



White Admiral "Limenitis arthemis arthemis" butterflies. 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. New grant available for women in Alberta ag

<https://www.farms.com/ag-industry-news/new-grant-available-for-women-in-alberta-ag-909.aspx>

An Alberta organization is supporting women in agriculture through a grant contest. Credit Unions of Alberta, through its new Women in Ag Grant program, is awarding two grants of \$10,000 each to individuals or businesses.

Women who are at least 18 years old, are working or planning to work in agriculture are eligible to apply for the grant. The applications must include a two-page business plan detailing the target market, market strategy and projected revenue and expenses over the next two years.

A judging panel will review the submissions and choose the winners. The **application window closes on July 5**. Winners will be notified by July 21 and funds will be distributed no later than Aug. 4.

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2. Horticultural Production program for Indigenous learners (First Nations, Métis and Inuit)

<https://assiniboine.net/TFhortproduction>

Assiniboine Community College is proud to partner with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples to deliver a tuition-free Horticultural Production program. The program will be delivered full-time at the Parkland campus in Dauphin, Manitoba starting on **July 24, 2023**. Learn the totality of food production and focus your interests on three key sectors: fruits and vegetables, greenhouse production and nurseries. Students will gain hands-on experience in Dauphin's newest greenhouse through collaboration with Vermillion Growers.

Indigenous learners (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) living off-reserve are welcome to apply to the program. **Application Deadline: July 14, 2023**. To learn more, register for an upcoming online information session.

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3. Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023)

<https://www.wd2023.org/about-women-deliver-2023-conference/>

The Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023) will take place in-person in **Kigali, Rwanda**, as well as **virtually**, from **17-20 July 2023**. We expect to convene 6,000 people in Kigali and 200,000+ people online through the virtual Conference and six-month Global Dialogue leading up to the Conference.

As one of the largest multi-sectoral convenings to advance gender equality, the Women Deliver 2023 Conference and Global Dialogue are co-created by grassroots advocates, multilateral governments, the private sector, philanthropies, and youth, including from and representing communities facing systemic discrimination.

With sexual and reproductive health and rights at our core, we will center intersectional feminist principles, to address compounding issues impacting girls and women — from climate change to gender-based violence, to unpaid care work — and collectively identify and action evidence-based solutions. The theme of WD2023 is Spaces, Solidarity, and Solutions.

Pre-Conference Session: Gender and the Climate Crisis: July 16, 2023.

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4. Government of Canada officially launches the \$755M Social Finance Fund to advance the growth of the social finance market in Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-officially-launches-the-755m-social-finance-fund-to-advance-the-growth-of-the-social-finance-market-in-canada.html>

The Social Finance Fund is a long-term program and will run until March 31, 2039. The majority of the funds are expected to be repaid at the end of the program. Designed through a social equity lens, the Social Finance Fund aims to reduce barriers faced by equity-deserving groups in accessing flexible financing opportunities. Fund managers have committed to the - 30 Challenge and will work toward gender parity (50% women and gender diverse people) and more representation of equity-deserving groups (30%) in their governance and senior leadership.

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5. Female Entrepreneurs in Agri-Food Development

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

At FEAD (Female Entrepreneurs in Agri-Food Development), we believe in the transformative power of entrepreneurship to drive sustainable change. Our mission is to provide a supportive ecosystem that nurtures and guides female agri-food

innovators, equipping them with the knowledge, resources, and connections necessary for success. FEAD is supported by the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, and ISED/Prairies Economic Development Canada.

As a dynamic program, we offer a range of initiatives to support agri-food entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey. From educational programs and workshops to mentorship opportunities and access to funding networks, we are committed to providing comprehensive support that fuels growth and accelerates the development of groundbreaking ideas.

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6. Environmental Jobs Growth Program

<https://eco.ca/environmental-jobs-growth-program/>

Environmental Jobs Growth Program helps develop and diversify Canada’s environmental workforce across all industries. The program helps employers offset the cost of hiring for new or vacant positions and can apply to candidates of any working age, educational background, and experience level. This program also provides assistance in onboarding and developing talent to help accelerate clean economic growth.

This program offers eligible employers 50% wage coverage up to \$15,000 of a candidate’s salary for placements in a new full-time or part-time position of 6 to 12 months, or \$18,750 when hiring a self-identified equity deserving candidate. Equity deserving groups include Women, Indigenous people, Newcomers to Canada, Persons with disabilities, Visible minorities, and 2SLGBTQIA. Both the employer and candidate must fill out reports throughout the placement for the employer to receive the wage subsidy.

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7. The Climate Resilience Assessment

<https://60decibels.com/products/climate-resilience-assessment/>

<https://60decibels.com/insights/measuring-climate-resilience/>

<https://60decibels.com/insights/4-things-we-learned-from-the-60db-farmer-benchmarks/>

The Climate Resilience Assessment is a standardised and simple methodology for measuring impacts on household resilience to climate shocks. Finance for climate adaptation in emerging markets is 5-10x below what is needed, and the gap is widening. One barrier to financing adaption has been the absence of clear metrics – how do investors know if they’ve built resilience?

