



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

Newsletter

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Issue No 4

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GEWAMED Second Regional Coordination Workshop: **"Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety"** **12 - 14 March 2007, Larnaca, Cyprus**

The Workshop was held from 12 to 14 March 2007 at the premises of the Hotel Golden Bay located in the outskirts of the city of Larnaca (Cyprus). The Workshop was organized in close cooperation with the Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) of Cyprus who voluntarily offered to host the meeting. An expression of sincere thanks is due to Ms. Dora Chimonidou, and all ARI collaborators for the considerable effort made in the organization of the event.



The Workshop was attended by 39 participants including a good number of Cypriot professionals and Government decision-makers. All partners were represented except those of Lebanon and Turkey that, due to last minutes circumstances and visa problems respectively, could not attend. Several partners send a delegation of two persons. In addition the following resources persons also participated: Ms. Ilaria Sisto (Equity and Rural Employment Division, Food and Agriculture Organization), Mr. Atef Hamdy (Consultant, Egypt), Ms. Fatiha Zoumi (Ministry of Agriculture, Morocco) and Mrs Nadia Aziz (National Water Research Center, Egypt) and presented highly relevant papers.

At the Opening session of the meeting the following persons participated: Ms. Dora Chimonidou, Mr. Nicola Lamaddalena, GEWAMED Project Coordinator, Mr. Costakis Gregoriou, Acting Director of ARI, Mr. Christakis Papayiannis, Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, and Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager and other local authorities.

The objective of this regional workshop was to improved cooperation, dialogue and knowledge among partners and external organizations interested in the subject of food security, food safety and their link to the gender and water issues. The opportunity of the Workshop was also used to review the progress made in the implementation of the major activities by the project partners and this proved to be a highly participative session.



The Workshop was organized into 4 main sessions: Sessions 1 and 2 were concerned essentially with Mainstreaming Gender in Food Security and Food Safety; Session 3 was dealing with Gender and Water Indicators and Establishment of National Central Focal Points; while Session 4 with the Set-up of Regional and National Websites. The working sessions were intensive and required long working days. In addition to these planned working, session the participants requested some guidance in the

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preparation of the management reports and the Project Manager provided an extended briefing.

The papers presented at the sessions dealing with Food security and Food safety were relevant to the topic and some of them offered innovative approaches. The subject of food security received more attention than food safety which is to be expected considering that food security is a subject of high relevance in the Region. Partners have done a considerable effort in searching the topic and offered quite a good overview of their respective countries. The Session 3, dealing with indicators and the establishment of National Central Focal Points, was the subject of an intense exchange of views and experiences. The establishment of these national networks are one of the major outputs of the project and an important mean of communication and dissemination of gender information. Session 4 was dedicated to review the progress in setting up the regional and national websites. Seven partners are making considerable progress in their development, with four of them having already published them. The workshop provided a good opportunity to exchange national and regional experiences.

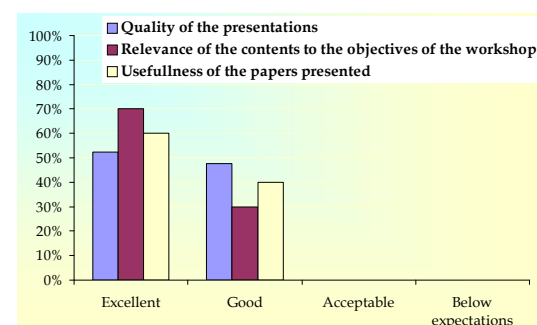
Chairpersons conducted the morning and afternoon sessions with the assistance of rapporteurs. Everyday the rapporteurs provided a summary of their respective sessions including the main issues of discussion. This material will be incorporated into the report of the Workshop to be included in the proceedings of the event, which are under-preparation.

The expected results of the meeting were:

1. to improve the cooperation among partners and external organizations interested in the subject,
2. to increase knowledge of participants on issues related to food security and safety and the role that women can play in their effective implementation, and
3. to improved the coordination and collaboration in the implementation of GEWAMED project activities.

It is felt that the three objectives were achieved but in particular the Workshop was also an important instrument to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among all participants and the social events and the setting of the meeting helped to boost this sense of collaboration.

