



Winter frost on tree branches and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). 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. 2024 the International Year of Camelids

<https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/about/en>

The United Nations declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024). The Year will highlight how camelids are key to the livelihoods of millions of households in hostile environments across over 90 countries, particularly Indigenous Peoples and local communities. From alpacas to Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, camelids contribute to food security, nutrition and economic growth as well as holding a strong cultural and social significance for communities across the world. 2023 was the International Year of Millet.

Camelids play an important role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the fight against hunger, the eradication of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women and the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. From providing milk, meat, and fibre for communities to transport for products and people, and organic fertilizer, camelids thrive where other livestock species cannot survive.

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### 2. Towards Decolonial, Anti-Racist and Feminist Public Engagement: From Research to Practice | Public Engagement Training

Register for English training

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed1MdHuJsq\\_JgyjqebyftBH\\_ol5Jkja3r35yDowMNaZct1A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed1MdHuJsq_JgyjqebyftBH_ol5Jkja3r35yDowMNaZct1A/viewform)

Register for Spanish training

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOiLeHKpYfxREfQ-V2cnjIV2Mb4FCYQ-pgwTYbZyyNiX4W\\_A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOiLeHKpYfxREfQ-V2cnjIV2Mb4FCYQ-pgwTYbZyyNiX4W_A/viewform)

The Inter-Council Network (ICN) is delighted to offer a virtual training for organizations, networks and institutions working in the international cooperation sector. Participants can expect to build a shared understanding on what anti-racism, feminism and decolonization looks like in practice; to gain an understanding of how to assess core power dynamics at the heart of public engagement activities; and to attain skills on how to contextualize their audience and build in mechanisms to ensure equitable public engagement.

English training dates: January 10, 11, 12. 9 am - 1 pm EST

Spanish training dates: January 22, 23, 24. 12 noon - 4 pm EST

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### 3. CSW68 Youth and Adolescent Recommendations

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci9xvJYhkc9zx6COKmUjVuj06\\_0yOdaV9aQ84gxwrOtUr9HQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci9xvJYhkc9zx6COKmUjVuj06_0yOdaV9aQ84gxwrOtUr9HQ/viewform)

The sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women CSW will take place from 11 to 22 March 2024. Call for Youth and Adolescent Recommendations on Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls by Addressing Poverty and Strengthening Institutions and Financing with a Gender Perspective. UN Women is inviting young leaders in all their diversity to conduct consultations and submit recommendations that can inform the CSW68 deliberations. If you have any students who would be interested in this initiative, they can submit reports by **January 15th, 2024**.

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### 4. The Last Drop: Water Researchers Speakers Series - "The Creation of the Manitoba Métis Federation's Weather Keeper Program"

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wjCmDokyTKuzBUP3RC-09A#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wjCmDokyTKuzBUP3RC-09A#/registration)

The Last Drop: Water Researchers Speaker Series is hosted by the University of Manitoba's United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Hub for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

Join us on **January 22nd, 2024** for an online seminar on "The Creation of the Manitoba Métis Federation's Weather Keeper Program" with Claire Herbert and Phoenix Combe.

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### 5. Global Grand Challenges Partner Network Funding Call: Accelerating Catalyzing Solutions for Climate Change's Impact on Health, Agriculture, and Gender

<https://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/grant-opportunities>

The Global Grand Challenges Network has announced a new joint funding call of approximately USD \$12M to support innovators addressing the critical intersection of climate change, health, agriculture, and gender. The call is being issued by Grand Challenges Africa; Grand Challenges Rwanda; Grand Challenges Brazil; Grand Challenges Ethiopia; and Grand Challenges India in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, Foundation S - The Sanofi Collective, Rockefeller Foundation and Pasteur Network. Visit the Global Grand Challenges grant opportunities to learn more. Please review the requirements for each RFP to determine your eligibility. **Deadline: January 31, 2024 at 11:30am PST**

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### 6. WUSC International Forum 2024

<https://internationalforum.ca/agenda/>

The 13th annual International Forum will be held on **February 8, 9 and 10, 2024**, with both a free virtual program and a paid in person program [in Ottawa]. This year's International Forum will explore diverse perspectives on the future of the Sustainable Development Goals. Together, we'll discuss questions including:

- What are the success stories buried beneath the headlines of conflict, climate change and poverty, and how can we better support more of these successes as a global community?

- How can we be creative and bold in coming up with solutions to achieve greater impact?
- How can we ensure progress amidst a constantly evolving global context?
- How can we work better together?

**Feb. 8:** SGD5: Global Perspectives on Gender Equality and Positive Masculinity

**Feb. 9:** Workshop 2: SDG 5 - Gender Equality Workshop

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## 7. Science and Technology Awareness Network Virtual Conference

<https://www.stanrst.ca/conference>

This year’s STAN Conference theme, Thinking Outside the Box, will invite participants to challenge the status quo. We will consider questions such as: What practices need to change to center equity and sustainability? What beliefs do we need to revisit to keep up with the changing face of education? How can we harness technology to drive innovation and radical change in a resource-constrained sector?

We invite you to join us at the 2024 Science & Technology Awareness Network (STAN) Annual Conference, which will be held primarily virtually **February 27 to 29, 2024**. We hope to welcome over 150 delegates from across the country. The three-day Conference will include a mix of invited and member-proposed sessions, engaging and interactive sessions, panels, and keynote speakers. Opportunities to network with your Canadian peers will be offered throughout the program. STAN’s Annual General Meeting will be built into the proceedings.

**February 27** Session #1: Sustaining Canada's Economic Growth: A critical need to foster STEM equity

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## 8. Advancing Women in Ag Conference – West 2024

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2024west/>

Women play a significant and diverse role in agriculture and food, and their contributions are widely acknowledged. On the farm, they are responsible for managing family-related matters, accounting and bookkeeping, strategic and financial planning, farm safety, and various other tasks. Many women are also involved in off-farm employment, volunteering, and entrepreneurial pursuits. Women entrepreneurs, women on the farm, and those in the corporate agri-business sector face the challenge of balancing work and home responsibilities. Ultimately, women need time to build relationships, gain support, and build resiliency. AWC is a community dedicated to supporting women in agriculture.

The biggest challenge for women is time. It’s important to give yourself time to focus on your goals and get the resources you need to achieve them. At AWC, we understand the unique challenges faced by women in agriculture and are committed to helping them succeed in their day-to-day lives. AWC WEST 2024 on **March 17, 18, 19, 2024, Calgary, Alberta**

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## 9. Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair

<https://scwist.ca/programs/career-fair/>

The SCWIST annual Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair is scheduled for **May 10, 2024**. This interactive career fair is designed to bridge the gap between employers, recruiters in STEM, and individuals from diverse backgrounds. It is focused on connecting employers and recruiters in STEM to women and underrepresented groups across Canada. Our annual STEM career fair is dedicated to helping women, the 2SLGBTQ+ community, racialized communities, new immigrants, individuals with disabilities and other under-represented groups accelerate their career development.

