

**March 1, 2025**

# **GEM Digest of the Month**

**Published monthly since December 2009**



*Picea glauca [Spruce trees] in winter. 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.

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

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## **Contents**

### **Opportunities and Coming Events**

1.	Advancing workplace gender equity through male allyship.....	3
2.	Countdown to International Women’s Day 2025.....	3
3.	Executive Director of the Vanier Institute of the Family .....	3
4.	Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in NAPs .....	4
5.	2025 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference Abstracts .....	4
6.	Teacher Leadership in School-Based Agriculture - Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies .....	4
7.	How We Come to Know - Webinar .....	5
8.	Indigenous Perspectives for a Secure Food System.....	5
9.	International Women’s Day: Rights. Equality. Empowerment .....	5
10.	Webinar on Rug Making in Pakistan.....	5
11.	Grant Applications for the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund.....	6
12.	Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference – Western Canada 2025.....	6
13.	World Home Economics Day 2025 .....	6
14.	Accelerating equality in agri-food systems conference: Call for abstracts now open .....	7
15.	IGNITE: STEM Networking Night.....	7
16.	International Experience Canada launches immersive marketing campaign to inspire Canadian youth to explore the world	8

### **This Month’s News**

1.	Support for Canadian small and medium-sized NGOs working in global development.....	8
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2.	Championing sovereignty with big dreams.....	8
3.	University of Manitoba hires first agronomist in residence for special crops .....	9
4.	More women are choosing a career in agriculture — and changing the industry from the inside.....	9
5.	Black History Month: Celebrating Black Excellence in STEM .....	9
6.	New Fellowship on Gendered Climate Action admits its 47 Inaugural Fellows .....	10
7.	Gender Inequality in Science Limits Progress Towards Solving Complex Global Challenges .....	10
8.	UN agriculture fund calls for investment in rural and Indigenous people.....	10
9.	Online Education: A Lifeline for Afghan Girls Amid Taliban Restrictions.....	11
10.	Off air: one by one, the Taliban are removing women’s voices from Afghan radio.....	11
11.	How a female-run radio station is giving rural India a voice .....	11
12.	Scoop: US government issues guidelines on ‘defending women’ .....	12
13.	How Trump’s aid freeze is gutting a lifeline for women and girls .....	12
14.	Ghana on US aid cuts: ‘As bridges are burning, new bridges are formed’ .....	12
15.	Opinion: It’s time to redefine security to include development .....	12
16.	Unleashing opportunities for women in Africa with access to energy.....	13
17.	Namibia’s Drought Crisis: Building Resilience for Women and Girls .....	13
18.	Cambodian families trade wood fires for gas and electric stoves, saving lives.....	14
19.	Integrated water management with solar irrigation in Kenya .....	14
20.	Why the campaign for reparations must put gender justice at its heart .....	14
21.	African Court rules in favour of Persons with Albinism, orders Tanzania to take concrete action.....	14
22.	Sharing Canadian Expertise for Inclusive Development and Gender Equality (SHARE) .....	15
23.	How to Know if Food is Canadian – Understanding Canada’s Food Labelling System .....	15
24.	In the Conservative Farm Belt, a Queer-Friendly Church Stands Proud.....	15
25.	Blamed for ‘Causing’ Droughts: Zimbabwe’s LGBTQI Community Faces Climate Crisis Head-on.....	16

## Reports, Publications, Resources

1.	Sisyphus’s Broadband: Exploring models of rural community participation in digital infrastructure and connectivity ...	16
2.	Gender-sensitive macroeconomic policies in low- and middle-income economies.....	16
3.	Interview: Improving women’s participation in global climate talks.....	17
4.	Understanding barriers to women’s participation in the UN climate negotiations: perspectives from the least developed countries .....	17
5.	Welfare effects and gender dimensions of adoption of climate smart agriculture practices: Evidence from Kenyan small-scale farmers .....	17
6.	Drivers and impacts of mobile phone-mediated scaling of agricultural technologies: a meta-analysis .....	18
7.	Mothers in Science - Publications .....	18
8.	Breaking barriers, building bridges .....	19
9.	Book: Lost Harvests- Prairie Indian Reserve Farmers and Government Policy, Second Edition .....	19
10.	A Casualty of Colonialism: Red River Métis Farming, 1810–1870.....	19

11.	New and improved varieties for everyone? Gendered patterns of wheat varietal turnover among social groups in the Indian state of Bihar .....	19
12.	Women in science and technology in Europe .....	20
13.	Unstoppable Women: Celebrating Award-Winning Development .....	20

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

## Opportunities and Coming Events

### 1. Advancing workplace gender equity through male allyship

<https://unglobalcompact.ca/take-action/page.php?id=35>

The UN Global Compact Network Canada, with generous support from The Department of Women and Gender Equality through the Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund, is leading a transformative 30-month initiative to advance women's representation in workplace leadership by examining and elevating male allyship. This groundbreaking research project addresses systemic barriers such as gender norms, leadership models, and power dynamics, culminating in the development of a comprehensive Male Allyship Action Guide.

How Can You Participate? **Recruitment Drive for all three areas is currently underway.**

- Focus Groups: Women and gender-diverse professionals in the private sector including those with a range of intersecting identities (race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Male Allyship Working Group: Men via a nomination / recommendation from Canadian participating companies of UN Global Compact UN Global Compact
- Advisory Committee: Senior-level women leaders from Canadian participating companies of UN Global Compact

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

### 2. Countdown to International Women’s Day 2025

<https://info.unglobalcompact.org/iwd-countdown>

The UN Global Compact is launching "Countdown to International Women's Day," a three-step interactive learning journey aimed at transforming gender equality commitments into actionable strategies.

- The first session, scheduled for **18 February**, will focus on the connection between gender equality and environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.
- On **25 February**, the second session will delve into gender-responsive supply chains, examining how businesses can integrate gender equality practices.
- On **March 4**, the third session focusses on Business Strategies to Drive Allyship: The Role of Male Allies.