At 60dB, we believe there is a lean way to measure resilience. For the last decade, our team has continuously tested ways to get climate-conscious investors relevant, affordable, and data-driven insights. Through focusing on things that social enterprises can actually impact, we give sector leaders – from bilateral donors to country governments – the data they need.

The Climate Resilience Assessment measures changes in three key dimensions of household resilience, all captured through lean, remote interviews with a representative sample of stakeholders.

Our data shows that the women who are being reached by agribusinesses experience impacts similar to their male counterparts. Once women have access, they can take full advantage of the products and services offered by our clients.

This parity exists across our three key impact metrics for agriculture. The benchmark, or median, value for female farmers reporting significant enhancements in their farming practices is 41%, versus 40% for males. For production, the benchmark is 31% of female farmers reporting substantial increases, compared to 34% for males. Finally, the benchmark is 27% of female farmers reporting significantly higher earnings from their farms. This is just higher than the benchmark for males of 25%.

Our Lean Data studies are a key tool for elevating the voice of female farmers and reducing the extent to which decision-makers rely on male-biased data. Female farmers constitute nearly a third of the voices in our benchmarks, and we are striving to increase this. While we are pleased to see similar impacts across key metrics, we know that the lived experience of the female farmer is different, and we want to help companies both understand and tailor offerings around those differences.

We're Looking for Early Adopters. By using the 60dB lean resilience measurement tool, we can ensure that investments are targeted toward the areas that most need them and have the greatest impact. Join us in supporting smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities in adapting to the threats of climate change. Reach out or fill out the contact form.

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This Month's News

1. Opinion: Informal and Unpaid Women Workers

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2023/04/governments-know-little-informal-women-workers/>

The time women spend on informal and unpaid work is massive and represents one of the biggest contributions from workers to the global economy. They clean, feed, and care for our societies, and environment; they are farmers, cleaners, waste pickers, street vendors; they keep our world turning.

Yet government and policy makers know far too little about these workers who keep families and economies functioning. All too often, their work is undervalued, overlooked, and effectively invisible. And this invisibility is no accident: it's a reflection of a political mindset that devalues women and their contributions.

It's important to remember that the scarcity of data isn't an accident: it's a reflection of a society that devalues women and their contributions more broadly. Work that's seen as women's work (such as cooking, cleaning, and care more generally) is not seen as an important part of the economy, or something worth measuring. But we know that this is wrong: if the time women spent on unpaid care and domestic work were valued at a minimum wage, it would be an industry worth \$10.8 trillion per year. Yet, as women's work isn't seen as important, data gathering is underfunded and under-prioritised.

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2. Aid groups suspend operations amid violence in Sudan

<https://www.devex.com/news/aid-groups-suspend-operations-amid-violence-in-sudan-105352>

According to Devex, \$60 million dollars are the recorded losses WFP has seen in Sudan since violence broke out there on April 15. The latest incident came last week, with the looting of its logistics hub in El Obeid in the south-central part of the country. The agency said 4.4 million people could be affected by the stolen goods. Food and nutrition supplies, vehicles, fuel, and generators are all thought to have been looted.

The agency initially suspended its operations in Sudan shortly after the conflict began, and evacuated staff that wanted to leave in April. Operations resumed on May 1 as Executive Director Cindy McCain called for an immediate end to the fighting so humanitarian efforts could reach those in need.

El Obeid, one of WFP's largest logistics bases in Africa, doesn't just serve people in Sudan. Operations in South Sudan also use the facility, and they will also be impacted, WFP says. The agency said as many as 2.5 million people in Sudan are projected to become hungry over the next several months if the violence continues. It would contribute to record levels of food insecurity in the country, with 40% of the population affected.

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3. Quebec children as young as 12 can work in small agriculture businesses.

<https://www.thesafetymag.com/ca/topics/environment/quebec-children-as-young-as-12-can-work-in-small-agriculture-businesses/447003>

Quebec Labour Minister Jean Boulet has revised Bill 19, which regulates youth employment in the province, to permit children under 14 to work in agriculture if the business has a maximum of 10 employees.

In March, Boulet introduced the bill, which limits the number of weekly hours Quebecers aged 16 and under can work during the school year to 17. It also establishes 14 as the minimum legal working age, with exceptions for certain jobs like babysitting or tutoring.

However, Boulet's amendment now allows small agricultural businesses to be exempt from the new minimum working age, enabling them to employ children as young as twelve. The amendment specifies that these children may engage in "light manual labor to harvest fruits or vegetables, take care of animals, or tend the soil."

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4. Germany looks to remote learning to promote STEM in Africa

<https://www.devex.com/news/germany-looks-to-remote-learning-to-promote-stem-in-africa-105725>

When it comes to educating girls in subjects such as math and computer science, the German development ministry is preparing to try something a little bit different.