Whether you're actively seeking a new job or looking to explore ways to elevate your professional skills, this event is for you. Stay tuned for details on registration and participating organizations. You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to connect, learn and explore the endless possibilities in the world of STEM.

Exhibitors can choose their engagement level at the Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair by selecting one of several package options available. Whichever package is selected, exhibitors will be able to connect with a diverse range of potential candidates for employment.

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## This Month's News

### 1. Canada announces funding for justice, climate change and economic inclusion

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/12/minister-hussen-announces-funding-for-justice-climate-change-and-economic-inclusion.html>

ON December 20, 2023, the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, concluded a 3-day trip across Canada to exchange views with the international development sector and to meet with Canadian community groups, private sector companies and philanthropic organizations. The purpose of the trip was to strengthen partnerships with a diversity of Canadian stakeholders.

In Kitchener-Waterloo, Minister Hussen was joined by Bardish Chagger, Member of Parliament for Waterloo, for a tour of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Idea Factory, a first-of-its-kind collaborative incubator helping entrepreneurs tackle the world's most pressing challenges. There, the Minister announced more than \$11.9 million in new funding for the Opportunities for Circular and Inclusive Diversification in Agriculture (OCIDA) project in Honduras, a project implemented by Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) that will address poverty, climate risks, and gender inequalities through diversification and improvements in sustainable agricultural production.

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### 2. Manitoba entrepreneur creates InputsPro for Prairie farmers

<https://www.grainews.ca/features/manitoba-entrepreneur-creates-inputspro-for-prairie-farmers/>

In 2021, Kristen Timmerman was studying agriculture in university when she set out to develop an ag-tech tool she says she believes was long overdue.

The tool is InputsPro (inputspro.ca), a mobile app and website that provides farmers, agronomists, ag retailers and crop specialists with essential data culled from the government-issued crop protection guides for Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as the Blue Book put out by Alberta Canola, Alberta Grains and Alberta Pulse Growers.

Timmerman's idea was to make all of the information in Manitoba's lengthy *Guide to Field Crop Protection* — which she says seems to get thicker and thicker each year — available in an app that would allow users to filter data so they could make informed crop protection decisions more quickly and efficiently.

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### 3. First Executive Director of Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office

<https://abpdaily.com/news/diedrah-kelly-named-as-first-executive-director-of-indo-pacific-agriculture-and-agri-food-office/>

Diedrah Kelly has been named as Executive Director of Canada's new Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Food Office (IPAAO) based in Manila, Philippines. Kelly brings with her 20 years of international experience with Global Affairs Canada, including numerous assignments abroad. She was most recently the Consul General of Canada in Mumbai, India, and prior to that served as Canada's Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The IPAAO, which was launched late in 2022, is a joint initiative between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), as part of an ongoing commitment to bolster ties, advance technical cooperation, assist Canadian exporters in finding new business opportunities, and help position Canada as a preferred supplier in the region.

Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of AAFC says that expanding Canada's partnerships and trade relationships is a top priority, and the establishment of the IPAAO is a key component of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

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## **4. A sustainable agricultural industry needs to start addressing mental health of farmers, says researcher**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-farmers-mental-health-anxiety-1.7055123>

Most Canadian farm families are familiar with the stresses that come with agriculture. Their livelihoods can be affected by the vagaries of nature, crop or animal disease and even distant wars, but often they find themselves silenced by the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Andria Jones, a professor at the University of Guelph's veterinary college, has been studying the mental health of farmers since 2016. Along with her student Rochelle Thompson and research associate Briana Hagen, she analyzed the responses of nearly 1,200 Canadian farmers who completed an online version of the Survey of Farmer Mental Health in Canada between February and May 2021.

They found one in four farmers surveyed reported their life was not worth living, wished they were dead or had thought of taking their own life over the previous 12 months. The research found that thoughts of suicide were twice as high among farmers than in the general population. Three-quarters of farmers said they experienced moderate or high perceived stress, Jones said, adding that climate change has intensified these stressors by increasing risks of flooding, fire, drought and disease transmission. While there is pressure on a farmer to maintain the farm, she said there is also a demand not to show weakness.

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## **5. Canadian farm gender pay gap still wide but narrowing**

<https://www.farms.com/ag-industry-news/canadian-farm-gender-pay-gap-still-wide-but-narrowing-905.aspx>

The gender pay gap among farm operators has been steadily decreasing over the past two decades. It still needs a long way to go, but at least it is headed in the right direction. A recent Agriculture–Population Linkage study from Statistics Canada, which combines data from the Census of Agriculture and the Census of Population, highlights the trend. In 2020, the gap was nearly equal to the national average for all Canadians aged 16 and over.

This shrinking gap is notable in an industry where women's earnings were traditionally much lower compared to men's. The formula used to calculate this gap considers wages, salaries, and commissions, excluding farm operators who do not receive such payments. It's important to note that the study didn't account for unpaid activities like child rearing, which could affect annual earnings.

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## **6. K-W Mennonite Economic Development Associates will manage funds to help farmers in Honduras**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/federal-government-partners-with-local-group-for-international-agriculture-project-1.7063971>

Global Affairs Canada has announced it will invest \$11.9 million to support an agriculture program in Honduras run by the Kitchener-Waterloo Mennonite Economic Development Association (MEDA). As part of the funding, the MEDA organization will invest \$1.46 million of its own money into the program called Opportunities for Circular and Inclusive Diversification in Agriculture in Honduras (OCIDA).

The six-year project is designed to help enhance the market systems for smallholder coffee and cacao farmers in the Central American country. MEDA says it will work with 7,000 women and youth farmers, as well as 80 agricultural businesses. Dorothy Nyambi, the President and CEO of MEDA, says the project will create or improve job opportunities for at least 5,250 women and youth, and sustain a minimum 1,750 jobs.

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## **7. U of Saskatchewan appoints new lentil and faba bean breeder**

<https://news.usask.ca/articles/research/2023/usask-appoints-new-lentil-and-faba-bean-breeder.php>

Dr. Ana Vargas (PhD) has been appointed as the new lentil and faba bean breeder and an Agri-Food Innovation Fund Chair at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). Starting January 2, 2024, Vargas will lead the successful lentil and faba bean breeding program at the Crop Development Centre (CDC) in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. To date, the program has released 40 lentil and five faba bean varieties.

She received a master’s degree in agronomy from the University of Puerto Rico – Mayaguez and a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from the Zamorano Pan-American Agricultural School in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Vargas obtained a PhD in plant breeding and genetics from USask in 2021, exploring genetic resources for improving nitrogen fixation and dissecting the genetics of nodulation among *Lens* species.

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## **8. COP28: Role of Women Irreplaceable in Management of Natural Resources**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/role-of-women-irreplaceable-in-management-of-natural-resources>

<https://www.cop28.com/en/news/2023/12/COP28-launches-partnership-to-support-women-economic-empowerment>

The announcement of the COP28 Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership put women at the centre of climate solutions—with a collective endorsement that symbolized a paradigm shift in global commitment. Gender Equality Day at COP28 saw ministers and high-level officials convene for a high-level dialogue to advance gender-responsive just transitions to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. During the event that Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, a UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, was leading, the COP28 Presidency announced the new partnership.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 1.2 billion jobs are at risk due to global warming and environmental degradation and women are expected to be most severely impacted due to their high representation in sectors particularly vulnerable to climate change.

