November 1, 2026



Traditional fabric quilts on display outdoors. Photo courtesy of D. Ceplis.

GEM Digest of the Month

Published monthly since December 2009

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. Gender & Global Climate Policy: What the data tells us and how to use it

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/57355WgERBuZoEk_yRco4A#/registration

Join WEDO for an interactive introduction to the redesigned Gender Climate Tracker and explore the data, tools, and analysis available to support more informed, accountable, and gender-just climate action. **Oct 29, 2026 07:00 AM Central Time.**

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2. Gender-Lens Investing After the Backlash: Who Gets Funded Now

https://www.devex.com/events/gender-lens-investing-after-the-backlash-who-gets-funded-now-331?

Since 2018, development finance institutions have committed billions to businesses that benefit women through the 2X Challenge, a shared target with common criteria for what counts as a gender-lens investment. But the political backlash has pushed some investors to pull back or rebrand the work. For fund managers, consultants, and NGOs, the question is where this capital is still flowing and how to reach it. One clear answer comes from British International Investment, whose new strategy raises its gender target to 30% of new core investments. **Mon, 2 Nov 2026 | Online. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM CST**

What you will learn:

- Which investors are stepping back from gender-lens investing in 2026, and who is filling the gap
- What BII's 30% target means in practice: the split between funds and direct deals, and the sectors and countries it favors
- What it takes to qualify under 2X criteria, and why being "aligned" is not the same as being certified
- How gender gets built into climate and infrastructure deals, and where consultants and NGOs come in

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3. Call for Authors for the State of Rural Canada 2027

https://sorc.crrf.ca/

The theme for the 2027 State of Rural Canada is Readiness and Resilience in Rural Canada. As Canada navigates a period of political, economic, social, and environmental change, the ability of rural communities to anticipate challenges, adapt, and respond is increasingly important. The State of Rural Canada 2027 will explore how rural communities are preparing for change, responding to disruption, building on their strengths, and shaping resilient rural futures.

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Fondation canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale (CRRF/FCRR) invites researchers and practitioners from across Canada to contribute a chapter that brings forward research, practical experience, community perspectives, emerging ideas, or lessons learned related to readiness and resilience in rural Canada.

See previous editions on the SORC website: The State of Rural Canada. Interested in contributing? Contact us at: crrf-fcrr@live.com. The anticipated timeline is: **Fall 2026: Call for Authors; Winter 2026: Abstract Deadline**.

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4. Women and inclusive trade in a changing global economy

https://odi.org/en/events/women-and-inclusive-trade-in-a-changing-global-economy/

Against a backdrop of geopolitical realignments, supply chain restructuring, green industrial strategies and rapid digital transformation, the global trading architecture is undergoing structural change. While trade has the potential to significantly expand economic opportunities for women, these disruptions carry profound and distinct gendered consequences – from shifting tariff regimes and value-chain reconfigurations to climate-related trade measures and digital market access. **November 4.** Across four dedicated sessions, discussions will examine:

- Tariffs, trade diversification and regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Global value chain (GVC) reconfiguration and gendered labour outcomes
- Overcoming persistent constraints to women's entrepreneurship and trade facilitation
- Climate transition, industrial policy and sustainable trade systems

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5. Understanding What's Next for Canadian International Assistance: Aid Trends Report Launch

https://cooperationca.glueup.com/event/2025-aid-trends-report-launch-lancement-du-rapport-tendances-de-l-aide-2025-194660/

How is Canada's approach to international assistance evolving, and what might those shifts mean for organizations working across the sector? The upcoming launch of the 2025 Canadian Aid Trends Report will provide us with timely analysis of the latest official development assistance data and examine emerging shifts that could shape Canada's international cooperation priorities in the years ahead.

More than a presentation of data, the webinar will explore what these trends mean in practice. Participants will hear key findings from the report, reflect on their implications for policy and programming, and engage in a discussion with representatives from civil society and government. Join us on **November 12** and be part of the conversation.

Whether you work in the international cooperation sector, government, academia, policy, advocacy, or simply have an interest in Canada's global engagement, this webinar will provide valuable insights into the current state and future direction of Canadian aid.

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6. Science Teachers of Ontario Conference

https://stao.ca/stao2026-steam-driven/

Learn how you can bring hands on and accessible STEM learning to your classroom. **Richmond Hill, ON. Nov 12-13.** Featuring:

- Careers in STEM/ Skilled Trades Focus: Hands-on workshops and panels focused on careers/ Trades in STEM delivered with Skills Ontario, Let's Talk Science, Honour the Work, and Ontario colleges.
- Dedicated Kindergarten Day (Nov 12): Practical strategies supporting the new Kindergarten curriculum through inquiry and play.
- Keynote Speakers: Nobel Laureate Dr. Donna Strickland (Nobel Laureate 2018) and Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai (Accessibility & Equity in STEM).
- Networking: Dedicated networking time for educators to connect and learn from colleagues across all divisions.