Partnering with the private sector, the ministry, known as BMZ, is developing a pilot project that will connect primarily girls and young women in classrooms in Africa to technology such as 3D printers, laser cutters, and electronic prototyping equipment in Germany. The new part is that the students will learn how to operate those devices by controlling them remotely.

BMZ is hoping the project might also encourage more girls to take up STEM studies, helping to make up for persistent gaps in women pursuing careers in those fields in sub-Saharan Africa. Fewer than a third of science researchers in the region are women, according to UNESCO research.

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5. In Kenya, The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework makes technology transfers more inclusive.

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/kenya-world-banks-environmental-and-social-framework-makes-technology-transfers-more-inclusive>

Guided by the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework, AICCRA shows how—by enabling women and persons with disabilities to lead farmer demonstrations—the uptake of climate-smart agriculture can be scaled in Kenyan communities.

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6. Opinion: Cyclone Freddy has put Women & Girls in Malawi at Greater Risk of Sexual Abuse & Exploitation

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/cyclone-freddy-put-women-girls-malawi-greater-risk-sexual-abuse-exploitation>

When Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi in March 2023, six months of rain fell in just six days, flooding over 170 square miles (430 km²). Over 1400 people died in the country, and UNICEF estimates that 3.8 million are facing acute food insecurity.

Around 659,000 people have been displaced, with women in poverty disproportionately affected. Camps have been set up for those who have lost their homes, and PSGR is creating safe spaces for women to discuss challenges and find solutions. Of particular concern are the multiple reports of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence.

Over the past decade, Malawi has experienced multiple extreme weather events, including droughts, floods, rising temperatures, and unpredictable rainfall patterns, leaving people dependent on agriculture and pastoralism struggling to adapt. At this time of year, farmers should be harvesting their crops to sell and store, but Cyclone Freddy has washed away farmland and livestock, and ruined crops and buildings, with 547 schools damaged or destroyed.

Women make up 65% of smallholder farmers in Malawi, and traditional gender roles allocate women the responsibility for household food production and farming, while men often control access to land, credit, and agricultural inputs.

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7. Opinion: Global development can better align on LGBTIQ language

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-global-development-can-better-align-on-lgbtq-language-104959>

English-language global development organizations use a wide variation of the LGBTIQ acronym to designate a broad and diverse community. But an absence of unity in language can lead to confusion and lack of visibility for the groups that make up this community. The first step is for international institutions to get on the same page regarding the language they use.

The international community has a moral obligation to support and defend the human rights of the LGBTIQ community just as they do other ethnic, religious, and racial minorities.

Although other global development organizations follow in the U.N.'s cursory footsteps by including diversity, equity, inclusion, and access initiatives that include gender and sexual orientation issues, gender often defaults as a synonym for "women and girls" as women's rights remain a dominant issue in international politics.

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8. Kenya to launch biggest school meals programme in Africa.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jun/22/kenya-to-launch-biggest-school-meals-programme-in-africa>

The largest school meals programme in Africa is to begin in Nairobi this August, in a drive to "eliminate the shame of hunger in [Kenya]".

Ten new kitchens, now under construction, will provide 400,000 daily lunches for children in 225 primary schools and Early Childhood Development centres in the Kenyan capital. The programme will start on 28 August, the first day of the autumn term, and the kitchens will employ 3,500 people.

The \$8.6m (£6.7m) initiative is a collaboration between Nairobi County and Food4Education, a Kenyan not-for-profit organisation that already supplies meals to 150,000 primary schoolchildren in the city.

Meetings with teachers and parents during last year's election campaign revealed that most schoolchildren in the city go without lunch, damaging their ability to learn. Child hunger also poses a significant obstacle to school enrolment and attendance in the country. As well as improving children's health it has improved enrolment rates.

The kitchens will be powered by green energy using steam gas technology and will also use eco-briquettes. Technology has also played a vital role in the growth of Food4Education: each child is given a wristband called Tap2Eat, which is linked to a virtual wallet that parents use to pre-pay 15 shillings (\$0.11) for each meal.

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9. Raising the Bar on Clean Cooking Standards

<https://cleancooking.org/news/raising-the-bar-on-clean-cooking-standards/>

Agnes Naluwagga is the Coordinator of the Regional Testing and Knowledge Centre (RTKC) at the Centre for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC) at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. She is a member of the Uganda National Mirror Committee on Cooking Standards and a member of the global ISO/TC 285 technical committee on Clean Cookstoves and Clean Cooking Solutions. The Clean Cooking Alliance spoke with Naluwagga about her experiences as a cookstove standards tester in Uganda.

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10. G7 gender equality ministers vow to boost women executives.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Gender/G7-gender-equality-ministers-vow-to-boost-women-executives>

Group of Seven ministers for gender equality have vowed to "expand and support" women's representation in executive and managerial positions, following last week's revelation by the World Economic Forum that women account for just 25% of C-suite positions globally despite representing 42% of the workforce.

