



Stained glass artwork. 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. The editor is not liable for any errors.

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

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Contents

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Gender Advisor Position in St. Lucia 2
2. Women paying the health cost of the climate crisis..... 3
3. Celebrating Women in Agriculture: Wellness, Safety and Leadership 3
4. Gender Equality and Inclusion Advisor at IDRC 3
5. National Cluster Innovation Table for Women in Agriculture and Manufacturing 3
6. National Fair Trade Conference 2024 3
7. Youth Employment and Skills Program 4
8. The Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarship is now open. 4
9. Nominate an Influential Woman in Canadian Agriculture..... 4
10. Women in Food & Agriculture Mentorship Program 4
11. Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair 4
12. Career Opportunities at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) for Persons with Disabilities..... 5
13. Wage Subsidy Programs for Farms in Canada 5

This Month's News

1. Climate Change Is Amplifying Households' Food Insecurity, Putting More Pressure on Women's Mental Health 5
2. Women Biomass Producers: Energy's Largest and Largely Invisible Workforce 6
3. Improving women's land rights in Tanzania 6
4. Local Knowledge and Women's Leadership are Key to Food Justice 6
5. Women, the unsung heroes of rangeland management in Kenya 6
6. How rice hidden by a woman fleeing slavery in the 1700s could help her descendants 7
7. Indigenous agriculture opportunities could boost GDP by \$1.5 billion 7

8.	Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting in Asia Remain a Neglected Problem	7
9.	African Women in Agricultural Research and Development Newsletter	8
10.	The beekeepers of Sine Saloum: How all-women team tends to Senegal mangrove.....	8
11.	Report Sees Africa's Agrifood Sector as Solution to Youth Unemployment	8
12.	Integrating gender equality and social inclusion into climate adaptation	9
13.	Munich Security Conference and Food Insecurity.....	9
14.	Safe Abortion Care in Rural Mozambique	9
15.	Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness in Egypt Project.....	9
16.	More than half a million Gazans are a 'step away from famine'.....	10
17.	Why famine is 'inevitable' in Gaza — and what's next.....	10
18.	Cuba asks UN for help as food shortages worsen	10
19.	Pioneer in Canola Oil Research.....	10
20.	New Director General of the International Rice Research Institute.....	11
21.	How clean cooking has 'moved to the top of the energy agenda'	11
22.	Ghana passes bill making identifying as LGBTQ+ illegal.....	11

Reports, Publications, Resources

1.	Can Davos get behind a Global Economy that Actually Works for Women?	12
2.	Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation.....	12
3.	Explore the Gender Climate Tracker.....	12
4.	Equi'Vision: An Employment Equity Tool in Canada	13
5.	STEM park for Tanzanian Youth.....	13
6.	Gender and climate experts explore and share insights from case studies that utilize socio-technical innovation bundles (STIBs) in India.....	14
7.	Estimating the Number of Women Household Biomass Producers, the Largest Segment of the Global Energy Labor Force	14
8.	Transforming gender norms for women's economic rights and empowerment	14
9.	Envisioning Resilience: Women's frontline experiences in shaping climate change adaptation planning	15
10.	Small-scale farming in Norway	15

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

Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Gender Advisor Position in St. Lucia

<https://apply.workable.com/cuso-international/j/0750A4FFAD/>

CUSO is looking for a volunteer to step into the Gender Advisor role in Castries, St. Lucia. As a volunteer, you'll play a pivotal role in delivering engaging training sessions, developing monitoring tools, and integrating gender equality principles within ministries. Open to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada Only.

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

2. Women paying the health cost of the climate crisis

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-paying-the-health-cost-of-the-climate-crisis-tickets-830417770907>

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly apparent, communities worldwide are grappling with both economic and non-economic losses and damages. While economic impacts often receive attention through policy and programming, the non-economic losses remain largely invisible and unaddressed, particularly in climate finance. The need to quantify the full spectrum of climate impacts to develop targeted, effective responses is urgent.

This online event on Thursday **7 March** will include a panel discussion and launch a new paper that quantifies the loss and damage faced by women battling drought, debt bondage and migration.