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7. VIDEO CHALLENGE FOR CREATIVES: Unpacking Agrifood Innovation

https://www.fao.org/innovation-policies-capacities/projects/innovation-video-challenge/en

What does innovation really mean — and what does it take to make it happen? Your challenge is to take an idea related to agrifood innovation and bring it to life through a short, engaging and thought-provoking video.

We are looking for creative ways to unpack how innovation works, what enables it, what challenges conventional thinking and how different approaches can contribute to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

At the heart of the challenge are the five types of innovation identified in the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy: technological, social, policy, institutional and financial innovation. Please send your proposal by **30 November 2026**.

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8. IDRC invites applications for the John G. Bene Fellowship 2026

https://idrc-crdi.ca/en/idrc-invites-applications-john-g-bene-fellowship-2026

Applications are now open for the John G. Bene Fellowship: **Strengthening Inclusive Community-Led Nature-Based Solutions for Forest Restoration and Food System Transformation.**

The fellowship aims to facilitate practical field research on gender-responsive integrated forest, landscape and food systems restoration and management including within fire-prone, degraded or disputed landscapes. Linking the broader climate-food-inclusivity nexus, it emphasizes nature-based solutions and approaches that have the potential to drive transformative change for smallholder farmers, including youth, women, and Indigenous communities in developing countries.

This call for funding is open to Canadians and permanent residents of Canada pursuing master's or doctoral studies at a Canadian university. The award under this call will cover costs of field research conducted for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation in one or more countries of the Global South.

Up to ten awards of a maximum of CA$30,000 are available. The application deadline is **November 30, 2026**, at 23h:59 (EST).

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9. Online Course on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in National Adaptation Plan Processes

https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/online-course-gesi-nap-processes/

Climate change doesn't affect everyone equally, yet national adaptation plans (NAPs) are often outlined as if it did.

While most countries' NAPs identify women as particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, less than half of the documents submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change position them as agents of change in adaptation processes. There is also limited mention of the differential impacts that climate change has on people of various ages, genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, classes, and other social groups.

These figures reveal a stark reality: decision-making remains unequal—especially in the face of climate change. But how to shift this trajectory and foster a more inclusive and gender-responsive NAP process in your own country?

The NAP Global Network's **self-paced online course** will help you strengthen your own work by unpacking how gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) components are integrated in the NAP process.

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10. Controlled Environment Agriculture Growth Pathway Program

https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/programs/controlled-environment-agriculture-growth-pathway

Government of Canada is now accepting applications for the Controlled Environment Agriculture Growth Pathway Program. Funding is available to help producers adopt new technologies to automate their indoor farms and expand production across Canada. Rural and northern communities will also be able to bring food production closer to home for year-round access to affordable fresh fruit and vegetables.

Interested parties have until noon EST on **December 23, 2026,** to submit a Project Summary Form.

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This Month's News

1. Government of Canada invests $750 million in domestic year-round food production to improve access to fruits and vegetables

https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2026/10/government-of-canada-invests-750-million-in-domestic-year-round-food-production-to-improve-access-to-fruits-and-vegetables.html

Canada's short growing season limits our ability to produce enough fruits and vegetables to meet year-round demand. That is why, as part of the recently announced $3.2-billion National Food Security Strategy, the Government of Canada is supporting innovation that helps Canadian producers increase productivity, reduce reliance on imports, and provide Canadians with consistent access to fresh, affordable, and high-quality food.

On October 30, the Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, announced the launch of the $750-million Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Growth Pathway Program. Funding will be available through two streams:

- CEA Technology Adoption Stream ($650 million): supports producers in adopting, expanding, and modernizing CEA infrastructure and technologies, including automation, robotics, lighting, and digital growing tools.
- Expanding Local Food Production in Rural and Northern Communities Stream ($100 million): supports community-driven CEA solutions that increase local and regional food production, improve access to fresh food, and strengthen food security in rural and northern communities.

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2. IDB approves $38.7 million grant to strengthen agriculture and food security in northern Haiti

https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/210962/idb-approves-38-7-million-grant-to-strengthen-agriculture-and-food-security-in-northern-haiti

The Board of Executive Directors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a $38.7 million grant from the IDB Grant Facility to improve food security in the North and North-East departments of Haiti, according to a press release. The financing will fund the Program for Sustainable Agricultural Productivity in the North and North-East. It aims to expand sustainable access to irrigation, promote climate-resilient agricultural technologies, and strengthen agrifood producer organizations and small businesses.