Female representatives from G7 nations and the European Union met in the historic Japanese town of Nikko, north of Tokyo, on Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25 to discuss women's empowerment and gender parity. They were hosted by Japan's minister for gender equality, Masanobu Ogura, who was the only male representative at the gathering. It was Japan's first time hosting the gender-focused meeting, which was initiated in Italy in 2017.

Increasing the number of women in top business roles is key to achieving economic security, the communique says. Women made up 35.5% of board members in top public companies on average across G7 countries in 2022, according to this year's G7 Dashboard on Gender Gaps. Japan had the lowest proportion of female board members among the seven nations, at around 15%.

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11. Millions in Horn of Africa Trapped in Hunger Crisis

<https://www.voanews.com/a/millions-in-horn-of-africa-trapped-in-hunger-crisis/7153458.html>

The World Food Program (WFP) reports that seven countries in the East Africa region — Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda — are experiencing unprecedented levels of food insecurity.

WFP said that nearly 60 million people are not getting enough food to remain active and healthy, forcing families to sell their livestock and engage in negative coping strategies such as prostitution to survive.

Liesbeth Aelbrecht, WHO incident manager for the greater Horn of Africa emergency, said acute hunger in the region has sent malnutrition rates soaring, with more than 10.4 million children under the age of five estimated to be facing acute malnutrition in the region.

She said Sudan, which is amid a brutal war, has an estimated 4 million acutely malnourished children and pregnant and breastfeeding women, "out of which more than 100,000 children under five are severely acutely malnourished with medical complications.

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12. Philippines' women seaweed farmers keep coastal families afloat.

<https://www.context.news/socioeconomic-inclusion/philippines-women-seaweed-farmers-keep-coastal-families-afloat>

Seaweed farming in the Philippines, increasingly led by women, is a lifeline to poor coastal families often hit by disasters.

- The Philippines is world's 4th largest seaweed producer.

- Women seaweed farmers use money to educate their children.
- Government to create more seaweed farmer cooperatives.

Unlike fishing and rice farming - both capital and labour-intensive - seaweed provides an income every 45 days, the typical cultivation cycle.

The World Bank-assisted Philippine Rural Development Project has also identified seaweed as one of eight commodities of national importance, or priority crops for development and trade.

Seaweed farming is often a family enterprise involving the entire household. Mothers share the work with their children who help attach seaweed cuttings to the lines.

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13. Ukraine: FAO and WFP join forces to clear agricultural land from remnants of the war and help farmers resume production.

<https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/ukraine--fao-and-wfp-join-forces-to-clear-agricultural-land-from-remnants-of-the-war-and-help-farmers-resume-production/en>

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have launched a joint programme in collaboration with mine action partner Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD) to support smallholder farmers and rural families most affected by the war.

The programme has already started in Kharkivska oblast, and will later expand to Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts, focusing on farmers with land plots smaller than 300 hectares as well as rural families growing food for their own consumption.

The programme is designed to safely release land back to productive use, including by clearing it from mines and other explosive remnants of the war, to help restore agricultural livelihoods, contribute to Ukraine’s economic recovery, and phase out the need for humanitarian assistance for thousands of rural families.

The war has damaged Ukraine’s agriculture and food production, disrupted supply chains and exports, increased production costs, and caused widespread mine contamination.

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14. African Women Seek to Boost Innovation and Creativity in Agribusiness

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/african-women-seek-to-boost-innovation-and-creativity-in-agribusiness/>

As part of Rwanda’s agriculture transformation efforts to enhance agribusiness competitiveness, a growing number of women are now engaged in agribusiness, where many have been able to generate business benefits throughout the value chain. Official estimates show that in Rwanda, more women than men are primarily engaged in agriculture, yet female farmers face more challenges in starting successful agribusinesses than their male counterparts.

Despite these challenges, the latest official trends show that African women are abandoning traditional ways of engaging in agribusiness and adopting intellectual property (IP) approach to transform food systems on the continent.

According to experts, adopting IP in agribusiness aims to protect goods or services produced in the sector. It mainly deals with trade secrets, described as an essential component for businesses to protect confidential information that provides them a competitive edge.

During the first Africa Regional Intellectual Property (IP) Conference for Women in Agribusiness, which took place in Kigali in May 2023, delegates expressed the desire to promote innovations in women-led agribusinesses in Africa by helping them understand and use IP to bring their ideas to the world.

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15. The Need for More Funding, Especially to Women, Towards Climate Adaptation Goals

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/need-funding-especially-women-towards-climate-adaptation-goals/>

There is a significant funding gap for climate adaptation – especially for women. Public financing will not be sufficient to close this gap, but it will be crucial for supporting the most vulnerable and facilitating private sector investments where funding and support is needed most.

