



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

### Newsletter

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March 2008

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### Global Forum on Gender Statistics 10-12 December 2007, Rome, Italy

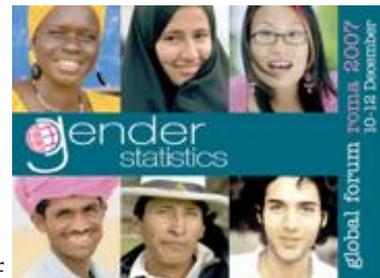
After the IV World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, this World Forum represented the opportunity for re-launching gender statistics at international level, as well as an important tool for developing specific policies. Its main aim was to foster the action of international organizations and national institutes for statistics, emphasizing their best experiences and promoting the debate between users and producers.

The Conference was organized by ISTAT (National Institute of Statistics of Italy) and the United Nations (UNSD, UNDAW, UNFPA, UNECE) in cooperation with the Department for Rights and Equal Opportunities, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Bank. Several staff of the MAI- Bari and GEWAMED participated in the event.

The major outcome of the Forum is that gender statistics play a fundamental role in promoting social changes, contributing to eliminate stereotypes and better understand the actual condition of both men and women, and above all in providing a solid base to formulate gender policies and evaluate the necessary measures to be taken towards the achievement of full gender democracy. That's why it is of utmost importance to improve gender statistics by allocating financial resources for their production. The presence of numerous institutions, such as national statistical offices, ministries, women's organizations, development partners, international agencies and UN entities testifies the growing interest in mainstreaming gender into statistical systems, and the urgent need to accelerate progress in this field. The general feeling was that the Forum should be the first of a series of international meetings on gender statistics to be held annually with the purpose of promoting the advancement of quality gender statistics among decision makers and other stakeholders.

Very interesting was the session on measuring violence against women. The importance of carrying out surveys on violence against women was stressed, as well as the adequate methodologies to be used in order to pay attention to the emotional trauma of the victim and create a good climate of confidence. In such a context, surveys represent the only way to know the inci-

dence and prevalence of the various forms of violence, their seriousness, intensity and dynamics, the risk factors, the perpetrators and their relationship with the victim, as well as the type of injuries which vary according to the kind of violence. The meeting also placed considerable emphasis in engendering population censuses and considerable progress is being made in this area. On the other hand scarce reference was made to agricultural censuses. Unfortunately few references were made to the access of women to basic resources and in particular to land and water resources.



#### CHANGES IN THE STAFF OF THE GEWAMED PROJECT

Dr. Nahla Abouel Fotouh, former Director of the **Strategic Research Unit of the National Water Research Centre NWRC** has been promoted to the position of Director of the Water Management Institute, which is also part of the NWRC. Our sincere congratulations and we wish her all success in this new challenging job. She has been replaced at the SRU by **Dr. Alaa El-Din Abdin** and we hope to continue with him the effective and fruitful collaboration that we had with this institution.

Ms. Josefina Pereira, who was the Chief of the Training and Employment section of the **Women's Institute of Andalusia** (Spain) has moved to another government institution and has been replaced by **Dr. Maria de los Angeles Garrido**. We also wish her much success in this new challenging position and hope that the strong collaboration with the Institute will continue.

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](mailto:gewamed@iamb.it)



Several papers made emphasis on the huge contribution made by women through the informal sectors of the economy and in particular through unpaid work where the contribution of women to the total unpaid work was estimated to be more than 60% in several countries.

Very interesting was also the launching of GenderInfo 2007, an initiative of the United Nations Statistics Division, produced in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in response to the continuous demand by users for a gender statistics database. It is a global database of gender statistics and indicators on a wide range of policy areas, including population, families, health, education, work, and political participation. It presents the most up to date country-level statistics available as of October 2007 and can be used by governments, international organizations, advocacy groups, researchers and others in need of statistics for planning, analysis, advocacy and awareness-raising. Users will find in Gender Info a simple but comprehensive tool to shed light on gender issues through customizable tables, graphs and maps.

 Gender Info 2007



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Most of the documents presented at the Forum can be downloaded at the [United Nations Statistical Division \(UNSD\) web site](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/0707_01.html) or at ISTAT website [www.istat.it](http://www.istat.it).