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

3. Celebrating Women in Agriculture: Wellness, Safety and Leadership

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/celebrating-women-in-agriculture-wellness-safety-and-leadership-tickets-809072727307>

An online forum discussing and celebrating the valuable contributions of women in agriculture regarding wellness, safety, and leadership, sponsored by Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). **March 8.**

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

4. Gender Equality and Inclusion Advisor at IDRC

<https://bit.ly/3lfwgce>

If you are looking for a career opportunity, want to give meaning to your professional achievements and contribute to making the world a better place by playing a part in international development, and are passionate about promoting gender equality and inclusion within an organization committed to creating a diverse, fair, and inclusive environment, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is the place for you! **Deadline March 11, 2024.**

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

5. National Cluster Innovation Table for Women in Agriculture and Manufacturing

PARO is holding its first national cluster innovation table (CIT) on agriculture. The CIT is an opportunity for women to access partner resources, programs, and networks to help them grow. In the second half of the CIT, women are provided the opportunity to give feedback on PARO and partner programs to make them more women-focused and women-friendly. The criteria for participation are:

- 51% + women-owned and women-led
- Have at least \$50k in revenue from sales
- Be looking to grow/scale
- Be located in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, or British Columbia

The cluster innovation table provides an opportunity for women to present their current business challenges. The event is virtual and has no cost to participate. The agricultural event will be held on **Wednesday, March 13th** from 13h00 to 15h00 eastern. The manufacturing event will be held Tuesday, March 19 from 13h00 to 15h00 eastern. A national francophone CIT is planned for later in the year. Contact parobizeast@paro.ca for more information.

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

6. National Fair Trade Conference 2024

<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.](#) ++++++

7. Youth Employment and Skills Program

<https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/youth-employment-and-skills>

The Youth Employment and Skills Program (YESP) will contribute approximately \$13.5 million to projects that employ youth and youth facing barriers. Each project will be eligible to receive up to \$14,000 in matching funds to employ one (1) employee. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is one of several Government of Canada departments participating in the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. **Deadline March 25.**

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

8. The Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarship is now open.

<https://www.nelliemcclungfoundation.com/trailblazer-scholarship>

Closes March 31, 2024. These awards are for self-identified female students considering careers in the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), business or underrepresented trades. Careers in these areas offer excellent job opportunities, great earning potential and stimulating work environments.

The Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarships are open to self-identified female students who are studying and living in Manitoba and are Manitoba Residents*.

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

9. Nominate an Influential Woman in Canadian Agriculture

<https://www.agwomen.ca/recognize/>

Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture (IWCA) is a recognition program designed to honour, highlight and celebrate the work women are doing across Canada’s agriculture industry. The program will recognize women who are actively farming, providing agronomy or animal health services, or leading research, marketing or sales teams. Nominations are now open for 2024’s Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture. **Deadline April 1.**

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

10. Women in Food & Agriculture Mentorship Program

<https://wfa-initiative.com/mentorship-program/>

This year's Mentorship Program is now OPEN for applications, welcoming those looking for development in the food & ag sector. Whether you're a female mentee looking to grow or a potential mentor (all genders welcome!) eager to share your expertise, we invite you to join us for this potentially life-changing experience. Now entering its fourth year, this program remains free to join and is dedicated to supporting women across the food & ag sector. The deadline for participating in the first cohort is **April 12th, 2024.**

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

11. Women in STEM Virtual Career Fair

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

Join us for a full day dedicated to networking with potential employers, receiving career coaching support and engaging in captivating talks led by STEM leaders. 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. **May 10 | 8:30-3:30 PDT | Online**

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

12. Career Opportunities at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) for Persons with Disabilities

<https://agriculturecanada1.hiringplatform.ca/processes/154184-career-opportunities-for-persons-with-disabilities>

AAFC will use this inventory to identify talent for immediate and future vacancies. When you apply to this inventory, you are not applying to a specific job, rather it is an opportunity for you to express your interest in joining our organization. To be considered for this inventory you must self-declare as a person with a disability at the time of application.

