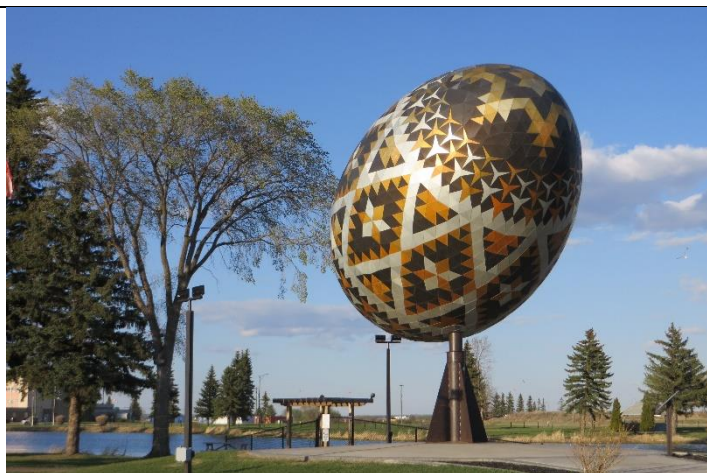


June 1, 2025

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Roadside attraction of Pysanka egg sculpture in Vegreville, Alberta.
Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

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

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

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

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

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Conference on Digital Agriculture

<https://emilicanada.com/community/agriculture-enlightened/>

Join us in **Winnipeg, Manitoba** on **October 23, 2025** for Agriculture Enlightened. Since 2020, EMILI’s annual conference has brought together a diverse stakeholder group including agri-food and technology experts, industry leaders, decision-makers, researchers and students from across the prairies. We look forward to building on the success of the last five years with another outstanding event that provides a space for excellent speakers, discussion and an opportunity to network with other leaders from across digital agriculture.

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2. Call for papers - The role of women in achieving food security and agricultural sustainability

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/COL3394>

BMC Agriculture is calling for submissions to our Collection focusing on “The role of women in achieving food security and agricultural sustainability”. This Collection invites research that explores the pivotal role of women in achieving food security and agricultural sustainability. We encourage submissions that address the challenges and opportunities for female

farmers, the impact of gender equity on agricultural practices, and strategies to empower women in the agricultural sector. By highlighting these critical areas, we aim to promote inclusive policies and practices that enhance food security and sustainability. **Submission Deadline: 23 February 2026.** This Collection supports and amplifies research related to SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 5: Gender Equality.

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This Month’s News

1. What is work worth?

<https://www.country-guide.ca/features/women-in-agriculture-the-value-of-invisible-work/>

Women’s work in the ag industry has long been under-recognized and undervalued. Has the industry finally advanced its collective thoughts and actions around this idea? Some experts say ‘yes’.

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2. What it means to be a conscious consumer

<https://takeactionmanitoba.org/2025/04/30/what-it-means-to-be-a-conscious-consumer/>

Natalia Daqui Loureiro, a second-year student and the student representative for the School of Agriculture and Environment, led a meaningful International Women’s Day celebration at Assiniboine College’s Victoria Campus in Brandon on March 10, 2025.

After attending 10th Fair Trade Conference in Canada with support from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC), Natalia was inspired to showcase woman-led agricultural projects from cocoa cooperatives around the world. These examples demonstrate how sustainable and fair production systems can uplift communities, support workers, and protect natural resources.

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3. Farm Credit Canada urges gender equity in Canada’s agriculture sector

<https://www.greenhousecanada.com/fcc-gender-equity-agriculture-sector/>

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is calling for gender equity and greater participation of women in all aspects of farming in Canadian agriculture in its latest report.

In Breaking barriers: Women in Canadian agriculture, FCC estimates that achieving revenue equity, with female farm operators earning on average revenues in line with those of male farm operators, would add an additional \$5 billion to agriculture’s Gross Domestic Product contribution.

FCC said the increase in the proportion of female operators is largely due to men leaving the industry, rather than a rise in the women entering it. The number of women in farming has not grown significantly.

