



GEWAMED

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

Newsletter
November,
2011

ISSUE n° 19



FOCUS

MESSAGE TO READERS BY JUAN ANTONIO SAGARDOY - GEWAMED PROJECT MANAGER

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Summary Report of the Final International Workshop Of the GEWAMED Project

As a closing activity of GEWAMED Project, a final **International Workshop “The integration of gender dimension in IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management): Lessons and challenges in the Mediterranean Region”** was held on 13th and 14th July 2011 in Brussels. The Workshop was the final step of the Project, after five years of work, with the purpose of providing a good opportunity of interaction with the European Institutions as well as providing a chance to revisit the progresses made so far and outlining possible lines of action for the coming future.

>>> (read the full summary report at page 3)



PUBLICATIONS

► **The MASSMUS Gender Module**



Photos © Daniel Renault/FAO

The MASSMUS stands for “Mapping System and Service for Multiple Uses & Services” and is part of the strategy developed by FAO to investigate the problems and needs of large irrigation systems with rapid surveys. On September 2011 the Land and Water Division (NRLW) of FAO presented the final draft of the “MASSMUS Gender Module”...

>>> (read more at page 11)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On **November 23 2011**, ONILFA will celebrate the World Rural Women's Day with the 11th edition of the “**De@Terra Award**” that will have as main theme: “**Global economy: the added value of rural women**”. The Prize, as known, is addressed to women whose efforts in agriculture contributed significantly to the socio-economic and cultural growth of rural areas.

>>> (read more on the ONILFA website)





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MESSAGE TO READERS BY JUAN ANTONIO SAGARDOY - GEWAMED PROJECT MANAGER

Dear Reader,

The GEWAMED Project concluded its activities on 15 August 2011 under the financing of the European Commission. As last formal event of the Project, a Final International Workshop was organized in Brussels and its details can be found in the following pages. For those of us who have been involved in this Project for its entire working life (5 and half years) it was a touching event of which we keep an unforgettable memory.

It was very rewarding to know that the DG Research has selected the GEWAMED Project as a "success story" among many other research projects. Whatever the Project has achieved was the result of the work of all partners of the Project and their dedication and efforts are here sincerely acknowledged and thanked. We are happy to have contributed, even modestly, to a fair cause as the one of improving the equity principles of women and men working in the water sector.

Normally the closing of a project means the ending of the joint activities that kept the team together and every partner continues with their day to day work with perhaps a new vision arising from the Project work. However, the Workshop in Brussels evidenced the desire of most of the partners of continuing working towards a common goal even if they have to count only on their internal resources. This newsletter is an attempt in that direction and is the first to be published after the closing of the Project. We expect that it will be followed by others.

We will try hard to give some continuity to the work of the GEWAMED project. It will be a hard task but we are not afraid of challenges. Now we depend entirely on your contributions and the collaboration of all those who are interested in improving the conditions of the women working in agriculture in the Mediterranean Region. Please do not hesitate to contact us if in any way we can assist or collaborate together.

With the warmest regards,

Rosanna Quagliariello
and
Juan Antonio Sagardoy





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Summary Report of the Final International Workshop Of the GEWAMED Project

“The integration of gender dimension in IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management): Lessons and challenges in the Mediterranean Region”



**THE INTEGRATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS IN
INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT:
LESSONS AND CHALLENGES OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

July 13th – 14th , 2011

European Parliament – Brussels
(Room PHS 7C 050)

General Presentation of the event

As closing activity of the GEWAMED Project (Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region), a final International Workshop **“The integration of gender dimension in IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management): Lessons and challenges in the Mediterranean Region”** was held on **13th and 14th July 2011 in Brussels**.

The Workshop was the final step of the Project, after five years of work, with the purpose of providing a good opportunity of interaction with the European Institutions as well as a chance to revisit the progress made so far and outlining possible lines of action for the coming future.

The Workshop was jointly organized by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, CIHEAM (Centre International Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes) and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), which has closely cooperated with the Project during all its years of activity.

The objectives of the International Workshop were to review experiences, knowledge, research, results, socio economic tools and the important achievements in the institutional strengthening and integration of gender issues in development and management of water resources.

The expectation was to identify future lines of action in order to consolidate what has been achieved so far, but also to promote a wider adoption of egalitarian gender approaches not only in the water resources but in rural development in general.



