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GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009



Sunflower [*Helianthus annuus*]. 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.

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Opportunities and Coming Events

1. Baseline Study Training

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/baseline-study-training-formation-sur-les-enquetes-de-reference-tickets-1488857736569>

Join the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation and Spur Change for a Baseline Study Training. The goal of this two-day, online workshop is to build participants' knowledge of and capacity to plan and conduct a baseline study including qualitative and quantitative data collection methods that incorporate gender sensitive approaches and indicators.

Online | August 20 & 27, 2025. Organizations that meet Global Affairs Canada's criteria as an eligible small or medium organization (SMO) working in the international cooperation sector will be given preference over other organizations.

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2. Let's Chat: Gender Equity

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lets-chat-gender-equity-parlons-en-lequite-des-genres-registration-1497494800259>

Join Spur Change and fellow small and medium organizations for a two-part webinar series on promoting gender equity through intersectional approaches. Learn from organizations on how they've been promoting gender equity through engaging men and boys as well as through climate justice and resilience projects. Come, listen, chat, and ask questions! Discover new approaches from your peers in the sector.

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3. Manitoba Women in Agriculture & Food- Fall Summit

<https://mwaf.ca/services/mwaf-2025-summit/>

Our high-profile speakers bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge across different areas of the agri-food sector. They will discuss their own experiences in agriculture, the many roles that women occupy in the sector, and the challenges that they face. Join them and be a part of the discussion about how we can work together to solve some of the challenges, encourage more women leaders, and expand the opportunities for women at all levels of agriculture and food to access meaningful roles and career paths. **October 9, Winnipeg, Manitoba.**

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4. International Conference on Water, Peace and Security 2025

<https://waterpeacesecurity.org/info/International-Conference-on-Water-Peace-and-Security-2025-Water-as-a-catalyst-for-peace-and-cooperation>

The International Conference on Water, Peace, and Security will bring together governments, international organizations, researchers, civil society, and key stakeholders to explore the critical role of water as a catalyst for peace and cooperation.

Participants will examine the challenges posed by water insecurity, including conflicts triggered by water scarcity, pollution, and mismanagement. The conference will also spotlight innovative strategies, tools, and policies that can transform these challenges into pathways for sustainable peace and development.

One of the themes: Agency of marginalized groups in water, peace and security: Amplifying the role of underrepresented groups (women, youth, indigenous) in water governance and peacebuilding.

27-28 October 2025 - Hybrid (Nairobi, Kenya & online)

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5. Journal Submission: Community-led responses to urban/ peri-urban land conflict

<https://www.environmentandurbanization.org/themes-future-issues>

The journal - Environment and Urbanization – is seeking submissions for an upcoming theme issue. Deadline for submissions: **15th January 2026** for complete submissions; expressions of interest welcomed any time before **17th November 2025**. We invite submissions responding to questions that include:

- What types of land conflict do communities experience related to real estate development, access to housing and infrastructure, rural–urban migration, vulnerabilities along ethnic or religious lines, gender differences, challenges of inheritance or renting, among others?
- How are they prevented, handled or resolved in specific contexts and by whom? In particular, how are local communities involved in these responses?
- What type of outcomes do these conflicts and responses generate for the local community and specific groups?
- Where could governments direct their policy focus? To what extent could they build upon or learn from existing community-led mechanisms of land conflict arbitration in given contexts?

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6. Advancing Women Conference – Eastern Canada 2025

<https://advancingwomenconference.ca/2025east/registration/>

November 23,24,25, 2025 - Niagara Falls, ON. Let's re-new relationships and network with others who are passionate about agriculture and food. Here are five compelling reasons why you should attend the national Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference (#AWCEAST2025) in Niagara Falls:

1. Empowering Leadership & Soft-Skills Development
2. High-Value Networking Opportunities
3. Inspirational Keynotes & Real-World Role Models
4. Practical Workshops & Skill-Building
5. Well-Being, Balance & Self-Care Focus

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7. Women Deliver 2026 Conference

<https://womendeliver.org/wd2026/>

The journey to the Women Deliver 2026 Conference (WD2026) has begun. From **27–30 April 2026**, the Women Deliver Conference will be regionally hosted for the first time — by the Oceanic Pacific — in **Narm (Melbourne), Australia**, on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples of the Kulin Nation. Explore the newly launched website to register, apply for exhibition space, support the movement, and help shape what comes next.

