



Snow on small spruce trees. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Agriculture Leadership Program for Women - Cohort Selection

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/agriculture-leadership-program-for-women-cohort-selection-tickets-748491396917>

Join the Canadian Agricultural HR Council for its Agriculture Leadership Program for Women and be part of a supportive community of practice, help build a stronger agriculture workforce for the future, and help be part of agri-workforce solutions. Learn through interactive, hands-on experiences and real-world applications. This program includes supervised eLearning, ensuring you gain practical skills and experience outcomes that matter. Elevate your leadership journey and inspire others in the agriculture industry.

This program will take place over the course of 12 weeks, with a mix of online and self-directed **learning between November 20, 2023 and March 15, 2024**. The first session will include orientation and will be two hours in duration. Subsequent sessions will be an hour and a half long.

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### 2. World AIDS Day 2023

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2023/november/2023-wad-uns-g-message>

**December 1.** AIDS-related deaths have fallen by almost 70 per cent since their peak in 2004, and new HIV infections are at the lowest point since the 1980s. But AIDS still takes a life every minute.

Reaching this goal means heeding this year’s theme: Let Communities Lead. The path to ending AIDS runs through communities. From connecting people to the treatment, services and support they need — to the grassroots activism pushing for action so all people can realize their right to health.

Supporting those on the frontlines of the battle against AIDS is how we win. That means placing community leadership at the centre of HIV plans, programmes, budgets and monitoring efforts.

We must also remove barriers to community leadership, and ensure space for local civil society groups to take forward their vital work. Above all, we need funding.

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### 3. CAHRC Student Work Placement Program (SWPP)

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

The Government of Canada, through Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council’s (CAHRC) Growing Opportunities project, is offering up to \$7500 or 75% in subsidies when employers hire an eligible student for a Work Integrated Learning opportunity through the Outcome Campus Connect platform. Applications for the Winter 2024 open **December 1**. Whether

you're a student seeking valuable work experience or an employer eager to invest in emerging talent, SWPP has something special to offer.

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## 4. Young Agrarians Prairie Mixer

<https://youngagrarians.org/prairiesmixer>

The first-ever Prairies Mixer is happening on **Dec 2-3, 2023, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**. This year's theme is "Rooted, Grow Deep", an ode to what remains of the mixed-grass prairie on the land we are farming on. This is an invitation to rediscover how vast and varied the grasslands used to be and find our individual connection to it to practice better stewardship and advocate for its conservation.

In the spirit of YA Mixers, this weekend is designed as a networking event and, in particular, to build a strong and active community of new farmers in the prairies. Speakers include:

- Farmers Market(ing): Cultivating Your Story & Growing Community – with Justine Abigail
- Soil to Soil: Growing our clothing in the Grasslands of the Canadian Prairies – with Anna Hunter
- The Makings of a Diversified Farm Business – with Arlie LaRoche

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## 5. Advancing gender equality and nutrition through climate action and monitoring progress

<https://gender.cgiar.org/events/advancing-gender-equality-and-nutrition-through-climate-action-and-monitoring-progress>

Partnerships supported by Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) show how enhanced climate information services and the technologies and practices of climate-smart agriculture can reach millions of smallholder farmers across Africa, boosting livelihoods and resilience. At COP28, AICCRA brings its vision for scaling innovation to an African and global audience in Dubai.

**December 4** – Livestream link is available. This session will present frameworks and tools integrating gender and nutrition metrics into climate policies, actions, and monitoring efforts. The session will also highlight the results of sub-national-level gender and climate change vulnerability hotspot mapping exercise for the agriculture, energy and water sectors conducted in Uganda, Kenya and Botswana during 2023.

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## 6. Where next for feminist foreign policy on countering backlash from Europe?

<https://odi.org/en/events/where-next-feminist-foreign-policy-on-countering-backlash-from-europe/>

How can European actors effectively counter a growing anti-gender movement which is accelerating assaults on democratic freedoms and women's and LGBTQ+ rights? **December 6, 2023.** *The public dialogue will be livestreamed online, followed by a closed-door space and Q&A for in-person audience members.*

Led by ODI's Gender Equality and Social Inclusion team, this conversation will mark the launch of ODI's new series of policy briefs: *Where next for Feminist Foreign Policy?* and provide the opportunity to delve into the recommended actions on countering backlash – both within Europe and beyond.

The speakers will focus on how backlash is materialising in Europe, as well as how European organisations and actors are involved in disbursing funds and exporting anti-gender discourses around the world. The panel will also outline how gains

are being made by the anti-rights movements and what type of foreign policy strategies from Europe could more effectively restrain the forces fuelling backlash.

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## 7. Enhancing National Sector Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) Capacity Project and Webinar

<https://mansomanitoba.ca/reports/enhancing-national-sector-gender-based-analysis-plus-gba-plus-capacity-project/>

Addressing systemic inequities and advancing equity through an intersectional lens is central to facilitating the meaningful settlement and integration of newcomers in Canada. The Enhancing National Sector Gender-Based Analysis (GBA) Plus Capacity project assembles a staff team from seven Umbrella organizations across the country. These organizations will be working to enhance the settlement and integration sector’s capacity to mainstream GBA Plus within programs, policies, and procedures through a Collective Impact model. Project Timeline: July 2023-November 2024.

### GBA Plus 101 Lunch and Learn (January 2024 – TBC)

- Join us for a Manitoba Focus Learning and Sharing Interactive Session on Gender-Based Analysis Plus. What is GBA Plus? How does it connect to the work we are already doing? How can GBA Plus support us in enhancing our program, services, and the ways we work with each other? GBA Plus Myth Busting and More!

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## 8. The AI4D Gender Knowledge Synthesis Series

<https://www.womenatthetable.net/2023/08/24/ai4d-webinars-gender-knowledge-synthesis/>

<https://africa.ai4d.ai/blog/the-ai4d-gender-knowledge-synthesis-series/>

Women At The Table has unveiled a stellar series of webinars focused on sharing the work of extraordinary African Artificial Intelligence AI researchers and the AI4D research family with counterparts and the world. Dubbed the ‘Gender Knowledge Synthesis series’, it will focus on issues of critical importance as we struggle to create a more inclusive and equitable world with AI and emerging technologies. Future sessions include:

**11 January 2024.** Gender & Climate Change: Gender Justice / Climate Justice approaches. What mitigation and adaptation strategies and innovations are needed?

**8 February 2024.** Gender, AI, and new STEM strategies: From distance learning to gamification, what is the newest research on including girls in STEM, including Teacher Ed and Lifelong Kindergarten / Scratch for low resource environments.