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

### 3. Executive Director of the Vanier Institute of the Family

[https://careers.risepeople.com/evenings-and-weekends-consulting/en/11584\\_executive-director-of-the-vanier-institute-of-the-family](https://careers.risepeople.com/evenings-and-weekends-consulting/en/11584_executive-director-of-the-vanier-institute-of-the-family)

The Vanier Institute of the Family is a national, independent think tank committed to enhancing family wellbeing by making information about families accessible and actionable. Positioned at the centre of networks of researchers, educators, policymakers, and organizations with an interest in families, we share evidence and strengthen the understanding of families in Canada, in all their diversities, to support evidence-informed decisions that promote family wellbeing. Through

research, publications, partnerships and collaborations, presentations, and social media, we elevate the national understanding of families in Canada. The posting closes on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025**, at 10 a.m. EST.

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

## 4. Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in NAPs

<https://napglobalnetwork.org/2025/02/expressions-of-interest-training-mainstreaming-gesi-nap-processes/>

The National Adaptation Plan Global Network (NAP GN) has launched an open call for countries to submit expressions of interest (EOIs) to organize a training workshop on mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in NAP processes in 2025.

This call for EOIs aims to help countries translate their engagement to mainstream GESI in their NAP processes into reality by strengthening the in-country capacities of a diverse range of NAP stakeholders on GESI.

Countries interested in participating in this TOT and organizing a follow-up training are invited to submit their application at [info@napglobalnetwork.org](mailto:info@napglobalnetwork.org) **by February 28**.

Eligible Countries: Small Island Developing States, least developed countries, sub-Saharan African countries

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

## 5. 2025 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference Abstracts

<https://crrf2025.org/abstractsubmission/>

This year, the Rural Development Institute is working with the Journal of Rural and Community Development to host the 2025 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference here at Brandon Manitoba, and we wanted to announce the rescheduling of the abstract submission. Exploring themes of Technology, Data Governance, and Capacity Building, we're hoping to facilitate conversations, panels, and workshops that build deep connections.

250 Word Abstracts are to be received **by February 28 and March 28** and can be done through the CRRF 2025 Conference Website. The conference is scheduled for **September 23-26, 2025, Brandon University | Brandon, Manitoba**.

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

## 6. Teacher Leadership in School-Based Agriculture - Graduate Certificate in Educational Studies

<https://www.ualberta.ca/en/education/professional-learning/graduate-certificate-in-educational-studies/agriculture/index.html>

Whether your school has space for big initiatives or small-scale projects, the GCES Teacher Leadership in School-Based Agriculture will help you integrate agriculture into your curriculum, fostering hands-on learning that enhances student engagement and understanding across subjects. Using agriculture as a lens for innovation can inspire awe in your students - an often overlooked but powerful driver of learning - while connecting lessons to real-world applications. This certificate is for teachers in both rural and urban settings who are eager to enrich their pedagogy and make learning a dynamic, awe-inspiring process.

Join the University of Alberta for a general information session on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom). The session will run between 30 and 60 minutes. The next cohort of this program will start in Summer 2025 - application deadline: **March 31, 2025**.

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

## 7. How We Come to Know - Webinar

<https://www.agrisystemsll.ca/events>

Join Alberta Agrisystems Living Lab and Anishinaabekwe scholar Dr. Kathy Absolon (Minogizhigo kwe) to learn more about Indigenous ways of knowing and knowledge. Dr. Absolon's academic journey has been a pathway of unlearning, healing, re-learning and finding who she is as an Indigenous woman & what her place is in the academy. Dr. Absolon works at Wilfred Laurier University and is the Director of the Centre for Indigegogy. **March 5**

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

## 8. Indigenous Perspectives for a Secure Food System

<https://umanitoba.ca/agricultural-food-sciences/sustainability-canadian-agriculture-2025>

This is one of three main themes of the UM co-hosted - and free - virtual event being held **March 4-6, 2025**: Sustainability of Canadian Agriculture 2025 Virtual Conference - Expanding Our Knowledge for Sustainable Food Production. It is co-hosted by the University of Manitoba's National Centre for Livestock and the Environment and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

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

## 9. International Women's Day: Rights. Equality. Empowerment

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day>

On **8 March 2025**, join us to celebrate International Women's Day under the theme, "For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation—youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls—as catalysts for lasting change.

Besides, the year 2025 is a pivotal moment as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This document is the most progressive and widely endorsed blueprint for women's and girls' rights worldwide that transformed the women's rights agenda in terms of legal protection, access to services, youth engagement, and change in social norms, stereotypes and ideas stuck in the past.

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

## 10. Webinar on Rug Making in Pakistan

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/\\_ITvZICTTA6kBUE0ITpaCg](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_ITvZICTTA6kBUE0ITpaCg)

The Canadian Fair Trade Network announces our upcoming webinar in collaboration with Bunyaad, a member of the Fair Trade Federation. The event will be held on **Saturday, March 8th**, which happens to be International Women's Day. We'd love for you to join us virtually.

Join Jenni and Yusaf as they take us on a journey through the art of rug making in Pakistan—all from the comfort of your own home. "Travel to Pakistan with Bunyaad" is an opportunity to sit down with rug artisans and learn more about how Bunyaad operates. You'll see live demonstrations of the rug production process and get to know the artisans as we do—both as coworkers and friends. It's a relaxed, unscripted, and casual event, showcasing the full Bunyaad Pakistan team.

Additionally, since March 8 is International Women's Day, we'll take some time to discuss how fair trade rugs empower women in the villages of Pakistan. This year marks the second "Travel to Pakistan with Bunyaad" event. Last year, Yusaf and Jenni had an amazing time connecting North American friends with the artisans they work with, from rug design to finishing. They received fantastic feedback from attendees across the US and Canada, with many expressing how much they appreciated seeing the process firsthand and getting to know the artisans better.

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

## 11. Grant Applications for the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund

<https://news.brandonu.ca/2025/01/30/grant-applications-open-for-margaret-laurence-endowment-fund-in-gender-womens-studies/>

The Gender & Women’s Studies (GWS) program at Brandon University is now accepting applications for the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund grants for the current academic year (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026.)