## An Observatory for Lebanese Rural Women

On 5 March 2008 the Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies, Hon. Paolo De Castro, hosted a delegation of 13 Lebanese rural women entrepreneurs headed by Ms. Wafa'a Dikah Hamzé, Member of the Executive Bureau of the National Commission for Lebanese Women and Gender and Development Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon, and accompanied by Ms Rosanna Quagliariello from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B). They came to Rome to visit the Italian Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA) and to discuss about the establishment of a similar Observatory in Lebanon.



This initiative is part of the TerCom Project whose main objective is to implement sustainability actions for rural territories and communities in Lebanon.

The meeting was chaired by Ms Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA, who presented the Italian experience together with the representatives of the National Agricultural Confederations who described their function as supporting tools for Italian women entrepreneurs. Ms. Wafa'a Dikah Hamzé recognized the crucial role of these confederations and the importance of establishing them also in Lebanon, and gave an overview of progress towards the implementation of a Lebanese observatory for female entrepreneurship, underlining that such Body should be able to support and improve the activities of women entrepreneurs, particularly of those living in remote villages.



Also Mr Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, was invited to participate in the meeting.

Ms Veronica Navarra concluded by recommending that the exchange of knowledge and experience be strengthened among the concerned organizations present at the meeting.

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## International Women's Day 2008

On the occasion of the International Women's Day some members of the GEWAMED Project participated in 3 important events organized in celebration of such Day.

### Round Table:

#### **"Women, Sustainable Development and Construction of Peace in the Mediterranean"** 8 March 2008, Rome, Italy

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Women's Day, the international non-profit Organization "Donne del Mediterraneo" (Women of the Mediterranean), in cooperation with the Observatory of the Mediterranean, organized a Round Table on the theme **"Women, sustainable development and construction of peace in the Mediterranean"** that took place in Rome on 8 March 2008 at the Italian seat of the European Parliament.

"Donne del Mediterraneo" was founded in 1998 with the purpose of creating a network of women and men and a link between all the female associations of the Mediterranean area. Its social objective is to give a contribution to the socioeconomic development of the Euro-Mediterranean territory; to favour and promote the exchange of information, experiences and projects; to facilitate international cooperation and to sensitize public and private decision-makers particularly on women-related issues.

The first part of the Round Table focused on the contribution and responsibility of women in the socio-economic transformation of their countries, with particular attention to the peace process. The second part was dedicated to a debate on the preliminary work for the construction of a Federation of all the female associations of the Mediterranean area.

Many were the participants, especially women ambassadors, European deputies, university professors and journalists working and coming from different countries.

Also Ms Ilaria Sisto, Gender and Development Training Officer at FAO, was invited as speaker to present her views on how women's involvement could contribute to the development of the Mediterranean, starting from her concrete experience in FAO Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division. She talked about FAO experience in promoting gender equality and the development of rural women, who are still victims of discriminations in many countries of the world, as well as about the need of creating awareness among policy and decision makers on such crucial issues. She said that FAO firmly believes that rural development and food security cannot be achieved without involving women in these processes since they comprise more than 50% of the rural population in most developing countries. She also expressed FAO fully support to the intention of the Organization "Donne del Mediterraneo" of establishing a Federation of all the female associations of the Mediterranean area, and in this regard she mentioned FAO collaboration with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, specifically with the GEWAMED Project, represented by the Project Manager Mr Juan Antonio Sagardoy, who attended the Round Table, and made reference to the experience of the National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA), one of the GEWAMED partners, as valid and useful examples that could be taken into account in the process of creating the above-mentioned Federation.



### International Women's Day Centenary

#### 8 March 2008

The celebration of the International Women's Day Centenary in Rome was organized by the Councillor for Agriculture of Lazio Region, Ms. Daniela Valentini, with the contribution of the National Agricultural Confederations (Coldiretti, CIA, Confagricoltura) and took place on 8 March 2008 at the House of Jazz.





