



Watermelon carved into hearts, roses and cupids in Thai restaurant. 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.

Dinah Ceplis, P.Ag. (Ret.), FGHIH, FAIC, (Volunteer Editor)

Contents

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Advocacy Training in Climate Change – Prairie Region 2
2. ONLINE – Indigenous Food Sovereignty Panel – Land Back & Land Access 3
3. International Development Week 2024 3
4. Call For Applications: The 2024 One Planet Fellowship Internship Program For Emerging European Scientists 3
5. International Day of Women and Girls in Science 4
6. PSEAH Organizational Assessment Tool 4
7. International Women’s Day 4
8. Girls and STEAM: Career Path Adventures on International Women's Day 4
9. National Fair Trade Conference Canada 5
10. Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair 5
11. Master of Veterinary Science at U of Illinois 5

This Month’s News

1. Women added to Cop29 climate summit committee after backlash 6
2. Children play their way to a greener, climate-resilient future 6
3. India's paradox of surplus grains and soaring food insecurity 6
4. Women’s jewelry acts as a buffer against climate change in India 7
5. Cooperative Farming Makes Bangladesh’s Coastal Women Farmers Climate-Resilient 7
6. Climate-resilient seeds offer farmers in Syria a path to food security 7
7. Opinion: Improving Women’s Participation in International Trade For Economic Prosperity 8

8.	Women’s rights key for Afghanistan’s economic recovery	8
9.	How Empowering Women Farmers Drives Change in Jordan and Beyond.....	9
10.	Electrifying Cooking: Decarbonizing Africa’s Electricity Grid Towards Net Zero	9
11.	P.E.I. agriculture businesswoman, advocate appointed to Canadian Senate	9
12.	Alberta author busts myths about history of women in ranching	10
13.	How war forced career changes on Ukrainian refugees.....	10
14.	Back to the land: young Italians find la dolce vita in a return to farming.	10
15.	‘Food is a tool for change’: the Turkish chef who empowers women, helps refugees.	11
16.	Can brewing a traditional alcohol help Colombia’s youth avoid gangs?.....	11
17.	Taking flight: why the sky’s the limit for a women’s birding club in Uganda	11
18.	Burundi Says LGBTQ Unacceptable, Shuns Rights-Linked Foreign Aid.....	12
19.	Why do some malnourished kids relapse? Study finds urban-rural divide.	12
20.	Detech - Vietnamese sustainable coffee brand.....	12
21.	Children living near green spaces ‘have stronger bones’	13

Reports, Publications, Resources

1.	WHO issues new guideline to tackle acute malnutrition in children under the age of five	13
2.	Most prevalent jobs of young bachelor’s degree graduates by detailed field of study [Canada].....	13
3.	Gender Just Climate Solutions	14
4.	Gender, Resilience, and Food Systems	14
5.	The State of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Manitoba	14
6.	The 2023 Microfinance Index	15
7.	Tinned Sardines Cannery	15
8.	Transforming gender norms for women’s economic rights and empowerment	15
9.	Resource Library - Women and Gender Equality Canada.....	16
10.	The Girls’ Futures Report.....	16
11.	Clean Cooking is a Youth Issue.....	16
12.	International Solidarity Glossary	16

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

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Advocacy Training in Climate Change – Prairie Region

<https://www.climatereality.ca/advocacy-training>

The Climate Reality Project Canada is partnering with the Climate Justice Organizing Hub to launch a training initiative in local climate advocacy tailored to the needs and concerns of Prairie Canadians in communities across the region.

Join us **Jan. 27- Feb. 25. Online and in-person.** Are you worried about climate change but are not sure how to make a difference? Whether you're an individual eager to communicate about climate change in your community, feeling isolated

and seeking connections others, or interested in organizing for action, this training is for you! You will learn the basics, hear about inspiring organizations and people who are making a difference on the Prairies, and have a chance to work in small groups led by mentors dedicated to fostering your learning.

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

2. ONLINE – Indigenous Food Sovereignty Panel – Land Back & Land Access

<https://youngagrarians.org/ifs-land-back/>

Join Leslie Anne St. Amour of RAVEN, Natasha Anderson of Minwaadizi Farm, and Julian Napoleon of Amisk Farm for a panel discussion on land back and Indigenous food sovereignty. In so-called British Columbia, 95% is “crown land”, and most is unceded; a small amount has been treated back to Nations through the court system. What does unceded and land back mean? This panel will explore these questions and share ways that Indigenous farmers are accessing and stewarding land towards Indigenous Food Sovereignty (IFS) under the colonial government’s complex system of land title. Listeners will come away with ways to deepen relationships with the land and support the land back movement. We hope you can join for a rich and engaging conversation. DATE: **Wednesday, January 31, 2024 | 6-8 PM PST**

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

3. International Development Week 2024

<https://www.international.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/idw-sdi/index.aspx?lang=eng>

Since 1991, IDW is held annually in the first full week of February and spotlights Canadians' contributions to eradicating poverty and building a more peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous world. It's a unique opportunity to inform, inspire, involve, and celebrate Canadians' global impact on international development. **February 4 to 10, 2024.**

Building on the success of previous editions, IDW 2024 calls Canadians to #GoForTheGoals to support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

4. Call For Applications: The 2024 One Planet Fellowship Internship Program For Emerging European Scientists

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/call-for-applications-the-2024-one-planet-fellowship-internship-program-for-emerging-european-scientists>

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) is pleased to announce the second Call for the 2024 One Planet Fellowship Internship Program targeting young European scientists.