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This Month's News

1. Scientists warn US will lose a generation of talent because of Trump cuts

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jul/03/national-science-foundation-trump-cuts>

A generation of scientific talent is at the brink of being lost to overseas competitors by the Trump administration's dismantling of the National Science Foundation (NSF), with unprecedented political interference at the agency jeopardizing the future of US industries and economic growth, according to a Guardian investigation.

Research aimed at addressing the unequal impact of the climate crisis and other environmental hazards is particularly vulnerable, according to several sources. New proposals are also being screened for any direct reference or indirect connection to diversity, equity or inclusion (DEI).

"NSF is being asked to make science racist again – which contradicts evidence that shows that diversity of ideas is good for science and good for innovation. We are missing things when only white males do science," said one program officer.

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2. Women land rights defenders connect across continents

<https://www.iied.org/women-land-rights-defenders-connect-across-continents>

Across Africa and Latin America, women don't have equal rights to land. During the Global Land Forum, IIED brought together women land rights defenders from Kenya, Uganda, Peru and Colombia to share their strategies and explore synergies for collaboration.

Partners discussed the centrality of tenure security to women's identity, livelihoods and wellbeing – and the many barriers they face in claiming and defending it.

Participants also emphasised the importance of achieving formal acknowledgement of equitable tenure rights in national and international policies and frameworks – especially those related to climate action, development planning and land governance.

Participants also discussed the importance of highlighting women’s land rights at key international meetings on climate and biodiversity.

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3. Gender-Discriminatory Nationality Laws are Fueling Poverty & Violence Against Women

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/07/gender-discriminatory-nationality-laws-are-fueling-poverty-violence-against-women/>

Around a quarter of countries still have nationality laws that deny women the same rights as men to acquire, retain, or change their citizenship, or to pass citizenship onto their children or foreign spouses. These legal inequalities expose women and their families to a wide range of harms. From forced family separation and statelessness to limiting access to education, healthcare, and employment, the consequences are severe and far-reaching.

A new publication, “Proposed Select Draft Articles on Nationality Rights to Ensure Gender Equality,” by Equality Now and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights (GCENR), provides model guidelines for policymakers to reform and enact nationality laws that ensure all citizens, regardless of their gender, have access to equal citizenship rights.

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4. Women aren’t 14 times more likely to die in disasters – inequality is the real killer

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2025/05/29/women-arent-14-times-more-likely-to-die-in-disasters-inequality-is-the-real-killer/>

The real story about gender and climate-related disasters is both more complicated – and more urgent. And it must be told in a credible way that highlights the social, economic, and cultural factors that can be changed.

The “14 times more likely” figure has served as a wake-up call for many. But clinging to it now risks undermining our credibility. It flattens a complex story. It turns women into passive victims instead of agents of change. And it distracts from the real question:

- Not “Are women 14 times more likely to die?”
- But “What structures are putting certain people in our communities at greater risk – and how do we dismantle them?”

Because when we ask that question – when we analyze the patterns and understand the context – we save lives.

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5. Global climate finance leaders unite in London to "supercharge" climate resilience finance

<https://www.iied.org/global-climate-finance-leaders-unite-london-supercharge-climate-resilience-finance>

Climate finance leaders from six continents gathered at the 2025 London Climate Resilience Finance Summit, joining heads of state, senior government ministers, finance and business leaders, and civil society to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

Read the article for the key messages, including that diversity and inclusion are critical. This longread by IIED executive director Tom Mitchell sets out to rewrite the rules on how climate adaptation and resilience are supported in the most exposed and vulnerable communities.

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6. Opinion: What we feed our children can fix our planet

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-what-we-feed-our-children-can-fix-our-planet-110545>

School meals are one of the most powerful safety nets we have for child health and education; they are also an untapped lever for transforming our food systems if they are designed with a twin emphasis on farmers and on the children who eat the food they grow.