Live music performance and discussion characterized the event where all the Women Mayors and Councillors of Lazio participated as well as some European parliamentarians and a member of Amfar-Nacional, a Spanish Federation of rural women and families. The conference theme was **“Women and Agriculture”** and discussion mainly focused on the role of women in today’s social and professional world and on the new Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 which represents a unique occasion for adopting an effective policy for all women and young people wishing to contribute to the agricul-

tural sector.

At the end of the conference some women professors, representatives of institutions and agricultural and entrepreneurial organizations received the title of **Women Ambassadors for Agriculture** in recognition of their support and commitment to promoting the development of agriculture, considered a vital engine of the Italian society. Ms. Veronica Navarra, President of the National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA) was among the winners.

### Climate Change - A Further Challenge for Gender Equity

In the afternoon of the 10th of March 2008, the Gender Units of FAO and IFAD co-hosted at FAO headquarters a seminar on **“Climate change: challenges and opportunities for men and women farmers”**, a special event marking International Women’s Day and sponsored by Iceland’s Ministry for the Environment.



The main objective of the seminar was to create awareness at national, international and individual level on the need of including the gender dimension in the climate change issue. This entails taking into account the diverse roles and skills of both men and women, their different adaptation strategies, as well as the different impact of climate change on their livelihoods due to pre-existing inequalities.

The seminar opened with an introduction from the chair, Ms Tana de Zulueta, Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and with a series of significant speeches from representatives of both FAO and IFAD, Iceland’s Minister for the Environment, Ms Thorunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, and Ms Irene Dankelman, Professor at the University of Nijmegen, Netherlands. Moreover, the event was actively attended by many young students from 3 international schools of Rome.

The second part of the seminar was particularly interactive since it was dedicated to school statements and open discussion.

An award was also granted by the Icelandic Minister for the best poster made and presented at the seminar by the 3 schools.

The seminar was closed by Ms Marcela Villarreal, FAO Director of the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, who summarized the main recommendations made by the panelists, particularly stressing on the importance of translating questions into policies, adopting a gender approach and feeding lessons learned into new project designs, strengthening capacity building in climate change as well as the role of women in climate change initiatives, and on the major role that both Science and Technology and poor rural people play in mitigating climate change.

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### Smileagain Gets in the Front Line of Italian Television

“Smileagain” is a non-profit Organization whose main objective is to assist women from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Nepal who have been brutally mistreated and disfigured with acid or kerosene by citizens, especially men, of their own countries. Although there is no justification for such terrible behaviours these often originate in the idea that women have not respected a local traditional sense of honour.



A group of Italian doctors mostly specialized in plastic and reconstructive surgery and members of Smileagain are helping these women to integrate back into society.



On 19 February 2008 Vittoria Pinca, Vice President of Smileagain, several plastic surgeons and some acid burn victims, were interviewed on RaiNews Television of Italy for some 45 minutes. The programme was very moving and we feel proud that Vittoria Pinca, who actively collaborates with ONILFA and MAI-Bari, is engaged in such humanitarian undertaking. We wish her and Smileagain much success in their activities.



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## Gender and Water Securing Water for Improved Rural Livelihoods: The Multiple-Uses System Approach

IFAD's newest publication "Gender and Water: Securing water for improved rural livelihoods: The multiple-uses system approach" is the result of the studies that such Organization undertook in preparation for the module on gender and water in the forthcoming WB-FAO-IFAD Sourcebook on Gender and Agricultural Livelihoods.

This review examines the impact of water-related projects on women, women's role in managing water resources and the constraints women face in gaining access to water. It presents lessons learned in promoting women's participation in decision-making for water management using experiences from several IFAD-supported water programmes and projects. It highlights the innovative activities and catalysts that have helped to address gender issues in water programmes and projects. And it offers recommendations on how to improve women's access to water resources through equitable development and gender mainstreaming.

One of the major findings of this review is that, although the problems and issues in women's participation in water management are well known and documented, there is insufficient information on successful efforts to involve women in water projects. The achievements of programmes and projects are usually described in terms of the number of women trained or the number of women beneficiaries. There is a need to document the processes that lead to the successful participation of women in the projects and how this participation actually improves the livelihoods of women. It is also important to identify the constraints faced at various levels (policy, project, field, or community level), and how these constraints have been overcome to achieve the results.