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## **9. COP28: Why is There Funding for War But Never for Climate Finance, Ask Feminists**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/always-funding-war-never-climate-finance/>

The Feminist Green New Deal Coalition has highlighted feminist climate solutions and shared feminist policies and frameworks that are advancing just climate policies at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 27th session of the Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai.



US-based Feminist Green New Deal Coalition shared at a press conference that to truly address the root causes, as well as the scope and scale of the climate crisis, feminist approaches and principles are necessary for a cross-cutting approach that combats historical oppression and uplifts the leadership of marginalized groups.

The participants called for a paradigm shift, urging feminists to unite against environmental injustices by incorporating Indigenous wisdom, supporting regenerative economies, and demanding a just transition to create a more equitable and sustainable world. Dolan said that the coalition firmly asserted that no military spending can be truly sustainable.

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## 10. **‘Feminist climate justice’ calls for equal representation at COP 28**

<https://www.devex.com/news/feminist-climate-justice-calls-for-equal-representation-at-cop-28-106763>

During the first week of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP 28, concerns were raised about the lack of gender diversity in the negotiations. The same concerns were also raised following COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022. And about COP 26 in Glasgow.

In fact, in the last 10 years, women’s representation in the COP negotiations has increased only marginally, from 30% to 35%, according to Jemimah Njuki, chief of economic empowerment at UN Women.

One of the ways in which climate change disproportionately affects women and girls is as a threat multiplier, amplifying many existing gender inequalities.

The feminist climate justice framework also calls for a redistribution of resources. Just 2.4% of climate development assistance targeted gender equality as the “principal” objective in 2018-2019, according to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. But while there’s a lot of discussion about the redistribution of resources between the global north and the global south, there is not much about the amount going to women.

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## 11. **We know how gender-just climate action can work**

<https://odi.org/en/insights/we-know-how-gender-just-climate-action-can-work/>

We know climate adaptation and mitigation programmes need to be designed intentionally to empower marginalised women and other marginalised groups. Otherwise, there are risks of eroding their rights and wellbeing. Climate action is more urgent than ever, and we’ve learned a lot about what gender-just climate action can look like in practice. It’s time to scale these approaches and get better at inclusion.

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## 12. **Opinion: African businesswomen are transforming African economies**

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-african-businesswomen-are-transforming-african-economies-106600>

There is currently a \$42 billion financing gap for women in business in Africa. Lending to women is seen as riskier, so interest rates are higher and women traditionally have less collateral. However, more funding for female entrepreneurs and business owners is becoming available.

At the continent level, for example, the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa, the African Development Bank flagship gender finance initiative, aims to unlock up to \$5 billion in financing for women’s businesses across Africa by 2026.

The Women Investment Club was put together by a group of Senegalese businesswomen to set up a fund for women entrepreneurs. The Kenya Women Investment Company, Women’s Investment Portfolio Holdings Limited in South Africa, and Alitheia and the Chapel Hill Denham Women Investors Fund in Nigeria are similar initiatives at the country level.

More and more African governments are being incentivized to provide more funds for women in business. More political change is needed to create an enabling environment for women in business, such as changes in laws around access to land. Women need to be able to use land as a guarantee against a loan or to have long leases, so they are not at risk of being thrown off their land as they develop their businesses. This will be a key issue at the Women Deliver conference in 2024.

Education is also an important element enabling African businesswomen to thrive. For women to expand their businesses, they need skills training.

While men invest 40% of their incomes into their family's needs, studies show that women reinvest up to 90%. If women are encouraged to succeed in business, we all benefit.

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### **13. African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme**

<https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/cop28-clean-cooking-all-africans-possible-say-world-leaders-66541>

Leaders from around the world have declared their commitment to provide clean cooking energy by 2032 to nearly a billion people in Africa who still cook using firewood and other forms of biomass. The leaders rallied around the African Women Clean Cooking Support Programme (AWCCSP) launched by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan on the sidelines of COP28 in Dubai.

President Suluhu said 80% of households in sub-Saharan Africa rely on wooden biomass for cooking. President Suluhu said cooking with wooden biomass accelerates deforestation. The Tanzanian leader said the newly launched programme was “not just about stoves and emissions, but to usher a clean and sustainable future.” She announced her country Tanzania will next year host an experts’ meeting to work out effective ways of rolling out the programme across Africa.

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### **14. Saving Energy, Saving Forests: How Kindle Stoves Are Changing Women's Lives in Zimbabwe**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/saving-energy-saving-forests-how-kindle-stoves-are-changing-womens-lives/>

Since building a wood-efficient stove, twigs and kindling have provided enough energy to cook meals, warm bath water, and bake scones. The tsotso stove is made of bricks in the shape of a box with two holes on top covered with repurposed plough iron wheels, an oven and a smoke chimney fixed to the wall. Tsotso is a local language word for kindle. The stoves use less wood fuel and emit less pollution than cooking over an open fire.

Biomass is a key source of energy for cooking across Zimbabwe. Most women carry the burden of collecting firewood and cooking on open fires, which exposes them to smoke pollution and puts their health at risk. The improved stoves are making a difference because they emit less smoke and use wood more efficiently, saving women the drudgery of collecting huge logs many kilometres from their homes.

Zimbabwe has been losing over 260,000 hectares of forests annually as a result of demand for wood fuel and land clearance for agriculture. This is worrisome given that the country is only planting an average of 34 hectares per year, according to the Zimbabwe Forestry Commission.

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### **15. Advance women's roles in Senegal's clean energy transition and climate justice**

<https://energy4impact.org/news/foyr%C3%A9-rewb%C3%A9-3-kicks-advance-womens-roles-senegals-clean-energy-transition-and-climate-justice>

Mercy Corps-Energy 4 Impact is excited to announce the renewed collaboration with the ENERGIA Network, marking the next chapter of the Foyré Rewbé project (Women & Energy in Wolof). Extending until March 2025, this phase focuses on fostering equal opportunities for harnessing clean energy. Through this partnership, women are empowered to improve their businesses, drive local economies and contribute to climate-smart socio-economic development.

In this new phase, the focus is on promoting productive uses of energy in key sectors such as dairy, livestock, fisheries, market gardening, rice and banana production and processing, that have the potential to offer increased employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women businesses, including youth.

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## 16. Women Peacebuilders in DRC

<https://cooperation.ca/women-peacebuilders-an-investment-canada-cannot-afford-to-overlook>

Read the third article in this series on KAIROS and partner Héritiers de la Justice’s economic empowerment projects for women peacebuilders in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Héritiers de la Justice is a partner in the KAIROS Women of Courage: Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program, which is funded by Global Affairs Canada and Canadian donors. The program is driven by women-led grassroots organizations that are well-trusted in their communities. They are highly attuned to the support needed in regions that are rapidly changing due to the climate crisis, conflict and growing income and food insecurities.