As leaders arrive in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, next week for the U.N. Food Systems Summit Stocktaking moment, we need to direct focus toward effective policies that link incentives for farmers to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices to school meal programs.

By shifting procurement to incentivize these components, governments can create jobs and advance on climate commitments while fulfilling policy commitments to support agricultural producers and boost nutrition for the next generation.

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7. More than 100 NGOs have made an urgent plea to allow lifesaving aid into Gaza

<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/mass-starvation-spreads-across-gaza-more-100-ngos-make-urgent-plea-allow-life-saving-aid>

Save the Children reports: As the Israeli government's siege starves the people of Gaza, aid workers are now joining the same food lines, risking being shot just to feed their families. With supplies now totally depleted, humanitarian organisations are witnessing their own colleagues and partners waste away before their eyes. Doctors report record rates of acute malnutrition, especially among children and older people. Illnesses like acute watery diarrhoea are spreading, markets are empty, waste is piling up, and adults are collapsing on the streets from hunger and dehydration.

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8. UN calls for urgent action as Sudan crisis worsens

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/197645/un-hunger-disease-and-displacement-surge-in-sudan-as-crisis-deepens>

Conditions are especially grim in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, where families are running out of food and clean water and local markets are barely functioning. UN officials say nearly 40% of young children in the city are suffering from acute malnutrition, with more than one in ten facing the most severe form.

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9. Canadian Citizens Urge Government to Recognize Gender Apartheid as a Crime Against Humanity

<https://righttolearn.ca/canada-must-stand-against-gender-apartheid/>

Right to Learn Afghanistan (formerly Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan), in collaboration with its chapters of concerned citizens across Canada, has submitted a petition to the Government of Canada calling for decisive action to

address gender apartheid in Afghanistan. The petition urges the government to take a strong international stance against the Taliban’s systematic oppression of women and girls by recognizing gender apartheid as a crime against humanity.

The petition is endorsed by Elizabeth May, MP for Saanich — Gulf Islands, B.C., who presented the petition to Parliament on June 16, 2025.

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10. Inside Indonesia’s plan to feed 83 million people for free

<https://www.devex.com/news/inside-indonesia-s-plan-to-feed-83-million-people-for-free-110379>

In January, Indonesia launched an initiative to feed 82.9 million children and pregnant women by 2029 — an ambitious plan for the world’s fourth most populous nation, and one closely watched by other countries hoping to implement their own free meal programs. The majority of the 82.9 million targeted beneficiaries are school children.

Some 5,000 central kitchens and 726 nutritional fulfillment service units have been set up alongside partnerships with local businesses that can supply “climate-smart” local protein, vegetables, and rice.

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11. How Nature-based Solutions Can Help Address Climate Change Impacts on Senegalese Women

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/explainer/climate-change-impacts-women-senegal-nature-based-solutions>

Senegal’s mangrove forests have been severely depleted, with devastating consequences: vanishing fish habitats, entire villages being washed away by floods, and women losing their main source of income. How can nature-based solutions address all these challenges at once?

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12. Reimagining the River: How art can help us adapt to climate change

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/suncasa-art-adaptation-climate-change-johannesburg-jukskei-river>

<https://www.iisd.org/articles/news/suncasa-turning-trash-treasures-along-jukskei-river-johannesburg>

This story is not just about climate adaptation or sustainability, but about a township called Alexandra, nestled on the banks of the Jukskei River in Johannesburg, where 1.2 million people live at the frontline of the climate crisis. A story about art, about women, about reclaiming dignity—and about the river that holds it all together.

A reimagined river corridor—a “Green Corridor” that’s alive with culture, nature, and public space blossomed into the River Creature Series. Local artists have turned waste carried by the Jukskei River into thought-provoking sculptures and litter traps to tackle flooding and pollution in the region.

The KULA Marolen Foundation, based in Alexandra trains local women to weave recyclable materials into the litter traps. For too long, women—especially in places like Alexandra—have been left out of the picture when it comes to innovation. KULA flips the script. They’ve turned waste into wages. They’ve made green jobs a reality. They’ve woven dignity into every fibre of those traps.

