\\_FJcpodykM](https://youtu.be/q_FJcpodykM)

Streamed live on Jun 6, 2023. Gender Responsive Agricultural Research (GRASP) Fellowship. The Africa Agribusiness and Science Week (AASW) is organized by the Forum for Agriculture Research as a major continental platform for all stakeholders involved in agriculture and agribusiness research and innovation in Africa.

The session 'Making African Food Systems Gender-Responsive for Equitable Livelihood', organized on the cusp of the 8th AASW, unpacked the recent report by FAO on the Status of Women in Agri-food Systems, contextualized and identified the gaps and opportunities toward equitable and healthy food systems. The session also provided insights into the role of gender and gender-responsive policies in triggering the desired future outcomes and development.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 9. Digitally powered 'learning to earning' for displaced young people and adolescent girls and young women

<https://odi.org/en/publications/digitally-powered-learning-to-earning-for-displaced-young-people-and-adolescent-girls-and-young-women/>

More and more, technology is being used to provide education, training and job opportunities, particularly in humanitarian and displacement settings. The Covid-19 pandemic significantly accelerated the use of digital technologies in support of

learning to earning, including solutions focused on displaced young people, adolescent women and young girls, driving a shift to online training and work on an unprecedented scale, albeit not universally.

This report explores how digitally powered learning to earning for displaced young people, adolescent girls and young women – especially refugees, but also the internally displaced and those in host communities – can be further developed and scaled.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 10. Gender equality in Togo

<https://odi.org/en/publications/gender-equality-in-togo/>

Gender equality is crucial for peaceful societies and is recognised in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, Togo ranked 127 out of 144 countries on the SDG Gender Index. This brief examines the progress made on gender equality in Togo compared to other West African countries. It presents indicators and policy analysis related to women's rights, access to resources and representation in public life. These three dimensions point out the progress made on women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence and social norms which are core elements of gender equality.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 11. Fairtrade Cocoa in Ghana

<https://youtu.be/vpzaPmE-V7k>

Ghana is the world's second largest cocoa producer. Cocoa is at the heart of the economy and a source of employment for many Ghanaians. Fairtrade works with cocoa producers, providing Premiums to farmers and workers and boosting interest in the Ghanaian cocoa industry thanks to the investment and improvement of cocoa farms.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 12. Women's Voices on Climate Change in Ghana and Kenya

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/stories/envisioning-resilience-women-ghana-kenya/>

As countries advance their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes, the need for meaningful participation by people on the frontlines of climate change becomes increasingly clear.

This need is particularly important for women, who remain underrepresented in adaptation decision making due to discriminatory power structures and social norms. Envisioning Resilience aims to address this, using visual storytelling as a tool for dialogue among adaptation decision-makers and women with lived experience of climate change.

Led by the NAP Global Network and Lensational, the initiative piloted in Ghana and Kenya, where groups of women were supported to develop visual stories that document their experiences with climate change, their visions of resilience, and the collective actions that are already underway. Through close collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency in Ghana and the Climate Change Directorate in Kenya, the trainees had the opportunity to share their stories with decision-makers involved in the two countries' NAP processes.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 13. Tracing the Geography of NGOs: Exploring Where Canadian Development Organizations Work and Why

Correction to: Voluntas <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-023-00564-0>

*Abstract*

As NGOs have emerged as arguably the most prominent actors within the global development enterprise, their international activities and presence have grown to represent a key area of inquiry for development scholars. Existing literature on the geographic distribution of development NGOs leans heavily on quantitative analysis, which lends little insight into the deeper motivations behind the location-based decisions that these organizations make; this study uses a qualitative lens to fill this gap, shedding light on the question “Why do NGOs work where they do”? After interviewing representatives from 22 Canadian development NGOs, the research team determined several key catalysts, which shape the geography of these entities. These factors include existing relationships, personal visits, local requests, logistical ease, funder restrictions, documented need, and humanitarian crises. Furthermore, the decision-making framework related to project locations appears to evolve as organizations grow.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 14. Canada’s Small INGOs: Growth Aspirations, Strategies, and Constraints