The evaluation of the workshop has put in evidence an overall high satisfaction of the participants with the development of the event, but nevertheless some interesting suggestions were made for the holding of the next event. The attached graphs reflect the results of the evaluation made for the main sessions of the Workshop.



The Role of Women in Water Resources Management and Rural Development

Within the Activity of GEWAMED Project, a national seminar was organized by the UNESCO Chair on the 8th of March 2007 about the role of women in water resources management and rural development. The seminar which coincided with the world women day (8th of March), was organized at the University of Jordan in the main auditorium of the administration building under the auspices of the Minister of Agricultural and the President of the University of Jordan with the presence of FAO representative to Jordan.



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The activity lasted for one day with opening , two working and closing sessions. During the opening session, speeches were delivered by the UNESCO Chair holder, Dr. Shatanawi; the FAO representative, Dr. Meniawi; the president of the University of Jordan; Dr. Huniti and the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Mostafa Qrunfleh.



During the working session, 8 presentations were delivered from, the University of Jordan, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water and irrigation, Ministry of Environment and the Badia Research and Development Center. The papers concentrated on the impact of the Ministry of Agriculture Development project on rural development and on supporting families specially those headed by women mainstreaming gender dimension into the activities of Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment was discussed in the relevant presentation. The role of Bedouin (nomadic) women in the development of water scarce area was presented showing their involvement in water harvesting and income generating projects.

In the closing session, participants recommended that an inventory study of all water and agriculture project related to gender and women should be carried out in order to study the social and economical impact of these projects. They participants have noticed the absence of women in decision making process and have recommended that women should take part in the development process from planning, decision making and implementation. They recommended that more events should be held attracting more audience represents a wide spectrum of the society.

GCSAR (Syria) Activities in the Framework of GEWAMED Project

Within the GEWAMED project, GCSAR realized the following activities:

- Conducting a field questionnaire in Rural Damascus on the socio-economical status of woman and her role in water management.
- Organizing a field day in Rural Damascus, attended by more than 50 women.
- Organizing a seminar on Gender in Rural Damascus on 07 February, 2007, included local experts and attended by 75 people of which 55% females.
- Organizing a workshop on the 07 march 2007 showing the project importance and objectives along with the status and prospects of Syrian woman and her role in water management.

The event was attended by a large number of senior lecturers from universities and concerned institutions and over 130 persons of which 60% females from the following Arab & international organizations (UNDP, FAO, ICARDA, WHO, GTZ, JICA, UNRWA, UNESCO, ACSAD) and NGOs (FRIDOS, General Union of farmers, Syrian Society for Family Planning, Women

Union, Syrian-Euro Business Center, Environment Friends Society, Environment Protection and Sustainable Development).

During the workshop, the following topics were addressed:

- Water resources and irrigated agriculture sustainability in Syria.
- Women role in water resources management.
- GEWAMED project (objectives and activities).
- Socio-economical status of women in modern Syria.
- Women role in the agricultural sector.
- Women status in Syria and future challenges and how to meet such challenges.
- Syrian women and their role in policy and institutional structure.



Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture & Future Research Needs 14 - 17 February 2007, Bari, Italy

During the period 14-17 February 2007, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-MAIB), coordinator of the WASAMED project (Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture) organized an International Conference on Water Saving in Mediterranean Agriculture & Future Research Needs. The Opening Ceremony includes the following: representatives:

- C. Lacirignola (Director of CIHEAM-MAIB),
- G. Trisorio Liuzzi (Vice President of CIHEAM),
- A. Mougou (Vice President of CIHEAM),
- N. Lamaddalena (Coordinator of WASAMED Project),
- A. Di Santo (Secretary General, Basin Apulia Authority),
- A. Lia (Chairman of A.T.O. Apulia), and
- A. Longo (Director of International Affairs of DG-Agriculture, European Commission),
- E. Russo (Councillor for Agro-Food Resources, Apulia Region)
- His Excellency, P. De Castro (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy).