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## 9. Manitoba Agriculture’s NEW Business Pathways website

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

Manitoba Agriculture launches two interactive GIS Service Finder Apps to help food entrepreneurs and food businesses identify processing facilities tailored to their unique needs:

*Commercial Community Kitchens for Rent* <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bebf806cc6084da9921487341a9df2d6/>

The interactive Community Kitchen App allows food processors to search for permitted processing facilities based on their unique processing equipment needs.

*Co-Packer Service Finder App* <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/52777a863b0b4ff7b3f5b4079af24799>

The Co-Packer Service Finder App includes over 65 Manitoba companies. This user-friendly app can help streamline your co-packer search by allowing you to filter co-packers by type of product and packaging, making it easier and more efficient to find and assess potential food and beverage co-packers that will meet your processing needs here in Manitoba.

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## 10. Metis Women Entrepreneurship (MWE) Grant & Loan Program

<https://www.lrcc.mb.ca/mwe-grant-and-loan-program>

Louis Riel Capital Corporation LRCC provides commercial financing to help Metis Women start or expand businesses in Manitoba. This program offers up to \$50,000.00 in financing composed of a grant and loan.

- Businesses must be minimum 51% Metis & Woman owned and controlled, with valid MMF Metis Citizenship Card(s).
- The principal female Metis-owner must be actively involved in the business on a day-to-day basis and have the specific skills, training, and knowledge to carry out the business.
- Businesses must be headquartered in Manitoba and at least one Metis owner must be a Manitoba resident.
- Applicant(s) must have a minimum of 5% of total project costs in non-borrowed cash equity.

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## 11. WUSC's Flagship International Volunteer Cooperation Initiative: IGNI+E

<https://wusc.ca/ignite-your-passion-for-global-development-with-wusc/>

Critical to the success of our programs, WUSC has offered thousands of Canadians impactful, high-quality, rewarding and safe international volunteer opportunities for over forty years.

That's why, in 2022, WUSC introduced our flagship volunteering for development initiative as part of the Government of Canada's Volunteer Cooperation Program. With the support of Global Affairs Canada, WUSC is creating over one thousand volunteer opportunities over the next six years in support of 70 organizations and businesses across Africa and Asia. Together, our volunteers and partners are advancing gender equality and the economic empowerment of 1.2 million people.

WUSC's IGNI+E initiative invites Canadians to help address the root causes of youth unemployment in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Vietnam – particularly for young women.

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## 12. 2024 Mental Health on the Prairies Conference and Conversation

<https://www.brandonu.ca/mhp/>

Save the date for the 2024 Mental Health on the Prairies Conference and Conversation. Hosted through the Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health, we look forward to listening in on the key notes and learning about the realities of rural mental health. **April 24 to 26, 2024. Brandon University, Manitoba.**

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## 1. Manitoban named to Canada's Most Powerful Women list

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/2023/11/01/three-manitobans-named-to-canadas-most-powerful-women-list>

<https://wxnetwork.com/page/2023Top100AwardWinners>

<https://alliancecan.ca/en/about/researcher-council/rebecca-davis>

Named among the list of Canada's Most Powerful women was Rebecca Davis, associate professor, department of chemistry, University of Manitoba. Davis won in the Emerging Leaders category which recognizes women between the ages of 30 to 40 years, who have been targeted for successive leadership positions within their organizations and have a proven passion for learning and innovation.

Dr. Davis's expertise lies in the areas of catalysis and computational chemistry. Her experience in both experimental method development and computational small molecule design has equipped her to build an innovative, interdisciplinary, and internationally recognized research program. As a part of her research program, she is currently involved in externally funded research involving the rational design of PET tracers for early biomarkers of Parkinson's Disease, and the generation of molecular structural data libraries for machine learning and the design of novel catalytic processes for biologically relevant compounds.

In addition to her many roles on various boards and committees, Dr. Davis serves as an active member of numerous groups supporting equity, diversity and inclusion in the sciences, including the Canadian Women in Chemistry Group.

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## 2. Mentorship for Women in STEM

<https://scwist.ca/how-mentorship-impacts-women-in-stem/>

Mentorship plays a pivotal role in most professional careers and holds a special significance for women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Mentorship has emerged as a pivotal strategy for narrowing the gender gap and creating a more balanced representation in STEM. The importance of mentorship for women in STEM is what inspired SCWIST to create MakePossible, an online community that connects everyone in STEM and helps them learn, share and grow with each other.

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## 3. Three sisters with veterinary research themes and a problem to solve.

<https://ucalgary.ca/news/three-sisters-three-veterinary-research-themes-one-problem-solve>

Dr. Veronica Sanguinetti, DVM, and her sisters, Lucia Sanguinetti, and Dr. Maggie Sanguinetti, DVM were raised on a cow/calf farm in Uruguay. The three sisters have converged at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) to research the intricate link between agriculture, animal health and the environment.

- Veronica, who has a doctorate in veterinary sciences from a university in Paraguay, is focusing her thesis-based Master of Science at U of Calgary on comparing antibiotic-resistant E. coli from antibiotic-free cattle versus conventionally raised beef cattle.
- Lucia, in her inaugural year of her MSc, focusing on environmental studies, is exploring how rotational grazing from cow/calf pairs mitigate climate change and impacts on biodiversity.
- Maggie, whose own DVM also comes from South America, is completing a PhD here and looking at disease control in beef herds.

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## 4. U of Manitoba launches online babysitter directory

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2023/11/06/u-of-m-launches-online-babysitter-directory>

The University of Manitoba has launched a new online babysitter directory in a bid to connect student-parents with peers who both like working with children and are searching for a side hustle. Post-secondary students who double as caregivers can now request access to an internal registry with dozens of profiles of potential nannies, along with their relevant training and experience, certifications and preferred work locations.

“I like that it’s through a more official channel — not just through word of mouth,” said Michelle Carkner, a mother of two young children who is pursuing a PhD in the department of plant science at U of M. As far as Carkner is concerned, it would be a win-win situation if her family could find a reliable babysitter who has some flexibility within their undergraduate course load and support a fellow student looking for casual work.

“There is this expectation that your life has to revolve around school, but if you have children, it just can’t,” Carkner said, adding she has to balance the expectations on her as a PhD student and physical inability to be on campus 24-7 because she has to care for her family. The mother of two said she considers herself lucky her adviser is accommodating — she had a baby mid-PhD — and she was able to secure federal research funding allowing her to stay at home with her newborn in 2020.

