



Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region

Newsletter

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Kick-off Meeting of GEWAMED Project

SRU-NWRC: Initiation of the National Committee

Expert Group Meeting on "The Role of Women in Water Resources Management, with Focus on Irrigated Agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa Countries"

3rd Conference of the Programme GEODA: "Women, Environment and Sustainable Development"

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The Consortium of GEWAMED

Issue No 1

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Kick-off Meeting of GEWAMED Project

The creation of the conditions for initiating the Project work was the general objective of the First Coordination Regional Workshop.

The Workshop was held at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B) from 20 to 22 February 2006 with the participation of 40 experts from 15 countries.

The workshop was attended by all partners of the Consortium of GEWAMED with the exception of Syria, that, due to last minute circumstances, was not able to participate but had sent a copy of its presentation and inputs.



Working session on the use of indicators chaired by I. Sisto



Opening Ceremony

From the left to the right: Nicola Lamaddalena, Veronica Navarra, Cosimo Lacirignola, Maria Maugeri, Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, Cornelia Nauen

To the workshop, several resource persons were invited to contribute to the meeting by introducing some key note papers related to the objectives of the meeting and contribute to the discussion; including:

- Atef Hamdy, Professor Emeritus, IAMB;
- Ilaria Sisto, FAO, Gender and Development Division;

- Judith Gracey, DIMITRA project;
- Rafael Rodriguez, Coordinator of the MELIA project;
- Felicitá Scapini of the WADI Project;
- Julie Trotier, University of Newcastle.

A substantial number of staff from CIHEAM/IAM-B attended the workshop, including:

- Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, Vice-President of CIHEAM, Professor Dept. Engineering and Management of Agricultural and Forest Systems, University of Bari,
- Cosimo Lacirignola, MAI-B Director,
- Nicola Lamaddalena, GEWAMED Coordinator,
- Juan A. Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager,
- Atef Hamdy, GEWAMED Project Adviser,
- Rosanna Quagliariello, GEWAMED Technical Officer,
- Maurizio Raeli, MAI-B Vice-Director,
- Claudio Bogliotti, Project Adviser,
- Luigi Sisto, Head of the Documentation Center,
- Saverio de Santis, GEWAMED Financial Assistant,
- Raouf Guelloubi, GEWAMED Technical Secretary,

and other technical and assistant staff who actively participated in the organization and undertaking of the meeting.

The programme was scheduled to have presentations from all the project partners, with a brief description of the activities and structure of the respective organization and a vision of the activities planned during the initial period of 18 months.

If you wish to receive regularly, free of charge, the GEWAMED Newsletter or you want to inform us about new relevant events to be inserted in GEWAMED Newsletter, please send a message to: gewamed@iamb.it



In addition, 4 other sessions were organized during the Kick-off Meeting of GEWAMED project, about:

- Establishment of National and Regional web sites, taking advantage of the experience of other programmes and projects in the establishment of web sites and international networks, such as the DIMITRA project; the MIO-ECSDE, Greece; pS-Eau, France and ONILFA, Italy.
- Use of Gender-Sensitive Indicators to measure gender mainstreaming in water resources.
- Briefing on the preparation of cost statements: a briefing session was organized to inform participants of how to carry out the control of project expenditures and report them.
- Establishment of National Networks: a brief session was dedicated to clarify the structure of the national networks foreseen in the project document and the role of the national focal point and the National Coordinator.



Juan Antonio Sagardoy (right) and Atef Hamdy (left) underlining critical issues related to GEWAMED

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Following the Kick-off Meeting, all the partners as well as the invited participants sent detailed articles that were grouped into three sections within the same issue:

1. Keynote papers,
2. Partner's papers, and
3. Report of the meeting.

All the articles were grouped under the publications "Options Méditerranéennes, Serie A, n° 68: **Institutional Coordination and Streamlining Partners Missions in the Framework of GEWAMED Project**, Editors: J. A. Sagardoy, A. Hamdy, N. Lamaddalena, R. Quagliariello, C. Bogliotti and R. Guelloubi". The publication is under preparation and will be available soon for direct download from the website of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (www.iamb.it), as the GEWAMED website isn't ready yet.

SRU-NWRC: Initiation of National Committee

The Strategic Research Unit of the National Water Research Center (SRU-NWRC) is initiating a National Committee Chaired by Dr. Farkhanda Hasan, Secretary General of the National Council for Women and with the membership of Dr. Nahla Abouel-Fotouh and Eng. Mawaheb Abouel-Azem as well as the membership of most of the relevant



persons who are interested in the field of Gender. The objective of the committee is to promote the gender dimensions and to cooperate in achieving the goals of GEWAMED.

In addition, the SRU-NWRC is in the process of preparing a set of gender indicators to be used in monitoring the progress of gender strategies and policies.

Expert Group Meeting on: "The Role of Women in Water Resources Management, with Focus on Irrigated Agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa Countries"

Réunion d'experts sur: "Le Rôle de la femme dans la gestion de l'eau et plus particulièrement dans le secteur irrigué dans les pays de l'Afrique du Nord et du Proche Orient"

L'Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie (INAT) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) organised an expert group meeting on "The Role of Women in Water Resources Management, with focus on the Irrigated Agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa Countries" (Hammamet, 18 - 20 April 2006).



