



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

Newsletter

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Fifth Session of the Consultation and Advisory Gender Committee

Le "Signore dell'Acqua" (The "Ladies of Water")

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Issue No 11

December 2008

Fifth Session of the Consultation and Advisory Gender Committee

The 5th Session of the Consultative and Advisory Gender Committee (CGAC) was held at the premises of the Apulia Region in Rome on 11 December 2008 and was attended by the following members:

- Ms. Joke Muylwijk, Executive Director of GWA (Gender and Water Alliance);
- Ms. Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, Vice President of CIHEAM;
- Ms. Ilaria Sisto, Training Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- Mr. Muhammad Shatanawi, from UJ-FA Jordan;
- Mr. Atef Hamdy, Professor Emeritus, Consultant, MAI-B;
- Ms. Rosanna Quagliariello, Responsible for the External Relations of MAI-B;
- Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, MAI-B
- Ms. Vittoria Pinca, Technical Support Officer; MAI-B.

The meeting was opened by Mr. J. A. Sagardoy, who welcomed the participants by expressing his sincere thanks for all their efforts for being there participating in the meeting which always represents a useful occasion for reflecting on what has been achieved so far and for planning together future events and activities, such as the final Inter Regional Conference of the GEWAMED Project.

He also reminded the participating members of the CAGC, who could not attend the Third Regional Workshop in Tunisia, that the last session of the workshop was considered to all intents and purposes as an expanded session of the Fourth meeting of the GEWAMED Review Committee since it was entirely dedicated to the review of the progress made in the implementation of the project activities and many were the comments and suggestions received by the partners who participated in that.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. J. A. Sagardoy and the rapporteur was Ms. Vittoria Pinca. During the meeting the following documents were distributed to all participants:

1. GEWAMED, Agenda for the Fifth Session of the CAGC;
2. GEWAMED, Report of the Review of the Progress in the Implementation of Project Activities (4th Session of the CAGC);
3. GEWAMED, Interim Activity Report (Feb-Dec 2008);
4. GEWAMED, Summary of Interim Activity Report (15/02/2008-01/12/2008);
5. Tentative agenda of the Inter-Regional Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management;
6. GEWAMED Newsletters No 9 and 10.

Errata Corrigé: With reference to the Newsletter N. 10, this is to inform all readers that in the contribution concerning the Second Expert Consultation for the Development of Gender Indicators, and particularly when referring to the presentation of Mrs. Zohra Lili Chabaane about the TOT course undertaken in Kairouan (p. 1), we wrongly quoted AQUASTAT, which is a database of FAO, instead of AQUASTRESS Project. We apologize for this error.

The meeting was mostly dedicated to review the progress made by the GEWAMED project and discuss about its future activities mainly within the framework of Work Packages 5 and 6.

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Part of the meeting focused mainly on the progress made during the last six months by the GEWAMED project. Mr. J. A. Sagardoy presented a summary of the Interim Report, particularly pointing out the main activities successfully completed and those undergoing.

During the other portion of the Session, the CAGC members mostly discussed the final Inter-Regional Conference to be held in Jordan in 2009 and a tentative programme has been decided.

As far as the National Policy Seminars are concerned (activity 5.5), the Project partners of the SEMR Countries are supposed to organize national policy seminars in the course of the 3rd year of the Project. During this period only CAWTAR has organized a national seminar while the remaining partners have not had yet the possibility to undertake this task due to the fact that they have not received their financial allocation corresponding to the present reporting period. GWA expressed to the Project management their readiness to co-organize and financially support some of the national policy seminars provided that they receive a good proposal from the partner/country interested in co-organizing such event.

It was also suggested that the media, parliamentarians, politicians, journalists should be involved in the seminars, and that each partner prepare a country paper including the legislation on water and later also on gender to be presented in the policy seminar.

As far as the organization of the Inter-Regional Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management is concerned, discussion focused mainly on the structure of the final conference of the Project planned in Jordan in 2009 and on the topics to be covered. A tentative programme of the conference, including its duration, date, location, target audience, title and topics has been decided by the GEWAMED CAGC.