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13. Meet Kerala's 'rainforest gardeners' creating a Noah's ark for endangered plants

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jul/01/kerala-india-rainforest-biodiversity-restoration-nature-gardeners-gurukula-western-ghats>

At the Gurukula botanical sanctuary, every plant is considered precious, and an all-female team strives to give them the best chance of surviving an increasingly harsh climate. Situated at the edge of Periya reserve forest in northern Kerala, the collectively owned private sanctuary was founded in 1981 by Wolfgang Theuerkauf a German from Berlin who later became an Indian citizen.

More than four decades later, the sanctuary has grown to 32 hectares and has also become a haven for more than 2,000 native plant species from southern India and particularly from the Western Ghats, a mountain chain recognised by UNESCO as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biodiversity.

Theuerkauf died in 2014, but he trained and mentored a number of women who have now become custodians of the sanctuary and its thousands of plants. A team of 20 women, mostly local people with some from Indigenous communities, look after the plants in the nursery and the garden.

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14. Forgotten 'weeds' prove a culinary hit in Kenya

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjdzm88l8y0o>

Once dismissed as wild weeds and a "poor man's food", indigenous leafy vegetables in Kenya are now becoming much more common - grown on farms, sold in markets and gracing the menus of restaurants. According to horticulture professor Mary Abukutsa-Onyango, this trend is reflected in government data and some of the health benefits are backed by research. Over the last 10 years, production of local greens has doubled - with 300,000 tonnes produced by local farmers last year, she says.

It is a remarkable change in attitudes, given people used to look down on traditional crops as inferior - not realising they were often more resistant to diseases and pests, meaning they can be grown organically. She says managu and other local vegetables like "mrenda" (jute mallow) and "terere" (amaranth) have more essential minerals than sukumawiki, as well as "higher levels of vitamin A and C [and] antioxidants" that boost immunity and reduce the risk of disease.

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15. This woman's Depression Era Garden is full of plants you've probably never heard of

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/depression-era-garden-london-ontario-1.7577639>

In a small London, Ont., neighbourhood garden, some veggies from a bygone era are growing, and the woman who planted them hopes they can make a comeback to help with food insecurity. Her plants are the result of much research on what was grown in a time when many Canadians went hungry. Those include vegetables with a long shelf life, like the Danish ball-head cabbage. Leafy greens, like Good-King-Henry, were common, according to Anne Marie Allen. Perennial root vegetables like earth chestnuts and skirrets were also popular, she said, and very easy to preserve.

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16. Top countries by Internet access

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/197817/top-countries-by-internet-access>

The global internet landscape is showing remarkable progress, with the number of internet users growing from under 40% of global population in 2015 to over 67% in 2025. The article does not provide a gender analysis.

The latest information indicates that around 5.5 billion people (or 68% of the over 8 billion global population) have access to the internet. Experts forecast that this figure will continue to increase and reach 7.9 billion by the end of the decade, when around 8.5 billion people will inhabit planet Earth.

Which countries enjoy the fastest data access speed? Which nations have built high-performance networks to allow the highest internet adoption and penetration levels? And how cheap and affordable is access to the internet around the world? Here is our latest article on this subject.

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17. Learning Essential Business Tools Brings Financial Stability for Women In Togo

<https://www.catalysteplus.org/our-impact/impact-stories/learning-essential-business-tools-brings-financial-stability-for-women-in-togo/>

Programme d'Appui à la Femme et à l'Enfance Déshéritée (PAFED) is a non-government organization improving the living conditions of children, young people, and women in rural and urban areas of Togo. PAFED gives people access to quality education, healthcare, and financial independence through awareness-raising, capacity building, and established partnerships.

Faced with financial challenges and struggles to create proposals and apply for funding, PAFED sought support to strengthen its project development techniques. With guidance from Catalyste+ Advisor (CA), Komla Célestin Tallaki, PAFED's staff participated in multiple hands-on workshops, gaining essential new skills and submitting several proposals.

Through Célestin's support, PAFED was able to gain two new funders—Commune de Nuremberg and Ambassade de France au Togo—that helped them raise awareness among women's groups about the importance of their participation in decision-making bodies and inheritance rights.