Moreover, analysis is needed on the impact of water projects on women's workloads. This impact needs to be clearly evaluated and reported because it is often difficult to find significant information on this issue in project documents and reports.

Considering what has been mentioned so far, it is fundamental to adopt the following approaches, which have been developed over the years to facilitate gender mainstreaming in integrated water resources management:

- gender-sensitive project design and targeting are needed to enable rural women to benefit fully from project activities;
- sex-disaggregated data analysis is important throughout the project cycle in order to design solid gender-responsive interventions, to monitor implementation and evaluate the impact of the project;
- gender-sensitive indicators are essential in monitoring and assessing the impact of the project activities on communities of poor women and men; and
- gender-responsive budgets are helpful in establishing who is benefiting from the services and interventions.

Moreover, programmes and projects including supporting components such as capacity-development, access to capital and awareness-raising are essential in encouraging women's participation and improving their livelihoods, and multiple-use water systems tend to be more effective in addressing women's concerns than single-use irrigation projects.

For further details, copy of the full document is available in PDF format at GEWAMED regional website - Documentation section, [www.gewamed.net](http://www.gewamed.net) and at the IFAD website: [www.ifad.org/pub/thematic/index.htm](http://www.ifad.org/pub/thematic/index.htm)



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## Third GEWAMED Regional Workshop

We remind all readers that the Third GEWAMED Regional Workshop, "Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Rural Development", will be held in Tunisia from 19 to 22 May 2008 at the Barceló Carthage Hotel located 15 minutes away from the capital Tunis.

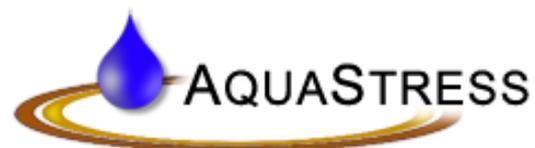
The four main topics are:

- Law and Practice related to Women's Inheritance Land and Water Rights in the MENA Region (Middle East and North Africa);
- Gender and institutions for rural development
- Gender and national policies for rural development;
- Gender and capacity building/development for rural development.

For more information about the Workshop consult the previous Newsletter or contact Ms. Khadouja Mellouli (CAWTAR) at: [Khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org](mailto:Khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org) or Juan Antonio Sagardoy (MAI-B) at: [sagardoy@iamb.it](mailto:sagardoy@iamb.it)

## Tunisian National Training of Trainers course on "Gender Aspects of Water Resources Management" 8-9 May2008, Tunisia

The GEWAMED Project has made a collaboration agreement with the AQUASTRESS Project for the organization of a national ToT course in Tunisia on 8 and 9 May. The course is one of the planned activities of the AQUASTRESS Project and the support of the GEWAMED Project was requested in view of the success of a similar activity undertaken in Poland in November 2006. Preliminary discussions about the organization of this event were held at the 3rd Consultation and Advisory Gender Committee held in Rome on 3-4 November 2007. The CAWTAR Organization is strongly supporting the course through the active participation of Ms. Khadouja Mellouli.



The course is designed for local, regional and national stakeholders and managers (both women and men) who have a keen interest in setting up strategies for the promotion and strengthening of the integration of gender aspects in water management in the study area of Kairouan in Merguellil Valley specifically and in Tunisia in general.

The programme of the course is under active preparation but it will cover subjects such as: a) Inter-relation between Gender and Integrated Water Resources Management in Tunisia, b) Women's participation in public and private sectors, c) Programs and Mechanisms for strengthening Women's Capacities In Water Sectors and d) Familiarization with some of the existing training tools and resource materials. The trainers and facilitators of the event will include: Ms. Khadouja Mellouli, Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, Ms. Zohra Lili Chabaane and other local staff of INAT and international staff from the AQUASTRESS Project.