1. Regarding the conference's duration, the CAGC recommended to distribute the workshop's sessions in at least 2 and a half days with a possibility of one additional day for a field visit.
2. The participants agreed that the conference should take place in the 3rd week of October 2009 in Petra or Amman.
3. For the sessions of Conference, the CAGC recommended to plan them as working groups, with one or two key-note speakers per group, in order to make the conference more interactive and dedicate more time to the discussion, focusing particularly on lessons learnt and follow-up.
4. The CAGC highlighted the importance of inviting to the conference, besides the GEWAMED Project and its members, also all the people interested in the subject of gender and water. Totally there should be 80 to 100 participants.
5. On the basis of the list of topics presented to the Committee by Prof. Hamdy and the subsequent discussion it was agreed that the title of the conference and the 4 main sessions selected are the following:

Conference title:

Gender Mainstreaming in the water sector: Bridging policy and practice.

Main topics:

1. Gender and food security in the dry lands of the Mediterranean;
2. Gender Mainstreaming in natural resources management and climate change;
3. Gender mainstreaming in water policies and institutions;
4. Four years of GEWAMED: lessons learned and the way forward.

A copy of the Report including all the recommendations is available upon [request](#).

Le "Signore dell'Acqua" (The "Ladies of Water")

The Italian Committee for Irrigation and Land Reclamation (ITAL-ICID) organized in collaboration with Lazio Region and the GEWAMED Project the seminar "Le Signore dell'Acqua" ("The Ladies of Water") on the occasion of the 10th Land Reclamation and Protection Day. The main aim was to give voice to several women managers of the Italian "Consorzi di Bonifica" (Land Reclamation Water Users Associations) who brought their relevant experiences and gave important contributions.

The seminar took place on 11 November 2008 in Rome at the Research Centre for Applied Meteorology and Climatology in Agriculture (C.R.A. - C.M.A.) with the participation of Mrs. Gabriella Zanferrari and Mrs. Maria Elisa Venezian Scarascia, respectively President and Secretary General of ITAL-ICID, Mrs. Anna Maria Martuccelli, General Director of the National Association for Land Reclamation, Irrigation and Land Amelioration (ANBI), Mrs. Maria Rita

Saulle, Judge of the Constitutional Court, Mrs. Gaia Checcucci, Vice President of Federutility, Mrs. Giovanna Bargagna, National Director of the Environment and International Cooperation of Lazio Region, Mrs. Daniela Santori, National Director of "Coldiretti Donne Impresa", Mrs. Federica Lopez, President of "Tevere and Agro Romano" Consortium, Mrs. Anna Chiumeo, Director of the Regional Union of Land Reclamation, Amelioration and Irrigation of Apulia, Mrs. Ada Giorgi, President of "Terre dei Gonzaga in Destra Po" Consortium, Mrs. Candia Marcucci, Director of the Land Reclamation Consortium of Umbria Region, Mr. Juan Antonio Sargadoy, GEWAMED Project manager, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B), Mrs. Rosanna Quagliarello, responsible for the external relations at the (MAI-B), Mrs. Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA, and Mrs. Ilaria Sisto, FAO Gender and Development Training Officer.

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The seminar was structured in two sessions:

The first session focused on the multiple uses of water. Mrs. Gabriella Zanferrari, who opened the seminar, underlined two important aspects: first that women's role in the management of irrigation systems in Italy is quite relevant as evidenced by the fact that most of the speakers of both morning and afternoon sessions were ladies with important managerial responsibilities in the Consortia. The second relevant aspect is the importance of the multipurpose nature of water that makes necessary the dialog with all users. This was demonstrated by the fact that several of the speakers were concerned with other uses besides agriculture. Reference was also made to the important role that the "Consorzio di Bonifica" still play in Italy as far as the management of irrigation areas is concerned.

In this regard, relevant were the speeches of the representatives of the different institutions dealing with the water issue participating in the seminar, such as Federutility and ANBI.

The afternoon session was mostly dedicated to the GEWAMED Project. Mr. J. A. Sargadoy expressed his warm thanks to Mrs. G. Zanferrari and Mrs. M. E. Venezian Scarascia for having the opportunity to present the Project on such an important occasion, and he thanked Mrs. R. Quagliarello for her support and strong collaboration with the GEWAMED Project.