The program targets rural areas of the North and North-East departments, where food availability and access remain pressing concerns. It was designed to address both dimensions of food security through investments in production, technology, and enterprise support. Environmental and social management measures are embedded in the operation. Climate-resilience considerations also form part of its foundation. Actions to promote the participation of women and young people are included as well.

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3. The global youth education vs. unemployment paradox: causes, consequences and solutions

https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/210888/neet-causes-consequences-and-solutions

The reality is hitting young people hard, with statistics showing that globally, one in five young people (20.4%) is not in employment, education or training (NEET), making the transition from education to decent work a persistent development challenge. Two in three young NEETs were women.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), young people who can't find a job are at risk of skills deterioration, social pressure, and the lack of a stable future, with young women being particularly affected. We have asked several experts about the NEET rates, consequences and expectations. Read their insights.

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4. Middle East escalation could push 11.7 million more women and girls into food insecurity by end-2026

https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/211133/middle-east-escalation-could-push-11-7-million-more-women-and-girls-into-food-insecurity

An additional 11.7 million women and girls could face food insecurity by the end of 2026 as the escalation in the Middle East and disruptions to the Strait of Hormuz drive up food prices and strain household resources, according to a new UN Women analysis. The report, titled "Food security risks of the Middle East escalation for women and girls," finds that women and girls account for 53 per cent of the projected 22 million additional people who could face food insecurity across 28 countries analyzed. This is in addition to an estimated 208 million women and girls who were already food insecure or undernourished in these countries. The figures are scenario-based estimates rather than forecasts. The findings were released from Geneva.

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5. Food Insecurity and Child Malnutrition Worsen in Afghanistan Despite Strong Agricultural Season

https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/10/food-insecurity-and-child-malnutrition-worsen-in-afghanistan-despite-strong-agricultural-season/

Nearly 40 percent of the population of Afghanistan is projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity this winter, and cases of acute malnutrition are expected to soar during 2027, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) warned.

This is according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, which projects that approximately 19.2 million people (38% of the population) will face high levels of acute food insecurity during the November-April lean season, which lasts through the winter. This is an increase from 17.4 million projected for the same period a year earlier.

An estimated five million of those who are acutely food insecure will be facing emergency levels of hunger (IPC Phase 4) – double the number projected for April-September 2026 – meaning immediate food assistance and urgent emergency agriculture support are needed to prevent deaths and total livelihood collapse. The most severe classifications are projected in Badakhshan, Badghis, Daykundi, Ghor, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul and rural Ghazni.

However, improved harvests and greater food availability are not necessarily translating into improved food security. Persistent unemployment means many families who do not grow their own food cannot afford a nutritious diet, even when food is available. Winter will bring fewer opportunities for agricultural work, further reducing incomes and increasing the need for humanitarian assistance.

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6. Afghanistan's Drought Deepens, and Women Bear the Heaviest Burden

https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/10/afghanistans-drought-deepens-and-women-bear-the-heaviest-burden/

Drought has depleted wells, withered fruit trees, and reduced crop yields across Afghanistan. The heaviest burden of the water shortage falls on women in their daily lives, as they must fetch water from increasingly distant sources and use every single drop with extreme care.

More than half of Afghanistan is suffering from a prolonged drought and water shortage. The situation is critical in 19 provinces. Authorities predict the crisis will worsen. For instance, the capital, Kabul, is projected to lose the majority of its groundwater by 2030. In the northern province of Faryab, 90 percent of the area is already affected by drought.

Water scarcity and poor harvests are further exacerbating Afghanistan's food crisis. According to the UN World Food Programme, as many as 17.4 million people are in urgent need of food assistance.

Wells, springs, and groundwater sources are drying up. In some households, the water level in wells has dropped from 20 meters to 40 meters. On farmlands, water must now be drawn from depths of up to 120 meters, whereas previously it was accessible at 20 meters. Water is being rationed, and in some areas, farmers receive water for only 20 minutes a day.

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7. How the Taliban Hunt Women in Afghanistan

https://www.ipsnews.net/2026/08/how-the-taliban-hunt-women-in-afghanistan/

Five years after the Taliban returned to power, Fawzia Koofi, the former Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Parliament, denounces what she describes as “gender apartheid.”

Since the fall of Kabul, she has been living in Europe after being evacuated from Afghanistan, where she continues to advocate for Afghan women and campaign for political alternatives to Taliban rule. Speaking with IPS, Koofi explains how the Taliban have systematically erased women from public life while describing the resilience and determination of Afghan women to continue resisting.

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8. Advancing women’s economic opportunities in the solar energy sector

https://odi.org/en/publications/advancing-womens-economic-opportunities-in-the-solar-energy-sector

In 2024, at least 16.6 million people were directly or indirectly employed in the sector. The transition to renewable energy is expected to lead to the net creation of jobs, with solar photovoltaics (PV) leading this expansion.