For further details and information about the course please contact:

Ms. Khadouja Mellouli at [khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org](mailto:khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org)

Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy at [sagardoy@iamb.it](mailto:sagardoy@iamb.it)

Ms. Zohra Lili Chabaane at [chaabane.zohra@inat.agrinet.tn](mailto:chaabane.zohra@inat.agrinet.tn)

Ms. Cecilia Mosca at [mosca@hydrodata.it](mailto:mosca@hydrodata.it)

## Preparing for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum 16-22 March 2009, Istanbul

The 5th World Water Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 16 to 22 March 2009. The main subject of the meeting is "Bridging Divides for water". The concept of "bridging divides" implies creating enhanced understanding and improved information exchange between and amongst water users, decision makers, experts and water practitioners, at local, national, regional and global levels.

The process of preparation for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum started in Stockholm during the International World Water Week (August 2007). The Kick-off meeting was attended by many participants including the GEWAMED Project Manager and he requested that the subject of water and gender be included in the themes of the meeting. Although gender is not included in the 22 major topics of the Conference several social topics will be covered within which gender contributions can be made.



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Among the several preparatory meetings that took place for this huge event, **the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Thematic and Regional Coordinators took place on 7-8 February 2008 in Istanbul.** It was attended by more than 400 representatives from approximately 200 organizations, including Dr. N. Lamaddalena and Dr. A. Hamdy from the MAI-B. The summaries of the topic roundtable reports can be downloaded from the following website: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

The 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum represents a good opportunity to give visibility and disseminate GEWAMED Project results and partners should consider the possibility of organizing a Gender and Water Special Session around the theme of the Project. This possibility will be discussed at the Regional Workshop that will take place in Tunisia from 19 to 22 May 2008.



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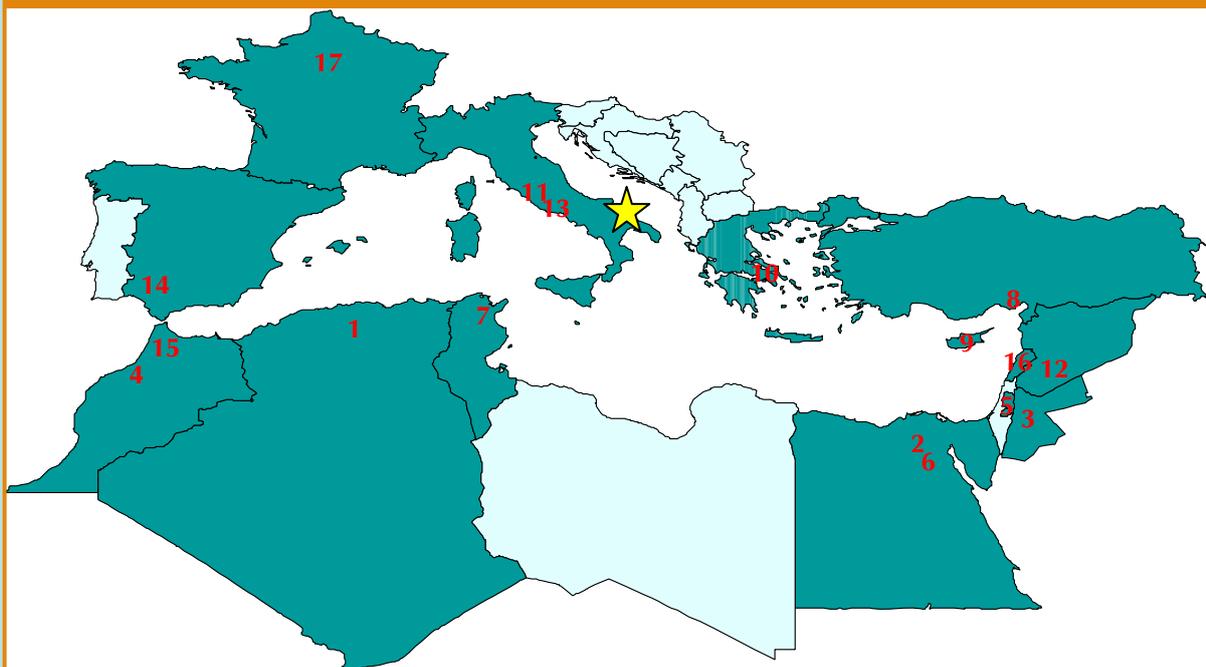
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Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo, Bari (IAMB), ITALY

## 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
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