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During this event, the following contributions were done:

- A paper entitled: *"Promoting gender mainstreaming in integrated water resources management through information collection and dissemination. The GEWAMED project"* was presented by J.A. Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, during the session **"Perspectives and Actions in Euro-Mediterranean Cooperative Research"**.
- A poster entitled: *"Networking and communication for mainstreaming gender dimensions in water resources: the GEWAMED project"*, prepared by N. Lamaddalena, J.A. Sagardoy, R. Guelloubi and R. Quagliariello.



In addition, the event consisted in a good occasion to arrange a meeting between the GEWAMED Project Manager, Mr. J.A. Sagardoy, and the Project Officer of Specific International Cooperation Unit of the Research DG, Mrs. Marialuisa Tamborra, in order to discuss the work carried out in during the first year of implementation and the ways to improve it. A special attention was made to the Regional Website and its structure, as it consists one of the most important tools used in order to disseminate the project's outputs and to stimulate communication among the project partners and other interested organizations in the issues of gender and water.



World Water Day 2007

"Coping with Water Scarcity" was the theme for World Water Day 2007, which is celebrated each year on 22 March. This year's theme highlighted the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both at international and local levels.

Speaking at the World Water Day celebration at FAO Headquarters in Rome, FAO Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf called coping with water scarcity the "challenge of the 21st century".



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The bulk of that challenge lies in finding more effective ways to conserve, use and protect the world's water resources. Global population is expected to reach 8.1 billion by 2030. To keep pace with the growing demand for food, 14 percent more freshwater will need to be withdrawn for agricultural purposes in the next 30 years.

“As population grows and development needs call for increased allocations of water for cities, agriculture and industries, the pressure on water resources intensifies, leading to tensions, conflicts among users, and excessive strain on the environment,” said Dr Diouf.

Climate change has raised the stakes. Global warming has been blamed for more frequent droughts. Climate change has also intensified storms and flooding, which destroy crops, contaminate freshwater and damage the facilities used to store and carry that water.

Smallholder farmers, who make up the majority of the world's rural poor, often occupy marginal lands and rely on rainfall to sustain their livelihoods, making them particularly vulnerable to climate variability.

In addition to the main World Water Day Ceremony at FAO Headquarters, hundreds of other celebrations, such as the march in Harare, Zimbabwe pictured above, took place across the globe.

More information are available on the following web site: www.worldwaterday.org



International Women's Day 2007: We Stand with the Women of the World

Annually on 8 March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. The tradition sees men honouring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers.



The new millennium has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from a younger generation feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men.



Women march on International Women Day in Istanbul (Turkey)

However, great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, school girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, women have real choices. And so the tone and nature of IWD has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives.

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Women and Natural Resources, an Algerian Case Study

The Gender approach initially determines the various roles and responsibilities assigned by the Society to Men and Women. Does the characterization of the production activities (agro-pastoral, domestic, etc) and reproductive (education, training, health, etc), determine the role of women and men in the agricultural system (who does what?) and their access to the natural resources.

The Gender and Water team of the CREAD carried out in 2005-2006 different studies about the relation between gender and the natural resources in the commune of Hadj Mécheri, through questionnaires with the men and the women, but in a separately.



The studies showed one again that women are characterised by a high rate of illiterate and the access to education is limited to the primary school, if it exists. This high illiteracy level is due to the unavailability of the infrastructures, the distance between schools and the residence and the decision-power of the father.



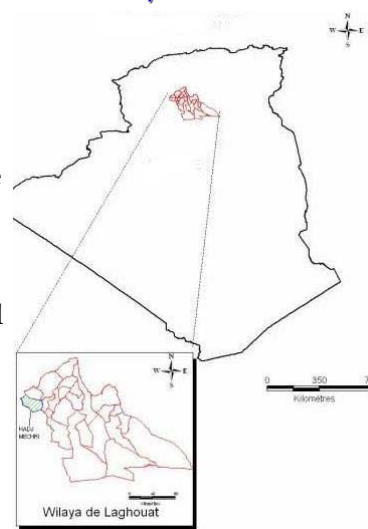
However, in the case of the boys, they are entrusted to the members of the family living the village, where the main schools are localised. 83% of the interviewed (women) mentioned the fact that they never took part in the programmes of development. Women do not have access to the water resources, the provisioning is done by the men; they decide the quantity as well as the frequency of the collection.