The grants — Program and Work-Study Grants — aim to foster greater collaborations between community-based organizations and the university’s academic program by supporting projects that address social justice and intersectional oppression. All projects that aim to reduce any form of intersectional oppression will be considered, including discrimination related to gender, race, class, sexuality, disability, and neurodivergence.

The Program Grant offers \$2,500 to support programming costs, including expenses for supplies, food and honoraria for guest speakers, stated a university press release issued Thursday. There are four grants available under this category.

Deadline for receipt of project applications: **March 14, 2025**

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

## 12. Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference – Western Canada 2025

<https://www.advancingwomenconference.ca/2025west/>

Whether you are in a career with an organization, starting your own business, looking for your dream job, running your own farming operation, operating a company in ag or food, or want to hone our overall life skills, this conference is for you.

**Calgary, March 16, 17 & 18, 2025**

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

## 13. World Home Economics Day 2025

<https://www.ifhe.org/events/world-home-economics-day>

2025 Theme: Tackling Overconsumption. **Friday, March 21, 2025**

Our current way of living and consuming is unsustainable. We use more resources than the Earth can provide and often more than is good for us. This overconsumption leads to health and financial problems, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution. It’s time for a change. Key Areas for Change:

- Food: Shifting to a more plant-based diet can reduce emissions and improve health.
- Housing: Consider how much space we really need, use sustainable energy, and adopt eco-friendly technologies.
- Travel: Support and use more sustainable transportation options.

Consider SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Read the IFHE Statement “Tackling Consumption for a Better World”, find the promotional video “Tackling Overconsumption” and download a PDF or PPT version of the presentation.

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

## 14. Accelerating equality in agri-food systems conference: Call for abstracts now open

<https://gender.cgiar.org/news/accelerating-equality-agri-food-systems-conference-call-abstracts-now-open>

The international conference “Accelerating Equality in Food, Land, and Water Systems: Driving Solutions through Evidence and Learning” follows the tradition of the biennial CGIAR GENDER conferences. The call for abstracts is now open, until **April 11, 2025**. The conference will be held from **October 7-9, 2025**, in **Cape Town, South Africa**.

THEME 1 Shifting gender and social norms to enhance access, participation, and resilience for women, youth, and socially excluded groups in agri-food systems

THEME 2 Advancing women’s empowerment in agri-food systems through scalable solutions

THEME 3 Effective strategies and innovations for enhancing resilience and livelihoods in Food, Land and Water Systems

THEME 4 Strategies to strengthen the leadership, voice, and influence of women, youth, Indigenous People, and socially excluded groups in Food, Land, and Water Systems

THEME 5 Making agri-food systems more inclusive and empowering for youth

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

## 15. IGNITE: STEM Networking Night

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ignite-stem-networking-night-vancouver-tickets-1236482344979>

Join us for an evening of connection, mentorship, and meaningful conversations at IGNITE: STEM Networking Night. IGNITE is more than just a networking event—it’s a movement. Whether you’re looking to advance your career, share your expertise, or be part of a community creating real change, this is the place to be. **Wednesday, March 5 – Vancouver**.

What to Expect:

- Welcome Panel: Hear from seasoned career panel
- Systems Change Workshop: Attendees will participate in a systems change workshop (pre- and post-event survey and brief activity on day of event)
- Mentorship: Connect with industry professionals and accomplished leaders who can guide your STEM journey.
- Networking: Meet people from inside and outside your industry, expanding your reach as you create lasting connections.
- Discussions: Join the dialogue on how to create meaningful change in STEM—challenging gender roles, redefining identity, and breaking barriers.

**Yellowknife: May 20.**

**Toronto: June 17.** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ignite-stem-networking-night-toronto-tickets-1242380205639>

**Halifax: July 31.** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ignite-stem-networking-night-halifax-tickets-1242395812319>

**Montreal: September 23.** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ignite-stem-networking-night-montreal-tickets-1242401409059>

**Winnipeg: October 1.** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ignite-stem-networking-night-winnipeg-tickets-1242409092039>

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



## 16. International Experience Canada launches immersive marketing campaign to inspire Canadian youth to explore the world

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2025/02/international-experience-canada-launches-immersive-marketing-campaign-to-inspire-canadian-youth-to-explore-the-world.html>

IEC <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/work-canada/iec.html>

The International Experience Canada (IEC) Program empowers young Canadians with opportunities abroad that will help shape their future. IEC facilitates international experiences for young Canadians to gain invaluable skills, broaden their horizons, and return home ready to thrive in today's global job market.

The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced the launch of an innovative marketing campaign designed to immerse young Canadians in the life-changing opportunities they could experience by working and travelling abroad with IEC.

Five IEC partner countries—Belgium, Finland, Italy, South Korea and New Zealand—will be featured in these interactive booths, showcasing various aspects of their countries and unique cultures.

IEC has reciprocal agreements with over 35 countries and foreign territories that allow Canadian youth (ages 18 to 35) to work and travel in partner countries and territories through overseas work permits and allow international youth to do the same in Canada.

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

### This Month's News

#### 1. Support for Canadian small and medium-sized NGOs working in global development

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2025/02/minister-hussen-announces-support-for-canadian-small-and-medium-sized-ngos-working-in-global-development.html>

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development, announced Canada's investment of \$38.5 million to support more than 150 small and medium-sized Canadian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) through the "LIFT for Small and Medium Organizations" project.

The LIFT project will assist over 550 NGOs in utilizing Canadian expertise to deliver innovative programs that promote gender equality, inclusion and climate resilience. The program will empower NGOs with tools and knowledge to improve their operations, including training and coaching on inclusive management practices, governance, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and environmental sustainability.

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

#### 2. Championing sovereignty with big dreams

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/2025/02/08/championing-sovereignty-with-big-dreams>

Laura Rance writes: [When the port of Churchill in Manitoba] opened in 1931, it initially faced crippling skepticism from the shipping industry, fearful of the northern passage. Business didn't start to pick up until E. Cora Hind, the first female Free Press reporter whose writing helped put Prairie wheat on the global map, used her celebrity status to champion the cause. She accompanied a load of grain to England from Churchill, which was big news for the times.