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18. University of Manitoba honours agricultural leaders with 2025 Certificate of Merit

<https://news.umanitoba.ca/university-of-manitoba-honours-agricultural-leaders-with-2025-certificate-of-merit/>

The University of Manitoba's Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences celebrated the 45th anniversary of its Certificate of Merit by recognizing three outstanding alumni for their exceptional contributions to Manitoba's agricultural sector and rural communities.

Since its inception in 1981, the Certificate of Merit has honoured over 95 individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in agriculture, agri-food, and community service. This year's recipients — Cathey Day, Fred Greig, and Kim McConnell — were celebrated at a special ceremony on June 19 for their lasting impact on the province's farm and food landscape.

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19. IFAD: Rural development must be G20 prior

<https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/198318/ifad-urges-g20-to-invest-in-rural-communities-for-global-development-gains>

As the G20 gathers for high-level development talks, Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is urging member countries not to overlook rural communities—where 80 percent of the world’s poorest people live. Ahead of the G20 Development Working Group Ministerial, Lario stressed the need for direct investment in rural jobs, food systems, and small farms, according to the statement.

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20. Backlash on gender and climate commitments: losing ground at Bonn and the G7

<https://odi.org/en/insights/backlash-on-gender-and-climate-commitments-losing-ground-at-bonn-and-the-g7>

Last month, both the G7 Summit and UN climate negotiations in Bonn fell short of reaffirming strong commitments on gender equality and climate ambition, echoing a broader erosion of gender norms and a resurgence of delay tactics stalling urgently needed climate progress. Leaders must stand by past commitments and make progress on expected actions – like adopting a new Gender Action Plan at COP30.

In advance of COP30 and the G20 summit in November, our focus will be on both understanding how anti-feminist and climate-delaying forces are converging at national and international levels, and how to support those committed to progress in this new era of international relations with data.

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21. How the UK-India trade deal shapes women’s economic empowerment

<https://odi.org/en/insights/how-the-uk-india-trade-deal-shapes-womens-economic-empowerment/>

When leaders sign historic trade deals, do they truly consider the women impacted on the ground? As the landmark UK-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was formally signed by UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 July 2025, its ambitious preamble states a commitment to "increasing women’s access to and ability to fully benefit from the opportunities created by this Agreement, including with respect to women from rural areas, marginalised communities, and economically vulnerable backgrounds."

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22. Canada’s Secretary of State Sarai concludes successful visit to Ethiopia and Tanzania

<https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2025/07/secretary-of-state-sarai-concludes-successful-visit-to-ethiopia-and-tanzania-and-participation-in-g20-development-ministers-meeting-in-south-africa.html>

The Honourable Randeep Sarai, Secretary of State (International Development), recently concluded a visit to Ethiopia and Tanzania, from July 17 to 23, 2025. This new funding will support youths—particularly young women—through skills development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) :

- BLOOM Africa is a \$20-million project in partnership with World Vision Canada. This project aims to improve the economic empowerment of 25,200 marginalized youths—including 15,120 adolescent girls and young women—in Rwanda, Somalia and Tanzania by providing TVET.
- Increasing Economic Opportunities for Youth in Uganda and Tanzania is a \$5-million project in partnership with FINCA Canada. This project aims to increase economic opportunities for youths through skills development, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship and will reach 41,000 young people in Tanzania and Uganda, with a particular focus on marginalized young women.

Together, these projects will benefit more than 66,000 young people across Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda, helping them build sustainable livelihoods in the green and digital economies.

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23. Intersectional Feminist Leadership Needed to Realise Global Goals

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2025/07/intersectional-feminist-leadership-needed-to-realise-global-goals/>

In its 80-year history the UN has never once been led by a woman. As the international community convenes for the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) to review progress on gender equality and other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this remains a fundamental hypocrisy at the heart of global governance. How can an institution that has systematically excluded women from its highest office credibly champion gender justice worldwide?

With the various SDGs under review this year – goal 3 (health), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work), 14 (life below water) and 17 (partnerships) – there’s a widening gap between the UN’s pledge to seek ‘evidence-based solutions’ to ‘leave no one behind’ and the lived reality of women, girls and excluded communities worldwide. Despite decades of rhetoric on inclusion, these groups remain systemically marginalised from meaningful power and access to decision-making.