Carkner’s children were also accepted into U of M’s on-campus daycare, which she said has made “a world of a difference.” In the past, when one of her children has a cold and cannot be dropped off, she has taken them with her to do field work. In order to better support mothers on campus, she said U of M needs to ensure there are more safe, clean and private places where students can conveniently breastfeed.

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## 5. Digital Agricultural Skills for Canadian Youth

<https://emilicanada.com/explore>

Since 2021, EMILI, Actua and Ag in the Classroom have partnered with Protein Industries Canada on the Explore Project to deliver programming to youth in K-12 that focuses on STEM, in-demand skills, and promotion of future career opportunities in the agri-food industry. Participants learn in-demand STEM skills along with some of the diverse ways these skills can be applied to careers in the agrifood sector.

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## 6. Commonwealth women’s affairs ministers focus on strategies for gender equality

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/11/commonwealth-civil-society-offers-ministers-crucial-recommendations-for-gender-equality-advancement/>

Commonwealth women’s affairs ministers met in The Bahamas, from 21 to 23 August 2023 to consider strategies for achieving gender equality across all 56 member countries.

The proposed strategies include ways to adopt an intersectional approach that empowers women and girls with disabilities, ensure gender-responsive climate action, and establish a robust framework for reporting on Commonwealth priorities for gender equality.

The Recommendations

Recommendation seven, “Measure better to target better,” might have struck a chord with attendees, but the other nine recommendations were also well received. They are:

- a) Acknowledge that the impacts of the climate crisis are not gender-neutral,



- b) Empower women through gender-responsive climate policies and actions,
- c) Improve access to education and training for women and girls,
- d) Improve climate finance and bring women forward as leaders and decision-makers,
- e) Value and promote women and girls as adaptation educators and agents of change,
- f) Promote gender equality in access to healthcare.
- g) Act to reduce gender-based violence.
- h) Enhance women’s economic empowerment.

The meeting’s official outcome statement notes that the recommendations were welcomed and endorsed. Their journey is not over – they are now part of the women’s affairs ministerial meeting recommendations that will be brought before Commonwealth Heads of Government at their 2024 meeting in Samoa.

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## 7. Opinion: Scaling true cost accounting can transform our food systems

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-scaling-true-cost-accounting-can-transform-our-food-systems-106503>

A new United Nations report, released this week, shows that global food and agriculture systems have hidden environmental, social, and health costs worth at least \$10 trillion — nearly 10% of global gross domestic product. If we want to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss and transform our food systems for good, we must move beyond traditional success metrics and use true cost accounting to measure the hidden costs of the global food system.

Let’s go through some key findings:

- The biggest costs — more than 70% — are driven by unhealthy diets that are high in ultra processed foods, leading to obesity and other health problems and causing labor productivity losses. And it’s high- and upper-middle-income countries that are paying the biggest price there.
- Not surprisingly, low-income countries are disproportionately affected by the hidden costs to their agri-food systems, as they encompass more than a quarter of their GDP. That’s compared with 12% for middle-income countries and 8% for high-income ones.
- One-fifth of the total costs are environmental, created by nitrogen emissions (with over 50%), greenhouse gases, land-use change costs, and water use.
- The report also highlights some true cost accounting success stories. For example, in Thailand, policymakers considered it to transition to organic rice farming, gaining up to \$4 billion in potential health savings because less burning of fields and fewer pesticides meant better air quality and fewer respiratory illnesses. And in India, policymakers used true cost accounting to support a statewide transformation to agroecological farming in Andhra Pradesh, leading to better crop diversity and yields, better health outcomes due to safer farming methods, and a nearly 50% boost in net incomes for farmers.

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## 8. African & Asian Parliamentarians Debate How People-Centered Policies Aid Development of Women, Youth

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/african-asian-parliamentarians-debate-how-people-centered-policies-aid-development-of-women-youth/>

Asian and African parliamentarians have committed to accelerate the implementation of a people-centered development agenda as the African continent continues to face rapid demographic change with several challenges, such as youth unemployment and gender inequities.

During the African and Asian Parliamentarians’ Dialogue towards ICPD30 and AADPD10, which took place in October 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda, lawmakers shared measures their countries have undertaken by adopting new legislation seeking to provide opportunities for the youth while empowering women as a critical step for reaping the demographic dividend in Africa.

Official estimates show that young people between 18 years and 35 years of age make up more than 70 percent of the population in Africa, where women account for more than 50 percent of the continent’s combined population.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, set a bold new vision of the relationships between population, development, and individual rights and well-being. Its framework for action, endorsed then by 179 governments at the global level, affirmed that inclusive, sustainable development is not possible without prioritizing human rights, including reproductive rights; empowering women and girls; and addressing inequalities as well as the needs, aspirations, and rights of individuals. As stakeholders are now set to celebrate the 30th anniversary of implementing ICPD resolutions, Ikegami emphasizes the need for African and Asian nations to consolidate views on how countries should specifically carry out parliamentary activities for the global review process.

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## **9. Women Correct Historical Injustices, Build Climate Resilience Through Cash Pooling in Kenya**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/women-correct-historical-injustices-build-climate-resilience-through-cash-pooling/>

NAIROBI, Oct 31 2023 (IPS) - Although women account for more than three-quarters of the agricultural labour force and manage 40 percent of small-scale farms, historically, they neither owned nor controlled the land because land rights were passed down to male relatives. It is a historic gender injustice whereby women could only access land through close male relatives.

But as the vagaries of drought wreak havoc in the agricultural sector due to more failed rainfall seasons – with 2022 alone showing signs of a serious hydrological and ecological drought – gender and climate experts tell IPS that women’s decision-making powers are much needed to ensure that extreme weather patterns do not paralyse the agricultural sector.

The revolutionary Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCO) is increasingly putting land rights in the hands of women and facilitating access to the tools needed to build climate-resilient farming and food systems.

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## **10. Women hold the Key to Success of Pastoralism in Africa**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/women-hold-the-key-to-success-of-pastoralism-in-africa/>

Women in pastoralist areas of East Africa are critical to the health of livestock in their communities, holding the key to effective animal vaccination campaigns meant to protect herds against deadly diseases. They are, therefore, an important part of any vaccination strategies designed to guard the animals against killer outbreaks and need to be involved in such efforts for them to be successful.