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4. Meet the Woman Tackling the Hidden Gender Gap in Global Food Systems

<https://www.seedworld.com/us/2025/05/26/meet-the-woman-tackling-the-hidden-gender-gap-in-global-food-systems/>

At the intersection of plant breeding and social justice, Dr. Hale Ann Tufan is redesigning agricultural research to reflect the people it serves. Tufan leads the Equitable Agricultural Research Lab (EQUAL) at Cornell University, where she collaborates with plant breeders, social scientists, and policymakers to reimagine what agricultural innovation looks like—and who it

serves. Her work spans molecular plant pathology, gender research in Sub-Saharan Africa, and systems-level studies of food access and technology adoption.

Gender inequality in agriculture manifests in everything from land access and labor roles to how new crop varieties are developed. It's not just about what gets planted. It's about who decides what gets planted, whose needs are considered in the design of new varieties, and whose data is collected and acted on.

In one of her flagship studies, Tufan partnered with Senegal's national breeding program to explore a deceptively simple question: How do farmers make decisions together? Another of Tufan's studies took her team to Costa Rica, where they challenged conventional methods of tracking seed adoption.

In Tanzania, Tufan's team turned to participatory action learning—community conversations, listening sessions, and co-design. By reworking how community leaders engaged with women and youth, the project saw a 70% increase in women participating in seed production and exchange.

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5. Move over, Med diet – plantains and cassava can be as healthy as tomatoes and olive oil, say researchers

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/apr/17/mediterranean-diet-african-food-tanzania-heritage-traditional-healthy>

Findings from Tanzania's Kilimanjaro region indicate traditional eating habits in rural Africa can boost the immune system and reduce inflammation.

The new study set out to establish whether diet played a role. For a fortnight, 77 young men in their 20s and 30s were switched from heritage to western-style diets, or the reverse – with blood samples taken at the start and end, and again four weeks later.

Plantains, cassava and fermented banana drink should be added to global healthy eating guidelines alongside the olive oil, tomatoes and red wine of the Mediterranean diet, say researchers who found the traditional diet of people living in Tanzania's Kilimanjaro region had a positive impact on the body's immune system.

Those newly adopting a western-style diet saw inflammatory markers in their blood increase and tests suggested their immune systems did not respond as well to infections. They also gained weight. By contrast, switching from a western diet to a heritage diet had a largely anti-inflammatory effect, and blood markers linked to metabolic problems fell.

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6. Ukrainian gender rights

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/05/international-response-follow-principle-nothing-us-without-us/>

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has profoundly impacted on women and girls. Many have been displaced and are struggling with poverty and unemployment. Those who've stayed endure daily missile attacks, damaged infrastructure, lack of basic services and sexual violence from Russian forces if they live in occupied territories. Women activists, caregivers and journalists are particularly vulnerable. The international community must increase support to ensure justice for victims and women's inclusion in peace efforts.

Women must have a real seat at the negotiation table. Genuine participation means not just counting the number of women involved but ensuring their voices are heard and their needs addressed. Unfortunately, the gender impacts of the war remain a secondary concern.

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7. UN food agency caught in Trump administration's crosshairs

<https://www.devex.com/news/un-food-agency-caught-in-trump-administration-s-crosshairs-109839>

The Food and Agriculture Organization is the latest United Nations agency to face pressure from the Trump administration to reform into a conservative mold and immediately halt initiatives that do not align with an “America First” foreign policy.

FAO must ensure that its work does not include any diversity, equity, and inclusion policies. The U.S. also took aim at FAO’s work on climate change — a growing concern within the agency as agriculture is among the sectors most affected by global warming. The U.S. no longer affirms the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals or agenda for achieving them by 2030.