The Call for the 2024 One Planet Fellowship Internship Program opens on January 15, 2024, and **closes on February 8, 2024.** Application is strictly through the online portal.

These internship programs are open to:

- European scientists (EU nationals), male and female, aged below 30 years and ready to work in a multicultural environment.
- Applicants are primarily Master’s and PhD students. However, junior scientists working in various European research institutions and universities are also eligible.
- The junior scientists’ focus research area or study program should be clearly connected to agriculture, food systems, climate change, and
- The Internship Programs are also suitable for students interested in researching in Africa as part of their study program.

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

5. International Day of Women and Girls in Science

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/international-day-of-women-and-girls-in-science-2024/>

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is an annual observance that celebrates the achievements and contributions of women and girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This day recognizes the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the scientific community.

It is celebrated every year on the **11th of February** and was first established in 2015. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was originally adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and is enacted annually by UNESCO, in collaboration with UN Women.

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

6. PSEAH Organizational Assessment Tool

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0qdeuvpz8jGtVaJF6ptyy53ohHx4RP7auG#/registration>

<https://digna.ca/psea-organizational-assessment-tool/>

Digna’s no-obligation, customizable self-assessment is a useful tool that helps organizational leaders to gain a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of their organization’s prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) implementation. This is the first step of a journey that will enable your organization to implement the best and most appropriate PSEA measures.

Virtual workshop February 20, 1-2:30 PM ET. Register to join a working session with our team to help you complete this year’s PSEAH Organizational Assessment. Come with your tool, whether you are just getting started or have completed some sections and have questions. We will walk you through tool through a step-by-step with plenty of time for questions and answers.

Please note that the deadline to submit your assessment data to Digna has been extended until **March 01, 2024.**

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

7. International Women’s Day

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

March 8. For International Women's Day 2024 and beyond, let's Inspire Inclusion.

The aim of the IWD 2024 *#InspireInclusion* campaign is to collectively forge a more inclusive world for women. How will you inspire inclusion? On an individual basis, it's important to understand, value and seek out the inclusion of women and girls. Additionally, sharing this knowledge, support and encouragement with others is key. On an organizational or group basis, there are many ways to ensure the needs, interests and aspirations of women and girls are valued and included.

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

8. Girls and STEAM: Career Path Adventures on International Women's Day

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/girls-and-steam-career-path-adventures-on-international-womens-day-tickets-775836205977>

Join Science World for our annual International Women's Day live stream! Broadcast live to your class or home, this event will feature mentors that will captivate and inspire students to consider new possibilities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design, and Math) fields around the province.

On **Friday, March 8**, explore the unexpected twists and turns that three local STEAM leaders have experienced along their career paths for International Women’s Day.

In this 45-minute journey, linked with our new feature exhibition, Dream Tomorrow Today, you’ll learn how these women have found success navigating various challenges and surprises. After a series of presentations, there will be a Q&A session where students and audience members can ask questions and interact directly with our mentors.

This event is ideal for participants aged 10-12, but all ages and genders are welcome to experience these wonderful women in STEAM! And while the terms "women" and "girls" are used in our event, Girls and STEAM refers to participants and mentors who identify as women, girls, trans, genderqueer, non-binary, two-spirit, and gender questioning.

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

9. National Fair Trade Conference Canada

<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/fairtradecanada/en/national-fair-trade-conference-2024/home>

Join the grassroots of the Fair Trade movement at Canada's 9th National Fair Trade Conference hosted by Concordia **University in Montréal, QC on March 16th-17th, 2024**. Under the theme “Down to Earth”, Fair Trade leaders and activists from across the country will gather to celebrate 30 years of Fairtrade in Canada, and discuss how our movement is still nurturing a fertile soil for change.

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

10. Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair

https://whova.com/portal/registration/scwis_202405

Tickets are now available for our Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair! Join us for an enriching full day **on May 10** , 8:30-3:30 *PDT*, dedicated to networking with potential employers, receiving career coaching support and engaging in captivating talks led by STEM leaders.

This event is committed to empowering women, the LGBTQ+ community, racialized groups, new immigrants, individuals with disabilities and other under-represented communities to accelerate their career development. The Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair caters to both early-career professionals in search of internship or employment opportunities and established professionals looking to transition into leadership roles. Participants will have the invaluable opportunity to connect with HR managers, employers and recruiters, and engage with career coaches to further enhance their career paths.