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THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening Ceremony took place in the morning of July 13th at the European Parliament (Altiero Spinelli Building) and was attended by 55 participants including outstanding authorities from the European Parliament, EC, IAM-B, GWA, ARTI and Project Partners:

- ▶ **Cosimo Lacirignola**, Director of CIHEAM-Bari (Italy);
- ▶ **Paolo de Castro**, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development;
- ▶ **Elisabeth Liptatou**, Head of Unit, International Cooperation Projects of the EC;
- ▶ **Joke Muylwijk**, Executive Director of Gender and Water Alliance (GWA);
- ▶ **Silvia Costa**, Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality;
- ▶ **Barbara Matera**, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality;
- ▶ **Elisabeth Jeggle**, Member of the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development;
- ▶ **Annamaria Monterisi**, Responsible for External relations and communication of the Regional Agency for Technology and Innovation (ARTI), Apulia Region (Italy);
- ▶ **Soukeina Bouraoui**, Director of the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR), Tunisia;
- ▶ **Muhammad Shatanawi**, Professor of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan.

The Ceremony was moderated by Rosanna Quagliariello, Responsible of External Relations, CIHEAM, IAM-Bari. She started by making a brief reference to the objectives of the GEWAMED Project and to the results obtained.

During the ceremony a slide show was presented to underline some of the activities undertaken by the GEWAMED Project.

Summaries of the speeches and interventions made by the above mentioned authorities during the opening Ceremony have been included in the final report of the event which is downloadable at the following link.

Report of GEWAMED Final International Workshop - Brussels





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However it may be worthwhile to underline some of the main points made. Several speakers underlined the fact that the Mediterranean Region is at a crucial moment where important social and political changes are taking place in the different countries, particularly in those of the South and East. It is important therefore to act diligently in incorporating gender issues in the new policies that are emerging. In this connection the GEWAMED Project represents a great step forward as it has a great deal of gender information and action proposals that should find their way in the future policies and development actions of the countries of the Region.

Another important point was that the EC has declared the GEWAMED project as a **“success story”** among a large number of research projects scrutinized. This is an important recognition of the work undertaken by the partners of the Project and the impact achieved in spite of the modest financial resources of the project.

Several interventions also underlined the considerable progress that has been made in the collection of gender data in the framework of the water resources and management.

This is a considerable step forward in terms of the knowledge that it is required to take relevant decisions to mainstream gender in the water sector. However this action should be continued in the future as it is necessary to build evidence of the conditions of men and women in the agricultural sector and in particular in the water sector.

Several parliamentarians highlighted that women are strategic subjects of development but often they face discriminations of many kinds that need to be redressed. It is necessary to give dignity to the work of women in agriculture which is rarely recognized but also to offer working conditions in agriculture similar to those offered in the cities, otherwise the new generations will not be retained in the agriculture sector. This is an Euro-Mediterranean challenge that is already at the Centre of the Agenda of the EU Parliament and it should be incorporated in all development work. The Europe 2020 strategy aims at leveling the rate of unemployment between women and men for the year 2020.

In summary, most of the speakers emphasized that considerable progress has been made in recent years to provide better opportunities and more dignity to the work of women in the agriculture sector but is of great importance to maintain the pressure on gender mainstreaming in all development activities but in particular in the water sector that is extremely important in the context of the Mediterranean region.





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THE WORKSHOP TOPICS



The Workshop continued in the afternoon at the **Hotel Bloom** in Brussels and was attended by 50 participants representing 18 countries.

The Workshop addressed four **major issues**, namely:

- 1 **Gender and irrigation: Promoting gender mainstreaming in irrigated agriculture. What works?**
- 2 **Contributing to Women Empowerment: How will women and men in agricultural development institutions empower themselves?**
- 3 **Gender and Water Data: What gender differentiated data is available and needed and how to disseminate it?**
- 4 **The future of GEWAMED: Specific future action strategies and recommendations by participating organizations.**

The above mentioned topics were organized in the corresponding working sessions where presentations were made by outstanding experts and several partners of the Project.

Open discussions took place at the end of each session. A summary of each contribution was made in the final report of the workshop, downloadable at the following link:

Report of GEWAMED Final International Workshop - Brussels

The themes of the workshop were carefully selected to reflect wide areas of concern in the mainstreaming of gender in IWRM but also as topics where the Project has been particularly active. All participants actively contributed to the topics of the Workshop.

All the presentations and other contributions to the event are available at the Project website: www.gewamed.net in the "Main Events" section.



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WORKING GROUP SESSION

Of special relevance was the working group session where all participants had the opportunity to provide their views with regard to **3 major issues**.

Three groups were organized according to the following topics:

Group 1. Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM. Improving the Access to the Institutional Set Up;

Group 2. Creating Gender Awareness through Information Collection and Dissemination;

Group 3. Capacity Building.



