

Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference, Niagara Falls

Contributed by:

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“There is a rapid pace to the changes in Agriculture,” shared Jolene Brown a thriving farmer from Iowa, “in which the consumer values time, youth, health, safety, and experience.” For the 430 women that gathered at the Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference in Niagara Falls, October 30-31st, this was an unforgettable opportunity to learn and network with talented, skilled, knowledgeable and passionate women leaders from more than 200 organizations. The CGC and the National Employment Equity and Diversity Committee stand behind the advancement of women in agriculture and demonstrated their support by sending four CGC staff to the conference and sponsoring a student from the University of Manitoba.



Left to right: Helen Gill, GIDP, Developmental Grain Inspector, Vancouver; Nicole Stobart, ISO Coordinator; Leah McDonald, Student of Agronomy, University of Manitoba; Cheryl Prokosh, Grain Inspector, Thunder Bay; Cherianne McClure, Technician, Variety Identification Monitoring, GRL.

It was a jam packed two days that covered a broad scope of interests from field to finance.

Maimouna Abass, Senior Agriculture Researcher from Zambia, highlighted the seeds of agricultural development in her country, where 78% of the agricultural workforce are women that produce 20.4% of the countries' GDP. "You might need a doctor or a lawyer a few times," she shared, "but you need agriculture three times a day."

These inspiring speakers brought to our table their advocacy, support and key strategies for managing business, developing people, and nurturing ourselves, and asked that as women, we bring our voices to the table to bring diversity into agriculture and make decisions that build stronger local and global communities.



There was a resounding theme underscoring the importance of attaining work/life balance. "63% of working women experience moderate to high stress which manifests into very real physical effects," expressed Dr. Marla Shapiro. Seeking support, making connections, listening to feedback, coaching and being coached, and above all having a sense of humor, are significant in achieving balance with success.

"People like doing business where they like doing what they do," conveyed Jolene Brown. We were delighted and impressed to be a part of this expansive agricultural network of women and experience such a high quality conference that left us inspired to:

"Dream It, Do It, and Live it."

entrepreneur and author Debbie Travis