Within the commune, the daily water consumption per capita is about 16.5 l, which is very low with respect to the situation of the urban areas (140 l/day/capita).

Concerning the pastures, women have a perfect knowledge about there status, there management, as well as the causes of their degradation (drought).

Women highlighted there knowledge about the inheritance rights, with includes the case of the land right, with reference to the Algerian legislation. However, the social norms oblige them to give up their shares to the male members of the family; therefore the problem is mainly of cultural heritage rather than legislative.

It is important to mention the fact that the interviewed women showed their hope to live a better situation in the future.



Future Events

From 21 to 23 May 2007, CAFRAD (Centre Africain de Formation et de Recherche Administratives pour le Développement) is organising a seminar on "Gender Mainstreaming in E-Government: Bringing Women into the Inner Circle of the Digital Arena in Africa", in Tangier (Morocco).

The objectives of the seminar are:

- To deliberate on gender mainstreaming in national ICT policies to ensure women's integration at the policy-making and implementation levels in the information society.
- To ensure participation of women in virtual decision-making systems (i.e. through Internet communication and online) and promote their presence in ICT-driven professions.
- To discuss ways and means to institutionalise dialogue between Government, civil society and donors, etc. to address gender issues at both the national and local levels.



For more information about the seminar, visit the following web site: www.cafrad.org

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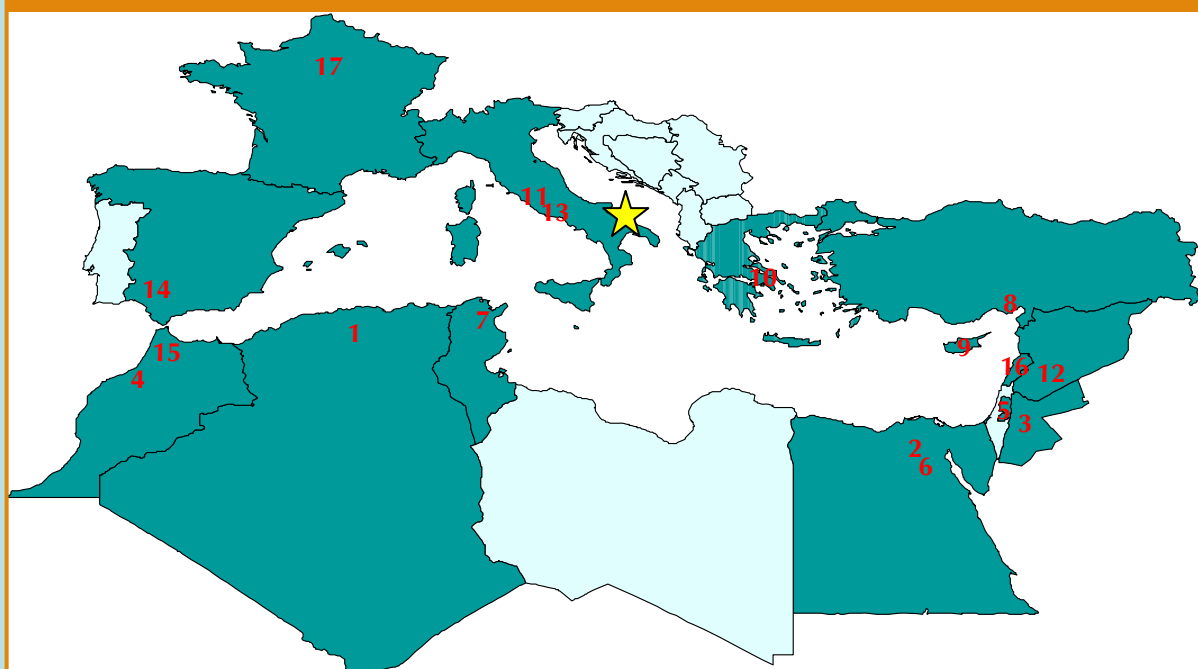
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Coordinator:

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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