We extend a warm invitation to women from diverse backgrounds, education levels, and career stages to join us in this inclusive and empowering event.

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

11. Master of Veterinary Science at U of Illinois

<https://online.illinois.edu/vetmed>

The Master of Veterinary Science degree at the University of Illinois offers a comprehensive and flexible program with four elective tracks: Foundations of Veterinary Science, Companion Animal Nutrition, Livestock Operations Management, and Systems Health Management. The program is available both online, with a flexible timeframe tailored to students' needs, and on-campus, which can be completed in one year.

The program is uniquely positioned at the intersection of animal health, data analytics, and business management, aiming to cultivate the next generation of leaders. Courses are structured around clinical and business cases with assessments tailored for real-world problem applications. Overall, the MVS program provides a holistic and practical education, preparing students to be leaders in the evolving field of veterinary science. **Apply by May 15** to start in Fall 2024.

This Month's News

1. Women added to Cop29 climate summit committee after backlash

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/19/women-cop29-climate-summit-committee-backlash>

The president of Azerbaijan has added 12 women to the previously all-male organising committee for the Cop29 global climate summit, which the country will host in December. The move follows a backlash after the Guardian reported the initial 28-man composition of the committee, which was called "regressive" by the She Changes Climate campaign group. President Ilham Aliyev also added a further man to the committee, which now comprises 29 men and 12 women.

The Cop29 president-designate, who will be responsible for bringing together countries to drive climate action, is Mukhtar Babayev, the minister of ecology and natural resources. Babayev previously spent 26 years working for the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (Socar).

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

2. Children play their way to a greener, climate-resilient future

<https://www.context.news/green-cities/children-play-their-way-to-a-greener-climate-resilient-future>

Schools in Bangladesh are testing fun ways to interest children in climate change and nature issues from an early age. Children aged from three to five at a government school are learning to grow plants and observe insects in an education programme to familiarise them with nature and climate change issues through music and play. There are 54 green play labs located across the country.

The best ways to engage children in climate action are fun, collaborative activities that help them feel they can make a difference. That means offering children opportunities to develop green skills and more activities outside the classroom such as cleaning up trash on beaches and riverbanks and learning how the solar photovoltaic systems in their homes work. Teachers have organised "climate Olympiad" competitions on climate-related knowledge at high schools, as well as debates, film screenings and discussions with children and teachers about the climate crisis.

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

3. India's paradox of surplus grains and soaring food insecurity

<https://www.devex.com/news/india-s-paradox-of-surplus-grains-and-soaring-food-insecurity-106649>

Some 233.9 million people remain undernourished in India. That means 74.1% of Indians cannot afford a healthy diet due to stagnant income levels. But India has an all-time high of grain production.

The repercussions are that India ranks 111 out of 125 countries in the global hunger index, with 190 million people going to bed hungry every night. A government report shows that more than 50% of India's farming households are in debt to the tune of 74,121 Indian rupees.

Before the handouts of wheat and rice, 40% of total farming in Eastern Maharashtra's Vidarbha region was sorghum. Sorghum doesn't get a good price in the market. Hence, many farmers don't prefer cultivating it anymore. Since the government has been procuring a lot of wheat and rice to provide so many people with subsidized food, farmers are shifting toward these grains, eventually leading to a decline in sorghum production. Millets have 30% to 300% more nutritional elements than wheat and rice.

India's National Family Health Survey of 2019-21 found that 35.5% of Indian children under the age of 5 are stunted, 19.3% are wasted, and 32.1% are overweight. Moreover, a massive 57% of Indian women aged 15-49 are anemic, while it is 25% for men.

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

4. Women’s jewelry acts as a buffer against climate change in India

<https://www.devex.com/news/women-s-jewelry-acts-as-a-buffer-against-climate-change-in-india-106670>

In over 100 villages that Shubhangi Rathod visits in central India’s Nagpur region, the agriculture officer finds virtually no women who own land. But when a heat wave, excessive rainfall, or pest outbreak destroys the crops, the men turn to the women’s gold jewelry to raise loans, she said.

To tide over incessant losses, farmers increasingly turn to loans where gold jewelry is offered as collateral. This gold is a gendered asset that is often gifted to women during marriage by their natal families for their financial security. It can be as little as a pair of gold earrings, a chain, or thin gold bangles.

Less than a third of women in the working age group are employed in paid work and barely 14% own land titles — already limiting women’s possibilities. Of this 14%, most women own small parcels of land giving them limited agency as the family head continues to make key decisions. Almost half of India’s working age population, and 80% of women in rural areas are engaged in agriculture. Many women feel resentful about giving up their gold but are often left with no choice.

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

5. Cooperative Farming Makes Bangladesh’s Coastal Women Farmers Climate-Resilient

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/01/cooperative-farming-makes-bangladeshs-coastal-women-farmers-climate-resilient-2/>

Led by the Bangladesh Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, the LoGIC project is providing the Community Resilience Fund (CRF), aiming to help the most climate-vulnerable women build resilience to climate change by enabling them to take climate-adaptive livelihoods.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, while cyclonic storms, flooding, and storm surges severely affect agriculture in the country’s coastal area every year. Once a natural disaster hits the coastal region of Bangladesh, it damages a huge area of crop fields, putting local farmers in peril.