Unsurprisingly, as many as 43 percent of livestock insurance policyholders in northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia, where the policies have been introduced in the recent past, are women, scientists at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) say. Recognizing that conflict with household tasks was a permanent reality for women, ILRI practiced and advocated for early communication to enable better planning through community messaging while actively supporting females’ role in caring for livestock, he added.

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## **11. Fighting Malnutrition and Changing Mindsets in Rwanda**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/11/fighting-malnutrition-changing-mindsets-rwanda/>

Rwandan students have been getting school meals as part of a UN World Food Programme (WFP) project in which fortified refined maize meal has been replaced by a fortified wholegrain version. The fortified wholegrain maize meal is used to make “kaunga”, a sort of stiff porridge that is served with beans and vegetables in schools.

It is an exciting trial for WFP, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its efforts to provide food assistance in conflict zones and to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war, to integrate wholegrains into school meals.

Food is usually fortified to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in the people who eat it by adding vitamins and minerals to the refined versions of staple grains. Fortification of wholegrain flours, where virtually all the grain remains in the processed product, has largely been uncharted territory up to now. But it is potentially a promising way to increase the micronutrient content while maintaining the health benefits of wholegrains, which provide more protein, fibre and micronutrients than refined foods. Wholegrain foods also have a cost advantage over refined versions because a higher yield is extracted from the raw materials. So getting people to acquire a taste for wholegrains is a good way to boost nutrition and food security.

Fortified whole maize meal is now enjoyed by 180,000 school children in Burundi and another 60,000 in Kenya, with exciting scale-up prospects in all three countries.

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## **12. Good for Girls and Good for the Planet: Eco-Friendly Sanitary Towels**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/11/good-for-girls-and-good-for-the-planet-eco-friendly-sanitary-towels/>

Dr Jacqueline Kisato is a lecturer at the Kenyatta University (KU), Fashion Design and Marketing, and is currently working on a project to develop affordable and eco-friendly sanitary towels while also finding a solution for sustainable packaging materials. Kisato and her research team interviewed 400 high school girls from Gatundi, Kibera, and Kawangware, where they found out that more than 50 percent of the girls in these low-income areas could hardly afford sanitary pads even when at home.

Kisato’s venture started out to help communities get a source of employment through the commercialization of banana stems – products that were considered useless by farmers and would usually be left to rot away on farms. Kisato expects her product to hit the market later this year, where she plans to make it more affordable for all.

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## **13. Opinion: More women in power will drive sustainable development in Africa**

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-more-women-in-power-will-drive-sustainable-development-in-africa-106535>

Yet achieving full gender parity still seems beyond our grasp. It will take at least 40 years to achieve equal representation in national parliaments, 140 years in the workplace, and more than 280 years before the removal of discriminatory laws, according to a U.N. report. This is particularly urgent in Africa, where progress toward overall gender parity is lagging behind most other regions, with sub-Saharan Africa ranking sixth out of eight geographies, while the Middle East and North Africa region occupies the last spot.

For Africa in particular, any real progress will require reinvigorating efforts to advance gender parity in public leadership beyond the protocols and quota policies that states have committed to. That’s no small feat considering that women in Africa hold just 1 in 4 seats in national parliaments. So how do we get women into public leadership and equip them to drive change while there?

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## 14. Calls for action to reduce food waste

<https://nation.africa/kenya/health/beating-hunger-calls-for-action-to-reduce-food-waste-4415090>

The International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) was marked with calls for action to reduce food losses along the food production and supply chains. According to Anthony Maina, the founder of Food Cloud Kenya, Kenya faces significant food waste issues throughout the supply chain, including production, processing, distribution and consumption.

A recent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) report shows that about 40 per cent of food in Kenya is lost post-harvest, contributing to limited access to nourishment. In Kenya's informal markets, food losses in the supply chain arise from poor infrastructure, inadequate storage facilities and a lack of proper handling techniques. In households, fruits and vegetables are the most commonly wasted food followed by staple foods like maize, rice and wheat.

Food Cloud Kenya works with many food markets, but the Githurai Market in Nairobi is the centre of operations. Here, the team trains traders on safe food handling practices, hygiene and storage techniques to raise food safety standards in the market. They also focus on extending the shelf life of agricultural products by training farmers in post-harvest handling and preservation.

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## 15. Forced to diversify, Guatemalan farmers plant climate-hardy beans

<https://www.context.news/climate-risks/forced-to-diversify-guatemalan-farmers-plant-climate-hardy-beans>

Sufficient production of beans, which most Guatemalan villagers eat daily, is no longer guaranteed in Chiquimula, a poor rural province in the drought-prone Dry Corridor - a belt of land stretching across Central America.

As climate change causes more frequent and severe droughts, as well as torrential and erratic rains, farmers are struggling to cope with dwindling crop yields that mean less food to eat, and in the worst cases, hunger.

In Chiquimula and other areas, they are turning to drought-resistant bean varieties bred to contain more zinc and iron to stem malnutrition, and are learning to grow other vegetables, raising chickens and pigs, and even becoming fish farmers and beekeepers to have alternative sources of food and income.

A new bean variety known as Chortí is touted for its drought and pest resilience. Chortí is named after one of the Indigenous Mayan peoples in the region. Due to its increased content of micronutrients, the Chortí bean is also being promoted as a way to help tackle high rates of anemia and malnutrition among Guatemalan women and children.

Through a crop breeding process called biofortification, micronutrient-enriched crops contain higher amounts of iron, zinc, and vitamin A that help to tackle malnutrition caused by a lack of vitamins and minerals in the diet.

U.S.-based HarvestPlus, part of CGIAR, a global group of agriculture research centers that works to scale up the production and consumption of biofortified staple crops, has released 77 varieties of iron-rich beans across Africa and Latin America, including in Guatemala since 2016.

From high-iron beans in Rwanda to vitamin A-rich maize in Zambia and iron-rich pearl millet in India, research shows that biofortified crops are a "cost-effective and scalable innovation" to improve nutrition and health outcomes among poor farming communities, according to HarvestPlus.

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## 16. Agricultural program empowers women and girls in Honduras

<https://cusointernational.org/stories/agricultural-program-empowers-women-and-girls-in-honduras/>

The Cuso International-led agriculture program is “Support to the Resilient Reactivation of Livelihoods Affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota”. The project provides families with agriculture kits containing various farming tools, training workshops focused on adapting agriculture methods to climate change and healthy nutrition habits, facilitated by Cuso International volunteers.

Further, the program aims to close the gender gap by empowering and training women as farmers, so they can generate an income for their families while also increasing knowledge on climate change and its negative effects in their community.