Pélagie outlined the details of an income-generating program that is inherently collective and feminist. Give a survivor and local peacebuilder one piglet and provide training on how to look after it, and she will breed five pigs, give four to other members of the grassroots network and keep one for sale or future breeding, thus expanding and sustaining the program. The resulting economic and food security will increase her individual capacity to participate in peacebuilding and defend human rights, while increasing the grassroots network’s capacity.

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## 17. Inequality is fueling drug resistance across the African continent

<https://www.devex.com/news/inequality-is-fueling-drug-resistance-across-the-african-continent-106641>

Africa is witnessing a “documented crisis” of drug resistance in diseases. This is broadly due to improper antibiotic use in the health and agriculture sectors, as well as substandard or fake antibiotics.

This problem manifests itself differently across regions — Africa, where poverty is part of the equation, has the world’s highest mortality rate from antimicrobial-resistant, or AMR, infections.

In Kenya, for example, strains with extended-spectrum beta-lactamase resistance — which are extremely drug resistant — made their first presence in the East African country just over a decade ago. These strains are more persistent in the environment than their predecessors and outbreaks hit when least expected, including during the dry season — which can come as a shock for a water-borne illness.

Teams have studied drug resistance of this bacteria, and others, in informal settlements in Nairobi — where overcrowding along with poor water and sanitation infrastructure become “a recipe for accelerated transmission.” They found infections were largely driven by bacterial persistence in open drains and contamination of containers used to fetch water from taps.

The continent is witnessing a “documented crisis” of drug resistance in diseases such as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera and dysentery. The causes broadly include improper antibiotic use in the health and agriculture sectors, as well as substandard or fake antibiotics.

The crisis goes beyond human health. There’s a lot of misuse and overuse of antibiotics in livestock farming, especially in intensive agriculture systems where farmers want shortcuts.

## 18. Gender Parity: Rise of Denmark and Downfall of Afghanistan

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/gender-parity-rise-denmark-downfall-afghanistan/>

The UN agency, which advocates women’s rights and gender empowerment, has predicted that gender equality is “300 years away.” A new report — the 2023 fourth edition of the global Women Peace and Security Index (WPS Index)—released October 24 draws on recognized data sources to measure women’s inclusion, justice, and security in 177 countries—covering over 99% of the world’s population.

The Index finds that societies where women are doing well are also more peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and better prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Denmark leads the 2023 rankings as the top country to be a woman, scoring more than three times higher than Afghanistan which is at the bottom.

Afghanistan ranks worst of 177 countries— in terms of the status of women, according to this year’s Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index launched in New York.

The five highest ranking countries were Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Luxembourg. And the five lowest ranking countries were Afghanistan, Yemen, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

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## 19. From Dancing ‘For a Living’ to Dancing For ‘Women’s Dignity’

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/from-dancing-for-a-living-to-dancing-for-womens-dignity>

At first, he danced for money, but later on, he realized the need to dance for sanitary pads in order to help poor girls and women. Now, 29-year-old Proud Mugunhu conducts dance tutorials that earn him 100 pads from each session. Mugunhu started his commercial dancing in Zimbabwe’s Epworth informal settlement east of Harare, the country’s capital, where he said he grew up seeing poor girls and women making do without sanitary pads during menstruation.

In and outside Zimbabwe, Mugunhu now dances at events where he has struck deals to receive sanitary pads as payment in his war against rampant poverty. As a result, his dancing has seen many of the girls and women graduate from using rags to something that gives them dignity and confidence.

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## 20. How an Indian farmer uses sports to save girls from early marriage

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-an-indian-farmer-uses-sports-to-save-girls-from-early-marriage-106720>

When Pandurang Terase, a sugarcane and rice farmer from India’s Maharashtra state, failed to turn his passion for kabaddi into a career, he ventured on a mission to train rural girls in sports for free. He never envisioned his work would someday save thousands from early and child marriage.

India is home to 223 million child brides, the world’s highest. India accounts for one in three of the world’s child brides, UNICEF data shows. To get rid of the responsibility of supporting girls and bearing their education expenses, even today, many parents want to get their daughters married early.

Within a few years of taking up the sport in 1979, Terase became a renowned national-level player of kabaddi, which is a South Asian seven-a-side contact sport similar to rugby. He also started coaching fellow villagers in kabaddi, wrestling, and athletics. At first, Terase couldn’t even find 10 students, so he went house to house in the nearby villages, convincing students and parents.

Today, four decades later, Terase has trained over 15,000 boys and girls from marginalized communities across hundreds of villages in Maharashtra for free. Many have successfully overcome poverty and inspired more still, all using sports.

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## 21. How do you define unpaid care? Insights from Timor-Leste

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2023/11/how-do-you-define-unpaid-care-insights-timor-leste/>

Oxfam in Timor-Leste’s Rapid Care Analysis research report assessed patterns and perceptions of unpaid care work, including household care tasks such as childcare, taking care of sick or elderly family members, cooking meals, cleaning, and collecting water. Global data from ILO shows that 76% of all these care tasks are undertaken by women, more than three times as many as men. However, research in Timor-Leste to date has so far been relatively limited.

The research found that care roles are clearly gendered, with women responsible for childcare, preparing meals and cleaning. Women were significantly more time-poor than men, because of their productive work in the fields, as well as doing the vast majority of unpaid care work. For example, in three of the target areas, women undertook unpaid care work 57 hours per week on average, compared to 17 hours for men.

More than 70% of people live by subsistence agriculture in Timor-Leste, where crops and livestock are produced for household consumption, with the excess sold at the market. The prevalence of unpaid work in this largely subsistence economy made it difficult for community members to recognise the significant work done by women working in the fields as well as their unpaid care work.

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## 22. Catastrophic Shortage of Food in Gaza—Starvation as a Weapon of War

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/catastrophic-shortage-food-gaza-starvation-weapon-war/>

An unprecedented 93% of the population in Gaza is facing crisis levels of hunger, with insufficient food, and high levels of malnutrition. At least 1 in 4 households are facing “catastrophic conditions”: experiencing an extreme lack of food and starvation and having resorted to selling off their possessions and other extreme measures to afford a simple meal. Starvation, destitution and death are evident.

The World Food Programme warns that these levels of acute food insecurity are unprecedented in recent history and that Gaza risks famine. The population falling into the “catastrophe” classification of food security in Gaza or IPC Level 5 is more than four times higher than the total number of people currently facing similar conditions worldwide (577,000 compared to 129,000 respectively).

Meanwhile, in a new report released this week, Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused the Israeli government of using “starvation of civilians as a method of warfare in the occupied Gaza Strip, which is a war crime.”