Women are underrepresented in the solar sector and are more likely to be employed in lower-paid, non-technical and administrative positions than in technical, managerial or policy-making roles. This risks largely excluding women from the income- and employment-generating gains of a low-carbon, renewable energy future.

Boosting women’s participation in the solar sector could help reduce gender gaps in labour-market outcomes and enhance women’s economic empowerment, while also helping meet severe labour shortages in the renewable energy sector.

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9. Margaret Atwood on why she has given C$1m to avian research

https://www.theguardian.com/books/ng-interactive/2026/sep/25/margaret-atwood-birds-conservation-optimistic-future

Award-winning novelist celebrates late partner’s love of birds with gift to establish the Graeme Gibson chair in avian biology. Western University, in London, Ontario, announced that Atwood had donated C$1m (£540,000) to celebrate her late partner’s love of birds.

The gift will create the Graeme Gibson chair in avian biology, with the goal of better understanding the fundamental processes that shape how birds move, adapt and behave in an environment undergoing profound transformation. Atwood has championed many causes, including Indigenous education and human rights, but environmental protection is at the forefront of them.

The university has emerged as a global leader in avian research, developing the world’s first hypobaric climatic wind tunnel for bird flight in order to better study how they move through different types of air.

Weeks before the gift was announced, Atwood celebrated the opening of the Atwood-Gibson Bird Centre on Pelee Island.

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10. Farming insects for food, fodder and fertiliser in Uganda

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/oct/14/farming-insects-food-fodder-fertiliser-uganda

Uganda harbours one of the world's largest refugee populations; Kyaka II alone, in the west of the country, is home to nearly 140,000 people. About 500 people in the camp now work in 32 insect-farming groups.

"Their nutritional potential is particularly relevant for vulnerable groups such as women of reproductive age and children under five, since some species are particularly rich in proteins and micronutrients such as iron and zinc," says Dorothy Nakimbugwe, an associate professor in the food technology and nutrition department at Makerere University in the capital, Kampala.

Nakimbugwe has also led Refugee Insect Production for Food and Feed (RefIPro), a project organised by the Danish non-profit organisation Raise, which has worked with local groups to train and support farmers in Kyaka II and neighbouring communities since 2018. Rearing insects has also been introduced to more than 10 schools through RefIPro.

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11. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Leader of the Year Award

https://cog.ca/blog/regenerative-organic-oats-roo-program-recognized-at-canada-organic-trade-association-organic-gala-and-leadership-awards/

During Organic Month 2026 at the Canada Organic Trade Association's (COTA) Organic Gala and Leadership Awards, Canadian Organic Grower's (COG) Regenerative Organic Oats (ROO) program was honoured to receive the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Leader of the Year Award.

COG works alongside our partners from across the supply chain – Nature's Path, Riverside Natural Foods (producers of the snack brand MadeGood), and MGM Seed and Grain/Bay State Milling – in pre-competitive collaboration to support ROO's prairie-based organic oat farmers as they transition to regenerative organic farm management, driving their farms towards improved soil health and lasting climate resilience. Central to that work has been creating spaces where diverse perspectives are welcomed, farmer voices are central to guiding decision-making, and learning is shared openly.

For us, this award recognizes a core principle of the ROO Program: that progress is accelerated when barriers are removed and opportunities are shared. We are proud to work alongside organic farmers and partners across the value chain to build a more collaborative, inclusive, and resilient future for organic agriculture.

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12. Agriculture Canada reduces diversity, equity and inclusion funding

https://www.producer.com/news/agriculture-canada-reduces-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-funding/

Agriculture Canada has quietly cut funding to programs that support diversity, equity and inclusion. The cuts are minimal, but in 2025, the department employed the equivalent of eight full-time people to work on Gender Based Analysis Plus.

Known as GBA Plus, it ensures that Agriculture Canada provides programs and services to a more diverse swath of Canadians, including "under-represented and marginalized" people. In 2026, Agriculture Canada eliminated some of its GBA Plus jobs.

While Agriculture Canada continues to fund diversity, equity and inclusion, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has taken a much harsher stance.

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13. Women restoring mangrove forests in the oil-ravaged Niger delta

https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2026/oct/02/one-green-shoot-at-a-time-the-women-restoring-mangrove-forests-in-the-oil-ravaged-niger-delta

The Lokiaka Community Development Centre, established in 2003, supports female Ogoni farmers in caring for the environment and helping to restore the mangroves, devastated by more than five decades of oil pollution. In the wetland of Teenama they have planted more than 150,000 mangrove saplings. Teenama sits between the Kwawa and Kpean oil settlements in the Yorla oilfields of Ogoniland, a region ravaged by decades of oil production and spills.