Mr. Sargadoy gave an overview of the project activities and provided an assessment of those that are likely to have the greatest impact. The Project, although modest in financial resources, is making substantial contributions to identify the gender inequities in the management of water resources and providing guidance and orientations to reduce them. The positive achievements of the Project are largely due to intense work of the 18 committed partners that include from Italy MAI-B, ITAL-ICID and ONILFA.

Relevant contributions came particularly from the women managers of the Italian Land Reclamation Consortia that covered crucial issues such as the serious water shortage in some areas of Italy, especially in Apulia Region, the need for rebuilding and restoring deteriorated bridges, canals and irrigation networks, as well as improving irrigation systems in order to save water and avoid any waste of it.

The closing session was held by Mrs. I. Sisto and by Mrs. M. E. Venezian Scarascia.



Mrs. Sisto presented the Socioeconomic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) Sector Guide on irrigation and water management whose objective is to help more vulnerable stakeholders in developing countries, especially women and other disadvantaged groups involved in water or irrigation management, to strengthen their position in decision-making.

Mrs. M. E. Venezian Scarascia concluded the session underlining that women managers of the Consortia represent a valid example of participatory approach in the irrigation sector and a positive experience to be followed by the Mediterranean countries.



World Rural Women's Day and De@Terra Award - 8th Edition

As every year, the National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA), GEWAMED Project partner, organizes the Italian celebration of the World Rural Women's Day and the 8th edition of the "De@Terra" Award.

The event took place on 10 December 2008 in Rome at the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies. The conference, whose theme was "**Climate Change: Rural Women Are Part of the Solution**", was chaired by Mrs. Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA and was opened by Mr Giuseppe Nezzo, Head of Ministerial Staff, who thanked ONILFA for the work carried out and claimed that its activity is among the most significant within the Ministry since it recognises the fundamental importance of female entrepreneurship in agriculture and contributes to promoting the Italian products at global level through the participation in food fairs. The conference was divided into two parts: the first was dedicated to discussing the crucial issue of climate change and particularly how this phenomenon affects agriculture and to what extent women can contribute to mitigating it.

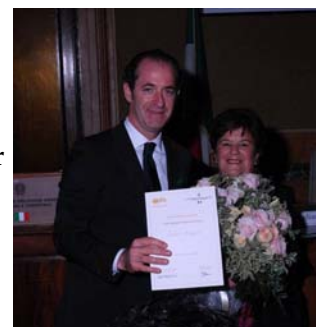
In this respect, relevant was the contribution prepared by Mrs. Ilaria Sisto, Training Officer of the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division of FAO, who presented the new FAO report on climate change and gender implications focusing on the negative impact of such process on both the environment and the population, whose ability to manage and access the basic natural resources, such as water and land, is being limited or changed and the risks at work are increasing.

Interesting was also the contribution of Mrs. Rosanna Quagliariello, responsible for the External Relations Office at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB-CIHEAM), which was about the fruitful collaboration between MAIB and ONILFA and particularly about the Project NOWARA, the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas which has been set up in Lebanon within the framework of the TERCOM Project. She presented also the Observatory's activities and informed the participants that its website (www.nowaralebanon.org) has already been implemented and it represents a very important achievement. She also stressed that the creation of such Institution represents an emergency initiative at national level but with the main aim of creating a network of rural women in the Mediterranean area to make their major role in production visible and recognized by decision and policy makers.



In the second part of the conference, the Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies, Mr. Luca Zaia, expressed his satisfaction over the valuable activities that ONILFA is successfully carrying on and recognized the importance of women's and young people's role in agriculture in order to preserve the "made in Italy" products. At the end of the ceremony he rewarded 8 women entrepreneurs in recognition of their contribution to the development of Italian agriculture and as a way to encourage female entrepreneurship in the rural sector.

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A national Scientific Field Day on

The Role of Women in Irrigation Water Management Under Scarcity

Within the activity of GEWAMED project, a national scientific field day about "The Role of Women in Irrigation Water Management Under Scarcity" was held in the Jordan Valley on 22 December 2008 and managed by Eng. Sawsan Naber and Dr. Maisa'a Shammout from the project team. This activity was organized jointly with Jordan Valley Farmers Association where 20 participants, including 8 women and 4 members from the Jordanian parliament, had attended.