Participants were free to join the group preferred and allowed to rotate among the other groups after 30 minutes of participation in one of them.

For each group a “moderator” and a “note taker” was nominated. All groups were given the same responsibilities, namely:

- A Identifying the positive experiences,
- B Why they were successful,
- C The challenges to be faced and
- D The recommendations for the future.



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RESULTS OF WORKING GROUP SESSION

The Session was highly interactive and the results of the work of each group were presented at a plenary session. The results of the work can be downloaded from the Report of the Workshop at:

Report of GEWAMED Final International Workshop - Brussels

This material represents an important achievement of the Workshop in terms of understanding the positive experiences and why they were successful but also a realistic view of the challenges that will have to be faced in the future. The recommendations represent a great potential of actions that should be undertaken in the future. Some of the recommendations may require additional resources that at the moment are not available but many others can be easily integrated in the day to day work of the members of the Consortium of GEWAMED. To provide examples of this second category some of the recommendations have been selected and reported below:

Continue the efforts to sensitize politicians in gender issues. Policy seminars, short training and other means should be used;

Training of women should be more participative and address more the capacities for being active decision makers;

Information and dissemination of gender knowledge at institutional governmental level should be an integral part of the institutional policies;

Create a group on Facebook to address a larger audience of experts, young people and people interested in the topic;

Working more with media professionals and media dissemination channels;

Take stock of the project experiences and the available training material and evaluate and adapt to different target groups in the form of targeted training manuals for different audiences.

The above are only some examples of potential actions that can be undertaken with modes human and financial resources.



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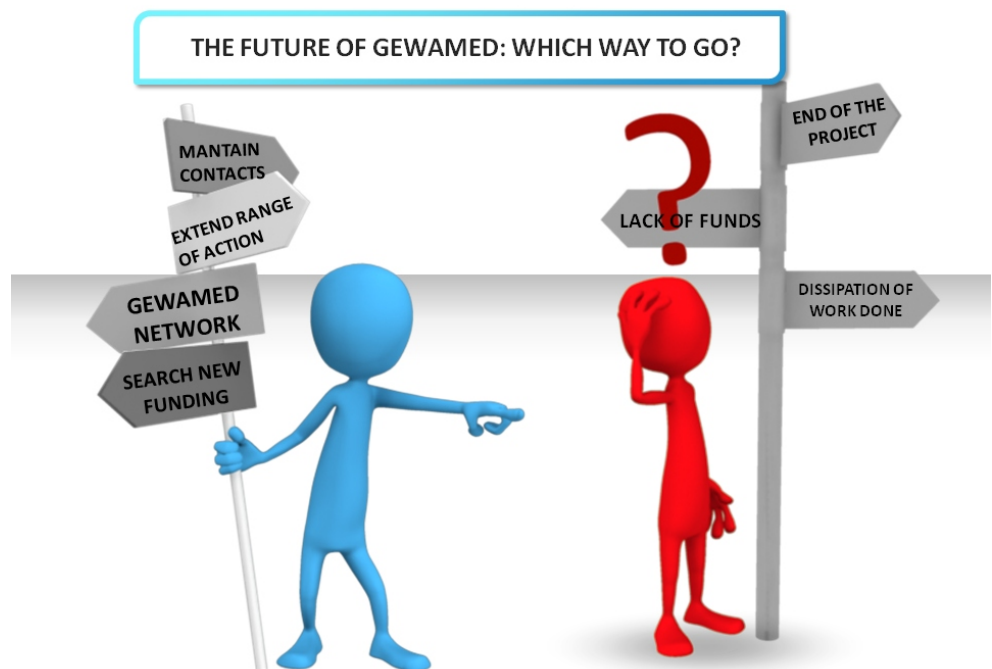
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THE FUTURE OF GEWAMED

The last session of the Workshop was dedicated to identify the major and immediate actions that should be taken regarding the future of GEWAMED; they are explained in detail in the last part of the report:

Report of GEWAMED Final International Workshop - Brussels

But they are summarized below:

- ▶ **1) Continuation of the activities of the GEWAMED network:** maintain an information and research network that will continue the work started by the GEWAMED project and avoid the dissipation of the work done;
- ▶ **2) Objectives of the network:** Extend the range of action of the network from water resources management to a more global sphere of activity related to gender empowerment in the field of rural development;
- ▶ **3) Work to be undertaken:** Continue with the present basic tasks and encourage the creation of national observatories for entrepreneurship and women's labor in agriculture in the Mediterranean countries. Other task will be added in the future;
- ▶ **4) Funding for future activities:** Intensify the search for further research/development projects that could provide funding for future activities and continuity to the on-going actions.