The ecological damage has been felt across the region – people who relied on mangrove-lined creeks to fish and gather shellfish have lost a valuable food source and income. About 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of mangroves were directly destroyed in the 2008 Ogoniland spill and Giadom estimates that more than 500,000 barrels of crude oil have been spilt into the environment in under 20 years, an impact felt across generations.

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14. World Bank eyes natural resources to unlock jobs for farmers and herders

https://www.devex.com/news/world-bank-eyes-natural-resources-to-unlock-jobs-for-farmers-and-herders-113578

The World Bank is tapping nature-based value chains to create jobs for smallholder farmers through its Livable Landscapes Academy Impact Program, which launched in May.

The primary objective is to accelerate and scale investments aimed at avoiding, reducing, and restoring degraded landscapes. It treats restoration as an economic development issue rather than just an environmental issue.

As part of that approach, the program aims to help countries tap their natural resources for job creation, viewing healthy landscapes as the foundation that will generate rural jobs, food and water security, agricultural productivity, and private-sector opportunities. It is looking at previously undervalued agriculture sectors such as seaweed and commercial forestry — aiming to create jobs for people living on less than $3 per day, including farmers, herders, and fishers.

The 10-year Livable Landscapes Academy launched in Kenya in May. Alongside Kenya, its first cohort of countries includes Rwanda, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Zambia. It will eventually be scaled to the rest of the world, Hickey said.

The academy is supported by PROGREEN — a World Bank-administered, multi-donor trust fund for sustainable and resilient forests and landscape — with funding from the United Kingdom.

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15. Twiga's demise underscores the need for new financing models in African agrifoodtech

https://agfundernews.com/twigas-demise-underscores-the-need-for-new-financing-models-in-african-agrifoodtech

The recent news of Twiga entering into administration sent shockwaves through African tech, marking a dramatic conclusion for one of the continent's most visible ventures—and perhaps for a specific era of agrifoodtech as well.

The Kenya-based ag marketplace, launched more than a decade ago, stood as the flagship model for a generation of agrifoodtech startups: founded by high-profile entrepreneurs, backed by world-class investors, and capitalized with tens of millions before establishing a sustainable unit-economic baseline.

The resolution of Twiga's administration marks a definitive turning point for African agrifoodtech. Moving forward, growth in African agrifood supply chains will depend less on asset-light venture models and more on patient capital building the unglamorous physical infrastructure required to connect farm-gate to urban vendor.

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16. Development banks had finally got behind LGBTQ+ programs. Now what?

https://www.devex.com/news/development-banks-had-finally-got-behind-lgbtq-programs-now-what-113296

Two years ago, the paperwork suggested multilateral development banks were becoming allies to LGBTQ+ inclusion. Today, the danger is not necessarily that they will formally repudiate this programmatic area. It is that they will simply stop doing anything about it.

LGBTQ+ inclusion in development work probably peaked at multilateral development banks in the fall of 2024. It was still a new and fragile agenda, but for the first time, these institutions seemed to have gotten it: Poverty and exclusion among LGBTQ+ people were development issues and significant resources might finally follow.

The World Bank alone committed $118.5 billion across all its operations last fiscal year. Add the regional development banks, and the multilateral system moves on the order of a quarter-trillion dollars a year into roads, power plants, clinics, cash-transfer programs, disaster response, and justice and social protection systems.

Two years later, the picture is considerably less encouraging.

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17. 2026 Norman Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application

https://www.eastwestseed.com/pamela-afokpe-finding-purpose-in-the-field/

The World Food Prize Foundation announced **Pamela Afokpe** as the recipient of the 2026 Norman Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application. The award recognizes her work developing improved varieties of indigenous vegetables and helping bring better seed and farming opportunities to smallholder farmers in West Africa. Pamela Afokpe formally received the 2026 Borlaug Field Award on October 16, World Food Day, in Des Moines, Iowa, at the World Food Prize Foundation.

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18. Pressure on global food systems risks exacerbating gender gap by 2050

https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/pressure-global-food-systems-risks-exacerbating-gender-gap-2050-without-targeted

Women in low-income countries are at greater risk of being left further behind than men by the impact of the polycrisis on global food systems, unless governments, donors and development partners improve inclusion, according to a new report.

The publication, *Advancing equality, transforming futures: a path to resilient and productive food, land and water systems in 2050*, calls on governments, funders, NGOs, researchers and the private sector to address the gender gap as food systems evolve between now and 2050.

The report, released by the CGIAR GENDER Accelerator, highlights opportunities to reduce gender inequality through a set of targeted solutions, from institutional, legal and social reform, to inclusive infrastructure, social protection, improved data-gathering and the responsible use of emerging technology.