Inclusive financial systems play an important role in channeling finance to the most vulnerable, including payment systems and last mile agent networks that enable access to social safety net payments, climate risk insurance products, savings for emergencies or affordable credit for investments in climate-resilient assets and more resilient livelihoods.

Development funders are thirsty for guidance and good practices to identify where they can be catalytic and crowd in the private sector for greater investment in climate adaptation.

Funding to support inclusive financial systems may be an entry point for funders with significant potential for climate adaptation impact and a clear role for private sector investment.

Where and how funders allocate funding is determined by their organizational strategies and priorities. Over the past two to three years, development funders and many impact investors have adopted strategies focused on addressing climate change and its impacts.

There are four reasons why funders should consider inclusive finance as an opportunity for supporting climate adaptation: We believe that inclusive finance can be an entry point for funders to fulfill their climate ambitions and support climate adaptation for the most vulnerable.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. What Constitutes and "Enabling Environment" for Canadian SMOs?

<https://spurchangeresource.ca/en/training/spur-change-2023-smo-report/>

Spur Change is launching its latest community-informed report on Small and Medium Organizations (SMOs): *What Constitutes an "Enabling Environment" for Canadian SMOs?*

Small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) have long played a critical role within Canada's international cooperation landscape. The ability of SMOs to emerge and thrive in many ways is contingent upon the environment within which they are established. An environment with favorable policies and where opportunities for funding, public engagement, networking, and collaboration abound is fertile ground for a vibrant civil society, including strong and well supported SMOs. But what does this look like in practice? Is the current Canadian environment an enabling one?

The main themes that arose through this year's research include: funding; policy and regulatory frameworks; collaboration and innovation; and public engagement. Drawing from SMO survey data as well as 17 semi-structured interviews, the research team describes and analyzes the current environment within which SMOs are operating in Canada while drawing comparison with environments abroad. This report is meant to serve as a learning tool for all Canadian international cooperation actors. In analyzing both the challenges and benefits associated with Canada's enabling environment, it identifies ways to strengthen and facilitate the crucial international cooperation work carried out by Canadian SMOs.

2. Understanding the gender imbalance at the international climate negotiations

<https://www.iied.org/understanding-gender-imbalance-international-climate-negotiations>

Emerging findings from a new study by IIED and SAEDI Consulting provide insights into the challenges women face in participating in critical UN international climate talks.

Every year, representatives of almost 200 countries come together under the banner of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to negotiate key decisions and champion ambitious action on climate change. And when wandering the halls of the conference centre at successive Conferences of the Parties (COPs), the diversity is palpable.

With only 37% of women attendees at COP26 in Glasgow forming part of an official national delegation, the UNFCCC's latest report on gender in the climate change negotiations shows that parity remains a challenge. And figures on women's roles and engagement during the meetings show that, although they may form part of the delegations, speaking time and decision-making positions are often monopolised by men.

The UNFCCC report reveals that women accounted for only 29% of total speaking time in plenaries at COP26, while WEDO's 2022 Gender Climate Tracker report shows that women heads of delegation rose by only 3% over 12 years, from 10% in 2009 to 13% in 2021.

Gender representation varies by region and country, with women's participation in delegations from Latin America and Europe usually at 45-50%, compared to 30-35% in African and Asian delegations. In 2020, we published a blog showing that the LDC Group was falling slightly behind on gender parity compared with other negotiating blocs. This correlates with the regional figures, as most LDCs are in Africa and Asia.

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3. Women who help fund Black-owned farms win prestigious James Beard culinary award.

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-2-as-it-happens/clip/15989748-women-help-fund-black-owned-farms-win-prestigious-james>

This year, Black Farmer Fund co-founders Olivia Watkins and Karen Washington took home the Humanitarian of the Year prize at the 2023 James Beard Awards, which are widely considered one of the most prestigious honours in the culinary world. Watkins spoke to CBC's "As It Happens" guest host Helen Mann about the award, and the work her organization does.

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4. Beyond transformations: Zooming in on agricultural digitalization and the changing social practices of rural farming in Northern Ghana, West Africa

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0743016723000852>

Highlights

- Beyond transformation, agriculture digitalization changes to day-to-day life matters.
- The social practice approach offers a viable explanation of how digitalization engenders rural change.
- Digitalization of agriculture redefines smallholder practices.

- Digital (information) services are novel materials that introduce new competencies to farming.
- Digital services alter the temporal rhythms and arrangements of farming activities and routines.

The respondents across the methods were predominantly male. Because the cultural setting of the area makes for majority male household heads, the current poor targeting by digital interventions turns to exclude female in registrations (Abdulai et al. 2023; Tsan et al, 2019;). This situation may obscure the nuances women's experiences could have enriched our discussions. However, some of the generic experiences discussed included both sexes, making the results generalizable.