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8. Aid cuts blamed as food rations stopped for a million refugees in Uganda

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/may/08/trump-aid-cuts-halts-food-supplies-million-refugees-uganda-repatriation-fears-un>

Food rations for a million people in Uganda have been cut off completely this week amid a funding crisis at the United Nations World Food Programme, raising fears that refugees will now be pushed back into countries at war. In March, the WFP slashed food relief, introducing rationing for new arrivals to the east African country. Hillary Onek, Uganda’s minister for refugees, said it was a direct result of the radical aid cuts by the US and European countries. Donald Trump’s freeze on US aid spending in January and the UK’s cut in aid spending the following month from 0.58% of gross national income to 0.3% have badly hit Uganda’s ability to look after refugees.

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9. Activists brace as US anti-rights figures descend on Africa

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/may/09/africa-family-values-anti-rights-conferences-conservative-christian-abortion-lgbtq-gender-uganda-kenya-rwanda>

Advocates for sexual, reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights in Africa are bracing themselves for an influx of some of the most powerful, ultra-conservative campaigners from the US, Poland, Switzerland and the Netherlands over the coming months. The prominent campaigners, who all oppose abortion, transgender and LGBTQ+ rights, and are against sexuality education, are due to speak at a series of conferences focused on African “family values” and “national sovereignty”.

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10. Restructuring to National Science Foundation in USA

<https://www.science.org/content/article/trump-officials-take-steps-toward-radically-different-nsf>

Restructuring comes on top of previous steps that have halted new awards, terminated existing grants, and reduced the agency’s 1700-person staff.

The grant terminations have disproportionately affected principal investigators (PIs) from groups traditionally underrepresented in science—notably women, racial and ethnic minorities, and those with disabilities—according to data collected by NSF. Women are PIs on 58% of the canceled grants, although they are PIs on only 34% of all active NSF grants. Similarly, Blacks are PIs on 17% of the terminated grants, although they make only 4% of the total pool. Hispanic PIs and those with disabilities were twice as likely to lose a grant.

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11. Fewer agriculture workers in Nova Scotia

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/more-than-1-000-fewer-n-s-agriculture-workers-in-2023-compared-to-7-years-prior-statscan-1.7539124>

Nova Scotia's agriculture sector had more than 1,000 fewer workers in 2023 compared to seven years earlier, according to data recently released by Statistics Canada. This comes as the president of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture said the province could face a shortage of about 2,600 farm workers by 2029.

The data shows that Nova Scotia now appears to be relying more heavily on temporary foreign workers in agriculture. This mirrors the trend seen at the national level.

Gomez said those workers need to be protected from abuse, and called for targeted labour and safety inspections of workplaces that employ them, open work permits — where workers aren't tied to a single employer — and permanent residency status for temporary foreign workers.

A report released in January by human rights organization Amnesty International said Canada's temporary foreign worker program exposes workers to abuse and discrimination. Meanwhile, a 2023 report from the Royal Bank of Canada said that providing experienced temporary foreign workers with permanent residency could help address labour shortages in the agriculture sector.

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12. These former farm workers won a standards case in B.C.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/farm-workers-bc-employment-standards-1.7520435>

The B.C. investigation found the companies underpaid the workers with respect to wages, overtime and vacation pay, and misrepresented the jobs of some of the workers to the federal government. In some cases, the B.C. decision found the company misrepresented the length of employment, terminating workers without notice months before their contracts were up. Workers such as Ramirez were also required to regularly work 15- to 17-hour shifts, for multiple days at a time.

Canada's temporary foreign worker program has been criticized by groups such as Amnesty International for facilitating widespread and systematic abuse of migrant workers. A January 2025 report noted "most are unable to access effective remedies for the abuses they endured."

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13. Pemba's Woman Salt Farmers Forge Livelihoods Amid Climate Woes

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/01/pembas-woman-salt-farmers-forge-livelihoods-amid-climate-woes/>

For female artisanal salt farmers in Pemba, Tanzania, salt production is both their livelihood and their struggle. In this deeply patriarchal Muslim community, the gleaming piles of white salt represent survival—a craft demanding patience, precision and grit. However, rising sea levels put their enterprise at risk.