In addition, Fundación de los Centros Familiares Educativos para el Desarrollo de Honduras (Educational Family Centres for the Development of Honduras), a Cuso International project partner, helps connect individuals in these remote communities with water harvesters and irrigation and fertigation systems.

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## 17. Growing crops and a better quality of life in Peru

<https://cusointernational.org/stories/growing-crops-and-a-better-quality-of-life-in-peru>

Local organization Hatun Willaqkukuna, an ally of Cuso International partner Manuela Ramos Movement, is working to improve women’s rights as well as sexual and reproductive health in Peru.

Fostering entrepreneurial and empowered single-parent heads of households who live free of gender-based violence (GBV) is one of their many initiatives. By raising hydroponic crops, women can achieve greater economic autonomy and secure a better quality of life for themselves and their families.

The project is one of many such initiatives supported by Cuso International’s Women’s Voice and Leadership (WVL) program in Peru. Since the program started in 2020, 1,154 women have successfully completed training schools.

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## 18. Innovative Gender Bond Series Uplifts Rural Women to Drive Climate Action in Asia

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/11/innovative-gender-bond-series-uplifts-rural-women-drive-climate-action-asia/>

To unlock the potential productivity of women smallholder farmers, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) partnered with Impact Investment Exchange (IIX) to support rural women entrepreneurs across the region to access affordable and well-regulated financial services through the IIX Women’s Livelihood Bond™ (WLB™) Series.

The WLB™ Series, which was the world’s first gender-lens investing instrument listed on a stock exchange, is structured as a set of innovative debt securities that mobilize private capital to invest in a multi-country, multi-sector portfolio of women-focused enterprises that balances risk, return, and impact.

Growing substantially since its first issuance in 2017, the Series so far has impacted 1,300,000 women and girls across Asia and Africa and US\$128 million has been mobilized.

Gender bonds such as the WLB™ Series have emerged in response to the growing movement to leverage innovative sources of public and private finance to tackle complex social challenges, providing a source of capital for projects and activities that yield positive social and environmental impacts, mitigate risk, as well as maximizing financial returns.

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## 19. One-third of Indian STEM conferences have no women

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03519-z>

In the past three years, 35% of all science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) conferences held in India featured only male speakers, according to a preprint<sup>1</sup> posted on the bioRxiv server on 27 October. Female researchers in India are outnumbered by their male counterparts in STEM fields, but their under-representation is even more pronounced on the conference circuit.

On average, women make up just 16.7% of the STEM faculty across 98 Indian universities and institutes. Biology had the highest proportion of women, at 22.5%, whereas engineering had the lowest, at just 8.3%. For comparison, a 2019 study found that the public-health faculties at the 15 top-ranked universities in the world for the social sciences and public health — all in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada — were composed of between roughly 33% and 54% women.

Societal pressures to start families draw many women away from pursuing careers in STEM. A lack of support for women who remain in academia makes the situation worse, as does a hostile workforce culture.

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## 20. The Relentless Struggles of India's Seawall Mammams

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/11/the-seawall-mammas/>

The Casuarina “forest wall” off the shoreline are trees that women in the 108-household village Tandahara planted after the 1999 Super Cyclonic Storm decimated their mud-walled thatched-roof huts leaving their fertile farms salt-poisoned. That year, 33 years ago, they planted the trees on the village boundary, a good distance away from the shoreline; today, on a stormy night, the sea crashes against the tree trunks, threatening to run amok into their homes.

Tandahara, sitting on the Bay of Bengal, is one of the last villages in the eastern Indian State Odisha, some 20 kilometres from Konark Sun Temple, UNESCO's designated heritage site that is itself showing the impacts of seas closing in. Coastal accretion is the gradual increase or acquisition of land by the sea. It occurs through washing up sand, soil, or silt. Erosion is the gradual washing away of land along the shoreline. Odisha's Puri province, where sea-front villages like Tandahara face the brunt, experienced the highest accretion on 110 km of its total 140 km shore length, according to the 2018 study by the National Centre for Coastal Research of Earth Sciences Ministry.

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## 21. Women farmers shine as 'super-heroes' in India's climate fight

<https://www.context.news/just-transition/women-farmers-shine-as-super-heroes-in-indias-climate-fight>

Women lead the charge for climate-friendly agriculture on the ground, though many important decisions still rest with men.

- Women's collectives promote climate-resilient farming
- Men still dominate land ownership, key crop decisions
- Female self-help groups hailed as a "game-changer"

More than 75% of India's rural women workers are in the agriculture sector but just 12% of them own land, according to government data. Most women work as farm labourers or unpaid workers on family-owned fields. Their lack of status as farmers means they cannot access government support including subsidised loans, special credit cards and cash aid.

Of India's 12 million self-help groups, serving 140 million households, 88% are all-women, government data shows. To combat climate change, women's collectives in eastern Odisha are bringing back millet - a long-forgotten drought-resistant crop - while in northern Uttar Pradesh they are changing sowing techniques to help retain soil moisture.

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## 22. Gender-Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund Recipients

<https://wedo.org/highlighting-the-june-2023-round-of-gjcs-scale-fund-solutions>

Seven projects from around the world – showcasing climate solutions that are gender-just, community driven, and sustainable – have been selected as the next round of recipients of the Gender-Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund:

- Action for Youth and Environment (Cameroon)
- Aprendizaje en Movimiento (Ecuador)
- Centre for Social Policy and Development (Pakistan)
- Little Earth (Tajikistan)
- Naireeta Services, Bhungroo (India)
- Rice Watch Action Network (R1) (Philippines)
- Rural Women Network (Kenya)

Launched at the Generation Equality Forum in 2021, the Gender-Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Scale Fund is a re-grant collective that seeks to respond to the challenges described by the solutions highlighted through the GJCS Awards Program and provide another avenue for flexible, feminist funding.

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## 23. Progress towards gender balance at the UN climate negotiations

<https://www.iied.org/progress-towards-gender-balance-un-climate-negotiations-slow-steady-not-enough>

Stella Gama, Least Developed Countries Group coordinator for gender and Malawi lead climate change negotiator on gender, looks back to the early calls to address the heavy underrepresentation of women at the international climate summits. Given the mixed bag of progress to date, Gama asks: what’s slowing things down?

With the adoption of the Lima Work Program and the Gender Action Plan, all Parties have committed to implement actions to advance gender-responsive climate policies at national and local level. Countries need to set their own plans with objectives and activities on how they will achieve gender responsive climate policy and action.