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## 23. Facts and figures: Women and girls during the war in Gaza

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/feature-story/2023/10/facts-and-figures-women-and-girls-during-the-war-in-gaza>

UN Women has had an office in Palestine since 1997 to help women achieve their social, economic, and political rights. [\*\* *UN Women does not have a programme presence in Israel.*] We remain present on the ground in Gaza and the West Bank to provide support and assistance and will do so for as long as it takes. UN Women calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire as well as the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and sustained and unrestricted humanitarian

access to facilitate the entry and provision of assistance, including food, water, fuel, and health supplies at the scale required to meet the full needs of women and girls in the Gaza Strip.

As of December 22, 2023: [Estimates by UN Women based on data from the Gaza Media Office. Pregnancy estimates from UN Population Fund.]

- 12,882 women and children have been killed
- 951,490 women and girls have been displaced from their homes
- 2,784 women have become widows, and new heads of households, following their male partner’s death
- 10,022 children have lost their fathers
- 2 mothers are killed every hour in Gaza
- 50,000 women in Gaza are pregnant, with 5,522 expected to deliver in the next month

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## 24. IFAD’s Record-Breaking Pledges: Lifeline for Rural Communities Cornered by Climate, Hunger

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/12/resilient-food-secure-future-runs-through-rural-communities-world-leaders-told/>

The world is not on track to end hunger and poverty as a future of growing food insecurity and climate challenges beckon. Small-scale farmers are the backbone of food production, producing one-third of the world’s food and up to 70 percent of the food consumed in Africa and Asia, yet they are often cut off from the services they need to pull themselves out of poverty and food insecurity.

As small-scale farmers and communities in rural areas—where 80 percent of the world’s poorest live—edge even closer to the epicenter of climate-induced disasters, there is an urgent need for world leaders to increase funding to provide much-needed tools for rural communities to adapt to and mitigate these challenges.

To address these challenges, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) received record-breaking pledges in support of its largest replenishment ever, putting the organization on track to positively impact the lives of millions of rural people across the globe.

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## 25. A new start after 60: I found love, left the city – and became an organic farmer

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/dec/18/a-new-start-after-60-i-found-love-left-the-city-and-became-an-organic-farmer>

In 2017, at the age of 63, Elizabeth Vickerie handed in her notice after over 30 years working in education. She took early retirement and relocated from east London to a 47-hectare organic farm near Bath. Swapping the office for rolling hills dotted with grazing sheep, Vickerie now raises animals and manages events on the land for a living.

Initially pitching in with the farm’s main business of growing organic vegetables, Vickerie soon brought in a flock of Wiltshire horn sheep to graze on the land and provide meat for sale.

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## 26. Science and technology workforce: women in majority in EU

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20230602-1>

A report from June 2023 for 2022 states:

In 2022, almost 76 million people in the EU aged 15 to 74 were employed in science and technology (+2.5% compared with 2021). Of the 76 million people employed in science and technology, 52% were women (no change compared with 2021). The women employed in science and technology worked predominantly in services, with the exception of Malta, where only 48% of women worked in services.

Across the EU regions (NUTS 1), the highest shares of women employed in science and technology in 2022 were observed in Lithuania and the French island of Corsica (both 64%), followed by Latvia (63%). At the other end of the scale, the lowest share was recorded in the Italian region of North-West (45%), followed by Malta and the Italian regions of South and North-East (all 46%).

Despite women making up the majority of the people employed in science and technology, they were underrepresented as scientists and engineers, accounting for only 41% of total scientists and engineers in 2022.

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## 27. Empowering smallholders and women farmers in Indonesia

<http://aces.illinois.edu/news/admi-receives-funding-two-new-projects-empower-smallholders-and-women-farmers-indonesia>

Empowering smallholders and women farmers in Indonesia is the focus of the new projects. The projects will be managed by a team from the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss (ADMI), which is based in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois.

ADMI's experience in similar settings has shown that when women farmers are empowered, their families, especially their children, benefit through increased expenditures on health, education, and clothing, along with greater dietary diversity.

The two new projects are:

- Empowering Smallholders in Indonesia through Strengthening Female Led Farmer Organizations
- Women's Participation on Indonesian Oil Palm Plantations: How Can Plantations and Policy Support Gender Equity?

"International research is not possible without strong partnerships," Anna Snider writes on the ADMI blog as she shares a personal perspective on how the new collaborations came together.

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## Reports, Publications, Resources

### 1. Where women in agri-food systems are at highest climate risk: a methodology for mapping climate-agriculture-gender inequality hotspots

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsufs.2023.1197809/full>

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2023.1197809>

The main objective of this paper is to provide a viable, robust, efficient, and parsimonious methodology to combine different data types and sources to obtain a reliable estimate of the spatial distribution of the gender-related risk through the convergence of hazard and gender-differentiated exposure and vulnerability of agricultural involvement in relation to climate change.

The paper is structured as follows: We start with developing a methodological framework, after which we explain the methodology for identifying and mapping climate-agriculture-gender inequality hotspot countries and subnational areas. We proceed with the results of applying our methodology and their interpretation, followed by a discussion and conclusion.

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## 2. Unpacking Climate Insights To Drive COP28 Action

<https://womendeliver.org/publications/unpacking-climate-insights-wd2023-cop28-action/>

Read the new Women Deliver advocacy guide, Unpacking Climate Insights from WD2023 To Drive COP28 Action. The guide focuses on the intersection of girls and women and the climate crisis, and the impact that it has on gender equality globally. Through discussions at Women Deliver 2023 Conference (WD2023), critical topics and calls-to action were raised to address this cross-cutting issue across three main themes:

- Bodily autonomy is a climate justice issue
- Girls, women, and youth are key to driving climate justice
- We need feminist systems change

In this document you can learn about how you can take action for gender-just climate justice before, during, and after COP28.

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## 3. Momentum Towards Greater Participation and Leadership of Women at COP28: Lessons from the June 2023 Bonn Climate Conference (SB58)

<https://medium.com/@WEDOWorldwide/momentum-towards-greater-participation-and-leadership-of-women-at-cop28-99c2eaddded6>

As the UN climate negotiations at COP28 in Dubai are underway, and information on delegation composition abounds based on provisional data, let’s look at the progress on women’s participation using the most recent negotiations for which data is final—those held in Bonn in June 2023 (SB58). WEDO has been tracking women’s participation in Party delegations since 2008, and the Gender Climate Tracker features these women’s participation statistics on the app and website.

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## 4. Climate Solutions Through Food Systems

<https://foodgrainsbank.ca/resources/climate-solutions-food-systems/>

A brief from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank advocating for bold action to tackle climate change, support biodiversity, empower women and end hunger. Building resilient food systems are a critical response to some of the greatest risks facing humanity today: climate change, biodiversity loss, economic and health devastation linked to COVID-19, nutrition deficits and gender inequality. Download the resources at the website in English or French.

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## 5. Gender Climate Tracker Resources

<https://genderclimatetracker.org/about/resources>

Subsidiary Bodies’ meetings (SBs) and the Conference of the Parties (COP) are both part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process for creating international climate change policy. The site lists resources under the headings related to the COP and to SB negotiation meetings.