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Reports, Publications, Resources

1. A tribute to the women growing possibility across Canada's horticultural industry

https://www.greenhousecanada.com/she-grows-rooted-in-community-growing-the-future/

Across greenhouses, orchards, prairie restorations, berry farms, cannabis facilities and flower fields, women are leading with science, creativity, resilience and community-building. She Grows, a storytelling initiative from Fruit & Vegetable and Greenhouse Canada, was created to honour that leadership. Through nominations, interviews and in-depth conversations, the series profiles nine women whose work reflects the ingenuity and diversity shaping Canadian horticulture today.

Across these nine profiles, a pattern becomes clear: leadership in horticulture doesn't follow a single template. Each woman offers a different way of thinking, growing and imagining the future of food, flowers and controlled-environment agriculture.

- Rosemary Wotski: Soil scientist, organic pioneer, market builder.
- Chelsea Steenbergen: Orchard founder, regional trailblazer, educator
- Leona Staples: Fourth-generation farmer, community builder
- Noémi Pépin: Trial designer, data-driven cultivator
- Leanna James: Calm precision, people-first leadership
- Kelly Leask: Native plant crusader, prairie restorer
- Dipti Narwal — Tissue culture specialist, systems-builder, process innovator
- Janis Harris: Flower farmer, sector advocate, network builder
- Emily Morrison: Berry grower, community connector

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2. Canadian STEM Education Library

https://scwist.ca/programs/equitable-access-to-reading-project/

With funding from the Government of Canada's Equitable Access to Reading Program, SCWIST is working to help ensure students of all abilities, including young people who are blind or have print disabilities, can meaningfully participate in STEM education. Every learner deserves access.

SCWIST's Canadian STEM Education Library is a national virtual repository of Canadian K–12 STEM learning resources in accessible formats. The collection will include STEM content that reflects:

- Indigenous Knowledge Systems and perspectives
- STEM history and contributions from diverse communities
- Experiences and voices from equity-deserving groups

Through the Canadian STEM Education Library, educators and learners across Canada can explore accessible STEM resources, discover upcoming events, and find new ways to support inclusive learning.

Are you an educator, librarian, community organization, or someone who works with K–12 learners? Stay updated on new EARP resources and collaborate with us.

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3. Climate shocks heighten risks of child marriage and teen pregnancy for girls | Report

https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/211208/climate-shocks-heighten-risks-of-child-marriage-and-teen-pregnancy-for-girls-report

Climate disasters are driving greater risks of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and violence for girls worldwide, according to a press release issued by Plan International on 4 October 2026. The findings come from Change Her Forecast, the State of the World's Girls 2026 report, which examines how climate change is reshaping girls' health, safety, and futures. The research combines health and climate data spanning more than 50 countries over three decades with a survey of 5,000 girls. It also draws on in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with 139 girls across Bangladesh, Kenya, Peru, Senegal, and Zimbabwe. The report concludes that climate shocks are destroying the services girls rely on at the moment they need them most.

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4. Fairer Pay in the Public Sector: Gender and new Canadian pay gaps in the public and private sectors

https://www.policyalternatives.ca/news-research/fairer-pay-in-the-public-sector-gender-and-new-canadian-pay-gaps-in-the-public-and-private-sectors-2025/

While economic theory assumes wages reflect productivity, real-world data reveals persistent pay gaps based on gender and immigration status. To isolate these disparities, this study analyzes 2025 Labour Force Survey data and controls for 15 worker characteristics like education, tenure, age, and location to isolates the residual gaps and a clearer look at wage discrimination between the public and private sectors.

Pay gaps based on gender and immigration persist in Canada. The public sector remains a fairer place for both women and new Canadians to work—pay gaps persist here but they're much smaller than in the private sector. In no part of the analysis are women actually paid more than equivalent men or immigrants paid more than equivalent Canadian born workers, but the pay is closer in the public sector.

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5. Women's History Month… By the numbers

https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/daily/by-the-numbers/womens-history-month

In 202 in Canada, 71% of women aged 25 to 64 held a college or university credential, up from 61% in 2015. In comparison, 57% of men held a college or university credential in 2025, up from 49% in 2015.

In 2025 in Canada, 85.0% of women aged 25 to 54 participated in the labour force, up from 52.3% in 1976.

Between 2005 and 2025, the share of women among those aged 15 and older in senior management occupations increased from 24.1% to 31.6%, while their representation in middle management occupations remained relatively stable (35.3% in 2005 vs. 36.9% in 2025).

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6. World Food Forum (WFF) Global Youth Action Initiative

https://youth.world-food-forum.org/

The World Food Forum (WFF) Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative) is a global platform for youth engagement that brings together young people from around the world to drive action for more sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems. Through a growing network of spanning 62 countries and reaching tens of thousands of young people, the WFF Youth Initiative supports youth-led action and empowers the next generation of changemakers to contribute to agrifood systems transformation. brings together young people from around the world to drive action for more sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems.