Amid challenges, Pemba's salt farmers find strength in unity. Through local women's associations, they adopt innovations to protect their work and improve production. One such breakthrough has been the introduction of solar drying covers—transparent sheets that shield ponds from sudden downpours while concentrating heat to speed up evaporation. The association also promotes knowledge-sharing among the women. Techniques to harden soil, efficiently distribute seawater, and package salt for market are taught collectively.

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14. Strengthening Carbon Market Regulations in Kenya

<https://cleancooking.org/news/vcmi-and-clean-cooking-alliance-partner-to-strengthen-carbon-market-regulations-in-kenya/>

The Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI) and the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) announced a partnership to support financial regulators in attracting carbon finance to Kenya, with a specific focus on clean cooking projects.

Clean cooking remains one of the most under-invested development challenges in the world. Carbon finance offers a critical source of capital to fill this gap, reducing how much consumers pay for clean cooking solutions and making them more accessible to low-income families who need them the most.

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15. ‘Sex for Fish’ Abuse Malawi’s Lakeshore Communities

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/05/sex-fish-scandal-rocks-malawis-lakeshore-communities/>

Women in fishing communities in Malawi’s lakeshore districts of Nkhosha and Mangochi are frequently targets of sexual exploitation for fish, a practice commonly known as ‘sex for fish.’ A recent report by the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) has unearthed disturbing accounts of women being coerced into transactional sex to access fish from male boat owners, exposing a widespread violation of their rights.

The MHRC inquiry, which focused on fishing hubs along Lake Malawi, reveals how deeply entrenched the practice is, with minimal intervention from authorities to address the systemic abuse. According to the report, the lack of targeted policies and enforcement mechanisms within fishing communities has created an environment where women are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and left without recourse when faced with unwanted pregnancies or abuse.

The situation has seen some slight improvements recently, particularly due to the efforts of the HeForShe campaign—a global solidarity movement for gender equality that has begun to gain ground in the region.

The “sex for fish” phenomenon is not unique to Malawi. Similar cases have been reported across various parts of sub-Saharan Africa, especially around major lakes where fishing is a dominant economic activity.

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16. Land is at the heart of women’s rights in the Global South: so why no mention of it in this year’s UN political declaration?

<https://frompoverty.oxfam.org.uk/land-is-at-the-heart-of-womens-rights-in-the-global-south-so-why-no-mention-of-it-in-this-years-un-political-declaration/>

Yet that Commission on the Status of Women 2025 political declaration, marking 30 years since the landmark Beijing declaration on women’s rights, was missing something fundamental to the aspirations of rural and Indigenous women across the Global South who depend on land and natural resources for their lives and livelihoods.

Remarkably, the declaration does not mention the word “land” – this is in stark contrast to the original Beijing Declaration, which mentions land no less than 30 times.

Land has different meanings for women in the Global South and Global North. For rural and Indigenous women in the South who are fighting climate crisis, land and environmental degradation, protecting land and territories for food security and livelihoods is nothing less than essential. That is why the value women in the Global South put on the issue of land rights and territories differs from those in the Global North.

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17. Brazilian microbiologist wins 2025 World Food Prize

<https://www.devex.com/news/brazilian-microbiologist-wins-2025-world-food-prize-110058>

Mariangela Hungria, a Brazilian microbiologist, has won the 2025 World Food Prize for boosting Brazil's crop yields while reducing farmers' reliance on chemical inputs. In her more than 40-year tenure at Embrapa, the state-run Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, she has developed dozens of biological seed and soil treatments that help crops draw nutrients from soil bacteria.

Her groundbreaking innovations now power more than 40 million hectares of farmland. Her work has saved farmers up to \$25 billion annually in input costs and helped avoid over 230 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions each year, according to the World Food Prize Foundation.

Hungria's research has improved yields of wheat, maize, rice, beans — and especially soybeans, Brazil's top agricultural export. At the start of her career, in 1979, Brazil was producing 15 million tons of soybeans. This year, the harvest is expected to reach 173 million tons.

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18. Peru banned child marriage: here are three ways longitudinal research helped to make that happen

<https://frompoverty.oxfam.org.uk/peru-ban-child-marriage-young-lives/>

At the heart of our advocacy on ending child marriage has been robust longitudinal data.