The challenge now is implementing these gender mandates. The underlying causes underpinning slow progress are many but include inadequate understanding of gender mainstreaming and its processes – including monitoring.

Secondly, inadequate financing for the Gender Action Plan to support women empowerment activities and for country level initiatives and actions.

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## 24. IFC slammed by its own watchdog for ignoring child sex abuse allegations

<https://www.devex.com/news/ifc-slammed-by-its-own-watchdog-for-ignoring-child-sex-abuse-allegations-106439>

The International Finance Corporation turned a blind eye to allegations of child sex abuse in one of its education projects for years, according to a damning report by its own watchdog. Staff at IFC, the World Bank’s private sector arm, reportedly failed to carry out proper due diligence or adequate monitoring, even after being made aware of allegations that teachers were abusing children at Bridge International Academies schools in Kenya, in which IFC invested \$13.5 million between 2013 and 2022.

Bridge — whose parent company is NewGlobe — operates low-fee schools in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, and India. It is the world’s largest for-profit primary school chain, with around 750,000 students by 2022, according to IFC’s website.

The ombudsman’s investigation was triggered after community members in Nairobi told CAO staff about alleged cases of child sex abuse by two Bridge teachers involving 15 students. The reports were made to CAO staff in February 2020. The watchdog’s leaked investigation report finds that IFC’s environmental and social due diligence was “deficient” and failed to identify or assess child sex abuse or gender-based violence risks.

## 25. Maternity Health Care for Rural Women

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-to-get-pregnant-women-to-hospitals-when-ambulances-can-t-reach-them-106329>

The latest WHO fact sheet links long distances to a health facility and lack of transport to these deaths, and other studies have shown many mothers in Africa are forced to walk to a maternity facility due to a widespread lack of transportation services.

Immediate transport access and midwifery services can reduce maternal deaths, as a National Library of Medicine study found in Ethiopia. As such nonprofits are investing in innovative solutions to transport women to maternity services.

In rural Kenya, the challenge of delivering emergency services to mothers is worsened by weather extremes. In northwest Kenya, droughts have been forcing families to migrate to distant settlements, while floods have been cutting off entire villages from accessing health care. The region is also troubled by geopolitics because when natural disasters occur, families don't just move within Kenya, some cross borders to neighboring countries in search of relief. This makes it very difficult for humanitarian workers to reach expectant mothers, a situation that has led to maternal deaths of above 1,000 per 100,000 births in the region.

## 26. Mauritius Begins to Correct a Historic Wrong Towards LGBTQI+ People

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/mauritius-begins-correct-historic-wrong-towards-lgbtqi-people/>

Only in two Commonwealth states – Rwanda and Vanuatu – were same-sex relations never criminalised. In others, decriminalisation has come over time. A few – Australia, Canada, Malta, and the UK – began processes leading to decriminalisation in the 1960s and 1970s, followed by New Zealand in the 1980s and the Bahamas, Cyprus and South Africa in the 1990s.

As some of these states went on to make further progress, notably in equal marriage rights, civil society activism continued to fuel the decriminalisation trend in the 2010s, starting in Fiji, with nine countries following over the next decade. Four more – Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Singapore and St Kitts and Nevis – followed suit in 2022.

The visible backlash against LGBTQI+ rights in Commonwealth states such as Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda, where small gains in rights and visibility are bringing a disproportionate anti-rights response, tend to grab the headlines. The struggles of LGBTQI+ people in these countries are vital. But this shouldn't obscure an overall trend of progress.

There are conflicting processes at play, with a tug of war between forces struggling for the realisation of rights and those resisting advances in the name of tradition and a supposedly natural order. In this struggle setbacks are inevitable – but in the long term, the side of rights is winning.

### Reports, Publications, Resources

#### 1. Helping Farmers Worldwide Access a Climate-smart Solution for Cooking

<https://cleancooking.org/news/helping-farmers-worldwide-access-a-climate-smart-solution-for-cooking/>

Esther Altorfer is the Chief Strategy Officer at Sistema.bio, a social enterprise specializing in producing biogas digesters and training people on how to use them. Altorfer is in charge of driving growth and expanding the organizational base from its Mexico headquarters to new offices in Central America, East Africa, and India.



The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) spoke to Altorfer about the importance of biogas as a cooking fuel and its role in empowering women. Since biogas' production and combustion are entirely non-polluting, it is considered a clean fuel for cooking. To date, Sistema.bio has installed over 80,000 biodigesters globally, impacting nearly half a million lives.

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## 2. Podcast: A Journey to Find India's Women in Science

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adl1585>

Transcript <https://www.science.org/content/podcast/making-corn-shorter-and-book-finding-india-s-women-science>

Books Host Angela Saini speaks with Nandita Jayaraj and Aashima Dogra about their book *Lab Hopping: A Journey to Find India's Women in Science*. They documented the stories of people passionate about science, but often struggling against discrimination, harassment, and the weight of social expectation.

“So Lab Hopping is a book that is one of the many products of a project that Aashima and I started about seven years ago. It is called the Life of Science and it's a feminist Science media platform which was themed on the journeys of women in India who are working in laboratories, working as lab leaders, sometimes working as technicians or operating telescopes and all kinds of STEM related things. Over time we soon realized that there were certain patterns and there were certain common experiences that many of these women were having and at the same time there were some extremely different kinds of experiences that different women were having.”

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## 3. Child-lens investing: A new field aims to link money to impact on kids

<https://www.devex.com/news/child-lens-investing-a-new-field-aims-to-link-money-to-impact-on-kids-106472>

Framework <https://www.unicef.org/innovation/innovative-finance/child-lens-investing>

Long an investment afterthought, children are being put front and center by UNICEF and other development organizations seeking to build a new field that incorporates “unrecognized” kids into commercial financing decisions.

Much like investors have focused on climate or gender in their lending in recent years, this group of advocates has made the case for a similar industry focus on children, through what they're calling child-lens investing.

The Criterion Institute, an activist think tank focused on finance, defines child-lens investing as an emerging field that “intentionally integrates considerations of child rights and well-being into investment processes.” Criterion said in a recent report that climate, gender lens, and child-lens investing all seek to “shape how financial capital is invested and managed in order to increase positive outcomes or avoid negative ones.”

So what is the goal? Child-lens investing seeks to mitigate harm and encourage businesses to install better child-oriented policies such as family leave, but also go beyond that to increase investments in businesses that benefit children.