"She is the greatest prophet in the world: fortunes and the future of great industries are affected by her forecasts," reported the London Sunday Express upon her arrival in October 1932. "Her prophecies are eagerly awaited by government experts,



grain traders, transportation companies, insurance houses, banks and manufacturers for they affect the price of wheat, the cost of bread and the purchasing power of Canada.”

The newspaper accounts may have focused on Hind, but her support lent the port needed credibility and its prospects incubated in the glow.

Churchill’s modern-day proponents believe there are new export-import opportunities emerging in mining and fertilizer in addition to the port’s vital role in northern resupply. Whether or not these pan out, at a time when Canada’s sovereignty is threatened and global powers outside its borders are making new territorial claims, government investment in its iconic northern port sends an important signal.

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

### **3. University of Manitoba hires first agronomist in residence for special crops**

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/university-of-manitoba-hires-first-agronomist-in-residence-for-special-crops/>

The University of Manitoba has hired Dr. Loveleen Kaur Dhillon as its agronomist in residence for special crops, a new, five-year position funded by Manitoba Crop Alliance (MCA). Dhillon has a PhD from the University of Saskatchewan, with a specialization in plant breeding and agronomy.

MCA recognized a gap in research capacity for special crops (i.e., corn, sunflower and flax) in Manitoba and identified this position as an opportunity to expand applied agronomy research for these crops. Research outcomes over these five years will lead to recommendation-based results, addressing agronomic challenges and contributing to the advancement of the special crops industry in Manitoba.

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

### **4. More women are choosing a career in agriculture — and changing the industry from the inside**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/women-career-agriculture-1.7443846>

Data from Statistics Canada shows that the number of female farm operators in 2021 had risen for the first time since 1991, pointing to the fact that women’s participation in agriculture is increasing. As women have gradually begun to take on more official roles in farming over the last decades, experts say their presence is not only being finally reflected in the numbers, but that they’re changing the nature of the industry itself.

A rep of Young Agrarians thinks that women taking on leadership roles in not only daily farm operations but also within marketing spaces and new forms of agriculture, such as regenerative farming, means they’re changing the societal view of what a “traditional farmer” looks like, and challenging entrenched gender roles.

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

### **5. Black History Month: Celebrating Black Excellence in STEM**

<https://scwist.ca/black-history-month-celebrating-black-excellence-in-stem/>

Black excellence and talent have always been present in STEM, yet the journey toward greater diversity and inclusion has been slow.

Despite the rich history of Black scientists, engineers, and innovators, systemic barriers, biases, and underrepresentation have limited access to opportunities in these fields. Today, Black individuals make up only 9 percent of all STEM jobs, a stark reminder that there is much work to be done to create equitable spaces for Black talent to thrive.

Recognizing and addressing these disparities is crucial to ensuring that the next generation of STEM leaders can reach their full potential, driving progress and innovation for all.

February was Black History Month - the incredible achievements of Black women in STEM who have defied the odds and made lasting contributions to their fields are featured at the website.

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

## **6. New Fellowship on Gendered Climate Action admits its 47 Inaugural Fellows**

<https://awardfellowships.org/news/new-fellowship-on-gendered-climate-action-admits-its-50-inaugural-fellows/>

A new Fellowship seeking to achieve a twin goal of increasing the number of African women leading climate change action and catalyzing production of climate solutions that work for women smallholders is set to roll out its inaugural cohort of 47 Fellows. The 2025 Cohort of the AWARD Climate Action Fellowship comprises women professionals from Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, and Senegal working on a range of topics in climate change.

The Climate Fellows are at various career stages working in diverse institutions including government ministries, the academia, private sector, civil society and regional economic bodies.

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

## **7. Gender Inequality in Science Limits Progress Towards Solving Complex Global Challenges**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/02/gender-inequality-in-science-limits-scientific-progress-towards-solving-complex-global-challenges/>

Gender equality remains elusive in science, as only one in three scientists is a woman. Not only do these inequalities hold women back, but they also limit scientific progress. The global community must empower an entire generation of girls in crises to receive the education, training, and resources they need to improve their knowledge and skills base in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Today, less than two out of five STEM graduates are women, and only 12 percent of national academies of science members are women. The gender gap varies across scientific disciplines. Some fields, such as physics, tend to attract more men than women.

STEM is not an easy road, especially for girls living on the frontlines of armed conflict, climate change, and forced displacement, where the thought of even attending school is elusive at best. Emphasizing that in all, there are now nearly a quarter of a billion crisis-affected girls and boys whose right to a quality education fit for the 21st century is interrupted by these protracted crises.

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

## **8. UN agriculture fund calls for investment in rural and Indigenous people**

<https://www.devex.com/news/un-agriculture-fund-calls-for-investment-in-rural-and-indigenous-people-109419>

Rural communities are enduring the brunt of food insecurity, poverty, and hunger — and catalytic investments into this population specifically are needed to change that. That was the main message coming from world leaders and U.N. officials at the International Fund for Agricultural Development’s annual Governing Council meeting in Rome in February 2025.

Four out of 5 of the world's extreme poor live in rural areas, yet it is often these communities of fisherfolk and farmers that produce the majority of countries' food, according to IFAD, a specialized U.N. agency and financial institution. As it stands, U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 2 on achieving zero hunger is not on track to meet the 2030 deadline.

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

## 9. Online Education: A Lifeline for Afghan Girls Amid Taliban Restrictions

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/02/online-education-lifeline-afghan-girls-amid-taliban-restrictions/>

Since the Taliban regained power in Afghanistan in 2021, girls and women have been systematically banned from education, making Afghanistan the only country in the world that denies schooling to girls over the age of 12. The situation continues to deteriorate, with even primary school enrollment for girls in decline, according to UNESCO. With female teachers barred from instructing boys, a shortage of educators has further deepened the crisis.

In this bleak landscape, online education has emerged as the only hope for an estimated 1.4 million Afghan girls over the age of 12, desperate to continue learning. Yet, this alternative is fraught with formidable obstacles.