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

13. Wage Subsidy Programs for Farms in Canada

<https://youngagrarians.org/wage-subsidy-programs/>

Young Agrarians have compiled a list of wage subsidy programs in Canada. **See the individual listing for details and deadline dates.** Included are Canada Summer Jobs, Nature Canada’s Work to Grow program, Environmental Jobs Growth Program, Nature-Based Solution Program, Environmental Employability Pathways Program, Student Work Placements, Science Horizons Youth Internship, Green Corps, CAHRC’s Agri-Talent Growing Opportunities program, Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA) Work Integrated Learning placements, BC’s Experience Matters! Program, BC’s Investment Agriculture Foundation Summer Student Farm Worker Bursary, BC’s Get Youth Working, Nova Scotia’s Clean Leadership Summer Internship Program, Science Horizons, Green Jobs, Atlantic Canada’s Venture for Canada Intrapreneurship Program, and Food and Processing Skills Canada’s student work placement program.

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

This Month’s News

1. Climate Change Is Amplifying Households’ Food Insecurity, Putting More Pressure on Women’s Mental Health

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/02/climate-change-amplifying-households-food-insecurity-putting-pressure-womens-mental-health/>

Studies have long shown that some women’s lower status in Nepali households could mean that they eat last and less and as a result lack nutrition. Experts are now looking into how this could affect their mental health, and if the growing impacts of climate change might amplify the process.

Lakshmi Gopalakrishnan’s study, titled *The relationship between the gendered norm of eating last and mental health of newly married women in Nepal*, found that women who always ate last in the household had four times greater chance of having “probable depression.” The reason? Eating last is symbolic of women’s ranking in the household.

Chanda Gurung formerly worked as a senior gender expert with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which focuses on eight countries in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Mountain region. She is confident that climate change is affecting food security but adds that there are many more factors that take a toll on rural women’s lives.

A 2021 assessment found that “mental health issues are likely to increase in Nepal due to climate change... For example, climate change is already destroying croplands, causing farmers to seek seasonal work and migration to escape food insecurity. This leaves their wives victimized in the community, leading to stress and mental illness in these women.” “Poor, rural, female-headed families will face higher vulnerabilities as the climate continues to change,” concluded the report, by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

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

2. Women Biomass Producers: Energy’s Largest and Largely Invisible Workforce

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/02/women-biomass-producers-energys-largest-largely-invisible-workforce/>

While much of the attention regarding the energy sector is paid to the workers (predominantly male) who labor in the oil and gas, coal and electricity businesses, these women biomass producers are the providers of the primary source of energy for millions of families: household biomass, which is used for the most essential of human needs, eating.

There are an estimated 2 billion people who rely on traditional cooking methods fueled by biomass such as firewood and animal waste. They live in the poorer regions of the world, mostly in the rural areas of Sub-Saharan Africa and developing Asia. In notably much of Sub-Saharan Africa, women are the primary providers of this energy.

In a recent report for Columbia University’s Center on Global Energy Policy, almost 400 million women are household biomass producers. They constitute the largest, and largely invisible, workforce in our global energy system.

There is much less discussion and are far fewer pictures of women household biomass producers whose labor can involve collecting and carrying loads of wood that weigh 50 pounds or more, and who spend up to 10 hours or even in some regions, 20 or more hours per week in this work.

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

3. Improving women's land rights in Tanzania

<https://www.iied.org/improving-womens-land-rights-tanzania>

IIED capacity building for the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) has helped them scale up their work to improve rural women's participation in land governance. In July 2023, we delivered training to build their capability to promote their work online, making it accessible to other organisations working on land rights.

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

4. Local Knowledge and Women’s Leadership are Key to Food Justice

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/02/local-knowledge-womens-leadership-key-food-justice-activists/>

Ensuring women’s land rights mean guaranteeing food rights for the whole family, according to activists working in India. Food security means not only having enough food but also having access to nutritious food. However, ignoring historical knowledge about agriculture and food to focus on the amount produced using commercial technology has resulted in grains that lack sufficient nutrition.

According to recent research published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the 40-plus years of the ‘green revolution’, which succeeded in increasing food grain production, also saw a decline in nutrition, along with a rise in harmful substances.

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

5. Women, the unsung heroes of rangeland management in Kenya

<https://aicra.cgiar.org/news/women-unsung-heroes-rangeland-management-arbahajan-ward-wajir-county-kenya>

Women play a crucial, yet often unrecognized, role in rangeland management. Beyond caring for small-livestock herds and tending to pregnant, lactating and young livestock, they are key actors in rangeland management. Their role underscores the importance of gender-inclusive approaches.