Over two decades, we have gathered compelling evidence across all our study countries that shows how early marriage and becoming a parent during adolescence corresponds to significantly worse life outcomes for both young women and their children.

We have put huge effort into translating our research and making it accessible to diverse audiences, whether that's taking findings directly to policy makers and influential players; creating messages that can win media coverage; or using our findings to create our own innovative communications, such as animations.

We think that having a project that has been on the ground in Peru for over two decades, working collaboratively with our country partner GRADE (a local not-for-profit research centre), has been one of the crucial factors behind our successes, enabling us to build long-term partnerships of trust and collaboration with key government partners and policy-makers. Influencing national policies, programmes and change takes time and relationships matter, as does being in it for the long haul.

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19. Nutrition issues to watch at the 78th World Health Assembly

<https://www.devex.com/news/nutrition-issues-to-watch-at-the-78th-world-health-assembly-110050>

In Geneva, the World Health Organization's highest decision-making body will consider resolutions that would extend a plan for maternal and child nutrition and restrict digital marketing of breast milk substitutes.

WHO's initial implementation plan on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition was developed in 2012 and committed WHA member states to six global nutrition targets to be achieved by 2025.

While the targets on breastfeeding and childhood obesity are on track, according to the WHO's tracking tool, the majority of countries would not have been able to meet the targets this year. This is why several member states, led by Ireland and Ethiopia, have pushed forward a resolution for a more holistic approach to malnutrition — one that aligns with SDG 2.2 on ending malnutrition in all its forms — and to extend the deadline to 2030 to correspond with the timeline for the SDGs.

20. UN Women estimates over 28,000 women and girls killed in Gaza since October 2023

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/195639/un-women-28000-women-and-girls-gaza>

UN Women estimates that more than 28,000 women and girls have been killed in Gaza since the beginning of the war in October 2023 – that is one woman and one girl on average killed every hour in attacks by Israeli forces.

Among those killed, thousands were mothers, leaving behind devastated children, families, and communities. These figures underscore the shattering human toll of the conflict, and of lives and futures lost too soon.

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21. More than 95 percent of Gaza’s agricultural land unusable, UN warns

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/26/more-than-95-percent-of-gazas-agricultural-land-unusable-un-warns>

Less than five percent of the Gaza Strip’s cropland is able to be cultivated, according to a new geospatial assessment from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT).

The FAO described the situation as “alarming” on Monday, warning that the destruction of agricultural infrastructure amid Israel’s war on Gaza is “further deteriorating food production capacity and exacerbating the risk of famine”.

The joint assessment found that more than 80 percent of Gaza’s total cropland has been damaged, while 77.8 percent of that land is now inaccessible to farmers. Only 688 hectares (1,700 acres), or 4.6 percent of cropland, remains available for cultivation.

The destruction has extended to Gaza’s greenhouses and water sources, with 71.2 percent of greenhouses and 82.8 percent of agricultural wells also damaged.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Immune and metabolic effects of African heritage diets versus Western diets in men: a randomized controlled trial

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-025-03602-0> and <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-025-03602-0>

Abstract

African heritage diets are increasingly being replaced by Western-style dietary patterns because of urbanization, economic development, increased access to processed foods, globalization and changing social norms. The health consequences of this nutrition transition are not well understood. We conducted a randomized controlled trial in the Kilimanjaro region in Northern Tanzania to investigate the immune and metabolic effects of switching between Kilimanjaro heritage-style and Western-style diets for 2 weeks and consuming a traditional fermented banana beverage (‘Mbege’) for 1 week. Seventy-seven young and healthy volunteers assigned male at birth, some living in urban areas and some living in rural areas, were recruited in the trial. Primary outcomes were changes in the immune and metabolic profile before and after the intervention and at the 4-week follow-up. The switch from heritage-style to Western-style diet affected different metabolic pathways associated with noncommunicable diseases and promoted a pro-inflammatory state with impaired whole-blood cytokine responses to microbial stimulation. In contrast, the switch from Western-style to heritage-style diet or consuming the fermented beverage had a largely anti-inflammatory effect. Some of the observed changes in the immune and

metabolic profiles persisted at the follow-up, suggesting a sustained impact from the short-term intervention. These findings show the metabolic and immune effects of dietary transitions and the consumption of fermented beverages, underscoring the importance of preserving indigenous dietary practices to mitigate noncommunicable disease risk factors in sub-Saharan Africa. ISRCTN trial registration: [ISRCTN15619939](https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN15619939).