Afghanistan's poor internet infrastructure and unstable electricity supply make remote education unreliable. While the situation of electricity in urban centres is relatively better than in the rural areas, it still does not guarantee easy access to online learning to everyone. The amount of money needed for equipment such as computers, tablets and smartphones is beyond what most low-income Afghans families can afford. In Afghanistan, online education courses do not have universal recognition, and no public entity provides them. Besides the poor infrastructure, parents are afraid that the Taliban may be secretly tracking online education, and if caught, their daughters could bring substantial difficulties to the whole family. More often than not, the home environment does not allow for uninterrupted studies, especially in large families due to congestion of space.

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

## 10. Off air: one by one, the Taliban are removing women's voices from Afghan radio

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/feb/19/off-air-one-by-one-the-taliban-are-removing-womens-voices-from-afghan-radio>

In several provinces, the Taliban have banned women from radio broadcasting. First there was a nationwide ban on women's voices in public and now, this month, one of the last remaining female-run media outlets has been silenced, with the offices of a Kabul-based women's radio station, Radio Begum, raided, staff arrested, and the station taken off air.

While the Taliban accused Radio Begum of violating broadcast policy, Begum staff members insist they have simply been providing "educational services for girls and women in Afghanistan". With recent bans on women attending higher education, platforms such as Radio Begum have been attempting to fill the vacuum for girls who wish to continue learning.

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

## 11. How a female-run radio station is giving rural India a voice

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/31/india-telangana-sangham-radio-community-dalit-rural-women>

Supported by the Deccan Development Society (DDS), a non-profit organisation that works with rural women, the duo – both high school graduates with no formal training in media or broadcasting – have built what has become a cornerstone of their community: Sangham Radio, named after the grassroots collectives in rural areas.

Established in 2008 in Machnoor village, 70 miles (115km) north-west of Hyderabad, as India's first all-female community radio station and run entirely by Dalit women – historically the most oppressed and marginalised communities in India – Sangham Radio crafts programmes that resonate deeply with their listeners.

What sets Sangham Radio apart is how it has helped women recognise the power of their voices. One woman, Samamma, describes how her advice on seed conservation was broadcast and reached hundreds of other farmers. Sangham Radio has even become a hub for people looking for missing livestock. Sangham Radio, which reaches about 40 villages, also serves as a platform for social change. With DDS's support, Narsamma and Algole have invited legal experts to discuss topics such as domestic violence. Their candid discussions on women's once-taboo health issues, such as menstruation and menopause, have made a difference.

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

## 12. Scoop: US government issues guidelines on 'defending women'

<https://www.devex.com/news/scoop-us-government-issues-guidelines-on-defending-women-109227>

The U.S. government is taking steps to "defend women" — that is, by requiring agencies to "take prompt actions" to end anything related to "gender ideology" across the government, including at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

By 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, government agencies are required to "review all agency programs, contracts, and grants, and terminate any that promote or inculcate gender ideology," and similarly evaluate all agency positions. Everyone who works on gender issues (in the terms defined above) will be placed on paid administrative leave, effective immediately.

In the meantime, agencies must close or end all initiatives, offices, and programs that "inculcate or promote gender ideology," take down all outward-facing media on the topic, and withdraw any "final or pending documents" related to gender work. Any training or employee resource groups on gender must be canceled.

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

## 13. How Trump's aid freeze is gutting a lifeline for women and girls

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-trump-s-aid-freeze-is-gutting-a-lifeline-for-women-and-girls-109370>

Local family planning NGOs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Malawi, and the Philippines shared how they've had to close down several of their clinics, send staff home with no assurances of returning to work or let them go entirely.

Some of these NGOs said they were left with no time to plan for any transition, and they had to stop other services, such as cervical cancer screening, HIV testing, or addressing child malnutrition.

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

## 14. Ghana on US aid cuts: 'As bridges are burning, new bridges are formed'

<https://www.devex.com/news/ghana-on-us-aid-cuts-as-bridges-are-burning-new-bridges-are-formed-109405>

Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama has warned the United States it will lose influence abroad to other major powers because of its massive aid cuts. The health cuts would hit children's care and maternity services, as well as HIV testing and access to antiretroviral drugs previously provided by PEPFAR, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Asked if Trump's approach will prompt the completion of an African free trade area, Mahama replied: "Definitely it will."

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

## 15. Opinion: It's time to redefine security to include development

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-it-s-time-to-redefine-security-to-include-development-109382>

Continued cuts in development assistance and an increased focus on national interests and security presage a more tumultuous and likely more violent decade ahead. It is therefore crucial to advance the ongoing discussion on a broader and

more strategic definition of security. In other words: Now more than ever, the argument must be made loud and clear that investments in development are investments in national security.

Food security demonstrates the inherent link between development and national security particularly well. Persistent food insecurity undermines stability in many contexts and can exacerbate or even lead to conflict.

Conversely, conflict and pervasive insecurity negatively impact food security by disrupting agriculture and food supply chains. This is exacerbated by the use of food as a weapon of war.

The U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization has shown that it is cheaper to invest in development, including the eradication of hunger, than to pay for the security consequences of inaction, supporting AFRICOM's commander, General Langley's argument. When calculating the costs of ad hoc emergency aid, health care, and the military to deal with the spillover effects of hunger, FAO studies show a benefit-cost ratio of up to 7:1 for anticipatory action interventions.

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

## **16. Unleashing opportunities for women in Africa with access to energy**

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/african/unleashing-opportunities-for-women-in-africa-with-access-to-energy-afe-0125>

Now, imagine a world where women have access to reliable electricity, clean cooking, and safe water. Not only would their quality of life improve, but their economic opportunities would expand. Women in rural areas are more likely to become wage-earners when they have access to electricity. They can run businesses, engage in entrepreneurial ventures, and contribute to their economies in ways that were previously impossible. More women would own or lead small and medium sized enterprises (SME), creating jobs and stimulating growth in their countries.

We can't ignore the fact that energy access is also directly tied to gender-based violence (GBV).

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

## **17. Namibia's Drought Crisis: Building Resilience for Women and Girls**

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/02/namibias-drought-crisis-building-resilience-women-girls/>

Communities in the Kavango West region of northern Namibia have firsthand experience of the severe impacts of climate change. The dry, cracked soil and emaciated livestock provide a constant reminder of the lack of access to water in this part of the country.