With the CGIAR Research Initiative on Livestock and Climate, AICCRA and partners are building capacities in Kenya for participatory rangeland management (PRM), resulting in significant impacts in good governance, including women's participation and community commitment to restoring lands.

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

6. How rice hidden by a woman fleeing slavery in the 1700s could help her descendants

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/jan/29/rare-rice-species-suriname-saamaka-maroon-slavery-climate-resilience>

When enslaved Africans escaped the Surinamese plantations overseen by Dutch colonists from the 17th to the 19th century, several women ingeniously hid rice grains in their hair to grow when they found refuge deep in the Amazon rainforest. Now, centuries later, a gene bank is working to save Suriname's rare rice species while also preparing communities to be more resilient to the climate crisis.

In Suriname, the mingling of African cultures gave rise to a new community and ethnic identity: the present-day Saamaka, a Maroon people. Their staple food is rice but they also grow cassava and plantain.

A 2021 World Bank study found that Suriname was "particularly prone to major threats posed by flooding, drought and high winds during extreme weather events". Maintaining a variety of crop species and seeds can assist these communities in meeting their food needs.

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

7. Indigenous agriculture opportunities could boost GDP by \$1.5 billion

<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/knowledge/economics/indigenous-agriculture-opportunities>

Indigenous people have a long history in agriculture, yet Indigenous participation in agriculture continues to be under-represented. Increasing participation of Indigenous people into agriculture and bridging the gap in farm income between Indigenous and non-Indigenous farm operations represent a \$1.5 billion boost in primary agriculture GDP. Renewed efforts towards reducing barriers in access to capital, equipment, and skilled labour, improved agricultural knowledge and farming methods are paths towards boosting Indigenous agriculture production, promoting Indigenous health, increasing food security, and strengthening Canada's economic well-being and resiliency.

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

8. Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting in Asia Remain a Neglected Problem

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/02/female-genital-mutilation-cutting-asia-remain-neglected-problem/>

Significant advances have been made in Africa towards ending female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for Asia, where FGM/C occurs in at least ten countries, but governments across the region are failing to take effective action. Women's rights organizations are calling for states to introduce much-needed laws to criminalize FGM, provide national data on the extent and nature of the practice, and adequately fund efforts to tackle this regionally neglected problem.

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

9. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development Newsletter

<https://awardfellowships.org/>

The February newsletter features stories on the following:

It marks 15 years since its founding, and also launched our new roadmap for sustained success. Driven by lessons and urgency, our Strategy 2023-2027 reinforces our promise to foster agricultural-driven transformation for equitable agrifood systems, emphasizing gender responsiveness as a critical lever.

- Research on post-harvest losses in Nigeria
- Development of a sustainable approach to revive Benin's woodland
- Implementation of advanced technologies to bolster the fishing sector in Malawi.
- Study on sustainable water management in Tanzania's Rufiji River Basin.
- Welcomed an additional 50 women policy professionals from six African countries, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Senegal, to the Gender Responsive Agriculture Systems Policy (GRASP) Fellowship. They join 48 other AWARD policy Fellows who continue to demonstrate the importance of bridging the gender gap in agriculture and the role of gender-responsive policies in accelerating equitable agrifood systems.

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

10. The beekeepers of Sine Saloum: How all-women team tends to Senegal mangrove

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2024/2/15/the-beekeepers-of-sine-saloum-how-all-women-team-tends-to-senegal-mangrove>

In 2022, a sixty-seven member women's cooperative in Joal-Fadiouth, a town 100km (62 miles) south of Dakar, spent a month learning how to make honey, build hives and interact calmly with the bees. The women who have long been shellfish gatherers, have their newfound occupation as beekeepers which provides additional income. But as climate change and deforestation threaten the mangrove, many say beekeeping is good for the invaluable biodiversity haven and carbon sink that stores up to five times more carbon than tropical rainforests. The bees pollinate the mangrove forest, creating more habitat for fish, shellfish and shrimp that the women traditionally collect.

