



**DAILY UPDATE:**  
**Thursday October 14, 2021**

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"We need research, but researchers need to come to these communities and territories with respect. The researchers come here to learn. The knowledge holders are the Indigenous communities."

– [Eileen Mairena Cunningham](#),  
Researcher & Advocacy Officer, CADPI

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### **Today's highlights**

Welcome back!

Day 3 of Cultivating Equality 2021 is now well underway. An exciting plenary session prepared us for tomorrow's [International Day of Rural Women](#), which is set, very fittingly, to put a spotlight on "[Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All.](#)"

In today's plenary, [Rural women's voices: Messages to researchers](#), five women from India, Kenya, the Netherlands and Nicaragua delivered messages about their realities and gender research needs. Protecting and respecting women's rights was unanimously embraced and a shared call was made for revisited narratives, services and other action. Commonly shared challenges related to distorted statistics; women's land ownership; lack of access to markets,

agricultural inputs and education; poor recognition of women as farmers; and health and security risks, including gender-based violence.

So, what do rural women need from gender researchers? Awareness raising, in-depth data, multi-faceted approaches and research results are needed to inform evidence-based policies. Researchers should adopt participatory, rights-based approaches and must also, importantly, share results back with people in local communities. In other words, we must carefully consider not only *what* we research, but *how* we research, to earn the trust of and establish equitable partnerships with communities, respond to local priorities and make our research a useful tool for local advocacy.

Other important needs included actionable evidence related to collective Indigenous rights; inclusion of grassroots researchers; recognition within service provision; innovations for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and support for capacity building and women's agency.



Thus given our “marching orders”, as our [plenary moderator](#) phrased it, let's look at some of the ideas for how to strengthen gender research that have surfaced during the past 24 hours (43 sessions down at the time of writing!):

Exploring how to mitigate unintended negative gendered consequences of agricultural development, one discussion brought out central [feminist critiques](#) such as the “instrumentalization” of women as tools for development and the creation of new power imbalances in agricultural interventions. Speakers suggested new and creative policy approaches and programming to address these shortcomings.

The importance of critically examining established narratives was also raised by several speakers: For example, because women do not necessarily identify themselves as “entrepreneurs”, funders looking to support women's entrepreneurship will need to carefully consider language on and framing of their programming. In another session, one presenter highlighted the Rastafari Daughters movement in the Caribbean around 1930 as an alternative to dominant food security paradigms, as it provides a place-based understanding

of the underappreciated interconnectivity between women's empowerment, community self-determination, environmental sustainability and food sovereignty.

Meanwhile, in yet another session, questions on engrained normativity in concepts such as "will" and species inclusivity started off the discussion that comes with addressing intersectionality.

Other presenters called for adjusting the character and scope of current gender research. For example, a recent evidence gap map shows that gender research on climate change and resilience is predominantly descriptive and anecdotal, which could be interpreted as a sign of a general lack of in-depth gender research. Along the same lines, another session concluded that we might have gone too far in our gender research focus on women, especially as related to nutrition, as not only women's education but also men's education has a significant effect on households' nutritional status.

Opportunities to strengthen, improve and better share our gender research are becoming increasingly apparent. Don't miss out on the final 24 hours of Cultivating Equality 2021, including tomorrow's plenary that will propose ways forward for gender research.

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### **The Land of No Men: Inside Kenya's Women-Only Village**



VICE Life (2015): Twenty-five years ago, Rebecca Lolosoli founded Umoja village as a safe haven for women. Umoja, which means "unity" in Swahili, is quite literally a no man's land, and the matriarchal refuge is now home to the Samburu women who no longer want to suffer abuses, like genital mutilation and forced marriages, at the hands of men.

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## Women of the Land: Dutch Women Farmers' Challenges and Stories



My happiness comes from a bull that looks good,  
or a herd of cows walking in the field.

Replacing a Dutch excursion day, watch the "*Women of the Land*" documentary that captures Dutch women farmers' challenges and stories. Documentary maker [Annejet Brandsma](#) investigates the (social) position of these women in our history on the basis of personal stories and historical (agricultural) developments.

[WATCH VIA OUR VIDEO GALLERY](#)

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## Highlights from Twitter



Katherine Casey  
[@\\_kcasey\\_](#)



I had the pleasure of moderating a panel at [#CultivatingEquality21](#) on leveraging satellite technology to support women in agriculture. What struck me was the intense creativity in applying [#EO](#) to better understand issues facing underrepresented populations.