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5. The Resilience of Rural Women Experiencing Economic Abuse in the Context of Gender-Based Violence

<https://journals.brandonu.ca/jrcd/article/view/2225/605>

Abstract

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive public health concern with significant economic costs. While common forms of violence include physical, sexual, and psychological, there is growing research on the impacts of economic abuse. By hindering a women's economic self-sufficiency or self-efficacy, this form of abuse positions women to be dependent on their partners. The purpose of this study is to explore how resilience is influenced by economic abuse in rural Ontario in the context of GBV. This interpretive description study involved interviews with 14 women who experienced GBV and 12 service providers across eight rural women's shelters between November 2020 and June 2021. Both women and service providers identified barriers to women's resilience stemming from economic abuse, including different forms of economic abuse (e.g., being forbidden from working), a lack of economic self-sufficiency as a barrier to individual resilience, and the economic setbacks of rural communities to women's environmental resilience. Results from this study highlight the supports necessary for rural women to cultivate their resilience in the context of economic abuse.

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6. 2023 Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI)

<https://hdr.undp.org/content/2023-gender-social-norms-index-gsni>

The Gender Social Norms Index report, launched June 12 by the U.N. Development Programme, reveals no improvement in biases against women in a decade — biases that cut across region, income, level of development, and culture.

The index, covering 85 percent of the global population, reveals that close to 9 out of 10 men and women hold fundamental biases against women.

Half of people worldwide still believe men make better political leaders than women and more than 40% believe men make better business executives than women, according to a UNDP press release. Meanwhile, 25% of people believe it is justified for a man to beat his wife.

The report emphasizes that governments have a crucial role in shifting gender social norms. For instance, parental leave policies have changed perceptions around care work responsibilities, and labor market reforms led to a change in beliefs around the employment of women.

The report emphasizes that despite the continued prevalence of bias against women, the data shows change can happen. An increase in the share of people with no bias in any indicator was evident in 27 of the 38 countries surveyed. The report authors emphasize that to drive change towards greater gender equality, the focus needs to be on expanding human development through investment, insurance, and innovation.

This includes investing in laws and policy measures that promote women's equality in political participation, scaling up insurance mechanisms, such as strengthening social protection and care systems, and encouraging innovative interventions that could be particularly effective in challenging harmful social norms, patriarchal attitudes, and gender stereotypes. For

example, combatting online hate speech and gender disinformation can help to shift pervasive gender norms towards greater acceptance and equality.

In addition, the report recommends directly addressing social norms through education to change people’s views, policies and legal changes that recognize the rights of women in all spheres of life, and more representation of women in decision-making and political processes.

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

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

DOI link: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(22\)00088-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(22)00088-2)

Summary

The intensity and frequency of extreme weather and climate events are expected to increase due to anthropogenic climate change. This systematic review explores extreme events and their effect on gender-based violence (GBV) experienced by women, girls, and sexual and gender minorities. We searched ten databases until February 2022. Grey literature was searched using the websites of key organisations working on GBV and Google. Quantitative studies were described narratively, whereas qualitative studies underwent thematic analysis. We identified 26 381 manuscripts. 41 studies were included exploring several types of extreme events (ie, storms, floods, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires) and GBV (eg, sexual violence and harassment, physical violence, witch killing, early or forced marriage, and emotional violence). Studies were predominantly cross-sectional. Although most qualitative studies were of reasonable quality, most quantitative studies were of poor quality. Only one study included sexual and gender minorities. Most studies showed an increase in one or several GBV forms during or after extreme events, often related to economic instability, food insecurity, mental stress, disrupted infrastructure, increased exposure to men, tradition, and exacerbated gender inequality. These findings could have important implications for sexual-transformative and gender-transformative interventions, policies, and implementation. High-quality evidence from large, ethnographically diverse cohorts is essential to explore the effects and driving factors of GBV during and after extreme events.

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8. The Native Women’s Association of Canada Launches the First Culinary and Intercultural Indigenous Experience

<https://nwac.ca/media/2023/06/the-native-womens-association-of-canada-launch-the-first-culinary-and-intercultural-indigenous-experience>

<https://youtu.be/JTwm5Qt-QTI> Conversation begins at about 15 minutes into the video.

In collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico to Canada, The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) invites you to join us for a launch event to celebrate our first Culinary and Intercultural Indigenous Experience. This event will kickoff a series of four culinary classes hosted by chefs Antonia Reyes and Modesta Ramírez Orozco, both traditional Indigenous cooks from Guerrero, Mexico.

The “Ancestral Mexican Culinary Classes” will be scheduled from June 12 to 16 and will showcase the ancestral customs, ancient culture, and historical traditions in the preparation of Mexican food. Guests from NWAC and the Embassy of Mexico will attend the launch on June 12, held at the outdoor kitchen of NWAC’s Resiliency Lodge in Chelsea, Quebec.

The subsequent classes will be in-person events but will also be streamed online over Zoom and our Facebook page to allow more people to participate. The list of ingredients will be shared on the event page so that the audience can join in at home.