This contradiction between rhetoric and reality reflects a deeper power imbalance across the world that undermines the credibility and the effectiveness of efforts to address pressing global challenges.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. Policy brief “Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy”

https://esmap.org/events/PolicyBrief_GenderIndicatorsForSustainableEnergy_HLPF_2025

The organizers hosted a side event at the HLPF 2025 to mark the official launch of the “Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy - A Call to Action” Policy Brief, advocating for gender indicators as a fundament for an inclusive, just, and effective energy transition. The session brought together Member States and intergovernmental representatives, gender experts, civil society, and other key stakeholders to mobilize support, drive transformative policy actions, and strengthen commitments to accelerate gender equality in the energy sector.

Speakers highlighted that achieving inclusive energy systems requires united action through shared accountability frameworks, cross-border partnerships, and integrating gender targets into all energy policies and investments, emphasized that collecting gender-disaggregated data is crucial to design inclusive policies, and demonstrated that women's participation drives sector success, as engaging women as workers, leaders, and entrepreneurs enhances innovation, economic performance, and just energy access.

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2. Building towards a collective feminist agenda on economic and climate justice, rooted in the MENA region

<https://www.rabat.wedo.org/>

In May 2025, global feminists convened in Rabat, Morocco, and generated the Rabat Roadmap as a basis for collective advocacy, guided by the knowledge of feminists from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the global South more broadly.

This virtual side event to the Fourth Conference on Financing for Development presented the Rabat Roadmap in the context of the current geopolitical context of increasing militarism, fascism, and anti-rights narratives and policies, as well as the continued erosion of multilateralism.

Scroll down the page for downloadable briefs: A Blueprint for Feminist Economic Justice; A Feminist Decolonial Global Green New Deal; Policy Demands of the Feminist Action Nexus; 2024 Critical Trends on Feminist Economic and Climate Justice; Beyond Extractivism: Toward a Feminist and Just Economic Transition in Morocco and Egypt.

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3. Playbook for the design and implementation of food systems-focused accelerator programs in Africa

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/publications/playbook-design-and-implementation-food-systems-focused-accelerator-programs-africa>

Abstract

Africa's food systems face the dual challenge of addressing climate change and feeding a rapidly growing population. Small-scale farmers, pivotal to African agriculture, struggle with limited access to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and climate information services (CIS). Agribusinesses can bridge this gap by bundling CSA solutions with products and services, leveraging their networks to scale innovations. This playbook offers a comprehensive framework for designing climate-smart accelerators, emphasizing market alignment, financial sustainability, and capacity building. By fostering innovation and investment, the playbook aims to transform Africa's food systems into resilient, sustainable, and equitable ecosystems capable of meeting future demands.

What's inside:

- A modular roadmap for running food system-focused accelerators
- Tools for investor engagement and innovation packaging
- Lessons on investment readiness, impact measurement, and gender equality
- Insights on scaling support in fragile or underdeveloped value chains.

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4. Kenyan women's cooperative uses agricultural innovations to improve food security, income and resilience

<https://aiccra.cgiar.org/news/womens-cooperative-makueni-county-use-agricultural-innovations-improve-food-security-income>

In the heart of Makueni County in Makindu, Kenya, the Kimatwa Women Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) is making remarkable strides in agricultural innovation and community empowerment around climate-smart agriculture. Supported by AICCRA, this group of dedicated women is transforming their farming practices and expanding their reach through a home-grown model that goes beyond traditional demonstrations and training sessions to 'Climate-Smart Production Farms' and aims for large production volumes in lucrative cereal and legume markets.

During a recent field visit, the women showcased how they've been using various climate-smart technologies and shared their experiences, including incorporating indigenous knowledge of weather prediction into their decision making, for example, to determine planting seasons. They also discussed the best tools for farming and demonstrated their commitment to safe and nutritious food production.

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5. Fathers Who Care

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

Join the global campaign to create a world where caregiving is valued and shared by all. Join our community to stand in solidarity with mothers and fathers in STEMM across the world and help us to advocate for equity and inclusion of caregivers.