As well as gathering and selling shellfish, the entrepreneurial cooperative has other entrepreneurial activities; they process shellfish into ready-to-eat sauces; produce honey, jams, juices, soap and snacks; and manufacture ecological stoves and biocarbon. They have also built a shop and restaurant where they sell these products to their community and visiting tourists.

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

11. Report Sees Africa's Agrifood Sector as Solution to Youth Unemployment

<https://www.voanews.com/a/report-sees-africa-s-agrifood-sector-as-solution-to-youth-unemployment/7487853.html>

A new report says Africa's agrifood sector — which involves the processing, packaging and selling of locally produced food — could be the key to boosting employment rates, income and food security on the continent.

Experts in agriculture, engineering, ecology, nutrition and food security unveiled the 140-page report in Uganda, looking at the challenges young Africans face and the education and skills needed for jobs in the agrifood sector.

According to the African Development Bank, 11 million youths join the job market each year, but only about 3 million formal jobs are created. In Africa, 120 million people between 15 and 35 are unemployed.

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

12. Integrating gender equality and social inclusion into climate adaptation

<https://farmradio.org/project/integrating-gender-equality-and-social-inclusion-into-climate-adaptation/>

Farm Radio International is working with six radio stations in three regions of Burkina Faso (Boucle du Mouhoun, Hauts-Bassins and Sud-Ouest) to broadcast two series of radio programs about Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change and its relation to gender equality and social inclusion.

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

13. Munich Security Conference and Food Insecurity

<https://securityconference.org/en/>

The Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2024 took place from February 16 to 18, 2024. The MSC 2024 will once again offer a unique opportunity for high-level debates on the world's most pressing security challenges.

Among 180 side events will be several focusing on food insecurity as a predictor of future conflict, featuring leading figures from the World Food Programme and the high-level panel on finance for climate action, which was launched out of the climate conference of parties, or COP, process.

A Food Security Task Force will be set up in Munich, bringing together development, defense, and diplomatic leaders to drill down into international food systems and, it is hoped, secure financial pledges and institutional reforms to make them more resilient.

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

14. Safe Abortion Care in Rural Mozambique

<https://www.oxfam.ca/story/how-sharing-information-on-safe-abortion-is-transforming-lives-in-rural-mozambique/>

Unsafe abortions are one of the leading but preventable causes of maternal death and illness worldwide. In fact, around 45% of all abortions are unsafe for the mother and most of them take place in low and middle-income countries.

Abortion is legal in Mozambique, but women and adolescent girls in rural areas still face challenges accessing Safe Abortion Care. Social stigma, the financial cost and a limited availability of services affect women's ability to make informed and independent decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Her Future, Her Choice aims to support women and adolescent girls by empowering them to access sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services, training health-care providers and breaking negative stigmas to allow women and girls to make informed decisions about their bodies. Together, Oxfam Canada and the Government of Canada support the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in Mozambique through the Her Future, Her Choice project.

As part of its Feminist International Assistance Policy and 10-year commitment to global health and rights, Canada continues to advocate for the sexual and reproductive health rights of women and girls around the world. This initiative supports Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5.

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

15. Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness in Egypt Project

<https://www.facebook.com/Alinea.International>

Agriculture and agribusiness are male-dominated fields, which can make it challenging for a woman to pursue the goal of owning a business. To empower women and enhance their economic well-being, Alinea International, in collaboration with

the Government of Canada, works to improve work environments for women and the gender-responsiveness of labour policies and regulations in Upper Egypt.

Through the Opportunities for Women in Agribusiness in Egypt Project (OWAP), Egyptian women are given support in registering their businesses, connecting with legal advisers and other companies, branding their companies, meeting packaging standards, and receiving entrepreneurship training.

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

16. More than half a million Gazans are a 'step away from famine'

<https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-more-than-half-a-million-gazans-are-a-step-away-from-famine-107135>

The office of the United Nations relief coordinator warned the Security Council this week that “hunger in Gaza has deteriorated fast and is at catastrophic levels,” with more than a quarter of the population a “step away from famine,” according to a confidential paper prepared for review by the 15-nation council.

“Commercial agricultural production is at a virtual standstill, impacting Gaza’s almost complete self-sufficiency in terms of vegetables, grapes, figs, olive oil, poultry meat, eggs and honey prior to 7 October 2023.”