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7. FAO Science, Technology and Innovation Forum

https://www.fao.org/science-technology-and-innovation/science-and-innovation-forum-2026/en

The fifth edition of the FAO Science and Innovation Forum (SIF 2026) was held from 12 to 16 October 2026 under the umbrella of the World Food Forum (WFF), together with the Global Youth Forum and the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum.

This year offers a unique opportunity, as the overarching theme of the World Food Forum, and World Food Day is Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow.

This theme reflects the importance of harnessing science, technology and innovation to build agrifood systems that are more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. It highlights how forward-thinking on enabling access to life-changing innovations, combined with traditional knowledge and inclusive approaches, is critical to ensure that everyone has access to sufficient, diverse, safe, and nutritious foods, while safeguarding the planet for future generations.

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8. Hand-in-Hand Initiative Investment Forum 2026

https://www.fao.org/hand-in-hand/investment-forum-2026/en

FAO's annual agrifood investment forum provides a platform for governments to present investment plans – developed through the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative – to a global audience of agrifood investors, offering a unique opportunity for partnership building to accelerate agrifood systems transformation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is meant to de-risk investments by using geospatial data, climate science, and other approaches to help funders feel confident in their investments in things such as staple crops, livestock, fisheries, cocoa, and more, according to Devex.

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9. Why the National Adaptation Plan Process Matters for the Education Sector

https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/why-the-national-adaptation-plan-process-matters-for-the-education-sector-key-actions-for-integration/

Climate change is taking place at an unprecedented pace and is impacting the education sector. While this sector is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, it is also critical to building the resilience of communities.

This at-a-glance summary provides an overview of how education and climate change actors can work together through national adaptation plan (NAP) processes to plan and implement adaptation action. It also outlines potential roles for education ministries at each stage of adaptation planning, based on our recent publication 'Engaging the Education Sector in the NAP Process: a guidance note for education ministries.'

A companion infographic for NAP teams is also available.

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10. From Assessment to Action: GAP National Assessment Support Tools

https://wedo.org/resources/from-assessment-to-action-gap-national-assessment-support-tools

The Belém Gender Action Plan calls for national assessments on gender and climate change, including intersections with care, health, and violence against women and girls. WEDO and partners have developed a new set of tools to help governments and advocates turn this commitment into meaningful national action. The National Assessment Support Tools include:

- Options Paper, providing options on what Parties and other stakeholders may wish to include, how they can draw on existing evidence, and what steps they can take to generate additional inputs where needed.
- Presentation on the GAP and Deliverable A.3.9
- Information Note on Care Work and Climate Change, explaining why care matters for National Assessments and how to incorporate it.
- Technical Note on Violence Against Women and Girls and Climate Change, an explanation of why violence against women and girls matters for National Assessments and how to include it.

These tools are not a fixed or mandatory template but are available as a resource for Parties. They do not represent official UNFCCC guidance.

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11. CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator Report 2026

https://gender.cgiar.org/2026-gender-report

Women, young people and socially excluded groups are not only among those most affected by these changes; they are also essential drivers of innovation, resilience and transformation. Too often, however, structural barriers continue to limit their access to resources, opportunities, leadership and decision-making. Unless these barriers are deliberately addressed, inequalities will deepen, undermining both sustainable development and the resilience of food, land and water systems.

This report, *Advancing equality, transforming futures: a path to resilient and productive food, land and water systems in 2050,* responds to that challenge. It is designed as a forward-looking resource that contributes to global dialogue by addressing critical evidence and policy gaps and offering practical pathways toward gender equality, youth engagement and social inclusion in food, land and water systems.

Key messages

- Enabling young women's empowerment, agency and leadership in food, land and water interventions, programs and policies is a direct pathway to a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future in 2050.
- The transition to adulthood is a critical period for young women. Investments made now can enable young women to empower themselves, improving their current and future opportunities to pursue dignified employment and lead fulfilling lives.
- Young women today experience a double burden: their dual status as women and young people limits their opportunities for, and benefits from, productive work. At the same time, they are expected to perform a substantial share of unpaid care work.
- Supporting young women's empowerment means facilitating safe work environments, particularly off-farm, and bundling technical, social and training interventions with gender-transformative approaches that, for example, reduce unpaid care work and limit the effects of restrictive norms.
- Substantial evidence gaps remain in understanding which solutions work for young women. Researchers should prioritize investigating young women's experiences in collectives; their opportunities to develop leadership skills; their control over assets; their ability to mitigate and adapt to climate shocks; and gender-transformative approaches that are specifically designed for them.