While the challenge of water scarcity is not new, the country is facing one of its worst droughts in more than a hundred years. Exacerbated by the impacts of El Niño, this drought has triggered widespread food insecurity, environmental degradation, health threats and rising unemployment, affecting more than half a million people.

The national drought response plan, which is supported by the United Nations, prioritizes building the resilience of drought-affected communities, boosting food security and protecting livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable members of the population including women.

Through targeted interventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) support the introduction of initiatives that are helping diversify livelihoods.

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

## 18. **Cambodian families trade wood fires for gas and electric stoves, saving lives**

<https://www.clintonhealthaccess.org/blog/cambodian-families-trade-wood-fires-for-gas-and-electric-stoves-saving-lives/>

In kitchens across Cambodia’s Takeo and Kampot provinces, a quiet but life-saving shift is happening. Households are moving from cooking their meals over charcoal or wood fires to affordable, cleaner electric or gas stoves. This is a direct result of the government, in partnership with CHAI, working with community health workers to educate families on the health impacts of cooking methods.

About 92 percent of Cambodian villages have access to electricity and widely use liquefied petroleum gas for cooking. However, approximately 11 million people in Cambodia continue to rely on cooking fuels like wood or charcoal, exposing them to harmful smoke.

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

## 19. **Integrated water management with solar irrigation in Kenya**

<https://www.snv.org/update/mercy-gatwiri-s-story>

Mercy Gatwiri is a young farmer from Laikipia County, Kenya. She is one of 169 Village-Based Advisors (VBAs) trained by SNV through the LISTEN project and the County Government of Laikipia. Now, she works with 126 farmers in her community, helping them access farm inputs and sharing knowledge about climate-resilient farming practices, and she employs one staff member and over 10 seasonal workers.

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

## 20. **Why the campaign for reparations must put gender justice at its heart**

<https://views-voices.oxfam.org.uk/2025/01/reparations-gender-justice/>

Millions of women in the Global South earn a pittance, own no wealth or land and do far more unpaid care than men – and much of their condition today can be traced back to the economic devastation caused by both colonialism and the extractive economic system it created. That’s why any plan for redress must include justice for women. In the latest blog in our World Economic Forum series, Lurit Yugusuk and Hazel Birungi set out five ways to do that.

- One crucial step is ensuring women have access to land and other resources that have traditionally been controlled by men. Land ownership has been a primary source of power and wealth, yet women, especially in the Global South, have often been excluded from owning or controlling land. The restitution of land, alongside access to resources like credit, can provide women with a foundation for economic security and autonomy. Reparations must include specific provisions that guarantee women equal access to land and resources, empowering them to participate fully in economic systems and create sustainable futures.

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

## 21. **African Court rules in favour of Persons with Albinism, orders Tanzania to take concrete action**

<https://www.ihrda.org/2025/02/african-court-rules-in-favour-of-persons-with-albinism-orders-tanzania-to-take-concrete-action/>

On February 5th, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights ruled against the Government of Tanzania, holding it accountable for serious human rights violations against people with albinism. This case has been years in the making.

The Court directed Tanzania to:



- Establish a compensation fund for victims of violence and discrimination against PWAs.
- Amend existing laws to criminalize and punish violence targeting PWAs as aggravated offenses.
- Amend the Witchcraft Act, 1928, to eliminate ambiguities that perpetuate attacks against PWAs.
- Improve shelters for children with albinism, ensure their reunification with families, and guarantee access to education and healthcare.
- Conduct nationwide awareness campaigns for at least two years to combat myths and superstitions about albinism.
- Publish the full judgment on government websites for public access.
- Submit a report on implementation within two years and comply fully within three years, failing which the Court will hold an implementation hearing.

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

## 22. Sharing Canadian Expertise for Inclusive Development and Gender Equality (SHARE)

<https://cusointernational.org/sharing-canadian-expertise-for-inclusive-development-and-gender-equality/>

Since 2020, SHARE has been implemented in 10 countries in Africa and Latin America: Benin, Cameroon, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jamaica, Nigeria, Peru, and Tanzania. SHARE provides targeted technical assistance to local partners, including women’s rights organizations, governments, and the private sector to:

- Advance gender equality and empowerment of women and marginalized groups;
- Increase access by women and marginalized groups to decent economic opportunities; and
- Strengthen networks, platforms, and associations to promote gender equality and social inclusion.

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

## 23. How to Know if Food is Canadian – Understanding Canada’s Food Labelling System

<https://homefamily.net/2025/02/06/how-to-know-if-food-is-canadian-understanding-canadas-food-labelling-system/>

Professional Home Economist Kristen Matwychuk provides information on reading food labels in Canada. Canada’s food labelling system is complex. There are many ways the country of origin can be listed on a food label and while some sound similar to one another, a word or two can change the meaning significantly, which can be confusing.

Domestic foods, imported foods, processing, packaging, preparation – these words all have meaning. Some foods made using Canadian ingredients and even processed fully in Canada may not use either label even when they qualify to.

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

## 24. In the Conservative Farm Belt, a Queer-Friendly Church Stands Proud

<https://thetyee.ca/Culture/2025/02/14/Conservative-Farm-Belt-Queer-Friendly-Church/>

The minister of a United Church in Brandon, Manitoba is engaged in a battle against reactionary forces in this Prairie community. Minister Miller is trying to preserve Knox United as a bulwark of progressive Christian theology. Miller and Knox United gained attention thanks to a recent CBC News story about threats against the church and its support of the LGBTQ2S+ community, threats that resulted in increased security for church gatherings.

As Miller helps make Knox a centre of action on social and environmental issues through programs like the church’s Green Team initiative, it doesn’t help that many natural allies have been driven out of the church altogether.

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

## 25. Blamed for ‘Causing’ Droughts: Zimbabwe’s LGBTQI Community Faces Climate Crisis Head-on

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/02/blamed-for-causing-droughts-zimbabwes-lbtq-community-faces-climate-crisis-head-on/>

Wrongfully accused of ‘causing droughts,’ a group of LGBTQI people in Zimbabwe involved themselves in climate-smart agriculture and are now showing the way to mitigate climate change in a country recently devastated by El Niño-induced drought. Mothers Haven Trust is a community organization supporting Lesbians, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer women (LBTQI) in rural areas outside Mutare.