EC - DG Research



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The objective of the meeting is to establish a set of indicators of performance of the gender approach in the irrigation sector and to involve women's role in the water management programmes in order to improve women's conditions in general and the effective development and the efficient use of the resources.

The participants were from Africa (Djibouti, Mauritania and Senegal) and the Mediterranean region (Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia) and about 60 experts participated in this event.

During the meeting several communications have been presented. They cover different water fields including, irrigation and drinking water sectors.

CAWTAR (GEWAMED partner n° 7, see [The Consortium section](#)) contribution was made through the presentation of a paper entitled: "Gender integration in irrigation water management: challenges and constraints" by Mrs. Khaddouja Mellouli and Mr. Wahid Ferchichi.

In their paper, they underlined the fact that women are still lacking the access to land and water rights and in spite of the decentralisation process and transfer of the irrigation management to the farmers through the establishment of Water User Associations, women are still considered as indirect beneficiaries through their husband water rights. In addition, the situation becomes more critical during the drought periods due to gender inequality in the water allocation.

More information about the meeting and its conclusions are available in [page 4](#) of this newsletter.



3rd Conference of the Programme GEODA: "Women, Environment and Sustainable Development"

In the occasion of the 3rd Conference of the programme GEODA, organized with the Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer - Junta de Andalucía (IAM-JA), (GEWAMED partner n°14, see section [The Consortium of GEWAMED](#)) and the General Department of Environmental Education and Sustainability, which will be held in Islantilla (Huelva), Spain, on 8 and 9 June 2006, Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, Manager of the GEWAMED project, and Mrs. Rosanna Quagliariello, Technical officer, were invited to make a presentation about the GEWAMED project. The paper entitled: "Gender, Water Management and Cooperation to the Development: the GEWAMED Project", will be presented during the second day of the conference within the session of Project Experiences.

Workshop: "IWRM Science Communication for Impact"

The workshop will be organised from 20 to 22 June 2006 in Brussels, Belgium. Three partners of the GEWAMED project will participate to this important event: Integrated Water Resources Management Science Communication for Impact.

The main idea of the workshop-cum-training event is studying in an interactive mode on how researchers can best engage constructively with the mindsets of water users, water managers, practitioners and the water policy community. The main features of the workshop will be reported in the next Newsletter.

International Conference: Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture and Future Research Needs

The Conference will be organized from 14 to 17 February 2007 in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-IAMB), Italy. It aims to bring together all relevant local and regional key-actors and scientists in order to discuss and identify the priorities in research to support national and regional strategies on water saving in the Mediterranean region.



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Accordingly, the Conference will comprehend research findings, national reports and regional comparative studies on the following main themes:

- State-of-the-art of research and on-ground implementation of water saving strategies and practices for the improvement of:
 - water use efficiency and water productivity,
 - irrigation systems performance,
 - use of non-conventional water resources, and
 - participatory irrigation management and cultural heritage.
- Integration and harmonization of water saving approaches at different scales, from field to irrigation district, watershed, national and regional basin: state-of-the-art and scaling up effects;
- Socio-economic, environmental and institutional indicators for sustainable development of land and water resources and water saving in the Mediterranean region;
- Policies and guidelines for conservation of land and water resources and sustainable water use at national and regional level; and
- Priority actions and innovative tools for water saving in the Mediterranean irrigated agriculture in spite of local and regional environmental conditions and expected socio-economic development and climatic changes.

For further information about the different sessions, the call for papers, ... etc., please visit the web site of the WASAMED (Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture) project: (<http://wasamed.iamb.it/conference>) or contact the Conference Secretariat:

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari

Via Ceglie 9, 70010 Valenzano(BA) Italy

Email: wasamed@iamb.it; Phone: + 39 080 4606 277; Fax: + 39 080 4606 206/274

"The Role of Women in Water Resources Management, with Focus on Irrigated Agriculture in the Middle East and North Africa Countries" (continuation)

The majority of the communications were from the host country where the **Tunisian water strategy and women involvement in water sector** were introduced (**Mr. Lebdi Fethi**). The meeting was an opportunity to present the recent research study carried out by the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources on the "**Impact of the drinking and irrigation water programmes on rural women in Tunisia**" (**Mrs. Rakia Laatiri**). Furthermore, the Rural Women Support Bureau (**Mrs. Fatma Larbi**) introduced the Action Plan for Rural Women in the Agriculture and Fishery Sectors, with focus on a case study related to "**The role of rural women in irrigated agriculture (Sidi Bouzid)**". A paper on "**Gender integration in irrigation water management: challenges and constraints**" (**Mrs. Khaddouja Mellouli & Mr. Wahid Ferchichi**) was presented. Finally two practical case studies, from Water Users Association (WUAs), based on field work, in the Cap Bon region (Beni Khalled & Korba) and Kairouan (Ousslatia, el Alaa, Haffouz and Echbika) presented the participation and role of women in these WUAs. These were interesting case studies that revealed the situation of rural women within the WUAs in Tunisia (**Mr. Fayçal Chenini & Mrs. Jamila Tarhouni**). The FAO took this opportunity to introduce the AQUASTAT project and its information system (**Mrs. Karen Frenken**).