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2023.2197543>

### *Abstract*

During the past two decades, international development non-government organizations (INGOs) have proliferated in the global North. In Canada, there are approximately 1350 registered INGOs—of which, 950 were established in 2000 or later, 1192 receive no federal government funding, 1202 have annual revenues under CAD one million dollars, and 709 have no full-time employees. This new wave of Small and Medium Organizations (SMOs) epitomises the decentralisation of global development as private aid has surpassed Official Development Assistance funding. Yet, recent studies suggest SMOs have a short lifespan and fail to progress beyond service provision representing the first evolutionary stage of INGO maturation. Our study combines surveys (n: 95) and interviews (n: 18) with Canadian SMOs to explore growth aspirations along with their challenges and strategies to increase revenue. Our results show that nearly all Canadian SMOs desire organisational growth, and pursue diverse funding sources and innovative strategies to increase revenue. However, for SMOs, growth means doing more of the same thing—they are committed to improving the living conditions of their target population—which contradicts best practices to scale up INGO impact and may necessitate alternative organisational evolutionary guides for SMOs operating in this emerging development niche.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 15. Canada's Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://hlpf.un.org/countries/canada/voluntary-national-reviews-2023>

Canada's Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals was released recently. Canada is making significant progress in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Significant progress has been made on reducing poverty (SDG 1).
- Ensuring access to quality education (SDG 4) is an important measure to tackle poverty. Canadian educational outcomes are among the highest in the world.
- Canada has a longstanding commitment to gender equality (SDG 5) and is taking concrete action to support women, girls and the 2SLGBTQI+ community. The report includes a shoutout to the Fund for Innovation & Transformation and their work on gender equality.
- Canada is taking bold action on climate change (SDG 13), as it works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by forty to forty-five percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and reduce carbon pollution to net zero by 2050. I
- Partnerships (SDG 17) are at the heart of advancing the 2030 Agenda.

- Canada’s international assistance continues to improve the lives of millions of people around the world by supporting programs that tackle hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2), invest in quality education (SDG 4), advance human rights (SDG 16), enhance global health (SDG 3) and promote gender equality (SDG 5).

Canada has made good progress to achieve the SDGs. More remains to be done. Canada continues to note health inequalities for many populations, including gaps in health outcomes of Indigenous Peoples. Data continues to point to the scale and impact of gender inequality and disability status on the realization of many other SDGs. Many Canadians face growing food insecurity and housing affordability challenges as rising prices outpace income growth, exacerbating existing lower socio-economic outcomes for vulnerable populations.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 16. Skills Training + Tools + Water = Food Security for Impoverished Women

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/funded-innovations/search/33/roll-a-hippo-foundation>

Roll a Hippo Foundation tested an innovative Food Security Training Course and Survival Garden Kit for women in rural communities in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces, South Africa. The course provided women access to abundant water, essential gardening supplies, and time savings, enabling them to increase their food production and engage in more empowering economic and educational activities. Elders played a role in sharing their knowledge on Indigenous crops and how they have historically grown food – which in turn made them feel valued.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 17. The Gender Nutrition Gap: A Call for Collective Action

<https://www.girlsglobe.org/2023/07/19/the-gender-nutrition-gap-a-call-for-collective-action/>

The Gender Nutrition Gap encompasses the unique biological needs of women and girls, disparities in access to food and services, and harmful social norms that impact their health and economic outcomes. Urgent action is needed to address this gap, as highlighted during the launch event organized by FHI360 at the Women Deliver conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

Alarming statistics reveal that over 1 billion girls suffer from malnutrition, posing risks to both mothers and newborns. This increase in acute malnutrition among pregnant or breastfeeding women by 25 percent between 2020 and 2022 is influenced by climate change, political instabilities, and food crises.

Solving the gender nutrition gap requires collective actions, and political will plays a significant role. With the aid of data, policies can be shaped to ensure access to affordable food and promote socioeconomic empowerment as sustainable solutions to malnutrition.

The Action Agenda provides:

- Eight 'uplifted' action domains to bridge gaps across sectors.
- Ten principles to guide all actions.
- Four action areas; each with a framework of policy and program recommendations
  - ACTION AREA 1: SAFE, NUTRITIOUS FOODS ARE AVAILABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS
  - ACTION AREA 2: INTEGRATE NUTRITION INTO CARE SYSTEMS (HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION)
  - ACTION AREA 3: ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT
  - ACTION AREA 4: STRENGTHEN THE MULTISECTORAL POLICY ENVIRONMENT

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 18. Explore the Gender Climate Tracker