The results of DIMAS project and water management under scarcity conditions was the main theme of the field day. Lectures were presented by Dr. Muhammad Shatanawi (project manager), Eng. Sulieman Ghezawi (Farmer) and Dr. Nabil Bani Hani (NCARE) about water management under scarcity condition using the concept of deficit irrigation followed by an active discussion among the group. A field visit to an experimental and demonstration site was then made to show them the effect of regulated deficit irrigation on citrus performance and yield.



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Results have shown that using this practice has saved 25% of water consumption while maintaining the same yield. Now farmers can apply about 600 mm of water seasonally instead of conventional irrigation practice by irrigating 800-1000 mm of water per year.

Several interviews were made by Eng. Sawsan Naber with women and men farmers to get feedback about their experience in irrigation and domestic water management. This activity has been documented as a video film which will be posted on the website once the production is ready.

Launching of the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA)

On 28 October 2008, on the occasion of the International Rural Women's Day and under the high patronage of the First Lady of Lebanon, the TERCOM Project officially launched the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA).

The launching ceremony took place at the presence of H.E. Mrs. Wafaa Michel Sleiman, First Lady of Lebanon, H.E. Mrs. Randa Berri, President of Lebanese Association for Development, Training and Rehabilitation and Vice President of the National Commission for Lebanese Women, H.E. Mr. Elias Skaff Lebanese Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Andreas Ferrarese, First Counsellor of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon, Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola, Director of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B), Mrs. Silvia Godelli, Apulian Regional Minister for Mediterranean Policies, H.E. Mrs. Mervat Tallawy, President of Economic Committee of the Arab League, Mrs. Wafa'a Dikah Hamzé, Former Minister and NOWARA Program Director.

The event was attended by around 300 people and aimed at presenting the work carried out in the framework of TERCOM project, the steps implemented up to now to create NOWARA, and the objectives and activities that the Observatory will undertake in the future. Mr. Lacirignola stressed on the importance of such initiative, which represents one of the essential tools to promote real conditions of "equal opportunities" for Mediterranean women and can become a reference model for the developing Countries of the Mediterranean area. He also reminded that, last September, the project "Socio-economic Development of the rural people in South Lebanon" developed in collaboration with MAIB and the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, was presented to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The project aims at carrying on and empowering what has been done by TERCOM project and, in the specific, will reinforce the National Observatory of Women in Agriculture (NOWARA) and will support the Local Action Group in Tyre for the improvement and development of South Lebanon communities and territories. NOWARA, having a social and cultural dimension, could play a role to animate a debate at national level to enhance a lobby movement for the promotion of agriculture and rural territories integrating the civil society and the professional organizations.



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



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In the afternoon session, a round table on the future orientation of NOWARA took place to define priorities and funding mechanisms of the Observatory. All the participants agreed in defining the activities of NOWARA as a tool to sustain good agricultural practices through women activities in their territories and stated their commitment to keep supporting the Observatory in the future. Particularly, Mrs. Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA (the Italian National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture⁹, which is one of the main Institutional partners of NOWARA, reasserted ONILFA commitment in sharing experience with the Lebanese partner, in activating a continuing assistance through the web, exchange of visit in order to transfer the know-how, assure and build an international characterization and acquire innovative approaches.

Mrs. Rosanna Quagliariello, responsible for the External Relations Office at MAI-B, also presented the Mediterranean perspectives of gender empowerment in rural development programmes. NOWARA has to work at national level (local action) but with a Mediterranean perspective for the Arab world (global vision), identifying programs and initiatives of high impact that could spread the activities and allow the perception that NOWARA targets women in remote rural areas; in this regard the award to women workers and entrepreneurs should be used as a tool to promote NOWARA in neglected rural areas.

The final recommendations of the round table were presented by Mrs. Daniela Tonon, First Secretary of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon.

Beside the ceremony, an exhibition of traditional products was organized with the collaboration of several women producers and cooperatives targeted by NOWARA.



Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook Newsletter # 1

On 18 December 2008 the World Bank issued the first newsletter as a follow-up to the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook, a joint product of the World Bank, FAO, and IFAD, and a contribution of over 100 writers – one of which is Mr. J.A. Sagardoy, and reviewers that was first launched on 8 October 2008 in Washington DC, as a side event during the WB-IMF Annual Meetings, and then on 15 October 2008 in Rome at FAO in the morning and IFAD in the afternoon.

The first issue of the Newsletter is entirely focused on the Sourcebook, and particularly detailed information is provided on its launching ceremonies, which were extremely well attended and generated great interest and enthusiasm in the Sourcebook, on its distribution, which was carried out via the Internet, mail and through numerous conferences, workshops, and meetings in various countries, and on its website that was launched on 8 October 2008 and that receives a lot of daily visits from all over the world including developing countries.

Among the upcoming events listed in the newsletter, interesting will be the International Expert Consultation on Gender and Agriculture that the World Bank, FAO, and IFAD are organizing on March 16-17, 2009 at the World Bank, Washington DC, as a follow-up to the Sourcebook.

For more information about the Sourcebook, please visit www.worldbank.org/genderinag.



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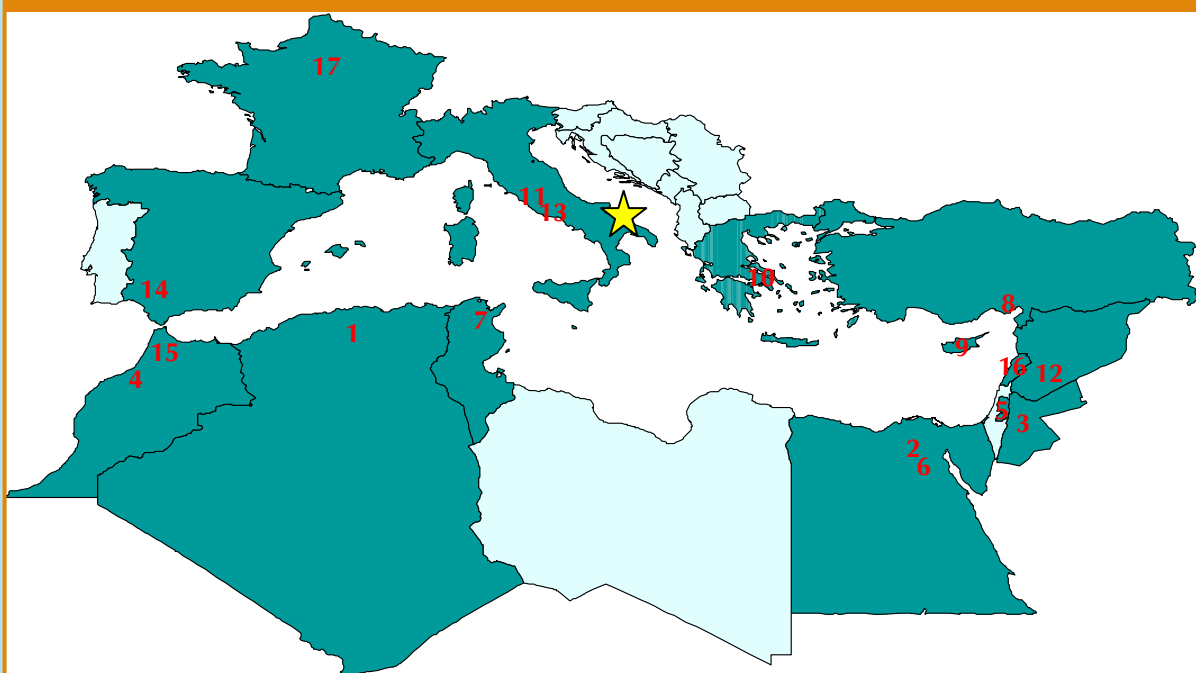
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- 2 Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center, (SRU-NWRC), EGYPT
- 3 Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan (UJ-FA), JORDAN
- 4 Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED), MOROCCO
- 5 Palestinian Agricultural 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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