

Gender *news*

Women's Empowerment and Social Inclusion

 [IFAD Gender Website](#)

 [IFADNews on Twitter](#)

Français

Español

In this issue:

[CEDAW adopts the General Recommendation on the Rights of Rural Women](#)

[Global Forum on Gender Action Learning System \(GALS\) and Household Methodologies](#)

[Empowering households and communities in Nigeria for financial inclusion](#)

[Young women in sustainable value chains](#)

[Commission on the Status of Women 2016](#)

[Global Call to Action on Indigenous Peoples and local community land rights](#)

[International Women's Day 2016](#)

[Governing Council 2016](#)

[Farmers' Forum special session on the rights of women and youth in agriculture development](#)

Welcome to the IFAD gender newsletter!

Dear friends and colleagues,
Welcome to the April 2016 IFAD Gender Newsletter.
We thank all Gender Focal Points and implementing partners in IFAD operations who have responded to our call for contributions. We are proud to give visibility to your efforts and to all those initiatives that behind the scenes are significantly contributing to gender equality and poverty reduction.
Please keep sharing your contributions with gender@ifad.org.

What's new?

CEDAW adopts the General Recommendation on the Rights of Rural Women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted the [General Recommendation \(No 34\) on the Rights of Rural Women](#), which acknowledges the vital contributions of rural women to sustainable development and the urgent need to improve the recognition and protection of their human rights - a milestone for rural women's rights and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)!

Read more: [CEDAW website](#)

Forthcoming Events

Global Forum on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and Household Methodologies (IFAD, Rome, 27-29 June 2016)

IFAD, Oxfam Novib and other organizations are holding the first Global Forum on GALS and Household Methodologies. The forum will serve as a platform to discuss these systems and assess the impacts and challenges of implementing them. Bringing together selected partners and practitioners from government, civil society, international organizations, foundations, the private sector and academia, the forum will create a potential platform for future alliances and collaborations essential to take HHMs and GALS to scale. For more information: [Leaflet](#)

Empowering households and communities in Nigeria for financial inclusion

A workshop on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and financial inclusion is being organized by IFAD and the Rural Finance Institutions Building Programme (RUFIN) in Nigeria from 13 to 17 June. The event will bring together project staff, implementing partners, GALS champions, field agents, and government officials to discuss the access and use of financial resources by rural communities and ways to guarantee financial inclusion.

For more information please contact: [Gender Secretariat](#)

[Women's Security Awareness Training](#)

Lessons from the field: -

[Afghanistan](#)

- [Zanzibar](#)

- [Somalia](#)

- [Nepal](#)

- [Philippines](#)

[Bulletin board](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Useful Links and Resources](#)



Myrna Cunningham -
The diversity of rural
women (Video)



[UNWOMEN](#)
[Online courses](#)

Recent Events

Young women in sustainable value chains

The Youth Agribusiness, Leadership and Entrepreneurship Summit on Innovation organized by the Government of Senegal, the Global Youth Innovation Network (GYIN), and IFAD Dakar Office (Dakar, 30 March 2016) brought together 2050 young participants from 100 country and 100 sponsor organizations. At a panel on “Young women in sustainable agricultural value chains”, five young women entrepreneurs from Burkina Faso, Burundi, Madagascar, Nigeria and Senegal shared their experiences about access to training, finance, markets, and new information technologies.

Read more:

- [Blog post](#)

- [Event website](#)

- [Programme and abstracts](#)

Commission on the Status of Women 2016

At the 60th session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#), (New York, 14-24 March) IFAD co-organized three side events to discuss challenges that rural women face in the context of the SDGs:

- How will you join rural women in implementing the SDGs? In collaboration with the [Huairou Commission](#) and the United Methodist Women, IFAD hosted an event to review rural women's priorities and discuss what needs to be done to ensure the full integration of -and partnership with-this constituency in efforts to achieve the SDGs.
- [Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment](#) with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFAD, UN Women and World Food Programme (WFP) to showcase lessons, experiences and achievements of the [Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women \(RWEE\)](#);
- [Women and Land: Localizing the 2030 Agenda](#) with Huairou Commission, Landesa, Oxfam, and the International Land Coalition (ILC) to discuss how to protect and promote women's secure rights to land and assets as central to both sustainable development and women's empowerment.

