**Access to Information on Climate Change and Human Rights: Environmental Communications**

**By Vani Bhardwaj[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Information accessibility, information sharing results in data transparency to disseminate cliamte justice for multi-dimensionally marginalized communities. This submission reiterates the case that, Gender-Environmwoment data nexus, in both qualitative and quantitative aspects augurs for collection and interpretation of data through gender-transformative lenses across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the same time data integrity requires that data feminism informs the decolonial form of data systems ([D’Ignazio and Klein, 2020](https://data-feminism.mitpress.mit.edu/), [Perez, 2019](https://carolinecriadoperez.com/book/invisible-women/)).

1. **Agriculture**

Male agriculturalists acquire higher perceptiveness regarding climate information as female agriculturalists have poor access to climate related communications ([Antwi-Agyei et al., 2021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cliser.2021.100226)). For instance, availability of agricultural extension services to women is skewed as access to institutionalized rural loans for renting are allotted negligibly to women ([Cook et al. 2021](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105337)).

*Recommendation*

* Climate risks and disaster risks can be mitigated by women-centric and women designed agro-services such as by interweaving climate information services with climate extension services as a bundling allocated to women and marginalized farmers ([Raj et al., 2020](https://www.apn-gcr.org/bulletin/article/improving-womens-access-to-climate-information-services-and-enhancing-their-capability-to-manage-climate-risks/)).
* Local knowledge by women agriculturalists, including landless women laborers, marginal farmers and small farm holders, must be synergized in agriculture science particularly in terms of agro-climatic pests, soil health of local lands.

*Best practice*

Critically analyzing climate-’smart’ agriculture, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) in India, Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource services Development (AFRISA) of Makerere University, GROOTS in Kenya aim to consolidate resilience for smallholder women with innovative strategies to disseminate climate information among them. Such objectives are being achieved under their project “Reaching Smallholder Women with Information Services and Resilience Strategies to Respond to Climate Change” ([IFPRI, n.d.](https://www.ifpri.org/project/grassroots-women-information-on-adaptation)).

1. **Climate Finance: Inclusion, literacy and education**

Natural resource management with sustainability ethos can be imparted as training to women if they are financially literate. ([Li et al., 2024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bir.2024.01.008), [UNDP, 2013](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/PB5-AP-Gender-and-Climate-Finance.pdf)).   
  
*Recommendation*

* Therefore, financial information regarding climate finance must be communicated to women who operate green Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Information aggregators need to provide such a niche in their portfolio of financial services.
* Women venture capitalists and angel investors targeting gender responsive green business models can only thrive when climate finance is diffused in their networks to enhance women’s agency.

*Best practice*

Tajikistan: Building Climate Resilience in the Pyanj River Basin Project ([Asian Development Bank, 2016](https://www.cif.org/sites/cif_enc/files/knowledge-documents/gender-climate-finance.pdf)). 50% of the attendees in capacity building sessions for financial literacy under the project were women. Besides, loan officers were trained to engage with women entrepreneurs undertaking climate resilient projects.

Mongolian Women’s Fund (MONES) in financial and technical collaboration with Prospera, filia and Both ENDS enriched its capacity to engage with Green Climate Fund ([WEDO & Prospera, 2019](https://wedo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/WomensOrgsClimateFinance_EngaginginProcesses.pdf)).

1. **Land**

Land tenure is intrinsic to adaptive capacities for women and gender-responsive adaptation financing. However, land ownership patterns are riddled with gender skewed ethnic, caste and class power imbalances ([Landesa, n.d.](https://cdn.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/UN-Women-Barriers-to-and-Impact-of-Womens-Entitlement-to-Land.pdf)). Inadequate access to land titling records by the farmers hit a barrier of digital divide and digital illiteracy. Landless agriculturalists (Dalit and indigenous communities) undergo further information asymmetry as they remain enmeshed in economic slavery.

*Recommendation*

* Land rights can be best interwoven from national to local scale if documentation of land titling is available in local languages in an audio format to serve those who are non-literate or inadequately literate. Indigenous women would derive substantive land-based climate justice from such measures.

*Best practice*

1. **Technology**

Technological jargon creates information asymmetry and data opacity for the underserved and unserved communities who are disproportionately impacted by climate risks and crises ([Mitchell, 2017](https://www.climate-kic.org/opinion/tackle-information-asymmetry-accelerate-climate-change-adaptation/)).

*Recommendation*

* In consonance with UNFCCC Article 4 (g), available information around environment must adhere to environmental ethics to mitigate short run profit maximization logic ([Kulkarni, 2000](https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1006340624326)) of private data analytic firms.
* Inclusion of indigenous technologies must be synthesized in the science-policy interface.

*Best practice*

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Colombia are producing data that record the disproportionate consequences of climate change disaggregated along gender and other intersectional categories ([Ruiz & Vallejo, 2019](https://www.scielo.br/j/cint/a/jG4qVs6Z5BSLXXQZgLxLWZb/?lang=en&format=pdf)).

**Concluding Remark**

Public awareness and capacity building for gendered climate justice across crosscutting identities can be enabled by Communities of Practice (CoP) approach whether in-person and digitally. This would enhance transnational solidarity regarding quantiative and qualitative data for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) and beyond integrating transdisciplinary practice and theories. Utilizing indigenous forms of art such as theatre, hand puppetry and satire can become meaningful media of communicating climate education.

1. Vani Bhardwaj is the co-founder and co-lead of the Gender and Climate Justice Circle at the Society of Gender Professionals. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)