There are 64 countries where homosexuality is criminalized, and nearly half of these are in Africa, according to statistics from the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, a worldwide federation of organizations campaigning for LGBTQI rights.

In Africa, most countries, like Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and Kenya, inherited archaic and draconian laws that criminalize homosexuality from the white colonialists who introduced them many years ago.

“LGBTQI people are at risk from climate change due to the intersection of social, economic, and legal factors that contribute to their marginalization and vulnerability in crisis environments,” says Matuba Mahlatjie, a communications and media relations manager at Outright International, an organization that works to strengthen the capacity of the LGBTQI movement around the world.

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

### Reports, Publications, Resources

#### 1. Sisyphus’s Broadband: Exploring models of rural community participation in digital infrastructure and connectivity

<https://openjournals.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/JoCI/article/view/5508>

*Abstract*

Rural communities continue to face inequitable access to digital infrastructure and Internet connectivity, and pervasive digital divides in both infrastructure and capacities remain. A growing number of rural communities have taken (or attempted taking) active roles in the connectivity landscape. The literature investigating these community-led initiatives is emergent, with little understanding about the range of rural community-led initiatives and little empirical evidence to guide community decision-making in terms of which approach, if any, to use. This paper outlines the development of a set of rural community models with the aim of inviting further refinement and challenge of these models and to help communities understand the challenges and options for building local Internet access.

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

#### 2. Gender-sensitive macroeconomic policies in low- and middle-income economies

<https://odi.org/en/publications/gender-sensitive-macroeconomic-policies-in-low-and-middle-income-economies/>

The Russia–Ukraine war has sent shockwaves across the globe, but its impact is not evenly distributed. In Africa, women are disproportionately bearing the brunt of this economic fallout.

This report examines the gender-differentiated economic impacts of the conflict on African economies and potential macroeconomic policy solutions to mitigate them. Specifically, it analyses the gendered dimensions of monetary policy, inward investment promotion and debt restructuring, offering policy recommendations for each.

The report finds that economic shocks have varying impacts on women depending on their economic, migration, health and household status. For instance, rising prices for essential goods have disproportionately affected women, who often face unequal access to resources and finance, coupled with greater care responsibilities.

The report argues that conventional macroeconomic policy responses have been inadequate in addressing these gendered impacts. It proposes that central banks dedicate more resources to understanding these disparities and implement targeted complementary measures. Furthermore, it suggests that promoting diversified inward foreign direct investment (FDI) and debt restructuring can help mitigate the negative impacts of economic shocks on women.

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

### **3. Interview: Improving women’s participation in global climate talks**

<https://www.iied.org/interview-improving-womens-participation-global-climate-talks>

New research from IIED examines the barriers to women’s participation in UN climate negotiations. Co-authors Fernanda Alcobé, Elaine Harty and Tracy Kajumba discuss the findings and why it’s vital to address the root causes of women’s under-representation in this critical space.

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

### **4. Understanding barriers to women’s participation in the UN climate negotiations: perspectives from the least developed countries**

<https://www.iied.org/22603iied>

Since 2008, women have accounted for approximately one in three delegates at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. At the current rate of change, gender parity in heads of delegation, of whom only about 10% are women, will not be achieved in the foreseeable future.

This research examines the underlying factors that contribute to this low representation, focusing on the perspectives of delegates from the 45 least developed countries (LDCs), which on average have lower rates of women participating in UNFCCC negotiations than other regions.

We focused on four areas of analysis: governance; gender-based education and assets; gender-based rights and participation; and leadership and decision making. We surveyed over 140 respondents and interviewed 28 stakeholders who are familiar with the UNFCCC about their experiences with the negotiations and who represent viewpoints from 35 of the 45 LDCs.

The report also includes case studies from Mozambique, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, which have recently passed or implemented policies related to gender equality, highlighting nuances or adaptations that other countries can take and contextualise to their own environment.

Our findings show that the lack of financial resources plays an outsized role in government involvement in the negotiations and the involvement of female delegates in particular. Overarching reflections on potential gender biases in delegate selection, cultural norms, the UNFCCC process and what constitutes leadership and meaningful participation in the negotiations added more nuanced insights to the discussion.

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

### **5. Welfare effects and gender dimensions of adoption of climate smart agriculture practices: Evidence from Kenyan small-scale farmers**

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wds.2025.100204>

*Abstract*

Agricultural production in Kenya is predominantly rain-fed and highly vulnerable to climate variability and change. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is thus being promoted with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity, adapting to the changing climate, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Despite increased adoption of CSA practices by smallholder farmers, the heterogenous welfare effects are hardly understood as the results have been mixed. Moreover, despite the labour burden of rural women in agricultural production exceeding that of men— especially in Kenya—the drivers of adoption of CSA practices and the gender differential impact are barely understood. This study addresses these gaps by employing the probit model and the endogenous switching regression model to determine the drivers of adoption of CSA practices and the average and heterogenous welfare impact of adoption, including the gender differentiated impacts, using data from 1,809 smallholder farmers from diverse agroecological zones across 22 counties in Kenya. The results revealed that access to agricultural information, input subsidies, loans and credit and being a female headed household increases likelihood of adoption of CSA practices. Employment, access to off-farm income, higher household size and membership in local organizations reduces the likelihood of adoption of CSA practices. Further, the study revealed that adoption of CSA practices improves household welfare as measured by per capita monthly expenditure and savings, but the impact is significantly higher among female headed households compared to male headed households that adopted CSA practices. The study also found that non-adopters of CSA practices would be better off adopting CSA practices.