*COP28, SB58 Mandated Events, SB58 Side Events, CBD COP15, COP27, COP26, Publications, Websites*

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## 6. REPORT: Clean Cooking as a Catalyst for Sustainable Food Systems

<https://cleancooking.org/reports-and-tools/clean-cooking-as-a-catalyst-for-sustainable-food-systems/>

The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) released a new report “Clean Cooking as a Catalyst for Sustainable Food Systems,” which sheds light on the energy-food nexus. The report was launched at the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) during a side event at the Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas Pavilion. The report highlights the key role that clean cooking plays in transforming the food system by mitigating climate change and environmental degradation, supporting restoration and climate-smart agriculture, building resilience in agricultural communities, and improving nutrition and food security.

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## 7. Creating a Sustainable Impact in Indonesia

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/resources/241/creating-a-sustainable-impact-in-indonesia>

With funding from the Fund for Innovation and Transformation, Lestari Inc. and ICCRI/Indonesian Coffee & Cocoa Research Institute collaborated on the project: Women Empowerment, Agricultural Innovation and Climate Change Adaptation/WE-AICCA. Learn more about their continuing work to support climate adaptation and livelihoods for women farmers by watching a recent video of their drought-tolerant coffee nursery.

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## 8. New study on equity, diversity and inclusion a wakeup call for white-led nonprofit organizations

<https://www.imaginecanada.ca/en/360/new-study-equity-diversity-and-inclusion-wakeup-call-white-led-nonprofit-organizations>

Charities and nonprofits contribute to addressing some of the most pressing social and economic inequities. But having a social mission doesn't mean an organization is intentionally and meaningfully incorporating equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles into its work. This is especially true if the organization is small, its leadership is white, and its mission isn't related to EDI.

This is one of the major findings from *Shifting power dynamics: Equity, diversity and inclusion in the nonprofit sector*, the first comprehensive study of what Canadian charities and nonprofits are doing to advance EDI within their organizations.

The study provides key insights into our sector's commitment to EDI through an exploration of the following topics:

- how organizations are integrating EDI into their work
- the role of equity working groups in advancing EDI
- the factors that enable and hinder organizations as they seek to apply EDI principles
- the role of governance and operational leadership in advancing EDI

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## 9. Rapid Market Assessment Guide

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/rapid-market-assessment-a-beginners-guide-621538/>

Rapid Market Assessments RMAs are simple exercises undertaken by humanitarian practitioners to gain a rough snapshot of the key features of the local market and how markets are working in each context after a shock or crisis. It also helps to identify bottlenecks in the local markets such as supply and demand issues, or those related to policies, norms, rules or infrastructure that limit market functioning. This includes the market accessibility and preferences of crisis-affected populations. As part of a situation analysis, RMAs will also help to understand and mitigate various risks from and to our

programming and to identify the most effective way to meet priority needs (through in-kind assistance, service provision, cash-based assistance or a mix of these) in any context.

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## 10. Measuring Market Resilience

<https://www.ideglobal.org/story/climate-resilience-measurement>

A hallmark of iDE’s approach is a laser focus on market ecosystem creation. We believe that strengthening markets helps promote household resilience through income generation, improved food security and increased employment opportunities. But for the benefits of a stable and inclusive market to be sustainable in the long term, the market system itself needs to be able to withstand, react, and transform in the face of climate change, conflict and other shocks and stresses.

To measure and monitor the durability of markets, iDE has designed a world-first index. The Market System Resilience Index (MSRI) enables us to track the resilience of the wider market system, specifically in rural contexts, helping us better understand and adapt our market creation approach to local contexts. It also allows us to learn from what works across all of our country offices.

The MSRI is a user-friendly composite index, drawn from academic literature and iDE’s experience in market system strengthening. It accompanies our Infinite Model, which guides the way we create market ecosystems, ensuring they are competitive, resilient and inclusive. The MSRI is composed of 11 weighted determinants, broken into five categories. Each determinant is measured using a number of context-specific indicators and questions.

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## 11. Project “Safer Farming for Nepali Women”– A FIT Case Study in Nepal

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/resources/211/human-centred-design-a-fit-case-study-in-nepal>

In rural Nepal, roughly 80% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods, of whom 70% are women. Gender inequalities in agriculture are particularly pronounced and, despite their crucial role in driving the sector, women are disadvantaged as producers in comparison to men. Within this context, vegetables are one of the few agricultural commodities that women control and from which they can derive their own income. Plant diseases and pests are among the most significant production challenges these farmers face; however, the most common approach to combating pests and diseases is to apply harmful chemical pesticides. Contamination of vegetables by pesticide residue is a widely publicized problem in Nepal, and a growing number of health-conscious, middle-class consumers are interested in purchasing vegetables produced with little or no pesticide.

Supported by FIT, iDE tested an innovative solution aimed at increasing profits for women smallholder farmers by marketing vegetables produced using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) solutions. In the project “Safer Farming for Nepali Women”, IPM vegetables were tested as a differentiated product with a price premium in Kaski markets, in the Gandaki Province of Nepal. As part of this project, iDE used Human Centered Design (HCD), a method that gives customers and entrepreneurs a voice in the products and services they produce, adopt or buy, resulting in higher adoption rates and profitable business models since they participate in the co-creation of these innovative solutions.

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## 12. Combatting Menstrual Stigma Through a Female-Centred Permaculture Garden

<https://www.fit-fit.ca/resources/249/combating-menstrual-stigma-through-a-female-centred-permaculture-garden>

FIT's Community of Practice shares knowledge and lessons learned from their testing work to build collective capacity and avoid duplicating testing failures.

This document outlines how as part of their FIT-funded project in rural Uganda, Girls of Tomorrow Foundation and their partner tested an innovative permaculture education tool to reduce menstrual stigma amongst girls and boys.

Girls of Tomorrow Foundation (G.O.T.) with local partner St. Jude Family Projects tested an innovative permaculture education tool to reduce menstrual stigma amongst girls and boys in Uganda. It was hypothesized that by teaching 13-16-year-old female and male youths, as well as their parents and teachers, to create female-centered permaculture gardens it would lead to a reduction in menstrual stigma.

Testing aimed to achieve two gender outcomes:

- (1) Increased support for females at school and home around the issue of menstrual health, leading to increased confidence and self-esteem for girls and higher social participation levels and school attendance rates, and
- (2) Increased access to menstrual supplies by teaching girls to utilize accessible garden resources to make reusable menstrual pads.

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### **13. Gender, rainfall endowment, and farmers' heterogeneity in wheat trait preferences in Ethiopia**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919223001823>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodpol.2023.102584>

*Abstract*

Wheat is a vital cereal crop for smallholders in Ethiopia. Despite over fifty years of research on wheat varietal development, consideration of gendered trait preferences in developing target product profiles for wheat breeding is limited. To address this gap, our study used sex-disaggregated survey data and historical rainfall trends from the major wheat-growing regions in Ethiopia. The findings indicated heterogeneity in trait preferences based on gender and rainfall endowment. Men respondents tended to prefer wheat traits with high straw yield and disease-resistance potential, while women showed a greater appreciation for wheat traits related to good taste and cooking quality. Farmers in high rainfall areas seemed to prioritize high straw yield and disease resistance traits, while those in low rainfall areas valued good adaptation traits more highly. Most of the correlation coefficients among the preferred traits were positive, indicating that farmers seek wheat varieties with traits that serve multiple purposes. Understanding men's and women's preferences and incorporating them in breeding and seed systems could contribute to the development of more targeted and effective wheat varieties that meet the diverse needs of men and women farmers in Ethiopia.