Most of the guests speakers presented the situation of the women in water management in irrigation sector in their respective countries: **Mrs. Sonia Bellache** (Djibouti), **Mrs. Saadia Zrira** (Maroc), **Mr. Fadi Karam & Mrs. Magida Mcheik** and **Mr. Raad Daoud** (Lebanon).

All these communications pointed out the role of rural women in the agricultural sector with focus on their involvement in irrigation in terms of work load, participation, water distribution, use and management. These presentations also revealed the gender gap in relation to work division, wage, participation...etc, and the burden of the socio-cultural customs on women.

As a conclusion of the meeting, in most MENA countries, women play an important role in the agricultural sector, as "farmers" or as "simply farmer helpers". Statistics show that women are more and more involved in the agricultural sector, for instance, in Turkey 55,3 % of unpaid work is ensured by women, against 53,2 % in Morocco, 50,7 % in Egypt, 40,7 % in Lebanon and 28 % in Mauritania. Therefore, despite the effort that has been made to improve women's participation in the development of the agriculture and irrigator sectors, a lot need to be done to enhance and encourage their full participation and to narrow the gender gap.

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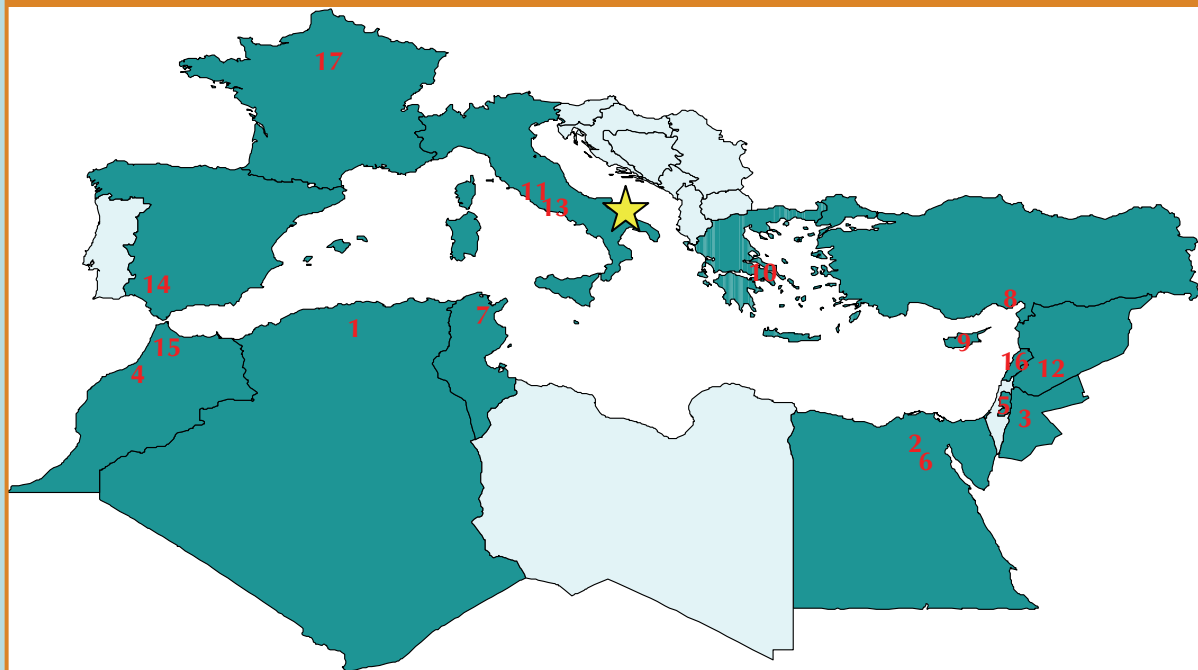
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Coordinator:

Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM) -
Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo, Bari (IAMB), ITALY

Partners:

- 1 Centre de Recherche en Économie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD), ALGERIA
- 2 Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center, (SRU-NWRC), EGYPT
- 3 Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan (UJ-FA), JORDAN
- 4 Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED), MOROCCO
- 5 Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), PALESTINE
- 6 Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), EGYPT
- 7 The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), TUNISIA
- 8 Çukurova University, Faculty of Agriculture (CUKUR), TURKEY
- 9 Agriculture Research Institute (ARI), CYPRUS
- 10 Mediterranean Office for Environment, Cultural and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), GREECE
- 11 Osservatorio Nazionale per l'Imprenditoria ed il Lavoro Femminile in Agricoltura (ONILFA), ITALY
- 12 General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research-Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (GCSAR), SYRIA
- 13 International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage-Italian Committee (ITAL-ICID), ITALY
- 14 Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer - Junta de Andalucía (IAM-JA), SPAIN
- 15 African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), MOROCCO
- 16 René Moawad Foundation (RMF), LEBANON
- 17 Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau), FRANCE

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