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

## 6. Drivers and impacts of mobile phone-mediated scaling of agricultural technologies: a meta-analysis

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2024.1514546>

### *Abstract*

Mobile phone-mediated scaling of agricultural technologies (MPSATs) attracts attention as an effective approach for promoting agricultural development and sustainability. Despite the growing interest, a comprehensive understanding of drivers of MPSAT at the farm level and the evidence base of their impacts remains limited. To fill this gap, we conducted a systematic literature review and meta-analysis of 18 relevant empirical studies covering 10,757 farmers across 12 countries. Meta-analyses reveal that farmers' innovativeness and full-time farming increase the odds of adopting agricultural technologies. Age, gender, digital skills, mobile phone device ownership, and membership in farmer groups also influence MPSAT but display heterogeneity. Moderation analysis reveals that the development status of countries plays a moderating role in variables such as asset ownership and farm size. Moreover, the results show that using mobile phones as a standalone method increases the odds of adopting agricultural technologies by 2%. In combination with traditional extension methods, this figure rises significantly to 17%. Additionally, MPSAT increases yields by 2%, and profits by 5%, and contributes to a 3% improvement in farmers' learning outcomes. This study sheds light on the potential and multifaceted nature of MPSAT, providing insights for policymakers and practitioners promoting sustainable agriculture through digital technologies.

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

## 7. Mothers in Science - Publications

<https://www.mothersinscience.com/publications>

Journal article published by members of Mothers in Science are available at this link. We're thrilled to announce that our review article "Policy Proposals to Promote Inclusion of Caregivers in the Research Funding System" is now published in Frontiers in Education.

We have now joined BlueSky! Follow us at @mothersinsci.bsky.social to stay connected and continue supporting our work to amplify the voices of mothers in STEMM and advocate for workplace caregiver inclusion.

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

## 8. Breaking barriers, building bridges

<https://hdl.handle.net/10625/64034>

<https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/items/8a02dc6a-9505-430f-aac6-3d4b5cc38861>

The gender gap in the scientific field has not moved in a decade. This persistent inequality affects everyone, not just women and girls. How can we change things? A new report packed with research from across the South provides insights into lived experiences. Explore the challenges and visualize solutions presented in Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps: A Southern-led research network to improve gender equity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

French version is available in the IDRC Digital Library : Briser les barrières, jeter des ponts.

Spanish version is available in the IDRC Digital Library : Rompiendo barreras, construyendo puentes.

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

## 9. Book: Lost Harvests- Prairie Indian Reserve Farmers and Government Policy, Second Edition

<https://www.mqup.ca/lost-harvests-products-9780773557444.php>

Through an examination of the relevant published literature and of archival sources in Ottawa, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, Dr. Sarah Carter provides an in-depth study of government policy, Indian responses, and the socio-economic condition of the reserve communities on the prairies in the post-treaty era. The new introduction by the author offers a reflection on Lost Harvests, the influences that shaped it, and the issues and approaches that remain to be explored.

Agriculture on Plains Indian reserves is generally thought to have failed because the Native peoples lacked either an interest in farming or an aptitude for it. In Lost Harvests Sarah Carter reveals that reserve residents were anxious to farm and expended considerable effort on cultivation; government policies, more than anything else, acted to undermine their success.

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

## 10. A Casualty of Colonialism: Red River Métis Farming, 1810–1870

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230615204838/https://resistancemothers.wordpress.com/a-casualty-of-colonialism/>

Norma Hall writes: *This text is descriptive, of a people and a place during a particular period. It examines farmers and farming at Red River settlement, 1810 to 1870. In doing so, it demonstrates two things: first that, as Archer Evans Stringer Martin once observed, “The history of the lands of a people is necessarily to a very great extent the history of the people itself.”[7] Second, as far as writing in Canada goes, this text confirms that “history has not been kind” to the Red River Métis.[8] Central to this text is the argument that, with respect to their agricultural history, they were neither peasants nor an ethnically-challenged and culturally-confused group of failed buffalo hunters. It is my contention that the historical Red River Métis — including those who hunted, fished, and engaged in other work — are better characterized as intelligent farmers/ agriculteurs, who were invested in, and who managed their land.[9] Regarded in that light, there are conclusions regarding the effect of colonialism that logically follow.[10]*

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

## 11. New and improved varieties for everyone? Gendered patterns of wheat varietal turnover among social groups in the Indian state of Bihar

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09718524.2025.2455324>

Abstract

For smallholder farmers in the Global South, rapid varietal turnover is an important means of coping with the risks arising from the spread of pests or diseases and for increasing crop yields. Varietal turnover in wheat systems in many states of India, however, is inadequately slow. At the same time, the Indian wheat sector is characterized by deep-rooted social inequalities, pronounced by the social differentiation of wheat farmers, such as gender, caste or ethnicity, wealth, and their intersectionalities. This article asks whether these social groups are excluded from the adoption of new and improved wheat varieties. The study builds on household survey data collected from 759 wheat farmers in Bihar, one of the poorest states in India. Our findings demonstrate only small differences of varietal turnover across heterogeneous social groups of farmers. In particular, we find only small differences in varietal turnover between female-headed and male-headed households (albeit their already low levels of varietal turnover) and their intersecting social identities. However, marginalized caste farmers appear to be more disadvantaged, as they tend to cultivate older wheat varieties, which deserves closer attention from policymakers. We discuss important directions for future research on the gendered analysis of wheat-based cropping systems.

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

## 12. Women in science and technology in Europe

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php>

In 2023, over 71.8 million people aged from 25 to 64 were employed in science and technology in the EU, an increase of 2.7% compared with 2022. HRST by occupation are highly trained or experienced staff in physical and life sciences, or social sciences and humanities.

In 2023, out of the 37.7 million women working in science and technology occupations, 34.1 million women were working in service activities, compared to only 2.5 million in manufacturing activities in the EU. Malta is the only Member State where women made up less than 50% of the science and technology employment in services with 47.9 % of the persons working in science and technology occupations in services being women. (see Table 1).

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

## 13. Unstoppable Women: Celebrating Award-Winning Development

Tearfund Canada: <https://tearfund.ca/>, UNICEF Canada: <https://www.unicef.ca/en>, Real Humanitarian: <https://www.realhumanitarian.ca/>

The Development Impact Awards, an initiative by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), shine a spotlight on projects that have made significant contributions to a just world. These awards recognize and honour projects that align with at least one of the six core action areas of the Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) and have brought about meaningful change in communities.

The winners were announced during International Development Week. The 2025 winners are UNICEF Canada, Tearfund Canada and Real Humanitarian alongside their partners.

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