



THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

2020 Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium

Breaking New Ground: *Building Resilience Today for Improved Global Food Systems Tomorrow*

Women in Agriculture

2020 Borlaug Dialogue Whova Community Thread Archive

Timestamp (CST)	Attendee Name	Comment
Oct 10, 2020 11:31 AM	Tyra Green	I created topic: Women in Agriculture. description: Do you believe women in agriculture are underestimated, or unappreciated. I believe women contribute so much hard work in getting the food from the farm to the table, and it should be noted by everyone!. Name some roles in Agriculture that women aren't properly credited for: Last night there was some pretty good conversation about the roles of women in agriculture! I'd love to continue the conversations please !
Oct 10, 2020 2:31 PM	Hilary Barry	Totally agree with you Tyra. Indeed @LadyAgri our entire mission is about making women valued and visible in the agrivalue chains. Women dominated agri-value chains are underinvested. Women are 'invisible' for their work from 'farm to fork'. They lack access to technical assistance, finance and equipment, technology, quality inputs necessary. The current situation in the SAHEL region is showing massive food insecurity, men are being drawn into the mining industry or to the towns and cities to get work so only women are left in the agri sector but without the necessary resources to make a living income.
Oct 10, 2020 2:36 PM	Tyra Green	Thanks so much for your response @Hilary Barry Can you further explain "SAHEL", what is it?
Oct 11, 2020 10:40 AM	Katie Keresztes	I believe the Sahel is the region of transition between the Sahara and the savannas of Sudan. It's partially a bioclimate and somewhat a cultural region too
Oct 11, 2020 2:33 PM	Norma Toussaint	Hi All! Our USDA funded project in Senegal works with women with two crops-- mung beans and orange flesh sweet potatoes. It's been transformative...economically and nutritionally.
Oct 11, 2020 8:13 PM	Vicky Salin	Norma, does the project include marketing agents too? Do women farm and some also have mktg business?
Oct 11, 2020 9:03 PM	Norma Toussaint	We have a market linkage specialist on the team. Part of produce goes to schools for meals, part is for the women to either consume or sell.
Oct 11, 2020	Durga	Do you know any women led marketing firms in the glove



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9:51 PM	Acharya	focusing on agriculture?
Oct 11, 2020 11:14 PM	Kiran Kokate	Yes there are many examples in India . SHGs approach empowered women in post harvest management and marketing of quality farm produce . Further, women played important role as Farm Innovators and conservation of germplasm . There is Seed Mother Rahibai's story of saving over 80 varieties of native seed . Besides, AMUL is best example of dairy enterprise manage by farm women .
Oct 12, 2020 8:07 AM	Durga Acharya	Thanks Kiran for these. But in india many smallholder farmers are in the verge of suicide due to their inability to payback the bank loans due to low price of commodities. What efforts have been made there to support continuation of agriculture by such smallholders?
Oct 12, 2020 11:47 PM	Sarah Schwartz	Globally, women often dominate the postharvest processing and storage of grains and other crops, and yet examinations of postharvest loss often don't focus on ways to reach out to women, including cultural factors that may restrict their access to information and/or postharvest technologies.
Oct 12, 2020 1:37 PM	Kiran Kokate	Yes Durga I understand your concern about small holder farmers as assured and remunerative prices are key to enhance enthusiasm of farmers . However, suicide of farmers not only smallholders is complex issue including socio-economic and psychological aspects . There are many factors responsible to it as there are studies conducted in the suicide areas . The subject is vast and debatable. But farmers suicide is in few states not accros the country . And within the same situation there are farmers who are doing excellent farming . Confidence building and timely counseling playing crucial role in reducing suicides . Now I stop here , we may discuss in detail if we get opportunity .
Oct 13, 2020 12:54 PM	Brett Rierson	I agree with Sarah Schwartz - other than the work we did with the WFP Post-harvest Centre, and now with Harvest Agricultural Services, there is very little (visible) focus on how to better engage women farmers. We saw a clear difference in results when we focused the post-harvest loss reduction work on female farmers. ETH Zurich, which is doing good work with a gender focus, specifically in their 8,000 farmer random control trail on the nutritional and income impacts of hermetic storage in Kakamega, Kenya..., but...where are today's Ester Boserups? With consumer focus groups in Uganda, we learned that most of the female farmers put their grain storage silos in their living rooms - it was a point of pride (in the US and Europe it would be called conspicuous consumerism)...but almost all of these female farmers asked for locks on the silos, even though they were located on the inside of their homes, which usually had some form



