

Gender Contributions to Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Enhancing the Gender Relevance by Constructive Engagement and Education.

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SUMMARY

While the relevance of gender equality and women's empowerment for sustainable development has long been established in intergovernmental conventions, such as the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it has become increasingly evident that women's contributions to sustainable development are both undervalued and underutilized in the developing countries. Women Participation, decision-making and management roles are critical to sustainable development processes and governance at local, national and international levels, where they can be effective agents of change. Sustainability is all about women. Society flourishes when women's leadership, creativity, and initiative are recognized, embraced, and harnessed. In many countries, women are the champions of green economy, practicing sustainable agriculture, nurturing our natural resources, and promoting renewable energy. In this paper, a critical assessment of the contributions of some of the women in Sub-Saharan African and Nigeria who have blazed the trail in their pursuit for sustainable development and leadership endeavors. This work further advocates a constructive engagement of the Gender and their integration into key critical sectors of the economy and environmental management.