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9. Is Scale-Appropriate Farm Mechanization Gendered? Learning from the Nepal Hills

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-981-19-6978-2_7

Abstract

Scale-appropriate farm mechanization could be an important pathway to the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) of attaining gender equality (SDG5) in agriculture. Gender and farm mechanization is getting attention in the academic and public policy domain as a solution to labor scarcity in the smallholder farming systems, which in recent years, is facing challenges of labor shortage due to male labor outmigration. Taking a case study from a maize-based farming system in Nepal hill, this paper illustrates how the promotion of scale-appropriate farm mechanization can be gendered. Using the household survey data collected from the mid-hills of Nepal from 179 mini-tiller adopter farmers, this paper reports that only 4% of the owners were women, and only 1% of women were involved in mini-tiller operations. We find that mini-tiller adopting male and female household head's maize productivity, profitability, and production costs are similar. The paper concludes by identifying social perception against women, rugged topography, women's low level of knowledge in operating machines, spare parts maintenance, and added responsibilities resulting in women's lower participation in mini-tiller adoption decisions. This chapter suggests measures like awareness raising, increasing access, and training built around tailoring women's needs to reduce the gender gap in farm mechanization.

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10. Book: Women Farmers: Unheard Being Heard

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-19-6978-2>

This edited volume celebrates the positive stories and small changes happening with respect to gender equality in the field of agriculture. This book identify crisis which a woman faces in the field of agriculture as a farmer. The book shares unsung stories of women farmers who are bringing change at the grassroots. It puts together the positive developments experienced by the experts, researchers, professional while working for and with women farmers, to highlight the challenges to bring equity in agriculture.

Women in agriculture often lack identity where either they are recognized as farmer's wife or a farm labourer. Women farmers who contribute 60 percent in to farm practices like sowing, transplanting, fertilizer application, weeding, harvesting, and winnowing are merely recognised and provided an equal level playing field. Women are also found participating in the various forms of processing and marketing of agriculture produce, along with the cultivation but system has failed to protect their rights and offer them a platform to voice their concerns. This book shares the process, challenges, experience, strategy from the narrative of progressive women farmers to highlight and understand what it takes to bring changes for achieving the goals of an equitable farming ecosystems. The book is relevant reading material for students, researchers, professionals and policy advocates in agriculture and gender research.

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11. Examining the wheat seed delivery system in Bihar, India, using a gender lens

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09718524.2023.2219014>

Abstract

An effective seed system gives all farmers access to quality seed, reliable information, and up-to-date knowledge of improved varieties and seed practices. Despite significant progress in developing improved wheat varieties, many of these improved varieties have not reached the farmers, especially women, poor, and marginalized farmers. Taking the case of a district in Bihar, India, this paper finds that the existing wheat seed delivery system largely ignores the potential of women farmers to play a significant role in seed production, distribution, or adoption; and that farmer feedback mechanisms are

almost non-existent, especially among women. Using a small-scale, mixed, inductive, and broad-based research design, the paper suggests measures for gender-responsive seed delivery systems: improved access to information, especially to women and marginal farmers; promoting women-led groups (like JEEViKA) for their better engagement and empowerment; educating village retailers; developing mechanisms for better collaboration with bigger private seed companies; and increased collaboration among seed stakeholders.

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12. If Current Trends Continue, World’s Poor may not Achieve a Single Development Goal by 2030

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/06/current-trends-continue-worlds-poor-may-not-achieve-single-development-goal-2030/>

When the 193-member General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development back in September 2015., it was aimed at transforming the world into an idealistic state of peace and economic prosperity.

But eight years later, most of the world’s low-income countries (LICs) have been struggling to achieve even a single goal, including the two key targets: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2030.

In a new report released June 21, the United Nations has singled out some of the key achievers—the top five, among the world’s high-income countries (HICs), which are led by Finland, and followed by Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Austria.

European countries continue to lead in the SDG Index – holding the top 10 spots – and are on track to achieve more targets than any other region, with Denmark, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, and the Slovak Republic as the top five countries that have achieved or are on track to achieving the largest number of SDG targets this year.

By contrast, Lebanon, Yemen, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, and Myanmar have the largest number of SDG targets moving in the wrong direction.

The findings are listed in the 2023 Sustainable Development Report (SDR) and Index, which ranks the performance of all 193 UN Member States on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is produced by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

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13. Trends in development finance for gender: mapping risks and opportunities for funders

<https://odi.org/en/publications/trends-in-development-finance-for-gender-mapping-risks-and-opportunities-for-funders/>

Development financing for gender equality amounted to 40% of official development assistance (ODA) in 2021. However, only 8% of private development philanthropy was focused on gender. This difference in gender priority in public and philanthropic actors is stark. Therefore, it is not surprising that activists are calling for greater philanthropic investment for gender, particularly in long-term, core grants to women's funds and feminist movements.