Care work remains invisible, undervalued, and mostly carried by women. But many men are quietly challenging the norm, sharing the load and showing up fully for their families. We invite these men to model equitable caregiving and raise their voices for gender equality. Together, we can build a fairer, more equal tomorrow. *Explore the Toolkit.*

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6. Governance Enhancement Tactics — Self-Evaluation Tool

<https://www.iied.org/22653iied>

Effective internal governance is crucial for organisational success, yet many organisations still struggle with implementing strong governance practices. A recent global survey conducted by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) across six countries (Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Vietnam and Zambia) identified internal governance as a key knowledge gap among 41 forest and farm producer organisations (FFPOs).

The Governance Enhancement Tactics — Self-Evaluation Tool (GET-SET), presented in this publication, aims to stimulate structured reflection by managers and staff of FFPOs on how to improve their current internal governance structures, systems and practices, based on insights from leading FFPOs and other internal governance experts. Using the GET-SET tool, FFPOs will move from identifying their internal governance challenges towards finding solutions.

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7. Improving Healthcare Access: How Elucid is Strengthening Farming Communities

<https://60decibels.com/insights/elucid-healthcare/>

What does it take to close healthcare gaps in rural supply chains? We partnered with Elucid to find out. Interviews with program participants across farming communities revealed better health outcomes, more inclusive access, especially for women, and clear takeaways to improve delivery.

The Inclusivity Ratio validated that we're reaching the group we set out to reach, low-income households, and confirmed the gender lens in our programs, more women were using our services, which reflects our program design. (We also see this when we talk to the beneficiaries, so it was good to have an official metric to show this.)

We have specific programs that target women more than men, because we often see, especially in our baseline assessments, that women face greater access barriers, both financially and geographically. Many are responsible for household duties and may not have the time or decision-making power to travel for care. So we cover the full cost of maternal care, including antenatal visits, facility births, C-sections, and related needs.

We also run women-specific sensitization sessions focused on household decision-making, helping women navigate conversations with spouses, and encouraging care-seeking even when male doctors are involved. The 60 Decibels data helped us understand the end results of these programs, which has been incredibly valuable.

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8. Strengthening aid integrity against anti-gender actors: A tool to support bilateral and multilateral ODA donors' due diligence processes

<https://odi.org/en/publications/strengthening-aid-integrity-against-anti-gender-actors-a-tool-to-support-bilateral-and-multilateral-oda-donors-due-diligence-processes/>

In a context of shrinking ODA budgets and increasingly well-funded, coordinated and transnational anti-gender movements, how can foreign aid donors improve due diligence processes and reduce the risk of inadvertently funding actors undermining gender equality?

Against the backdrop of increasingly professionalised anti-gender actors, this new tool has been developed to support ODA donors, as well as their implementing agencies and partners, in enhancing their due diligence efforts. It aims to equip stakeholders with a clearer understanding of how anti-gender movements operate and to help them recognise early warning signs that may warrant further investigation. The tool offers concrete examples of activities targeting the rights of women and LGBTQI+ individuals, a compilation of anti-gender networks, spaces and funders as mapped out in the literature, and due diligence best practices.

A briefing paper and infographic are available at the link.

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9. Theatre: She Won't Come in from the Fields

<https://www.manitobaorganics.com/post/she-wont-come-in-from-the-fields>

This is a 30-minute one woman play and discussion that has toured across Canada. A feisty farm woman is fed up with the conventional way her son is farming the family land. That's why she's staging a one-woman protest, chaining herself to a fence post, refusing to come in from the fields until he agrees to try farming regeneratively. In the process, it hits home to both of them that working together is the best way to regenerate their farm and help reverse climate change.

Written and performed by Dale Colleen Hamilton. Dale has been writing and producing theatre for over forty years and comes from a 6-generations-deep farm family in southwestern Ontario. In the 1990s she was elected to Eramosa Township Council and appointed to the provincial Farm Products Appeal Tribunal. She is a member of Farmers for Climate Change and the Ecological Farmers' Association of Ontario and has a master's in environmental studies from York University, where she focussed her research on regenerative farming. She has performed this show in fringe venues and in Glasgow, Scotland at the COP 26 UN Climate Change Summit. Performed in **Winnipeg on July 26.**

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