Read more:

- [Flyer](#)

- [Rural women key to achieving global goals by 2030](#)

- [Joint Programme \(RWEE\)](#)

- [Advocating for Women's Land in the 2030 Development Agenda](#)

Global Call to Action on Indigenous Peoples and local community land rights

On 9 March 2016 at IFAD Headquarters in Rome, the [ILC](#), [Oxfam](#) and the [Rights and Resources Initiative \(RRI\)](#) launched the [Global Call to Action on Indigenous Peoples and local community land rights](#). This initiative seeks to support indigenous peoples and local communities in their efforts to secure their own land and territorial rights, with a target of doubling the area of land recognized as owned or controlled by indigenous peoples and local communities by 2020. To find out more and join the movement, see www.landrightsnow.org

Read more:

[COMMON GROUND: Securing land rights and safeguarding the earth](#)

Video: [Miskitu indigenous women in the fight for their land rights](#)

International Women's Day 2016 - 'Planet 50:50: Step It Up for Gender Equality & Zero Hunger'

[WFP](#) hosted the celebration for International Women's Day 2016, which was jointly organized by the [FAO](#), [IFAD](#) and the [International Development Law Organization](#) (IDLO). The event brought together partners from the private sector, youth forums, civil society and non-governmental organizations who spoke about how to achieve a zero-hunger world and achieve the SDGs.

Read more:

- [Press release](#) and [Event Report](#)

- [Eight rural women who inspire us](#)

Governing Council 2016: Innovative investments for rural transformation

At IFAD's Governing Council (17-18 February, 2016), the role of innovation was discussed in the context of rural transformation. Dr. Ismahane Elouafi, Director General of the [International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture \(ICBA\)](#), spoke passionately about innovative ways of addressing soil salinity and irrigation challenges and women's role in science. Elizabeth Ssendiwala, IFAD's Gender and Youth Coordinator for East and Southern Africa, demonstrated the power of household methodologies to improve intra-household gender relations and highlighted the importance of men becoming champions of gender equality.

Read more:

- [Event blog post](#)
- [Gender equality begins in the home](#)
- [Innovation, agriculture and a changing climate](#)

Farmers' Forum special session on the rights of women and youth in agriculture development (IFAD, Rome, 15-26 February)

The sixth global meeting of IFAD's Farmers' Forum was preceded by a special session on Pastoralism on 12 February and included working group session on the rights of women and youth in agriculture development. The session offered an opportunity to discuss the challenges that women and youth face in agriculture (e.g. access to land, capacity building) and that farmers' organizations play in supporting the realization of their rights in agricultural development.

Read more: [FAFO website](#)

Women's Security Awareness Training

The first Woman's Security Awareness Training, organized by WFP (Rome, 22-23 March), highlighted the security risks that may affect UN female staff. It focused on travel safety, cultural awareness, residential security, hostage survival, violence against women, family safety and security, and self-defence.

For more information, please contact: [Sandra Luvisutto](#)

Lessons and voices from the field

Two IFAD-supported projects participate in spring AgFair, a bi-annual agricultural fair in Afghanistan (Kabul, 20-23 March)

Representatives from the IFAD-supported Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme and the Community Livestock and Agriculture Project participated in the Spring AgFair. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan, and his delegates visited the booth, which displayed products and information pertaining to women's production groups, rural microfinance packages, improved crop seeds, dairy products, backyard poultry products, and animal health services. **Read more:** [Blog Post](#)