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		of security/locks. When asked why...they said that even with the locks on the doors...their husbands were inside. So we now call, and market the hermetic storage silos with 'husband locks'. Here's an example of the ETH Zurich work on post-harvest: https://ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/dual/worldfoods/systemcenter-dam/Symposium/Posters/22-Brander-WFSC2017-Ys.pdf
Oct 13, 2020 8:40 AM	Leah Marie Lucas	Funny anecdote, Brett. Thank you for the article shared, I appreciate the highlight of the SMS survey method - great for research in the COVID 19 era.
Oct 13, 2020 11:29 AM	Malwinder Malhi	In Punjab India many women successfully handling dairy milk business..
Oct 14, 2020 6:39 AM	Nabeeha Kazi	I agree with so much shared here (and thanks for the laugh @Brett Rierson. Women are the ones who do the back breaking work in agriculture, but we have not catalyzed their power to transform the food system. If we get technology in their hands, build them up as ag business leaders, train and empower them where they are, and ensure the financial and systems safety nets are in place, they will thrive and flourish. We have some pockets of brightness where women have achieved in ag and it is this work that paves the way for the rest. However we are not close to being able to say that we have made things better for all or even the majority of women, I think is a stretch. This is not merely about women in ag - they are already there - it's about the intellectual and creative power of women in ag that we are not fully tapping into. Lots to do, so let's keep lifting this up. We need the sisterhood (and our fans) in full force today - more so than ever before. Also, given the topic of this community, I wanted to lift up a side event you may be interested in joining today, and would love your thoughts and discussion afterward on this channel. There are gender dimensions to this work - engaging girls in ag at a very early age and re-framing how ag is viewed and conducted. I'll check back in. Youth as Catalysts for Agricultural Transformation The Movement to Advance School-Based Agricultural Education 3:00 pm (CDT) - 4:00 pm (CDT) - Wednesday, October 14, 2020 https://whova.com/xems/whova_backend/get_event_s3_file_api/?eventkey=b4e4971cc4aa88a86c2810243c2e75dfb3360296ebeaa2acaf64a94fbed811a0&event_id=ibdft_202010&file_url=https://whova.com/xems/whova_backend/get_event_s3_file_api/?event_id=ibdft_202010&eventkey=b4e4971cc4aa88a86c2810243c2e75dfb3360296ebeaa2acaf64a94fbed811a0&file_url=https://d1keuthy5s86c8.cloudfront.net/static/ems/upload/files/nhrs_r_SBAE_2020_Side_Event_Details_Whova_PDF_Webpage_2020_WFP_Borlaug_Dialogue_nmk_100720.pdf
Oct 14, 2020	Sarah	At ADMI, we have been working on gender integration through



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9:31 AM	Schwartz	our work in various USAID projects. One of the projects we partner on is detailed in this Agrilinks post: https://www.agrilinks.org/post/reducing-postharvest-losses-through-better-gender-integration . One of the barriers of postharvest loss technologies is that many of them are not created or promoted with women in mind, but sometimes it doesn't take a lot to make them much more "women-friendly".
Oct 14, 2020 10:59 AM	Kiran Kokate	Interesting link of gender integration ! Thanks for sharing !
Oct 22, 2020 6:43 PM	Heyu Sun	Thank you for sharing @Sarah Schwartz