Through this CRF support, the women apply community-based approaches to invest in climate-adaptive livelihoods like sunflower production, climate-tolerant rice, dal, and watermelon cultivation, and more.

The Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) project, jointly implemented by the Bangladesh government and UNDP for delivering adaptation benefits to vulnerable coastal people, has ushered in a ray of hope for women since they got training on climate-tolerant livelihood practices. After the training and pooling of their funds, they leased arable land from a local landlord. They sowed mug dal, also known as mung bean, and paddy on the agricultural land. They also received training on sheep and duck farming and vegetable cultivation.

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

6. Climate-resilient seeds offer farmers in Syria a path to food security

<https://www.devex.com/news/climate-resilient-seeds-offer-farmers-in-syria-a-path-to-food-security-106634>

In Syria, almost 14 years of conflict and the increasing impacts of climate change have ravaged the land, creating an increasingly difficult place for farmers to cultivate. It’s taken a particular toll on seeds.

Improving seed quality is a key part of the solution, and a pilot project to boost farmers’ access to high-quality, climate-resilient seeds could offer some hope — and the positive effects could reach far beyond farmers.

he International Rescue Committee, or IRC, saw an opportunity to strengthen local seed systems. In October 2022, they began overseeing a seed resilience project — the Seed Security Solution Package — as a pilot in the Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria.

Farmers participating in the project planted two varieties of seed, were supported and trained by agricultural staff, and measured indicators at all stages of growth to see which varieties were more productive and drought resilient.

Although the number of women who participated was relatively low — between 18-20% — four of the top 10 performing farmers were women, based on level of engagement in activities, application of climate-smart agricultural practices, and yield.

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

7. Opinion: Improving Women’s Participation in International Trade For Economic Prosperity

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/01/heres-can-improve-womens-participation-international-trade-economic-prosperity>

One of the key themes for the 2024 World Economic Forum is “Creating Growth and Jobs for a New Era” with a focus on creating economic gender parity. Several studies have shown that both technological and non-technological innovations improve a country’s export performance. Gender inclusion remains an important non-technological innovative measure enhancing export performance.

Some regional and bilateral trade agreements like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and USMCA (United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement) are now actively adding gender language and provisions. Canada has been a pioneer in including gender chapters in its trade agreements, such as the one with the European Union (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Enhancing the role of women in export sectors where women’s presence is already established can be very helpful. In the case of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India, women are involved in farming and livestock management.

Facilitations for easy access to training, credit, and improved participation opportunities in agricultural extension services can encourage women’s participation in international trade. Both financial institutions and the private sector should be engaged in this agenda. Private –Public partnerships to ensure investment in export-oriented sectors to strengthen women-led small and medium-sized businesses need prioritization.

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

8. Women’s rights key for Afghanistan’s economic recovery

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/01/1145657>

Economic recovery in Afghanistan hinges on international support for boosting productivity and reinstating women’s rights, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) said in a new report. The report paints a bleak picture of socioeconomic conditions since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, with the erosion of women's rights and a banking system near collapse identified as major areas of concern.

The Afghan economy has not recovered from the cumulative 27 per cent shrinkage experienced since 2020 and appears to be stabilizing at a very low level of activity. This is largely due to restrictions on the banking sector, disruptions in trade and commerce, weakened and isolated public institutions and almost no foreign investment and donor support for such sectors as agriculture and manufacturing. Public institutions, particularly in the economic sector, continue to lose technical expertise and capabilities, including women employees, which is further exacerbating the situation.

Furthermore, the humanitarian and economic crises and restrictions on women’s rights have had a severe impact on the female population. Women not only have limited access to public spaces, they also now consume less food and experience

greater income inequality compared to men. The proportion of women working across all sectors has also dropped dramatically, from 11 per cent in 2022 to just six per cent this year.

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

9. How Empowering Women Farmers Drives Change in Jordan and Beyond

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/01/beyond-the-farm-how-empowering-women-farmers-drives-change-in-jordan-and-beyond/>

Dr. Zeinab Al-Momany, a prominent social entrepreneur, sheds light on the journey of empowering women farmers in Jordan and the Arab world, where women often work long hours for low pay and lack labour recognition. As the visionary behind the Sakhrayh Women’s Society Cooperative and the Specific Union for Productive Farmer Women in Jordan (SUFWJ), Al-Momany shares her perspectives with IPS on the challenges faced by women farmers, the impact of organizations like SUFWJ on rural economic growth and women’s rights, and the profound implications of climate change for women in agriculture.