<https://genderclimatetracker.org/>

WEDO has been tracking women’s participation data in the UNFCCC negotiations since 2008, and in 2016, the GCT first made this data publicly available. The GCT website and app, available via the App Store and Google Play, contains the history of women’s participation in their Party delegations, noting the number of delegates and whether the head of delegation identified as a woman or a man. The GCT website allows these data to be selected and compared among Parties across specific negotiation sessions, as well as presents an additional, comparable visualization of the constituted bodies’ membership data over time. The GCT also provides information and data on gender in climate policy-making and planning.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 19. BRIDGING THE GAP: Policy Innovations to Put Women at the Center of Food Systems Transformation in Africa

<https://www.mamopanel.org/resources/women-agrifood-systems/reports-and-briefings/bridging-gap-policy-innovations-put-women-center-f>

While significant challenges remain, this report by the Malabo Montpellier Panel seeks to highlight areas of progress, particularly government actions that are facilitating progress in empowering women and facilitating their agency and meaningful participation in food systems. Drawing on the experience of four systematically selected African countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Togo, the report, *BRIDGING THE GAP: Policy Innovations to Put Women at the Center of Food Systems Transformation in Africa*, identifies entry points for making food systems work (better) for women, as well as possible opportunities for replication and scaling up successful interventions.

As African decision-makers look ahead to a post-Malabo Declaration era, women themselves and their empowerment must take center stage to ensure that future food systems work for them.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 20. Let’s Chat: RBM and Gender Equity

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/lets-chat-rbm-and-gender-equity/>

The Spur Change team invited small and medium sized organizations (SMOs), and other interested sector participants across Canada and abroad, to take part in a conversation series with SMO speakers in our first Let’s Chat series. Selected SMO Speakers shared their own experiences in implementing gender-transformative Results-Based Management (RBM) strategies in their projects to better inform and provide case studies for others to use.

- Session 2: Identifying Actions for Gender Equality through RBM. Roxana Dulón (Peces para la Vida | <https://pecesvida.org/>) presents a practical tool to help plan projects which lead to gender equity. This session was presented in Spanish. The original recording has been included as well as the English interpretation.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 21. Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

<https://digna.ca/gac-cso-dialogue-2023/>

On June 19, 2023, Digna and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) organized a virtual dialogue aimed at strengthening collective action and regaining momentum toward the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) within the Canadian international cooperation sector.

The conference brought together sector leaders, government officials, and PSEAH champions to discuss how the sector can collaborate effectively to prevent and address instances of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.

Visit the Digna website to learn more about the main sessions and key points of the event.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 22. New Report: “Sustainable Development by Shifting the Power”

<https://www.forus-international.org/en/pdf-detail/101430-sustainable-development-by-shifting-the-power-capacity-strengthening-of-civil-society-as-a-key-tool-for-the-implementation-of-sdg-17>

Forus launched their new report “Sustainable Development by Shifting Power” on July 10 during the UN’s High-Level Political Forum Capacity. It looks at the ways in which strengthening the capacity of civil society plays a vital role in the process of shifting power and transforming the existing aid and development systems. Learn more about the report and Cooperation Canada’s case study.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++

## 23. Gender, wheat trait preferences, and innovation uptake: Lessons from Ethiopia and India

<https://doi.org/10.1177/003072702211221>

*Abstract*

During the post-Green Revolution era, numerous improved wheat varieties were released and disseminated to enhance tolerance to biotic and abiotic stresses and increase productivity. Still, in the wheat-based farming systems of the Global South, gender-based and other social inequalities continue to undermine equitable access to improved varieties, especially for women, poor, and marginalized farmers. Here, we present a case for gender-sensitive technology development, dissemination, and evaluation as part of wheat varietal improvement programs. We take stock of the various challenges that persist in the uptake of modern wheat varieties by male and female smallholders. We focus on Ethiopia and India, two geographies with substantive wheat economies, widespread poverty, and gender inequalities. The socio-economic literature on wheat is relatively thin with limited and dated gender-sensitive evaluation studies on varietal technologies in these countries. Varietal technology evaluations could ideally cover gender differences in relation to wheat varietal trait preferences, technology adoption, and associated decision-making and labor-use changes related to new varieties and complementary technologies, as well as nutritional and economic benefits. The paper calls for a need to change the institutional arrangements in wheat research-and-development (R&D) programs to understand and pursue better paths for wheat improvement to proactively contribute toward gender equity and inclusivity.

[Go to Top.](#) ++++++