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12. Ending gender-based violence: a foundation for inclusive societies

https://odi.org/en/publications/ending-gender-based-violence-a-foundation-for-inclusive-societies/

This briefing paper is a call to resource gender equality agendas as a crucial component of, and a pathway to creating, inclusive societies. By this we mean societies anchored in human rights, where everyone is recognised and treated as equal and lives with dignity. *Key messages:*

- Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) has become a strategic priority because it offers an opportunity to promote inclusive societies. It can lay the foundations for and nurture inclusive societies that are more equal, more prosperous, more democratic and more interconnected for all.
- GBV has high economic costs for victim-survivors, governments and society as a whole. Efforts to eradicate GBV create stronger economies for everyone by improving labour-market participation, reducing inequality and enhancing service provision.
- By limiting political participation, GBV jeopardises civil and political rights and undermines democratic principles. Additionally, through government inaction and even perpetration, GBV can violate the duty of a state to guarantee people's rights and safety. Therefore, addressing GBV also contributes to building accountable governance and to the maintenance of healthy and resilient democracies.
- GBV severely weakens the social fabric because it reinforces inequitable social norms, reduces social connection and damages people's sense of belonging. Working to end GBV provides a pathway to address social polarisation and fragmentation, strengthen community networks, and build pluralistic and caring societies.

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13. Research on women-led biodiversity data praised at UN talks

https://www.iied.org/research-women-led-biodiversity-data-praised-un-talks

Women-led and community-based organisations are generating data on biodiversity that offers vital insights for policy and planning. But this evidence is still overlooked in formal climate and biodiversity processes.

IIED and the CBD Women's Caucus co-produced a worldwide survey to assess how women's organisations collect, manage, analyse, use and share biodiversity data. The survey covered 70 women-led organisations engaged in biodiversity conservation across 33 countries, working at local, regional and national levels.

The findings report calls for recognition and partnership with women's organisations as valuable contributors to implementation of the global biodiversity framework (GBF).

IIED and partners launched the report at a key preparatory meeting for this year's UN biodiversity conference (CBD COP17).

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14. Gender-responsive Biodiversity Data: A practical handbook

https://cbdwomenscaucus.org/gender-responsive-biodiversity-data-a-practical-handbook/

A new handbook on gender-responsive biodiversity data was also launched at COP17 as part of this collaboration. It brings together practical experience and knowledge from different regions and sectors, offering guidance for anyone involved in producing, managing and using biodiversity data and evidence.

Who decides what is worth measuring?
Whose knowledge is recognised as credible evidence?
Who owns and controls the data?
Who decides what is worth measuring?
Whose knowledge is recognised as credible evidence?
Who collects and analyses the data?
And, ultimately, whose priorities shape the decisions that evidence informs?

These are not simply technical questions. They are questions of justice, about recognition, participation, rights, agency and power.

This handbook has been developed as part of the joint Advancing Gender Justice in Biodiversity data and policy initiative, a collaboration between the CBD Women's Caucus and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). that seeks to support women's organisations to generate and use gender-responsive data to influence biodiversity policy and action.

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15. Super-rich get 'double dividend' from causes and costs of climate crisis, report finds

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/oct/27/super-rich-double-dividend-climate-crisis-oxfam

Report*: Disaster Divide: How Climate Chaos Deepens Inequality and Enriches the Few*
https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/disaster-divide-how-climate-chaos-deepens-inequality-and-enriches-few

The world's wealthiest people are not just profiting from the polluting causes of climate breakdown, they are also increasingly cashing in on the catastrophic consequences, according to a study by Oxfam.

The global equality organisation has found that the richest 0.1% of the world's population are heavily invested in disaster preparedness, recovery and reconstruction – a market that is projected to grow from $70bn to $92bn a year by 2029.

This gives the planet's wealthiest and most powerful people a "double dividend" from the climate crisis and, more alarmingly, an incentive to delay or disrupt action to solve the problem, the NGO says.

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16. Catalyste+ Publishes Corporate Annual Report

https://www.catalysteplus.org/media-and-news/catalyste-welcomes-new-board-member-publishes-corporate-annual-report/

Catalyste+ is pleased to announce the appointment of Gina Wilson to its Board of Directors. Ms. Wilson is a recipient of an Indspire Award in the Public Service category and the 2026 Ottawa Distinguished Women Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Catalyste+ has continued to serve as a global hub for development support, supporting the jobs, environments, and opportunities that drive universal economic growth. Over the year, Catalyste+ reports 579 completed assignments and 360 supported partners and clients, with 93,616 people benefited directly and indirectly across Indigenous and international programs.

Additionally, as announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney at the 2026 G7 Leaders' Summit, Catalyste+ was chosen to implement two new programs: Inclusive Growth and Networks for Investment, Trade and Economic linkages (IGNITE) and Economic Linkages for Enhanced Value, Trade and Exports (ELEVaTE). Both programs are funded by Global Affairs Canada.

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