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

10. Electrifying Cooking: Decarbonizing Africa’s Electricity Grid Towards Net Zero

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/electrifying-cooking-decarbonizing-africas-electricity-grid-towards-net-zero/>

Across the African continent, many first-born children in poor and vulnerable households do not go to school as they spend their school days collecting biomass fuel. The regional average of the amount of time spent collecting firewood is 2.1 hours, robbing women and girls in particular of hundreds of hours in a year and crippling their capacities to engage in learning and productive activities.

Speaking during the event, COP28 CEO Adnan Z Amin, who also served as the founding Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency, made a strong case for electrifying cooking and its place in accelerating climate action towards net zero. He stressed that despite progress made towards access to electricity over the last decade, improved access to modern cooking remains overlooked. Nearly a billion people, or 940 million, in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. The rampant use of biomass for cooking has negative consequences for health, gender, climate, and the environment.

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

11. P.E.I. agriculture businesswoman, advocate appointed to Canadian Senate

<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/p-e-i-agriculture-business-woman-advocate-appointed-to-canadian-senate-1.6737214>

Canada’s Governor General has appointed Mary Robinson to the Senate for Prince Edward Island. Robinson, an agricultural professional with more than 25 years in the sector, will fill a vacancy as an independent senator, according to a news release from the Office of the Prime Minister. The Atlantic Canadian is currently the vice president of the World Farmer’s Organization and a managing partner of the Robinson Group of Companies. She was the first female chair of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council, a national non-profit that aims to address human resource issues in the agricultural sector across Canada. She was also the first female president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, a national agriculture advocacy group.

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

12. Alberta author busts myths about history of women in ranching

<https://www.canadiancattlemen.ca/people/alberta-author-busts-myths-about-history-of-women-in-ranching/>

While in her master's program at the University of Calgary, Rachel Herbert took history classes about ranching and the West but found she didn't get to learn much about women in ranching. What she did learn was mostly about the hardships women faced.

From there, Herbert started working on her master's thesis, a project that would one day become her book, *Ranching Women in Southern Alberta*. It examines the realities of women's roles on ranches throughout history. When Herbert started writing her book, she wanted to address and discredit some of the myths about women's roles on the ranch.

Herbert grew up in Calgary, Alta., but has roots in the rural, ranching sphere on her family's multigenerational operation in the Porcupine Hills. Summer after summer, Herbert went back to her family ranch to spend time with her grandparents. Years later, when she met her husband, she found herself moving away from the city and back towards the family ranch.

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

13. How war forced career changes on Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/dec/29/ukraine-war-refugees-forced-career-changes>

Olha specialised in business law, handling litigation, contracts, and numerous prestigious clients in Ukraine. When Russian tanks approached the outskirts of Kyiv, Olha realised that she might not survive. In March 2022, she wrote to the Swiss Farmers' Union, believing that the country's farming traditions offered the best opportunity for her transition. However, the responses were initially discouraging. To work on a Swiss farm, you require specialised education, particularly for animal care. Undeterred, Olha persevered and in May 2022 she received the offer of an internship. Her perspective on life and work shifted profoundly after the invasion.

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

14. Back to the land: young Italians find la dolce vita in a return to farming.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/jan/02/back-to-the-land-young-italian-entrepreneurs-find-la-dolce-vita-in-return-to-farming>

Fourteen years ago, Giacomo Perletti says he felt like an outlier in Italian agriculture: a young man pursuing a modern vision for farming. But now, aged 37 and owner of a thriving business producing cheese, cured meat and vegetables – all used in his Michelin green star restaurant (an award highlighting culinary sustainability) – Perletti is in danger of being considered an old man in his chosen field. Not only are most of his workforce younger than him, but across Italy an increasing number of young people are taking up work in agriculture.

Agriculture is the only sector in Italy that has seen an increase – albeit of 1% – in businesses led by young people in the past decade, in contrast with the collapse in other industries. More than 55,000 people under 35 have chosen work in agriculture, from cultivation to livestock farming, agritourism to direct sales, according to the latest data from Coldiretti Giovani Impresa, which represents young farmers. Last year, an average of 17 new agricultural businesses a day were launched, the organisation says.

This younger generation is bringing highly specialised new skills. The climate crisis means the predictability of seasons is disappearing, while extreme weather, such as floods and hailstorms, can destroy entire crops. Yet young people are proving particularly adept at dealing with this. Young people are also more likely to focus on all aspects of their farms, including marketing, innovation, sustainability and direct sales.

Despite this, there are still significant challenges for young people who want to get into the industry. The average price of a hectare of land in Italy is €20,900 (about £18,000). Considering that the average size of an Italian agricultural enterprise is 11 hectares, the cost of getting into farming can often be prohibitive.

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

15. 'Food is a tool for change': the Turkish chef who empowers women, helps refugees.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/jan/01/food-is-a-tool-for-change-the-turkish-chef-who-empowers-women-helps-refugees-and-serves-a-mean-dobo>

In Mardin, south-east Turkey, chef Ebru Baybara Demir is busy at her kitchen table. As well as running her restaurant, she sources and revives heirloom grains – including sorgül, a drought-resistant indigenous wheat, which is made into flour at the nonprofit co-op she founded in 2018. She also prepares south-eastern Turkish fare for events at the parliament and at Turkish embassies abroad. On top of this, Demir oversees humanitarian initiatives, building ties between locals and Syrian refugees, a community displaced by a war just across the border, 20 miles away, who now form approximately a tenth of Mardin's population. Demir won the 2023 Basque Culinary World prize for her work in empowering women.