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2. Make Change Happen podcast- Episode 32: Gender justice: why is progress so slow?

<https://www.iied.org/gender-justice-why-progress-so-slow-make-change-happen-podcast-episode-32>

In this podcast episode, IIED senior researcher Karen Wong-Pérez talks about global progress towards gender justice and why the journey towards gender-just environmental action isn't moving quickly enough.

In our latest episode, to IIED's senior press and PR manager, Simon Cullen hosts a conversation with Karen Wong-Pérez, delving into the issue of gender equality and the environment, in the wake of Women's History Month.

As part of their conversation, Karen and Simon look back at one of the world's most groundbreaking blueprints for achieving equal rights for women and girls: the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Three decades since the declaration, its commitments are still considered unprecedented in scope. Karen and Simon discuss whether the world has made good on the declaration and explore the connections between environmental and climate justice. Karen makes clear the difference between seeking gender equality and the broader ambition of gender justice.

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3. Inspiring stories of young changemakers promoting agroecology – now in French

<https://www.accessagriculture.org/news/inspiring-stories-young-changemakers-promoting-agroecology-now-french>

We are pleased to announce that Access Agriculture's book 'Young Changemakers' published in English in 2024 is now available in French. The book is an anthology of 42 inspiring stories of young rural entrepreneurs from across Africa and India, who are breaking new ground as e-extension service providers by promoting agroecology through farmer-to-farmer learning videos.

The French version, titled 'Les jeunes acteurs du changement,' will broaden the reach and value of the content within the Francophone community, especially as several of the young changemakers featured in the book are from Francophone African countries where French is an official language or is widely spoken.

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4. Briefing Paper: The Roadmap Towards Gender Transformation in the Kampala Declaration and the CAADP Ten-Year Implementation Plan and Strategy

The Roadmap Towards Gender Transformation in the Kampala Declaration and the CAADP Ten-Year Implementation Plan and Strategy (2026-2035): Defining Africa's response metrics in the third iteration of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/the-roadmap-towards-gender-transformation-in-the-kampala-declaration-and-the-ca-621693/>

Overview

The newly launched 10-year Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) represents a crucial initiative for enhancing productivity and fostering cohesive agricultural development throughout the continent. The forthcoming results framework for this strategy will lay out the objectives to be pursued in the transformation of the agriculture sector and will serve as a strategic guidance and measurement tool for harmonizing growth in agricultural value chains across Africa. This report aims to enhance the accountability and outcomes of this results framework by ensuring that African development initiatives adequately recognize and support women’s rights and contributions. Several significant barriers currently obstruct progress in this area, including lack of gender-disaggregated data, limited engagement by women in formulating policies, women’s poor access to financial resources, and deeply entrenched cultural constraints.

Using gender-sensitive indicators, policymakers can foster targeted interventions aimed at promoting gender equality in agricultural policies. The recommendations highlighted in this document take into account the critical role of women and youth in advancing Africa’s agri-value chains. This report calls for the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035) to align with (and then measure for) the gender priorities envisioned in pan-African gender blueprints, which aim to create equitable opportunities for all genders across various sectors, including agriculture, as exemplified by the African Union’s Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. This aspiration aligns with the broader ambitions articulated in regional frameworks such as Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods in Africa.

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5. Women leading change in sustainable agriculture and market inclusion

<https://youtu.be/fPHyGJmLyAU>

Around the world, women are coming together to embrace sustainable farming practices and access high-value markets, including those that are voluntary sustainability standard (VSS)-compliant.