The report noted that there had been a “complete halt” in the production of wheat flour at the five flour mills operating in Gaza before the current conflict, and a breakdown of the bakery network. Before the war, Gaza hosted some 97 bakeries. As of Jan. 17, there were only 15.

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

17. Why famine is 'inevitable' in Gaza — and what's next

<https://www.devex.com/news/why-famine-is-inevitable-in-gaza-and-what-s-next-107009>

Parents in Gaza are often going hungry so that their children can eat what little is available — and sometimes the only option is animal feed or grass, according to recent reports. The high risk of severe malnutrition carries long-lasting consequences for children in particular, such as physical and cognitive impairment, said Michael Fakhri, the U.N. special rapporteur on the right to food.

To declare a famine ... there's three things that they look for. First, they'll see if at least 20% of households are already starving or facing an extreme lack of food. Second, they'll look at children, and if they see at least 30% of children are suffering from acute malnutrition. And the third criteria is that two people for every 10,000 are dying each day due to outright starvation, or because of malnutrition and disease.

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

18. Cuba asks UN for help as food shortages worsen

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-68434845>

Cuba's government has for the first time asked the UN's food programme for help as food shortages on the Communist-run island worsen. The World Food Programme (WFP) said it had received an unprecedented official request from the Cuban government for help providing powdered milk to children under seven years of age. The request is a sign of the seriousness of Cuba's economic crisis.

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

19. Pioneer in Canola Oil Research

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/remembering-dr-vivan-bruce/>

Dr. Vivian May Bruce spent her whole career in what was originally the School of Home Economics at the University of Manitoba that eventually became the Faculty of Home Economics and then the Faculty of Human Ecology. Her field of expertise was in nutrition, and she collaborated with the late Dr. Bruce McDonald in pioneering work that established the nutritional qualities of canola oil and its effectiveness in lowering blood cholesterol. As a result, it was soon recognized worldwide as high quality, heart healthy oil. This paralleled work by the late Professor Marion Vaisey-Genser and Dr. Michael Eskin on the physicochemical and performance properties of canola oil. The success of their work essentially changed the agricultural landscape of Canada making canola oil the third largest edible oil globally.

The Winnipeg Free Press of February 24, 2024 reported that Dr. Vivian Bruce died on October 12, 2023 at the age of 92. As a professor, she trained many Manitoba dieticians.

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

20. **New Director General of the International Rice Research Institute**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2024/02/i-havent-forgotten-where-i-came-from-says-yvonne-pinto-incoming-irri-chief/>

Yvonne Pinto is the incoming Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). A second-generation Kenyan by birth, she feels privileged to have been brought up in Ethiopia, a country that was never colonized and where she felt fortunate to grow up as an equal, a rare experience then. She grew up at the small farming station in Holetta, about an hour's drive from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, where father was its first director. It is now the National Agricultural Biotechnology Research Centre.

Looking ahead, Pinto envisions IRRI playing a pivotal role in promoting circular agricultural practices in rice production and underpinning the importance of rice in human health and nutrition. Rice is now the second-most important source of calories after corn in many sub-Saharan African countries. The region's total rice consumption is projected to grow to around 36 million tons by the end of 2026, and the region is expected to import over 32 percent of globally traded rice by 2026, mainly from India, Pakistan, Thailand, and Vietnam, according to a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report.

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

21. **How clean cooking has 'moved to the top of the energy agenda'**

<https://www.energymonitor.ai/policy/just-transition/how-clean-cooking-has-moved-to-the-top-of-the-energy-agenda/>

Pollution from burning dirty fuels for cooking contributes to 3.7 million premature deaths annually, with women and children the most vulnerable. The process of cooking on an open fire – which involves collecting fuel like firewood and keeping the fire alight throughout the day – prevents women and girls from accessing education, earning a wage or doing other work that could lead to financial autonomy. Indeed, households without clean cooking spend an average of five hours per day collecting fuel and cooking, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), while demand for firewood and charcoal means that an area the size of Ireland is deforested each year.

The global policy landscape around clean cooking has changed considerably in the past year, however. Momentum on clean cooking solutions has built at key events in the energy and sustainable development calendar over the past year.

One key way of helping make clean cooking more affordable is by leveraging carbon finance, which can be used to subsidise the cost of new cooking technologies.