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

16. Can brewing a traditional alcohol help Colombia's youth avoid gangs?

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/jan/04/ancestral-spirit-can-brewing-a-traditional-moonshine-help-colombias-youth-avoid-gangs>

Viche, a sugar cane-based alcoholic drink, has been artisanally produced by African-Colombian communities for about 300 years. When mixed with specific plants it can be a medicine, a midwife's aid for childbirth, or an alternative morning pick-me-up in a country renowned for its coffee. Now, the drink has also become a way to fight the threat of armed gangs recruiting young people of the African-Colombian communities.

Like Mexico and mezcal or Brazil and cachaça, Colombia is positioning viche to become a primary world-class export industry. Producers such as Gloria [a master viche maker and leader of the Association of Black and Indigenous Peasant Women of Buenaventura (AMUCIB)] argue that viche has a critical role in generating jobs and income, preventing crime, combating the attractiveness of armed groups, and preserving the region's environment by creating an economic livelihood. She helps communities develop business strategies for commercialising the drink, enabling them to improve income and strengthen local economies.

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

17. Taking flight: why the sky's the limit for a women's birding club in Uganda

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/dec/29/taking-flight-why-skys-the-limit-for-a-womens-birding-club-in-uganda>

The east African country is a birders' paradise, where a group of 80 female birders are pushing boundaries, finding friendship and forging careers in nature. Members of Uganda's Women Birders Club, which started in 2013, meet in Entebbe every Sunday. It is a training ground and a support network. Many of the women already have careers in tourism and wildlife.

At the International Conference for Women Birders the club hosted in Uganda earlier this month, female enthusiasts from all over the world met to discuss their unique challenges and discuss how, together, they can bring more money to women in the sector.

18. Burundi Says LGBTQ Unacceptable, Shuns Rights-Linked Foreign Aid

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-12-29/burundi-says-lgbtq-unacceptable-shuns-rights-linked-foreign-aid>

Burundi won't allow same-sex marriage and doesn't want foreign aid if the conditions are tied to approving LGBTQ relations, according to President Evariste Ndayishimiye.

The East African nation is the latest to push against LGBTQ rights globally. Neighboring Uganda enacted harsh laws that included the death penalty this year, while Ghana is considering punitive legislation.

19. Why do some malnourished kids relapse? Study finds urban-rural divide.

<https://www.devex.com/news/why-do-some-malnourished-kids-relapse-study-finds-urban-rural-divide-106804>

Relapse rates for children treated for severe acute malnutrition are nearly 50% higher in rural areas, a new study from Action Against Hunger found. The study, released on December 13, was the first of its kind and tracked children treated for severe acute malnutrition, a life-threatening form of hunger, across Mali, Somalia, and South Sudan. Their progress was compared to that of their otherwise healthy peers.

Study authors found that access to services such as health care, cash, remittances, and food distribution plays a significant role in determining children's longer-term well-being. In Somalia, the population was in an [internally displaced persons] camp, where they had access to health care services, food distributions, and cash transfers. In contrast, the populations in South Sudan and Mali live in remote settings without access to the kinds of services available in IDP camps.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition in young children is high. In 2022, approximately 45 million children under the age of five suffered from acute malnutrition, with 137 million affected by severe acute malnutrition. Only 34% of countries are on track to meet the wasting targets set out in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The next step is shifting from defining the problem to targeting the most effective solutions. Organizations can look into what can be done in a cost-effective way in addition to treatments. Things like cash distributions, additional antibiotics, a food basket, or a number of other wrap-around services.

20. Detech - Vietnamese sustainable coffee brand

<https://www.facebook.com/IIXglobal>

<https://detechcoffee.vn/en>

Through social impact and innovation, women are changing the coffee world in the second largest coffee producing nation Vietnam. Detech Coffee, a women-owned and led international Vietnamese sustainable coffee brand is making social waves in the coffee world. In 2019, the company helped establish the Vietnam Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA Vietnam), aiming to improve the livelihoods of ethnic minorities and women in Vietnam's coffee industry.

While women make up the majority of the coffee industry workforce, they have historically been limited to manual and minor roles. Detech Coffee is changing this by sourcing from women-owned and operated farms. They are also equipping women with essential farming knowledge for climate-smart coffee varieties.

This approach opens up more opportunities, enhances their knowledge, and provides invaluable support, empowering them and increasing their representation in the coffee industry.

Working with Impact Investment Exchange - IIX, Canada is providing through the Impact Investment Readiness Vietnam (IIRV) project, technical assistance, assessments and educational programs to prepare social impact businesses like Detech Coffee to be investment ready and raise capital successfully.