In this webinar, IISD featured experts working with women farmers in Voluntary Sustainability Standard (VSS)-certified value chains. They shared insights and stories about how women have collaborated to adopt sustainable practices and improve their products, helping them reach higher-value markets.

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6. Inspiring Global Citizens

<https://www.akfc.ca/resources/educators/inspiring-global-citizens/>

This four-part toolkit equips you with everything you need to teach about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global citizenship. It includes fun and interactive lesson plans, activities, extensions, videos, real-world examples, discussion guides, and printable handouts that encourage learners to think critically and creatively, linking the personal, local, and global. The toolkit supports curriculum expectations for Grade 9 to 12 learners across Canada, as well as those enrolled in an International Baccalaureate (IB) programme. We hope it inspires both you and your students to take action and help create a more peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world for all.

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7. Gender, Climate, and Reproductive Health in the U.S.

<https://wedo.org/u-s-brief-on-gender-climate-and-reproductive-health/>

WEDO is thrilled to launch a new brief on Gender, Climate, and Reproductive Health in the U.S., which includes an overview of existing literature on environment, climate, and reproductive health impacts; policy recommendations; and case studies of grassroots groups already advancing work at this intersection.

In a time when the attacks on bodily autonomy and climate justice are surging, as is the rollback of policies on environmental protections and reproductive rights, it is more critical than ever that we build a foundation for collective advocacy, organizing, and policy change on the understanding of how these issues interconnect.

While active and robust advocacy networks, research, and activists working on reproductive health and climate justice exist globally*, and at many local and state levels in the U.S., this brief seeks to add to the less robust set of national resources in the U.S. The brief focuses on the range of climate impacts across the country — wildfires, extreme heat, hurricanes, and beyond — and their specific reproductive health impacts. It also lifts up critical lessons learned from four organizations in the U.S. already driving forward work on reproductive health and climate justice, from training doulas on navigating wildfires to building climate curricula for birth workers to distributing reproductive and childcare services post-disaster.

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8. New survey shows half of women’s organizations aiding women in crises may shut down in six months due to global aid cuts

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/195383/womens-organizations-crises-global-aid-cuts>

Women-led and women’s rights organizations in humanitarian crises worldwide are at a breaking point. In the face of deepening crises and dramatic reductions in foreign assistance, these organizations—recognized as essential to humanitarian action—are at risk of being further pushed to the margins.

UN Women launched its new report, *At a Breaking Point: The Impact of Foreign Aid Cuts on Women’s Organizations in Humanitarian Crises Worldwide*. Based on the results of a rapid global survey conducted among 411 women-led and women’s rights organizations across 44 crisis contexts, the report finds that 90 per cent of surveyed organizations have been hit by funding cuts.

As vital services decrease and safe spaces disappear, the lives, protection, and rights of crisis-affected women and girls are increasingly at risk. The weakening of women-led and women’s rights organizations is not only a funding crisis, it is a crisis of accountability, equality and rights.

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9. Shaping the future of STEM, skilling and AI

<https://youtu.be/rUosooioZEw>

ODI Global Advisory, our social enterprise consulting arm, has just launched Lead Change, a bi-weekly video series showcasing bold, purposeful leadership in action.

In the premiere episode, host and Director of ODI Global Advisory Sasha Kapadia sits down with Rosita Najmi, Executive Director of Social Impact and the Micron Foundation, with a career spanning PayPal, UPS, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Mercy Corps, Omidyar Network and more.

Rosita explores novel ways to measure success in social impact work; essential traits for authentic, effective leadership; and the significance of embracing a growth mindset. She also shares her take on the looming skills shortage in the technology sector, and what leaders need to do now to prepare for the future.

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10. Daughters, mothers, grandmothers and other sexual outlaws

<https://www.mcic.ca/news/94/daughters-mothers-grandmothers-and-other-sexual-outlaws>

We often talk of “passing down” our values and cultural practices to the next generation. In truth, this sharing of knowledge, known as intergenerational knowledge, also flows up. Grandmothers talk to their daughters, but daughters also talk to their mothers and grandmothers.