This framing note presents an overview of governmental gender financing trends, revealing that things are not as robust as they appear. It also provides an analysis that contextualises the activists’ demand for more and better-quality funding from all development funders and outlines the core challenges faced when funders design their strategies and build their investment portfolios.

Key messages

- After years of expansion, gender-related development finance is facing several challenges. Official Development Assistance (ODA) for gender is plateauing, new priorities have emerged, anti-gender finance has grown, and focused gender projects are not increasing.

- Development finance for gender faces the risks of distortion, diversion, and dilution. Collectively, these can undermine gender equality objectives by impacting both the quality and quantity of funding for gender.
- Philanthropic actors can navigate these threats by identifying opportunities for ramping up direct gender equality investment, especially in the climate sector, working more closely with official bilateral donors and reforming the gender-marking system.

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14. Brief: The Bridgetown Initiative

<https://wedo.org/unpacking-the-bridgetown-initiative-a-systemic-feminist-analysis-critique/>

Read the brief in English | French (Spanish coming soon).

What is the Bridgetown Initiative and where did it come from?

Ahead of COP27, the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, announced the Bridgetown Initiative, a political agenda for reform of the global financial architecture and development finance in the context of three intersecting global crises (debt, climate, and inflation). The Bridgetown Initiative proposes the creation of new instruments and reform of existing institutions to finance climate resilience and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Bridgetown will be considered in several global policy spaces, including the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, Paris (June 22-23), World Bank/ IMF Annual Meetings in Marrakech (October 9-15), and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP28).

What opportunities does Bridgetown present, from a systemic feminist lens?

Bridgetown outlines broadscale proposals for systemic reform, with significant implications for both the climate and development landscapes. The initiative has opened space for debate about our global economic and financial governance in the context of the climate emergency—and an acknowledgement that major systemic changes are required for countries to escape their debt, development, and climate crises. In addition to framing these constraints in the context of systemic changes, the Bridgetown agenda sets the stakes much closer to where they need to be for climate and SDG action.

The specific mechanism of a disaster clause represents a successful innovation on the part of Barbados and other Caribbean countries, building on the introduction of a “hurricane clause” by Grenada in 2015, and an outcome of its own skilful negotiation with the IMF. Bridgetown proposes that an automatic debt suspension in the case of an emergency be included in all lending going forward—but this needs to be applied to all debt, retroactively and across the board, in order to make a real difference.

What are the risks and critiques, from a systemic feminist perspective?

Bridgetown questions only *some* of what needs to be challenged and uprooted about global debt regimes, IFIs, and the involvement of the private sector in “green transformation.”

Bridgetown’s conflation of development and climate risks undermining the requirement of climate finance to be “new and additional” to existing aid, and muddies the rationale for climate finance as rooted in the historical and ongoing obligations of industrialized countries. It risks over relying on private finance, and thus displacing the responsibility for global public goods onto the private sector (rather than on governments, for example via taxation). And perhaps most concerningly, Bridgetown operates completely outside the frameworks of multilateral agreements and structures such as the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda.

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15. Promoting sustainable, inclusive growth and development through building the small business ecosystem

<https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/perspectives/promoting-sustainable-inclusive-growth-and-development-through-building-small-business>

<https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/initiative/transforming-care-economy-through-impact-investing>

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are a critical part of the economy in lower and middle-income countries (LMICs), contributing up to 40% of their GDP, according to the World Bank. These businesses span from informal small producers to registered firms and are prevalent in diverse industries, ranging from rural agriculture to artificial intelligence.

MSMEs are also particularly vulnerable to climate change, as they have relatively few resources to deal with its effects. In addition, restrictive social and gender norms affect women entrepreneurs across all aspects of the market system. These discriminatory factors hinder their ability to assume leadership roles, thrive in the business world and achieve economic empowerment.

Against this backdrop, IDRC has begun applying an ecosystem approach across its work with MSMEs. To illustrate, the *Transforming the Care Economy through Impact Investing* initiative comprises three pillars: i) business profiling of MSMEs, to showcase diverse business models and opportunities for investors; ii) business development support to early-stage and established MSMEs, to help prepare a pipeline of “investible firms”; and iii) outreach to policymakers, business and investment associations, to engage in research on regulatory frameworks and policies on investing in MSMEs in the care industry. Combined, these efforts are making a meaningful contribution to advancing women’s economic empowerment and global gender equality.

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16. Regional Conference on Intellectual Property for Women in Agribusiness

<https://youtu.be/wp1rTsYyAGk>

Streamed live on May 15, 2023. Regional Conference on Intellectual Property for Women in Agribusiness in Rwanda.

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17. UN LGBTIQ+ Standards Gap Analysis Tool

<https://lgbtiq.unglobalcompact.org/>

Learn what your company can do to advance LGBTIQ+ equality in the workplace, marketplace and community — take this free, easy-to-use and confidential tool to assess your current practices and identify gaps and opportunities to make a plan of action to improve.

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