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## 4. Differences on the Wheat Trait Preferences Between Women and Men from the Same Household

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/132814>

*Abstract/Description*

Public breeding programs rarely consider farmers' needs and preferences, especially gender-based preferences, in developing improved varieties for farmers. Our research examined how personal, household, agronomic and ecological characteristics of wheat-growers in Bihar, India, affect female and male farmers' wheat trait choices. A total of 1,003 households with both male and female from the same household were interviewed. The results imply that gender

influences the preferences for wheat traits. Some traits are favored by both men and women, however in other instances there are striking disparities. Men chose wheat varieties that are well adapted to extreme climate conditions, have a higher grain yield, and produce chapatis with a superior taste, while women preferred wheat types with superior chapati making quality, higher grain yield, and high market prices. Other socioeconomic, agronomic, cultural, and geolocation factors also had a considerable impact on trait preferences. These human dimensions of traits preferred by women and men farmers may be considered when selecting combinations of traits to develop breeding product profiles for certain market segments.

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## 5. Podcast Series: Episode 1 Breaking Barriers - Promoting Gender Equality in the Workplace

<https://unglobalcompact.ca/knowledge-hub/page.php?id=29>

In our premiere episode, join our host, Megan Grace Halferty (she/her), Sustainability Coordinator, at the UN Global Compact Network Canada, as she engages in a stimulating discussion on Goal 5: Promoting Gender Equality with Brittany Gataveckas (she/her), Social Sustainability Manager of the UN Global Compact Network Canada.

Together, they delve into the rationale behind integrating gender equity into organizations, highlighting the imperative of diverse gender representation, including trans and non-binary individuals. Uncover invaluable insights on enhancing corporate culture and discover actionable steps that businesses and individuals alike can undertake to foster gender diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

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## 6. Mental Health and Substance Use of Farmers in Canada during COVID-19

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192013566>

### *Abstract*

Farmers in Canada faced higher levels of mental distress than the general public prior to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and are generally less likely than the public to seek help. However, the mental health impacts of COVID-19 on farmers in Canada remain unexplored. Our objective was to investigate mental health outcomes among farmers in Canada by gender and within the context of COVID-19. We conducted a national, online, cross-sectional survey of farmers in Canada (February–May 2021). The survey included validated scales of anxiety, depression, perceived stress, burnout (emotional exhaustion, cynicism, professional efficacy), alcohol use, resilience, and questions regarding participants' perceived changes in these outcomes during the pandemic. Data were also collected on the impact of COVID-19 specific social and economic factors on mental health, help-seeking, and sense of community belonging through the pandemic. Descriptive statistics were summarized, and Chi-square analyses and t-tests were conducted to compare survey results between genders and to data collected in our similar 2016 survey and normative population data. A total of 1167 farmers participated in the survey. Participants scored more severely across scales than scale norms and the general Canadian population during COVID-19. Scale means were consistent between the 2016 and 2021 samples. Most participants with moderate to severe scores for any outcome reported worsening symptoms since the pandemic began. Women fared significantly worse than men across measures. Over twice as many women reported seeking mental health or substance use support during the pandemic than men. Participants rated the mental health impacts of all social and economic factors related to COVID-19 examined significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) differently than the Canadian public. The pandemic has negatively impacted the mental health of farmers in Canada and in ways that differ from the general population. National level and gender-specific mental health supports are needed to help improve the mental health of farmers in Canada.

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## 7. 'Why does gender matter in a 'just transition'?

<https://youtu.be/CYe740aQdeU>

IIED Debates event 'Why does gender matter in a 'just transition'?' took place on Thursday, 26 October 2023. Speakers May Thazin Aung, Nokwanda Maseko, Sophie Kwizera and Laura Del Duca contributed to an engaging and energetic discussion. Our speakers explored what it means to consider gender in a just transition both conceptually and in practice and explored how to promote gender justice.

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## 8. Gender, climate finance and inclusive low-carbon transitions

<https://www.iied.org/21601iied>

Climate change will have significant long-term impacts on people, ecosystems and the global economy. To avoid catastrophic impacts, the world must mobilise finance at scale to deliver rapid and substantial low-carbon transitions across sectors and regions. Improving sustainable finance approaches and enhancing market alignment with this transition is crucial.

Evidence shows that climate finance is not reaching those who need it most. Despite the significant climate risks faced by women and girls, only 2.3% of climate finance intends to principally support gender equality. Low-carbon transitions must be designed with proper understanding of contextual gender inequalities.

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## 9. Bundling agri-food systems innovations for women's resilience and empowerment - Building the evidence base

<https://www.iied.org/21581iied>

Successful outcomes for agri-food systems and the communities that rely on them are dependent on a whole range of factors and situations. Innovative technologies must align with these to stand any chance of achieving the goal of healthy, equitable, resilient and sustainable systems. These interventions can be better understood and applied using so-called 'socio-technical innovation bundles', or STIBs.

This working paper looks at the experiences of women, particularly in marginalised situations, and the outcomes that are possible for them and their families. It proposes a practical framework to support researchers and others and invites practitioners to trial this so that a much-needed evidence base can be built.

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## 10. How Do Haiti's Street Food Vendors Think About Clean Cooking?

<https://cleancooking.org/news/how-do-haitis-street-food-vendors-think-about-clean-cooking-ccas-user-insights-lab-sheds-some-light/>

Thanks to urbanization and a vibrant food culture, Haiti's street food scene has expanded significantly in the last decade. Street food vendors throughout the country's urban centers cook up freshly made meals daily, providing convenient food options from early in the morning until late in the evening.

However, due to a lack of options when it comes to cooking fuels, most street vendors depend on highly polluting charcoal to cook. As a result, the vendors' fires produce large amounts of air pollution, which contribute to significant greenhouse gas emissions as well as deforestation and other local environmental pressures.

The Clean Cooking Alliance’s User Insights Lab (UIL) aims to better understand the day-to-day experiences of Haiti’s street food vendors and to explore human-centered innovations that could increase access to, and sustained use of, cleaner cooking solutions.

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## **11. A Call to Action: Delivering Responsible Carbon Finance**

<https://cleancooking.org/reports-and-tools/a-call-to-action-delivering-responsible-carbon-finance/>

Carbon markets offer an important avenue to attract private finance into clean cooking. The clean cooking sector requires investment at scale to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030.

This report offers a set of interim Principles that serves to guide responsible conduct in the carbon markets, help build the underlying conditions of trust and confidence needed for this market to flourish and give buyers confidence in the quality of the programs in which they invest.