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

22. **Ghana passes bill making identifying as LGBTQ+ illegal**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-68353437>

Ghana's parliament has passed a tough new bill that imposes a prison sentence of up to three years for anyone convicted of identifying as LGBTQ+. It also imposes a maximum five-year jail term for forming or funding LGBTQ+ groups. The bill, which

had the backing of Ghana's two major political parties, will come into effect only if President Nana Akufo-Addo signs it into law. He previously said that he would do so if the majority of Ghanaians want him to.

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

Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Can Davos get behind a Global Economy that Actually Works for Women?

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2024/01/100-trillion-gender-wealth-gap-davos-economy-for-women/>

Oxfam’s new Davos report reveals that globally men now own US\$105 trillion more wealth than women – a difference in wealth that is more than four times the size of the entire US economy.

HOW INACTION ON CLIMATE HURTS WOMEN

According to a previous report by Oxfam on “Carbon Billionaires”, the wealthiest 1% of humanity are responsible for twice as many emissions as the poorest 50% and by 2030, their carbon footprints are set to be 30 times greater than the level compatible with the 1.5C goal of the Paris Agreement. Further, industrial agriculture also bears great responsibility, with 21-37% of greenhouse gas emissions from 2007-2016 attributed to the global food system.

The report points out how women, and particularly poorer women, are then left to pay a higher price for environmental degradation as they tend to have “less access to relief and assistance, lower survival rates following climate-related disasters, and increased care responsibilities. They also face greater risks from the effects of heat stress as well as risks related to maternal and child health.”

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

2. Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation

<https://ncai.iisd.org/resources/gender-equality-social-inclusion-nature-based-solutions-adaptation/>

This technical report offers contextual information, tools, and recommendations to help plan, design, and implement nature-based solutions (NbS) for adaptation that advance gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) while enhancing resilience, biodiversity, and ecosystem integrity.

It contributes to the nascent field of gender-responsive and inclusive NbS by providing practitioners working on NbS programming with guidance on how to consider gender and other intersecting identity factors that are grounded in a human rights-based approach at each stage of their NbS projects. Looking beyond NbS projects, the application of a GESI lens should become “business as usual” within all facets of climate adaptation and resilience planning, processes, and practices.

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

3. Explore the Gender Climate Tracker

<https://genderclimatetracker.org/>

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

Check out the Gender Mandates section of the GCT to see where and how gender was referenced in the latest COP28 mandates. You can also scroll through the Key Resources to find all COP28 gender-related events.

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

4. Equi'Vision: An Employment Equity Tool in Canada

<https://equivision.services.gc.ca/>

This data visualization tool provides easily comparable data on representation rates and pay gaps of federally regulated private-sector employers with 100 or more employees, including federal crown corporations and other federal organizations. It offers data on 4 designated groups under the *Employment Equity Act*:

- women
- Indigenous peoples
- persons with disabilities
- members of visible minorities

The data visualization tool provides multiple data types (such as the mean and median hourly wage gaps) for each employer and allows you to compare different employers' data. You can also view aggregated data for sectors, as well as locations across Canada. Data can be displayed for all employees or for specific occupational groups, as well as using a range of additional filters.

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

5. STEM park for Tanzanian Youth

<https://devex.shorthandstories.com/a-citywide-approach-to-youth-based-philanthropy-in-tanzania/index.html>

This playground is actually the first science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, park in Tanzania. It's also home to a pioneering endeavor: a citywide philanthropic effort to tackle the colliding trends of burgeoning youth populations and growing urbanization.

The park in Tanga, a coastal Indian Ocean port city of about 400,000, is the brainchild of the Switzerland-based Fondation Botnar and the local city council, which jointly have about 30 partnerships running projects across the city, all aimed at helping youth, with a particular focus on digital technology and artificial intelligence training.

The experiment is especially urgent as more young people abandon impoverished rural areas for cities that are often ill-equipped to handle their ambitions. This can lead to bad outcomes. For instance, Tanga ranks first in Tanzania for drug entry and second in drug consumption.

Some of the projects also focus on trade skills like such as teaching good practices for agriculture, poultry farming, and fishing. While many youths in Tanga have an interest in agriculture and fishing, they need land, technologies, capital, and access to markets. Tanga Yetu works with more than 100 youths on overcoming these challenges.