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### **14. Clean Cooking Alliance and Partners Bring Clean Cooking to COP28**

<https://cleancooking.org/news/clean-cooking-alliance-and-partners-bring-clean-cooking-to-cop28>

The Clean Cooking Alliance and partners were in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for COP28, participating in a range of meetings and events to ensure that clean cooking is included in this critical global climate summit. While not exhaustive, a schedule of expected clean cooking-related events is listed.

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## 15. Community-Led Change: Youth Stories NMFCCC 2020-21 Story Sharing Booklet.

<https://www.flipsnack.com/nmfccc/nmfccc-2020-21-story-sharing-booklet/full-view.html>

This booklet was created by and for Northern Youth. It shares their pride and hard work as they support community-based projects in Northern Manitoba. The Northern Manitoba Food, Culture, and Community Collaborative shares stories about community-led change taking place including food production.

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## 16. Ghana Cattle Ranching and Transhumance Committee

<https://youtu.be/M67XNDRgIE4>

The conflict between local farmers and nomadic cattle herders in Ghana is being addressed by the establishment of the Ghana Cattle Ranching and Transhumance Committee. In this news story, Hindatu Ahmed of the National Association of Cattle Farmers describes some of the gender-based violence that rural women have experienced.

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## 17. Assessing gendered impacts of post-harvest technologies in Northern Ghana: gender equity and food security

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09718524.2023.2273153>

**ABSTRACT** Post-harvest loss of grains contributes to food insecurity, high food prices, and climate change. Several post-harvest technologies are used in Northern Ghana to reduce post-harvest loss, yet research on the subject rarely considers the gendered impacts of the introduction of technologies. The social and cultural context must be considered when introducing agricultural technologies into a community to avoid exacerbating inequality. The authors used a gender technology assessment tool to analyze the impacts of an introduction of three common post-harvest technologies to communities through farmer-based organizations (FBOs) in the Northern Region of Ghana. We found that, while both men and women had access to the technologies, the technologies were controlled by literate/numerate men. Although the technologies were controlled by men, their effects over-all benefited men and women. When used in combination, the technologies reduced women's time burden and had a positive impact on household food and nutrition security. We recommend that gender equity be integrated throughout a project's lifecycle through recruitment of a gender specialist. Furthermore, extension workers and FBO leaders need training and support in gender equity.

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## 18. Familial Influence on the Choice to Study Engineering: Insights from a Cross-University Study

<https://peer.asee.org/familial-influence-on-the-choice-to-study-engineering-insights-from-a-cross-university-study>

<https://peer.asee.org/42224>

*Abstract*

This complete research paper investigates familial influence on student engineering major choice. Within the engineering education literature body, motivation to study engineering has been linked to a variety of factors including interest in the field, competence in math and science, strong problem-solving skills, and the promise of career security. Familial influence, specifically that of parents and siblings, has also been tied to the choice to study engineering within student reflections in the literature. Occupational inheritance of careers is well documented, where parents influence their children's career choice, resulting in parents and children in the same career field. Previous work [BLINDED] at a single Midwestern STEM-focused university indicated that the presence of engineers within a students' family may influence career choice, especially

within daughters of female engineers. This study seeks to expand that work by gathering data across two universities to further explore the influence of familial engineers on the career choice of engineering students. At the conclusion of the Fall 2020 semester, 94 students enrolled in the First Year Engineering Program at [BLINDED] university and [BLINDED] university were administered a survey. This survey, adapted from the authors' previous work, aimed to understand what factors influence students' choice to pursue engineering. Students were asked to respond to a series of multiple-choice questions regarding familial occupations and links to engineering or other STEM fields. To add richness to the results of the multiple-choice questions, open-ended, reflection-style prompts asking students to describe what motivated them to study engineering were added to the survey. Through methods of analytic induction, student reflections to these prompts were analyzed using coding techniques to identify emergent themes. The resulting themes were aggregated into overarching categories and are presented below.

Amongst student reflections, the most prevalent factor in motivating students to study engineering was previous experience in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.) Students' reflections also highlight interest in the field of engineering, strong "engineering" skills (problem solving, designing, building), and the promise of career stability as being key factors influencing their decision. Less prevalent within the open-ended student responses is the influence of family, mentors, and institutions. Few student responses reflect familial influence as a factor contributing to their motivation to study STEM. However, when considered in context with student responses to the multiple-choice questions, an interesting picture arises. Of the 94 students surveyed across both institutions, 27 (29%) students reported at least one family member or mentor in engineering and 62 (67%) reported at least one in either engineering or another STEM field. This paper presents an investigation into these relationships, presenting implications for future work to understand how and whether students recognize influences of familial engineers on their motivation to major in engineering.

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## 19. Women Peace and Security Index

<https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/>

The 2023 edition of the global Women Peace and Security Index (WPS Index) scores and ranks 177 countries in terms of women's inclusion, justice, and security.

No country performs perfectly on the WPS Index and the results reveal wide disparities across countries, regions, and indicators. The WPS Index offers a tool for identifying where resources and accountability are needed most to advance women's status - which benefits us all.

All of the top dozen countries are in the Developed Country group, and notably, all five Nordic countries rank among the top seven. All countries in the top quintile are in the Developed Countries group or the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia region except for the United Arab Emirates, in the Middle East and North Africa region, which ranks 22nd. At the other end of the rankings, 11 of the bottom dozen countries— all except Eswatini— are classified as Fragile States, and 7 are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen have been among the bottom dozen countries since the inaugural 2017/18 WPS Index.

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## 20. Gardening in a War Zone

<https://youtu.be/vZcTp-dEOPM>

Official Trailer <https://youtu.be/2aFMa4emaoU>

Film <https://youtu.be/jn6sMZCkAHY>

Alla Olkhovska is a gardener, writer, photographer, and clematis seed grower living in Kharkiv, Ukraine and is the subject of our first-ever documentary film, Gardening in a War Zone. Alla was unable to leave the country when the war broke out and

now supports her family with the seeds she collects from her garden. This short video shares a bit of backstory on how we came to know Alla, her passion for sharing beauty, and why this project matters so much.

Film: Watch the very first Floret Original documentary film, Gardening in a War Zone. This film features Alla Olkhovska, a gardener, writer, photographer, and clematis seed grower in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Unable to leave the country, Alla supports her family by selling the rare seeds she collects from her small garden. This story is rooted in beauty, inspiration, and hope.