In 2022, the enterprise has directly supported 140 coffee-growing households belonging to ethnic groups in the province of Son La.

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

21. Children living near green spaces ‘have stronger bones’

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/13/children-living-near-green-spaces-tronger-bones-study>

Children with more green space near their homes have significantly stronger bones, a study has found, potentially leading to lifelong health benefits. Scientists found that the children living in places with 20-25% more natural areas had increased bone strength that was equivalent to half a year’s natural growth.

The study, the first of its kind, also found that the risk of having very low bone density was about 65% lower for these children. Bone strength grows in childhood and adolescence, before plateauing until about the age of 50 and then declining. Increasing the size and accessibility of green spaces for children could therefore prevent fractures and osteoporosis in older people, the researchers said.

The study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open, followed more than 300 children in a region of Flanders, Belgium, that included urban, suburban and rural areas.

The link between green spaces and stronger bones is likely to result from higher levels of physical activity in children who live near parks, as this spurs bone growth. The connection was strongest for green spaces with trees, which the scientists said may be because these were more attractive places to visit.

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

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. WHO issues new guideline to tackle acute malnutrition in children under the age of five

<https://www.who.int/news/item/20-11-2023-who-issues-new-guideline-to-tackle-acute-malnutrition-in-children-under-five>

The World Health Organization (WHO) is advancing the global fight against acute malnutrition in children under 5 with the launch of its new guideline on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema (acute malnutrition). This milestone is a crucial response to the persistent global issue of acute malnutrition, which affects millions of children worldwide. Key recommendations of the guideline focus on:

- Child-centred approach and of caring for mothers and their infants as an interdependent pair.
- Breastfeeding and access to nutrient-dense home diets are a critical component of both prevention and management; and
- Community health workers can play an important role in providing evidence-based care for children with acute malnutrition.

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

2. Most prevalent jobs of young bachelor’s degree graduates by detailed field of study [Canada]

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/36-28-0001/2023012/article/00002-eng.htm>

his article presents the most prevalent jobs held by graduates of Canadian bachelor’s degree programs aged 25 to 34 using the 2021 Census of Population. The field of study is based on the four-digit 2021 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP), while the job is based on the five-digit 2021 National Occupational Classification (NOC). See Appendix Table A.1 for men and Appendix Table A.2 for women.

For example: Field of Study 01.11 Plant sciences. Most prevalent occupation 21112 Agricultural representatives, consultants and specialists. (39.5% for men) and (51% for women)

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

3. Gender Just Climate Solutions

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

Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Scale Fund <https://wedo.org/gjcs-scale-fund/>

For nearly a decade, WEDO and partners have been working collectively to build a program to showcase what gender just climate solutions look like, how they are proven and equitable solutions to the climate crisis, and how they can be scaled and replicated. Last September 2023, we released a new publication on the Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) Scale Fund—one component of this multi-pronged work. Through this re-grant mechanism, we aim to both encourage innovative new models for resource redistribution within our movements and respond to the challenges and needs identified by those working to lead and scale feminist climate solutions.

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

4. Gender, Resilience, and Food Systems

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-23535-1_8

Abstract

Research on the gender dimensions of resilience highlights differences in the ways that men and women experience disturbances, their resilience capacities, and their preferred responses. This chapter incorporates a food systems lens into a gender and resilience framework to identify key entry points to strengthen women’s and men’s food security and nutrition in the face of multiple, reoccurring shocks and stressors. Drawing on systematic reviews and case studies from the literature, this chapter finds that exposure and sensitivity to disturbances depend largely on gendered roles in food systems, including along agricultural value chains, and the food environments in which men and women live. Increasing women’s resilience capacities—which tend to be lower than men’s—through investments in education, information and financial services, employment opportunities, and women’s agency, can improve food security and nutrition outcomes and increase their contribution to food system resilience. Considering gender differences in needs and preferences in policy and intervention design is, therefore, essential to ensure that investments reach, benefit, and empower women as agents of change for greater resilience.

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

5. The State of Women’s Entrepreneurship in Manitoba

<https://wecm.ca/report-on-womens-entrepreneurship-in-manitoba/>

The Women’s Enterprise Centre Manitoba (WECM) together with the Women’s Entrepreneurial Knowledge Hub (WEKH) recently released a new report on the state of women’s entrepreneurship in Manitoba. Highlights include:

- In 2020, 2.5% of women-owned SMEs in Canada were located in Manitoba and the province ranked sixth in the country in this statistic.
- As of 2023, 12.8% of small and medium-sized businesses operating in Manitoba were majority women owned.
- The number of self-employed women in Manitoba appears to have been on a decline since 2018 but is currently holding steady at around 25,500.

- Women entrepreneurs in Manitoba have increased rates of goods and services innovation (14.6%) and business process innovation (17.9%) compared to all businesses (at 12.5% and 15.2%, respectively).
- Around 14.3% of women entrepreneurs in Manitoba are Indigenous. Nearly one-third (31.0%) of women entrepreneurs in Manitoba identified as a visible minority.