Hassan Mshinda, Fondation Botnar's representative in Tanzania, said they expect the majority of young people who have been supported in agribusiness, poultry, and fisheries will be self-employed and start their own farms. They are also working with revolving funds to allow them to purchase land and technologies and link them with financial institutions. Youths also helped redesign one of the city parks to include places for young people to have small businesses, including food stalls.

So far Fondation Botnar has committed 14.5 million Swiss francs to the OurCity Initiative in Tanzania, with a duration from 2019 to 2026. The initiative is planned to run for a total of 10 years.

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

6. Gender and climate experts explore and share insights from case studies that utilize socio-technical innovation bundles (STIBs) in India

<https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/gender-and-climate-partners-explore-and-share-insights-from-case-studies-that-utilize-socio-technical-innovation-bundles-stibs-in-india/>

<https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/empowering-women-farmers-through-stibs-insights-from-multi-stakeholder-dialogues-in-makaltala-and-balarampur-learning-labs-west-bengal-india/>

CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and CGIAR Gender Equality initiative, HER+ began the year with a webinar focused on socio-technical innovation bundling to strengthen women’s resilience to climate change: distilling learnings from case studies. This webinar held on January 25 presented insights on various case studies where STIBs have contributed to women’s empowerment and resilience and learn from them as we are piloting STIBs in multiple learning labs across the globe.

STIBs help integrate technology development and technology adoption by combining social, technical, and technological innovations to improve rural women’s access to agricultural technologies and contribute towards their empowerment and resilience. The webinar featured presentations based on four cases highlighting the findings and insights.

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

7. Estimating the Number of Women Household Biomass Producers, the Largest Segment of the Global Energy Labor Force

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/publications/estimating-the-number-of-women-household-biomass-producers-the-largest-segment-of-the-global-energy-labor-force/>

Women and girls produce biomass to meet the basic energy needs of millions of poorer households across the developing world. Some 2 billion people rely on biomass for cooking (and some for heating), making those who gather it critical players in the global energy supply system.

This report, part of ongoing research into energy for development and gender dynamics at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University SIPA, attempts to improve this deficit, providing a systemic albeit rough estimation—given minimal available data—of the number of women household biomass producers. An analysis of clean cooking access rates, population figures, and average household sizes for both rural and urban areas in 92 developing countries estimates that 389 million women and girls undertake this work, which would represent the largest labor segment of today’s global energy system.

[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>

Gendered economic inequalities are among the most persistent and significant of all global gender gaps. An important contributing factor remains the underlying gender norms that keep women excluded from economic gains. Often, economic interventions and approaches pay no attention to gender norms, and fail to explicitly tackle what continues to inhibit women’s rights and 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.

Among the key messages:

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. Envisioning Resilience: Women's frontline experiences in shaping climate change adaptation planning

<https://youtu.be/UAPnfVkJlvs>

Gender inequality and climate change adaptation are not a separate challenge. Due to the inequitable distribution of roles, resources, and power, women face greater hurdles in adapting to a changing climate, but they are often left out of strategic conversations on climate action. Envisioning Resilience seeks to amplify their voices in climate change adaptation decision-making processes. Watch for first-hand experiences and lessons learned from this initiative in *Jamaica*.

Click here to learn more about the outcomes of this creative initiative in *Ghana and Kenya*:

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/envisioning-resilience-what-were-learning-about-creative-methods-for-policy-dialogue-on-adaptation/>

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

10. Small-scale farming in Norway

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/jan/31/falling-in-love-with-sheep-farming-in-the-norwegian-fjords>

Documentary <https://www.theguardian.com/news/ng-interactive/2024/jan/31/rowdy-flock-a-daughter-her-dreams-and-a-sheep-farm-in-norway>

When Rakel took over the last farm in her northern Norwegian village, she was not only taking responsibility for a flock of accident-prone woolly animals, but also a way of life at a crossroads. This was a chance to follow in the footsteps of her much-loved father, and live the way she had always dreamed, alongside her wife. A flock of sheep comes with a flock of problems, so the saying goes. With the help of community and family, can Rakel succeed?

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