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## 21. Women's Environment and Development Organization WEDO Highlights for 2023

<https://wedo.org/wedo-wrapped-2023-highlights>

One of our core areas of focus throughout 2023 was advancing the global call to end the era of fossil fuels—fast, fair, forever, and feminist. As gender and climate justice advocates, we know that one component of our work is to be at the frontlines of resistance. This includes analyzing and showcasing how an economy based on extraction disproportionately impacts women and girls, while also lifting up their work to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure.

At the same time, there can be no discussion of ending fossil fuels without talking about what comes next. As discussions around a just transition progress, it is also an opportunity to reimagine a future based on care and social protection. This is the work of the feminist climate justice movement.

- First In-person Feminist Green New Deal Gathering
- Calling for a Gender Just Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction at the Sendai Midterm Review
- Resisting the Militarization of the Climate Crisis
- Linking Climate and Debt Justice – and Unpacking the Bridgetown Initiative from a Feminist Perspective
- Ending the Era of Fossil Fuels and Phasing in a Gender Just Transition
- Funding Transformation for Gender Just Climate Solutions
- Advancing gender-environment data
- Enhancing In-Person Capacity Strengthening for Women Leaders
- Growing the SRHR & Climate Justice Coalition

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## 22. Innovative Post Harvest Loss Solutions from Kenya

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/enhancing-agricultural-practices-insights-impact-aicras-kenya-agri-hackathon-post-harvest>

Innovators converged to develop solutions targeting post-harvest losses while integrating gender and climate-smart approaches into their innovations. The event yielded significant outcomes, including the creation of gender-sensitive and climate-smart innovative solutions specifically tailored for the Kenyan agricultural landscape.

- a) Winner: BioAfriq Energy (Machakos, Kenya): BioAfriq offers solar hybrid dehydrators to assist agripreneurs in combating post-harvest losses in Kenya. Recognizing the limitations of solely solar-powered dehydrators during rainy or cold seasons, they innovated a solar hybrid model using both sunlight and biomass.
- b) 1st Runner Up: Agri Business Solutions Ltd (Machakos, Kenya): Agri Business Solutions Ltd focuses on mitigating post-harvest losses within the horticulture-avocado value chain. They collaborate with 12,000 farmers across East Africa, concentrating on non-export avocado varieties overlooked by the market. By employing a zero-waste circular economy model, they process rejected avocados into valuable products like crude avocado oil and briquettes.
- c) 2nd Runner Up: Botanic Treasures (Tharaka Niithi, Kenya): Botanic Treasures specializes in drying various agricultural products like turmeric, ginger, hibiscus, and more, preventing harvest losses due to market linkages or

storage issues. They've developed innovative dryers and digitized processes using an app to enhance quality control.

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## 23. Climate education to strengthen agricultural support networks in Zambia

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/publications/climate-risk-management-agricultural-extension-crmae-multistakeholder-curriculum>

<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/130693>

The farmer lies at the intersection of many economic, social, and environmental systems, and extension officers play a crucial role in connecting small-scale farmers to the climate information and data that will help them make informed decisions. But there are challenges and knowledge gaps in disseminating climate-related information in a way that makes it actionable for farmers.

Earlier this year, AICCRA CGIAR gathered extension and advisory service providers in Zambia for validation and 'training of trainers' workshop on a new and first-of-its-kind Climate Risk Management in Agricultural Extension (CRMAE) curriculum developed by AICCRA in conjunction with key partners. Trainings like these contribute to scaling access to and the effective use of climate data.

In this video, hear from practitioners how the CRMAE curriculum will enable them to support farmers to better plan for, manage and respond to a changing climate. <https://youtu.be/SPBnTi7Uujs>

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## 24. Enabling gender and social inclusion in climate and agriculture policy and planning through foresight processes: assessing challenges and leverage points

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2023.2268042>

*Key policy insights*

Gender and social inclusion should be prioritized from the onset and integrated at different stages of scenario-guided planning processes, notably by allocating more time, human, and financial resources to ensure inclusiveness.

Parallel consultations among diverse organizations and groups can provide effective spaces for often-sidelined or marginalized groups' interests and needs to be integrated into policy decision-making given the existing power structures that regulate access to many workshops and related discussions. Multi-scale engagements with different networks also help deepen understanding and reconcile gaps across scales of decision-making (e.g. from local level to national level).

Practitioners should further their use of foresight processes and development of tools and methods for integrating gender and social inclusion in these as part of the policy process, as well as strengthen the capacities, expertise, and role of conveners.

Promotion and dissemination of existing gender and social inclusion research and documentation as well as support for learning and reflection to refine identified leverage points can lead to improved success.

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## 25. Feminist Foreign & Development Policy Podcast

<https://us.boell.org/en/podcasts/hear-her-roar>

About a year ago, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, Washington D.C. gathered a group of feminist fellows from around the world in the United States to explore the concept of a feminist foreign policy in more depth. The conversations culminated in our mini-podcast series Hear Her Roar. If you are unsure what a feminist foreign policy means in practice, how it can positively change our societies and shape a more holistic understanding of foreign policy, this podcast is for you.

The second podcast focuses on feminist foreign policy and climate change. <https://us.boell.org/en/media/audio/feminist-foreign-policy-climate-change>

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## **26. Gender + Environment Data Alliance (GEDA)**

<https://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-programs/gender-environment-data-alliance-geda/>

A joint policy brief with data2x explores how to incorporate gender and environment data into policies that promote climate justice for all. The decisions taken at COP28 have enormous implications for global ecosystems, economies, and the people who rely on them. It is essential that these decisions are evidence-based and reflect the diversity of people affected by and involved in climate action. Recognizing this need, the enhanced collection and use of gender data must inform gender-responsive climate action at the global, regional, and national levels, and be used to monitor progress on commitments under the Paris Agreement. Gender data is especially relevant for advancing several priorities on the COP28 agenda.

Looking for guidance? Parties can look to the UNSD Global Set of Climate Change Indicators, or to regional guidance like the Environment-Gender Indicator Set for Asia and the Pacific developed by UN Women, ESCAP, UNEP, and IUCN to help develop their own sets of gender-relevant climate indicators in accordance with national priorities and resources. UN Women has also developed a Model Questionnaire: Measuring the Nexus Between Gender and Environment that can be implemented as a standalone survey or as part of other multipurpose surveys.

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## **27. Guidelines for measuring gender transformative change in the context of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture**

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7940en>

These Guidelines include step-by-step guidance to formulate qualitative and quantitative indicators of gender transformative change to help gender experts and food security, agriculture and nutrition programme specialists in their efforts to design, implement, monitor and evaluate gender transformative interventions. These indicators should be distinctive from and a complement to other reach, benefit and empower indicators intended to contribute to gender equality outcomes in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

The Guidelines also present an overarching framework for measuring gender transformative change in the context of food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, including key dimensions and a socio-ecological model for identifying spheres of influence within which gender transformative change can be measured. Additionally, the Guidelines bring attention to other important issues to consider when to implement the framework and when to develop context-specific indicators of gender transformative change, such as the incorporation of insider perspectives and consideration to intersectional forms of discrimination.

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