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## **12. The State of Food and Agriculture 2023: Revealing the true cost of food to transform agrifood systems**

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc7724en>

The State of Food and Agriculture 2023 looks into the true cost of food for sustainable agrifood systems. The report introduces the concept of hidden environmental, health and social costs and benefits of agrifood systems and proposes an approach – true cost accounting (TCA) – to assess them. To operationalize the TCA approach, the report proposes a two-phase assessment process, first relying on national-level TCA assessments to raise awareness and then moving towards in-depth and targeted evaluations to prioritize solutions and guide transformative actions. It provides a first attempt at national-level assessments for 154 countries, suggesting that global hidden costs from agrifood systems amount to at least 10 trillion 2020 PPP dollars. The estimates indicate that low-income countries bear the highest burden of the hidden costs of agrifood systems relative to national income. Despite the preliminary nature of these estimates, the analysis reveals the urgent need to factor hidden costs into decision-making for the transformation of agrifood systems. Innovations in research and data, alongside investments in data collection and capacity building, are needed to scale the application of TCA, especially in low- and middle-income countries, so that it can become a viable tool to inform decision- and policymaking in a transparent and consistent way.

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## **13. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Strategy 2023 to 2027**

<https://awardfellowships.org/our-strategy/>

Recent evidence indicates that the persisting gender gaps in our agrifood systems continue to hold back the potential of agricultural-driven development. That is why we are motivated to, together with our partners, intensify the work around advancing gender-responsive agricultural research for development AR4D.

The AWARD Strategy 2023-2027 demonstrates how we are reinforcing our promise to contribute to agricultural-driven transformation for equitable livelihoods, emphasizing gender responsiveness as a critical lever.

Built around three strategic pillars, our Strategy 2023-2027 aims to: Strengthen individuals’ contribution in AR4D by investing in the leaky pipeline of women in leadership, and equipping African researchers to address gender in their research; Accelerating institutions’ impact by supporting them to deliver better in their mandate in gender-responsive

ways; and fostering an enabling environment for gender responsiveness to thrive where the policies are equitable, and African voices are at the fore front of global and regional AR4D conversations.

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## **14. Bundling agri-food systems innovations for women's resilience and empowerment - Building the evidence base**

<https://www.iied.org/21581iied>

Successful outcomes for agri-food systems and the communities that rely on them are dependent on a whole range of factors and situations. Innovative technologies must align with these to stand any chance of achieving the goal of healthy, equitable, resilient and sustainable systems. These interventions can be better understood and applied using so-called 'socio-technical innovation bundles', or STIBs. This working paper looks at the experiences of women, particularly in marginalised situations, and the outcomes that are possible for them and their families. It proposes a practical framework to support researchers and others, and invites practitioners to trial this so that a much-needed evidence base can be built.

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## **15. Girls in Science – Ice Cream Challenge**

<https://clubhouse.girlsinscience.ca/ice-cream-challenge/>

Adrianna (14) and Stella (10) won the latest STEM challenge by the Canadian Association of Girls In Science (CAGIS). In this challenge, Adrianna and Stella became food scientists, and each created a new flavour of ice cream.

Chapman's partnered with (CAGIS) to help provide some inside ice cream making knowledge and incentives to help raise awareness and support for women and gender diverse people interested in Science, Technology, Trades, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Watch the video of Adrianna and Stella making their truly yummy ice cream recipes and explaining the process they went through to win the Ice Cream (STEM) challenge competition. This project is supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

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## **16. Development Education Resources Library**

<https://developmenteducation.ie/resources/>

DevelopmentEducation.ie is an online resource focused on the unequal and unjust shape of the world today. It is a place for primary and post primary teachers, youth workers, adult and community educators and those with an interest in development, sustainability and human rights. It is a place to find ideas, tools and materials for exploring controversial and contested issues such as human development, sustainability, fair trade, women's rights etc. with stimulus resources, statistics, debates, viewpoints and values enquiry. 632 resources are listed in a neat and accessible way: the resources are presented, with easy listing by categories such as media type, topic, or sustainable development goal; (SDG).

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## **17. Podcast: Understanding the State of Women's Entrepreneurship**

<https://www.startupcan.ca/women-entrepreneurship-with-wendy-cukier-and-vivian-liu/>

Have you ever googled the word entrepreneur? What kind of images show up? Who kind of folks do you see represented and associated with the word 'entrepreneur'. Often, it isn't women. We believe that needs to change because women are disrupting industries, they are making deep social impact, and they are incredibly successful.

Dr. Wendy Cukier of the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH) and Vivian Lieu of Making Auto Easy (mae) discuss the state of women entrepreneurship in Canada. They also talk about disrupting industries, technology, innovation, and more.

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## 18. Impact of the Fund for Innovation and Transformation FIT

<https://youtu.be/hNCPzYm6DSs>

Shot video clip. Access to funding, capacity sharing, and partnerships are integral to the Fund for Innovation and Transformation FIT’s goal of advancing gender equality and community empowerment. Hear from Small & Medium Organizations [SMOs], partners from the Global South and the FIT team as they reflect on the impact of the program.

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## 19. Fund for Innovation and Transformation FIT Program Results

<https://youtu.be/QZJE4mdmUew>

How did FIT’s SMOs advance gender equality and empower women and girls in their short-term testing projects? This 43 minute recording of the November 22, 2023 FIT Program Results event covers FIT's evaluation approach and insights.

Measuring gender equality in the innovation space is both new and complex. Informed by our findings and learnings as a program, the Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT) developed the Gender Evaluation Framework for Innovation (GEFI) to evaluate how testing innovative solutions allowed 52 FIT-funded SMOs and their partners in the Global South to advance gender equality and empower women and girls in 33 countries.

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## 20. Impact of FIT and SPUR Change

<https://youtu.be/n4knL0ulk44>

Short video clip featuring Canadian SMOs discussing the impact of innovation testing programs like the Fund for Innovation and Transformation and SPUR Change. Innovation testing programs like the Fund for Innovation and Transformation and SPUR Change create a unique impact. Here’s what Canadian SMOs are saying.

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## 21. FIT Impact - Continue Funding

<https://youtu.be/zC9bio-e0iQ>

Short video clip. Investing in global issues matters. Canadian SMOs say they value what FIT has helped them achieve together with partners in the Global South.

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## 22. FIT Impact - Local Partner

<https://youtu.be/DoE6oiRu-OU>

Short video clip. Supporting creativity and collaboration is key to solution-finding. Here’s what one partner in Nicaragua had to say about the impact of the FIT innovation testing experience.

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