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The above-mentioned main lines of actions were endorsed by all the partners of the GEWAMED project that were present.

The meeting was closed by Rosanna Quagliariello and Juan Antonio Sagardoy thanking all partners for their contributions for all the work done during the Project life and to all participants for their contributions and dedication during the workshop.





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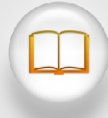
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The MASSMUS Gender Module

On September 2011 the Land and Water Division (NRLW) of FAO presented the final draft of the “MASSMUS Gender Module” to a restricted group of experts and staff. The MASSMUS stands for “Mapping System and Service for Multiple Uses & Services” and is part of the strategy developed by FAO to investigate the problems and needs of large irrigation systems with rapid surveys.

So far MASSMUS and other modules like MASSCOTE (Mapping Systems and Services for Canal Operation Techniques) have concentrated in engineering and management aspects but the MASSMUS Gender Module is the first attempt to introduce gender concerns in the analysis of the problems of irrigation systems.

The gender module focuses in irrigation systems where multiple uses of water plays a major role and therefore where delivery to households is a formal or informal responsibility of the management of the system. This situation is predominant in many irrigation systems of Asia and the Far East but found also in other regions. The Gender Module concentrates in 4 major gender concerns and through interviews and questionnaires intends to map their situation in the irrigation system.

The gender module for MASSMUS was tested and fine-tuned for the first time in India in close collaboration with the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) and the Andhra Pradesh Water Management Project (APWAM). The Krishna Western Delta (KWD) Irrigation System in South India was selected as a first case for testing the module.

At the meeting of September the module was found a highly useful tool but some suggestions were made for final improvements. Its final version is expected in the near future.

Interested readers in obtaining more information about this module should contact: Pasquale Steduto, Deputy Director, NRL; FAO. Email : Pasquale.Steduto@fao.org



Photo: © Daniel Renault/FAO



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Message from Prof. Maria Elisa Venezian Scarascia

We would like to end this newsletter with a message sent from **Prof. Maria Elisa Venezian Scarascia**, Secretary General of **ITALICID** - the Italian National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and drainage (ICID) and GEWAMED Partner:

“The abandonment of the countryside has increased the vulnerability of soils already worsened by climate changes. A partial solution to the current crisis may come from agriculture whose “multifunctionality” can provide useful services to the rural areas. The opportunity to achieve a renewed rural development should be taken by women that have been, always and everywhere, keepers of cultivated land.”



Photo: © Ami Vitale/FAO



Photo: Girls and Boys at Aarti Home - Source: womensgivingtree.org



Editors: Juan Antonio Sagardoy
Rosanna Quagliariello
Vittoria Pinca
Chiara Ciannamea



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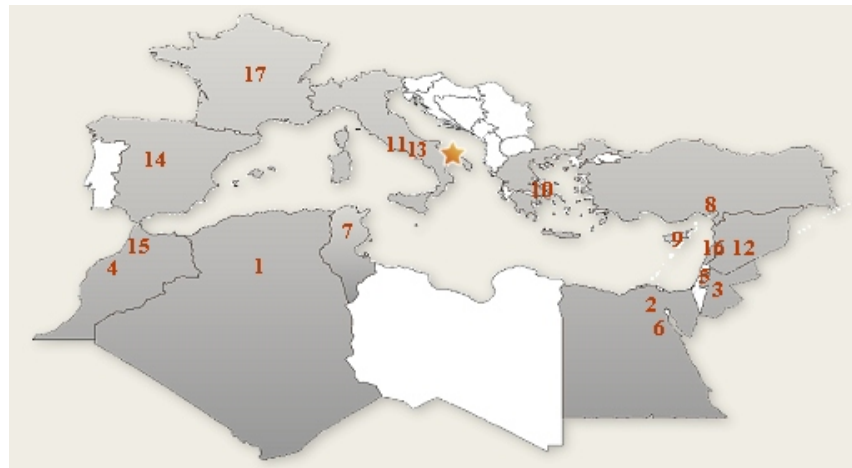
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The Consortium of GEWAMED



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Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée pour le Développement (CREAD)
- * Egypt (2)
Strategic Research Unit (SRU), National Water Research Centre (NWRC)
- * Jordan (3)
Faculty of Agriculture – University of Jordan (FA-UJ)
- * Morocco (4)
Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED)
- * Palestine (5)
Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC)
- * Egypt (6)
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