11:05 AM · Oct 14, 2021 · Twitter Web App

1 Retweet 1 Like





**Arwen Bailey**  
@Arwenincognito



Do you know why I'm loving the [#CultivatingEquality21](#) gender conference?

There's so little bragging and so much honest exploration.

Two days still to go. Check it out



9:00 PM · Oct 13, 2021 · Twitter Web App

3 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 19 Likes



**Esther Njuguna**  
@EsNjuguna



I never dreamt I will hear about Rastafarian movement in a gender conversation ... thanks June Po and Arlette for your insights [#CultivatingEquality21](#)

7:36 PM · Oct 13, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

2 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 7 Likes

Join the conversation on [#CultivatingEquality21](#) [@CGIARgender](#) and [@GenderSmart\\_EU](#).

### Gender research resources related to today's discussions



#### Mapping the evidence needed to advance gender equality in agriculture and food systems

While scientific literature on gender in agriculture and food systems has increased almost four-fold since 2007, critical evidence gaps remain. [Read more via CGIAR GENDER Platform.](#)



## Reflecting on the gendered impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic

This collaborative space aims to raise awareness about the gendered and food system related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more via Penn State.](#)



## Agriculture in intergenerational relations: Ethnic Thai youth in northern Vietnam

This paper (Kawarazuka et al. 2021) illustrates gendered experiences of a youth transition period, with a specific focus on the interactions of youth with parents and parents-in-law through agriculture. [Read more via CIP.](#)



## Women farmers and entrepreneurs – in agriculture and rural areas: What about The Green Deal?

Women farmers, who are close to the land and bring new ideas to the table, can help solve global climate crisis problems, a main focus of The Green Deal. [View more via Women Entrepreneurship Platform.](#)

## Did you miss a session?

Recordings of past sessions are available in the conference portal: Navigate to "Sessions", then click "View" for the session you would like to watch; session recordings and all other session resources are available in the AirTouch device in the lower right corner. Please allow 24 hours following the session for its recording to appear.



## WATCH RECORDED SESSIONS

### Coming up

**Friday, October 14, 14:00-16:00 CEST**

#### **Closing plenary: Ways forward for gender research in agriculture and food systems**

*Organizers: CGIAR GENDER Platform and WUR*

The final conference plenary will close the week of eventful sessions, and a panel of renowned scholars and practitioners will offer directions for future research on gender in agriculture and food systems. The best poster award will be announced, and the winning 3-minute poster pitch will be played.

**Friday, October 15, 9:30-11:00 CEST**

#### **The Power of Moving Visuals and Art in Research and Outreach for Empowerment**

*Organizer and moderator: Margreet van der Burg, Wageningen University, Netherlands*

This session addresses the power of purposefully using moving visuals in research and outreach to support empowerment. The panelists have all put the subjects - mostly women - in the center as camera eyes, voices and able producers; they will reflect and discuss their principles and considerations in relation to their working methods. You can watch their products in the [video gallery](#)!

**Friday, October 15, 9:30-11:00 CEST**

#### **Gender equality, women's empowerment, and food systems: A framework and review of evidence to inform the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)**

*Organizers: Jemimah Njuki and Hazel Malapit, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)*

The objective of the session will be to present and discuss a framework for gender and food systems analysis and a review of evidence of the pathways to gender equitable food systems transformation.

**Friday, October 15, 11:30-13:00 CEST**

#### **Book-based session: Advancing gender equality through agricultural and environmental research**

*Organizer: Rhiannon Pyburn, KIT, Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands*

This session presents key messages a forthcoming CGIAR-wide gender publication, Advancing gender equality through agricultural and environmental research – past, present and future, which will set an agenda on how agricultural and environmental research and development can advance gender equality in its own right.

[VIEW ALL UPCOMING SESSIONS](#)

[BROWSE BOOK OF SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND ABSTRACTS](#)

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## Networking Opportunities

Remember that in-between sessions, you have opportunities to network with colleagues. Log in to the portal, and navigate to "Sessions". Access the "Networking" sessions in the timeline to connect with others interested in sharing views and experiences. Enjoy!

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*This newsletter reports on conference discussions up until the end of today's plenary. Later sessions will be covered in tomorrow's newsletter. Stay tuned.*

*Cultivating Equality is co-hosted by the CGIAR GENDER Platform and by Wageningen University & Research, as EU Gender-SMART partner. The CGIAR GENDER Platform is grateful for the support of CGIAR Trust Fund Contributors.*

