

Gender *news*

Women's Empowerment and Social Inclusion



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Welcome to the IFAD gender newsletter!

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the October 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.

Farewell to Clare Bishop-Sambrook

The IFAD Gender Team said good-bye to Clare Bishop-Sambrook and thanked for her leadership, great professionalism and commitment over the last five years. Her work has been inspirational for all of us and drove the Organization towards excellent results in gender mainstreaming, targeting and social inclusion. We wish her all the best for her future plans!

What's new?

The Rural Development Report 2016

This IFAD flagship publication was launched in September and confirms how the focus is shifting from development to inclusive rural transformation as a central element in global efforts to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. It presents solid evidence that inclusive rural transformation is possible when the required policies are in place and the right choices are made.

Read more: [The Rural Development Report 2016: fostering inclusive rural transformation](#)

Recent events

Empowering Women to End Hunger (19 October, FAO, Rome, Italy)

A side event on "Empowering Women to End Hunger: Lessons from the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment" took place at the 43th session of the Committee on World Food Security. The event, co-organized by the Network for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women), focussed on the impact that the Joint Programme for Rural Women Economic Empowerment is having on overall food security and nutrition in target areas.

Read more: [Women in action and actions for women](#)

15 October 2016: Rural Women's Day

Women are key actors in rural areas and engage in farm and non-farm economic activities to ensure their families' food and economic security. Much of this work is unrecorded, undervalued and unpaid. On 15 October, the world celebrated women and girls in rural areas and the hugely important role that they play in feeding the planet. Greater gender equality leads to higher economic growth and a better quality of life for all.

Read more: [The Rural Development Report 2016: Spotlight 5 - Gender equality and women's empowerment](#)

[Islamic inheritance laws and their impact on rural women in Muslim societies](#)

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Gender Mainstreaming in IFAD10 (21-22 September, IFAD HQ)

The midterm review of IFAD's policy on gender equality and women's empowerment was presented to the Executive Board (21-22 September, IFAD HQ). In a joint statement, the Executive Board acknowledged IFAD's very good progress - not only with the implementation of the gender policy but also regarding the 15 indicators in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), for which the Fund has met or exceeded 11 of them. The majority of IFAD-supported projects have made solid progress towards mainstreaming a gender perspective. However, it is now time to go further and achieve transformative gender impacts.

Read more:

[IFAD's Executive Board stands together to support gender mainstreaming in IFAD](#)
[Gender Mainstreaming in IFAD10](#)

Stepping up the gender agenda in IFAD10 (9 September, IFAD HQ)

For IFAD10, the gender target for design is to ensure that at least 90 per cent of project designs are rated as achieving partial gender mainstreaming (moderately satisfactory) or better, that at least 50 per cent achieve full gender mainstreaming (satisfactory) and at least 15 per cent are gender-transformative (highly satisfactory). To achieve this target, the IFAD gender desk joined forces with the Independent Office of Evaluation and lead technical experts to develop theories of change for gender interventions in the main thematic contexts of IFAD-supported operations.

Read more: [full blog post](#)

A Journey to Uganda bears fruit for Sudan: Enhancing innovations through Learning Routes on the Gender Action Learning System (18-21 September, Khartoum, Sudan)

The [PROCASUR Corporation](#) and the [IFAD](#) country office in Sudan organized workshop on how to implement a Learning Route as part of the project [Knowledge Management Tools for Enhanced Project Performance](#). This event offered an opportunity to share results and lessons learned on the application of the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), one of the IFAD-promoted [household methodologies](#), in the Western Sudan Resources Management Programme and Butana Integrated Rural Development Project, both of which had participated in previous Learning Routes.

Read more: [PROCASUR website](#)

Accelerating progress towards rural women's economic empowerment in Kyrgyzstan (12-25 September, Kyrgyzstan)

In the context of the Joint Programme for Rural Women's Economic Empowerment, IFAD organized a support mission to the roll out GALS in rural areas of *Kyrgyzstan*. The mission strengthened the capacities of local service providers and champions in delivering GALS, with a focus on ways to involve men and how to use this methodology to collect qualitative data on the impact on gender equality and women's empowerment.

For more information please contact: [Azzurra Chiarini](#)

What do rural youth want? Giving power to young men and women to drive change in Madagascar (8-13 August, Madagascar)

A group of young women and men participated in a change catalyst workshop in Tamatave, Madagascar. This event represented a first step in implementing the GALS in the [Vocational Training and Agricultural Productivity Improvement Programme](#).

Read more: [Full blog post](#) and [workshop report](#)

Second national gathering of young entrepreneurs (31 August - 2 September 2016, Honduras)

In Honduras, rural youth, especially women, face considerable challenges in accessing productive and decent employment opportunities. To address some of these problems, 94 young women and 94 young men entrepreneurs supported by IFAD met in San Buenaventura, Honduras, to improve their networking and to explore synergies and possible collaborations.

For more information please contact: [Janeth Andino](#)

Economic empowerment of rural women and access to markets in Central America (20 September 2016, IFAD HQ)

Broadening Women's Economic Opportunities for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in Latin America Region is an initiative funded by IFAD through a regional grant to UN WOMEN.

The programme has developed a comprehensive strategy for empowering rural women, with initiatives to support their economic empowerment and strengthen their leadership and participation in decision-making processes. Beneficiaries came to IFAD to share their experiences and demonstrate how this programme has helped them.