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

6. The 2023 Microfinance Index

<https://60decibels.com/insights/mfi-index/>

The team at 60_decibels spoke to more people than ever (32,000+), collecting and synthesizing 1+ million unique data points. Dig in for key learnings, like how pairing wrap-around services with loans improves outcomes. The 2023 Microfinance Index includes data from more than 114 participating financial service providers (FSPs) and is supported by 32 Partners. Now in its second year, the 2023 Microfinance Index has surveyed 32,000+ microfinance clients in 32 countries focusing specifically on clients in Cambodia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, and Uganda. This year’s survey gathers quantitative and qualitative data along six key dimensions of impact, including Access, Business Impact, Household Impact, Client Protection, Resilience, and Agency.

The data behind the Index is available now via three new paid tools and our public report can be downloaded by providing a work e-mail address.

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

7. Tinned Sardines Cannery

<https://youtu.be/ZypvuqMD6YE>

Pinhais, located in Portugal, is the only tinned sardine producer that still processes and packages the fish by hand. This women-dominated cannery produces 30,000 tins of sardines daily, which they ship to over 60 countries. Watch the women perform the traditional 12-step canning process they have followed since 1920.

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

8. Transforming gender norms for women’s economic rights and empowerment

<https://www.alignplatform.org/resources/report-transforming-gender-norms-women-economic-rights-empowerment>

ALIGN’s new report outlines key evidence and learning from successful approaches to shift the norms that underpin gendered economic inequalities at community, workplace and policy levels. It brings together evidence on how gender norms underpin some of the stickiest inequalities in:

- labour force participation
- control of assets
- returns to entrepreneurship
- control of finances and access to financial services.

Key messages

- Gendered norms and economic inequalities persist in areas such as unpaid care work, gender-based violence and economic decision-making - with progress stagnating or even reversing in many countries.
- Norms holding back women’s economic empowerment across any given context are entrenched and sticky. Norms are not always the most important factor but intersect with other aspects, including the overall economic, political and legal environments, and the extent and quality of public service provision.

- Direct and indirect approaches should be combined to shift norms most effectively in four key areas to enhance women’s economic outcomes. Direct approaches seek to change mindsets; indirect approaches seek to change the conditions, systems and structures that underpin a norm.
- Four fundamental areas to transform norms for women’s economic rights and empowerment are: employment, non-financial assets, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

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

9. Resource Library - Women and Gender Equality Canada

<https://workforcewarriors.ca/resource-library/>

Embark on a fundamental journey with our brand-new Resource Library, proudly supported by Women and Gender Equality Canada! Embrace an inclusive workplace through our carefully curated list of resources containing invaluable wisdom and insights co-created with Indigenous communities and allies. Organizations, join us in fostering inclusivity.

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

10. The Girls’ Futures Report

<https://www.gdst.net/education/the-girls-futures-report/>

To mark the Girls Day School Trust GDST’s 150th anniversary, GDST commissioned a landmark survey of 5,000 girls in state and independent schools and academies across the UK. Our aim was to understand what matters most to girls today and how they feel about what lies ahead in their futures – in both their personal and professional lives.

From the Executive Summary: *Girls we surveyed, from age 9–18, are twice as likely to say they want to do a job they enjoy rather than to be rich; they are nearly three times as likely to prioritise being healthy and safe than a leader and also twice as likely to prioritise being respected than being a leader. But while ‘being rich’ is not the goal, financial stability certainly is, with four in five of those surveyed acknowledging that this would play a part in their happiness. This pragmatic approach is one that emerged as a common theme in our qualitative interviews.*

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

11. Clean Cooking is a Youth Issue

<https://cleancooking.org/youth-engagement/>

Youth are disproportionately affected by the global lack of access to clean cooking and, more than anyone else, will bear the future burden of inaction. Ninety percent of the world’s 1.8 billion youth live in developing countries where people overwhelmingly rely on polluting fuels and stoves to cook their food. Cooking this way substantially harms youth—not only because it impacts so many people, but also because of the cross-cutting nature of these impacts, including on health, the climate, the local environment, education, and employment.

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

12. International Solidarity Glossary

<https://aqoci.qc.ca/lexique/#english>

For AQOCI, it’s important that the language we use reflects our values and convictions. We can’t put an end to inequalities if we don’t tackle the root causes and systems that exacerbate these injustices. Some words carry with them a sense of colonialism or structures of domination that we do not wish to reproduce in international cooperation and solidarity. For AQOCI, this glossary has been built from a feminist, anti-racist and intersectional perspective.

A renewed international solidarity glossary helps us to develop a shared understanding of the challenges facing humanity, to decolonize our understanding of the world and to project a vision of another possible world.

This glossary aims to equip international cooperation and solidarity organizations (ICOs) and individuals working in the field with a common understanding of several key concepts in our sector. Its contents can be used for global citizenship education, advocacy, communications, research, and other activities.

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