Chicken Farmer Field School (FFS) in Zanzibar

In 2008, a group of nineteen women formed a poultry group to increase the local chicken production through improved husbandry practices. Through the farmer field school methodology, they gained knowledge in poultry house construction, breeding, program hatching, feed formulation, diseases control, and use of manure for vegetable production among others. According to an IFAD mission undertaken in December 2015, women's participation in the FFS in Zanzibar improved their agricultural productivity and increased their income. Most of the women were now able to afford education and health expenses for their children. FFS have proved to be a participatory and an effective way of empowering and transferring knowledge to rural women, and are shown to have positive impact on production and income among low literacy and medium land size farmers, especially women. **Read more:** [Full Article](#)

How an innovative 'sand' dam is causing a rush for water in Somalia

Water scarcity during the dry season is a major problem for millions of Somali households, particularly agro-pastoral and nomadic poor people. In the North-Western Integrated Community Development Programme supported by IFAD, sand water storage dams were put in place to guarantee a steady supply of water. As Mouna, a mother of eight from Agamso, describes: "The area was once very dry and the wells were deep and full of stones. There was no water to be had from them and there were no farms at all. We used to walk long distances, and sometimes the whole day, to get water. Now water is available and farmers are cultivating again."

Read more: [Blog post](#)

Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Nepal

Developing value chains in a gender-responsive and socially inclusive way is being progressively used for sustainable economic growth of poor and marginalized communities in High Value Agriculture Project (HVAP) project areas. The introduction of business literacy classes, women's labour-saving technologies, and the GALS methodology have helped women to get better access to markets and establish stronger foundations for developing agribusinesses.

For more information please contact: [Gender Secretariat](#)

Farmer Business School, Philippines

With the help of the second IFAD-supported Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management

Project, a Farmer Business School course started in 2015 and trained 15 women and one man on new ways to improve production, processing, packaging and marketing of their farm products. As a result, their incomes have substantially increased. **Read more:** [Full story](#)

Bulletin Board

Course Empowering UN System Gender Focal Points. The training course for UN gender focal points will focus on the UN gender architecture and strategies and tools for identifying and addressing gender equality obstacles within the UN. **For more information:** [Empowering UN System Gender Focal Points](#)

Reframing Leadership: Leadership Training for Gender Equality in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management. Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) is offering a course for women and men in mid-level and senior management positions in organizations engaged in agriculture and natural resource management, who want to learn about innovative ways of leading. **For more information:** [Wocan Training website](#)

New links and resources

- Online course - [How to manage gender-responsive evaluation](#). UNWomen
- Online course - [Gender in humanitarian action: different needs - equal opportunities](#). UNWomen
- [The power of water](#)
- [Gender integration into climate-smart agriculture](#). FAO
- [GAP Newsletter - Special issue on Gender and Nutrition](#). Gender in Agriculture Partnership
- [Gender, agriculture and water insecurity](#). ODI
- [The little data book on gender 2016](#). World Bank
- [Women forging change with agroecology](#). Farming Matters
- [Understanding women and migration: a literature review. Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development](#) (KNOMAD)

Calendar

- Training workshop on Gender Action Learning System (May 2016, Kyrgyzstan)
- Regional training on gender and rural finance (13-17 June 2016, Nigeria)
- Global Forum on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and Household Methodologies. (27-29 June 2016. IFAD headquarters, Rome). To participated please contact: [Gender Secretariat](#)

This newsletter is for IFAD staff, partners, resource people and friends around the world who have an interest in gender equality and social inclusion. Its purpose is to share information about what is happening within and outside IFAD in support of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment. It also seeks to connect different experiences and improve coordination among IFAD partners at all levels. We hope that you will find it to be a reliable and useful resource.

Contacts:

Clare Bishop-Sambrook, Lead technical specialist, gender and social inclusion
IFAD Via Paolo di Dono 44 00142 Rome, Italy
www.ifad.org Email: gender@ifad.org

About IFAD:

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in developing countries. Its work in remote rural areas of the world helps countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

[Read more](#)

Copyright © 2016 IFAD, Policy and Technical Advisory Division, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you are included in the IFAD Network of key resource people and partners with an interest in gender. For more information, please contact: gender@ifad.org