Read more: [Full blog post](#)

Islamic inheritance laws and their impact on rural women in Muslim societies (6 September)

On 6 September, the International Land Coalition launched online the newest issue of its Framing the Debate Series: *"Islamic inheritance laws and their impact on rural women in Muslim societies"*.

The publication is the result of a research project that took place between 2013 and 2015 that aims to improve the understanding of the role of Islamic laws and practices in enforcing, or fighting, barriers that prevent women from achieving tenure security.

Read more: [Full publication and ILC web site](#)

Empowering Women to End Hunger (19 October, FAO, Rome, Italy)

A side event on "Empowering Women to End Hunger: Lessons from the Joint Programme on Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment" will take place at the 43th session of the Committee on World Food Security. The event, co-organized by the Network for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (FAO, IFAD, WFP and UN Women), will focus on the impact that the Joint Programme for Rural Women Economic Empowerment is having on overall food security and nutrition in target areas.

For more information please contact: [Azzurra Chiarini](#)

Lessons and voices from the field

Livestock and Pasture Development Project, Tajikistan

In partnership with the Government of Tajikistan, IFAD is creating favourable conditions for empowering rural women and increasing their employment in mountainous areas. Fifteen women's groups dedicated to wool processing have been established under the IFAD-supported Livestock and Pasture Development Project, providing poor rural women with jobs and support, and helping them to gain market access for their products.

Read more:

[Promoting women's development in Tajikistan](#)

[IFAD in Tajikistan: The virtues of village organizations](#)

For more information please contact: [Sadi Karimov](#)

Poor women become successful entrepreneurs thanks to self-help groups: success stories from India

Successful stories captured by the IFAD country office in India confirm how self-help groups play a key role in fostering women's entrepreneurship. Participation in these groups helps women to overcome most of the practical problems they encounter in implementing various income-generating initiatives and promotes the empowerment they need to succeed in their day-to-day life.

For more information please contact: [Meera Mishra](#)

Home gardening in Kiribati brings innovation and change

Ata Tangatariki is a 30-year-old woman successfully engaged in home gardening who worked as a community facilitator under the IFAD-supported Outer Island Food and Water Project in Kiribati. Thanks to the project, she became a community leader and her family has shifted to a healthier and more nutritious diet.

Read more: [Full Blog post](#)

For more information please contact: [Ron Hartman](#) and [Monica Romano](#)

Gender in land settlement, Bangladesh

Under the IFAD-funded Char Development and Settlement Project phase IV, land titles are allotted to landless families in the names of both husband and wife, with the wife's name written first. To date, over 7,000 khatians (land title documents) have been distributed. The impact of land ownership is remarkable because women are more empowered and willing to invest in their newly acquired land. This has a positive effect on agricultural productivity and consequently enhances rural livelihoods and income. The project ensures women's participation and leadership in all project field-level institutions - Water Management Groups, Farmer Forums, Social Forestry Groups, Tubewell Users Group and Labour Contracting Societies.

For more information please contact: [Martina Huonder](#)

Useful links and resources

Feminization of Agriculture in the Context of Rural Transformations: What is the evidence? (by World Bank Group). This publication presents the global evidence surrounding the feminization of agriculture, from the indicators needed to track it, to the factors that may lead to this phenomenon. Read more: [Full publication](#)

Women, Food, Land: Exploring rule-of-law linkages (by IDLO). This policy report, published by the International Development Law Organization, seeks to influence the global dialogue on land, gender equality, food security and rule of law through the provision of concrete lessons and recommendations. Read more: [Full report](#)
[IDLO at CFS: Rule of Law Solutions for Women, Food and Land](#)
For more information please contact: [Fiona Funke](#)

Other useful links and resources

- [Africa Human Development Report 2016: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa](#)
- [One hundred tools for empowering rural women](#)
- [The visionary approach to tackle gender inequality in the developing world](#)
- [Stepping up the gender agenda in IFAD10](#)
- [Annual Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness](#)
- [IFAD's Executive Board stands together to support gender mainstreaming in IFAD](#)
- [Gender mainstreaming in IFAD10](#)
- [Rural Development Report 2016: Fostering inclusive rural transformation](#)
- [Child marriage around the world](#)
- [UNEP Gender Policy Brief and Success Stories](#)
- [Global Gender and Environment Outlook 2016](#)

Calendar

FAO/EU High-Level Event: Step It Up Together for Rural Women (16 December 2016, FAO, Rome, Italy)

FAO Expert Workshop: Gender-equitable small-scale fisheries in the context of the implementation of the *Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication* Guidelines (28-30 November 2016, FAO, Rome, Italy)

FAO: Launch of CEDAW General Recommendation 34 on the rights of rural women (22 November, FAO, Rome, Italy)

Oxfam Novib workshop mid-term review: Integrating household methodologies in agricultural extension, value chains and rural finance in Sub-Saharan Africa (IFAD grant) (3-10 November, Rwanda)

FAO Expert Workshop: Gender mainstreaming into agricultural markets and rural economies: Policy lessons from four decades of gender research and development (2-4 November, FAO, Rome, Italy)

PROCASUR: [Scaling Up Nutrition \(SUN\) Learning Route](#) (30 October - 5 November, Rwanda)

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.

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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 Sustainable Development Goals.
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