The daughters, mothers, grandmothers and other sexual outlaws exhibition showcases intergenerational exchanges that are guiding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) activism. The exhibition offers a glimpse into the lives and work of feminist activists around the world. The photo exhibition features three international organizations:

- Likhaan Center for Women's Health (in the Philippines),
- Nijera Kori (in Bangladesh) and
- La Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local (in El Salvador), known as La Colectiva.

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11. Men in politics as agents of gender equitable change: gender norms and political masculinities

<https://odi.org/en/publications/men-in-politics-as-agents-of-gender-equitable-change-gender-norms-and-political-masculinities/>

Men in politics as agents of gender equitable change examines why men in politics decide to support gender equality, how they explain and frame their allyship, and how their actions are perceived by women politicians, activists and students. Drawing on evidence from three countries: Colombia, Liberia and Malaysia, this research contributes in-depth, qualitative and cross-country analysis of how gender norms are influencing decisions of men politicians to support gender equality in the Global South.

Key Messages:

- Men in politics have the potential to be agents of change for gender equality. Yet most gender equality supporters in the three case study countries refuse the feminist label and describe themselves as: allies, advocates, or supporters of feminism, gender equality and women.
- Refusal of men politicians to adopt a feminist label is a calculation that considers three interconnected factors: personal, institutional and societal – which ranges from their convictions and personal relationships, the costs and benefits of challenging norms in political parties to potential electoral repercussions.
- Ways in which men politicians enact their allyship is diverse – from being silent sympathisers to proactive developers of their own gender equality initiatives. While their political parties may differ, their activism is influenced by the extent of the alignment of their party agendas with gender equality.
- Feminist activists, women politicians and young people find it hard to identify men who are feminist politicians or those who truly care about gender equality. Such pro-equality men are perceived as too few, disconnected from the feminist movements and each other and often ‘not doing enough’ and failing to have introduced alternative political masculinities.
- Prevailing patriarchal political discourse and overall distrust of political representatives, means men politicians who support and promote gender equality are viewed with scepticism and suspicion, though activists and women politicians recognise them as necessary and potentially helpful agents of pro-equality change.

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12. How Agricultural Projects Boost Women's Empowerment

<https://scienmag.com/how-agricultural-projects-boost-womens-empowerment/>

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44264-025-00061-5>

Agricultural Initiatives and Women's Empowerment: A Comprehensive Systematic Review Unveils Transformative Impacts

In recent decades, the intersection between agriculture and gender empowerment has garnered significant academic and practical interest. A new systematic review published in npj Sustainable Agriculture offers a critical synthesis of how agricultural projects across diverse regions have contributed to women's empowerment. As the global community pushes

toward sustainable development goals, understanding the tangible impacts of such interventions is essential, especially given the pivotal role women play in food production, rural economies, and community wellbeing.

Women’s participation in agriculture is not merely about labor input; it encompasses decision-making authority, access to productive resources, control over income, and the ability to influence agricultural policy. The systematic review foregrounds these critical dimensions in examining empowerment outcomes. One of the central findings is that empowerment manifests multidimensionally, requiring intervention designs that consider social norms, intra-household dynamics, and economic structures concurrently. Projects that adopt holistic approaches rather than isolated technical interventions tend to achieve deeper, more sustained changes in women’s social and economic status.

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13. A decision-maker’s guide to gender equality, youth, and social inclusion

<https://www.cgiar.org/flagshipreport2025/gender/>

Creating inclusive and resilient food systems requires tackling the social and political barriers that prevent women, youth, and marginalized communities from fully participating.

CGIAR’s inaugural flagship report, *Insight to Impact: A decision-maker’s guide to navigating food system science*, has dedicated a chapter to gender equality, youth, and social inclusion. It offers:

- Recommendations for policy- and decision-makers
- Practical tools
- Ready-to-use solutions
- A doorway to experts

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