



GEWAMED

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

Newsletter
June, 2010



ISSUE n° 16



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FOCUS

The international Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management Amman, Jordan, 21-26 March 2010

The “International Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water” Management was held in Amman, Jordan from 21 to 26 March 2010. It was organized by the GEWAMED Project and the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB).

The conference was an opportunity to disseminate the work and experience of GEWAMED project from 2006 to 2009 and it was also a mean to enrich the knowledge base of the participants by reviewing major gender and water related issues as well as identifying future actions.

>>> *(read more at page 2)*



Participation to the Public Administration Forum 2010

From 17 to 20 May 2010, at the “Nuova Fiera” in Rome, the General Direction for the Cooperation Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGCS/MAE), participated to the Public Administration Forum 2010.

>>> *(read more at page 8)*



Subregional GEWAMED Training Courses

Two sub-regional training courses (one in Lebanon and one in Morocco) will be organized by the GEWAMED project. Both courses are under active planning and the information given here may undergo some changes.

>>> *(read more at page 9)*



Overview of Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions Into Water Resources Management in Egypt

This gender report has been prepared by the National Water Research Centre-Strategic Research Unit (NWRC-SRU) within the framework of the activities of the GEWAMED Project, and particularly it contributes to building an extensive knowledge base for mainstreaming gender dimensions into IWRM.

>>> *(read more at page 11)*



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The international Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management Amman, Jordan, 21-26 March 2010

The “International Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water” Management was held in Amman, Jordan, from 21 to 26 March 2010. It was organized by the GEWAMED Project and the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB).

The conference was an opportunity to disseminate the work and experience of GEWAMED project from 2006 to 2009 and it was also a mean to enrich the knowledge base of the participants by reviewing major gender and water related issues as well as identifying future actions.

The conference was structured in a number of key-note lectures on the following four themes:

- 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 Project: lessons learned and the way forward.



Parallel to this conference was held the 4th workshop of MELIA Project entitled; "Benchmarking exercise and recommendation on the application of the Water Framework Directive". Indeed, the opening session was jointly organized by GEWAMED and MELIA Projects and took place on the same day of World Water Day celebration, to emphasize the relevance and importance of water resources in a country, as Jordan, where the available resources are less than 140 m³/person and within the next 20 years, a reduction of 90m³/person has been forecasted.

The participants expressed their satisfaction with the outstanding organization of the event, with its technical layout that provided them with useful material, information and ideas for the integration of the Gender Dimensions in Water Management, and with the results obtained by the GEWAMED Project during its four years of operation. The Project has indeed largely achieved its main objectives, and in some cases, exceeded the established targets. It has generated a great amount of gender-water information and knowledge that did not exist before. Such information arises from the field surveys undertaken and the efforts of the partners to prepare technical papers on the main topics which were identified by the Project as critical. The new knowledge base represents an important step in promoting the integration of gender dimensions in water management.



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The international Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management Amman, Jordan, 21-26 March 2010

Joint opening session of the GEWAMED and MELIA Projects



The Joint Opening Session of the GEWAMED International Conference and of the 4th MELIA Workshop was opened by Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal, the President of the University of Jordan, Dr. Khaled Al-Karaki, the representative of European delegation to Jordan Mrs. Danuta El-Ghuff, the Director of the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), Mrs. Joke Muylwijk and Dr. Muhammad Shatanawi.

Dr. Shatanawi expressed his sincere thanks to the patronage of the events by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talai and thanked her for her interest and participation, as well as for the active role

that she plays in improving the social conditions of less privileged people in Jordan. He expressed his satisfaction with the wide participation that the International GEWAMED Conference and the MELIA workshop have gathered, including more than 50 institutions and 120 participants.

He expressed his thanks to all institutions and people who collaborated at the organization of the Conference and the Workshop.

Joke Muylwick congratulated GEWAMED on its achievements of four years work in which the issue of gender inequality in water management has received due attention and impressive results have been obtained. She further indicated that the objectives of GEWAMED and GWA are very similar: to work towards more equal decision making and more equal division of tasks between men and women. Since women have a deep knowledge and skills about water, it would be a big mistake not to use that knowledge. She also pointed out the fact that a lot has been done in gender mainstreaming by GWA and GEWAMED but those achievements need to be maintained and sustained in the future.

The Representative of the Ambassador at the European Union expressed her satisfaction with the organization of both events where two research projects financed by the European Commission have played a leading role. Also the fact that both Projects involved most of the Mediterranean countries is a clear sign of the need for common efforts in this Region.

Her Royal Highness expressed her sincere thanks to the many institutions that have cooperated in the organization of the Conference. She also mentioned that although much has been done much still remains to be done and therefore constant support is needed to achieve better living conditions for both women and men.

Joint opening session of the GEWAMED and MELIA Projects

The GEWAMED Conference was opened by Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, who underlined that many goals have been achieved during the 4 years of operation that the Project has just completed. Still one more year is left and this will require renewed efforts from all participants. He explained how the Conference has been technically structured and the relevance of the four topics selected which represent major concerns in the international forum, as some coincide with the priority topics of the Water Strategy for the Union for the Mediterranean that will be discussed at the Barcelona Meeting in April 2010.



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The international Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management Amman, Jordan, 21-26 March 2010

Marialuisa Tamborra, EC, DG Research, Directorate International Cooperation, presented a summary of a study aimed at monitoring the progress achieved in gender equity within the FP 6 INCO programme.

The INCO study is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/isbn_978-92-79-08521-5_en.pdf

She presented the methodology that was used in the study, highlighting the main results which revealed that progress towards gender equality has been achieved in some areas of INCO. In particular, progress has been made in mainstreaming gender by highlighting the relevance of gender in some research areas of the Work Programmes. However, an even stronger implementation of policy commitments and a more active guidance is needed to improve the outcomes both in terms of women's participation in science and research and to strengthen the contribution of gender to research excellence.

As previously mentioned, four were the main topics covered. Main speakers and issues discussed are summarized below.



FIRST TOPIC - "Gender and food security in Dry lands of the Mediterranean"



"Gender and food security in Dry lands of the Mediterranean" was the first topic of the first day of the Conference. As the title suggests, contributions mainly focused on food security and the fundamental role that rural women could play if involved in policies and programmes. In particular Mahmud Duwayri, from Ajloun University, focused its analysis on food security in the Arab countries, which revealed that they import at least 50% of the food calories they consume, which means that they are more exposed than other countries to severe swings in agricultural commodity prices, and their vulnerability will probably be exacerbated in coming years by strong population growth, low agricultural productivity, and their dependence on global commodities markets.

Annina Lubbock, Senior Technical Adviser, Gender and Poverty Targeting (IFAD) talked about food security and women's economic empowerment underlining that 40% of the arable lands of the world are arid and semi-arid and these ecosystems are characterized by high fragility due to vulnerability to climate change, desertification, migration, and water scarcity and therefore they often house high malnutrition and poverty. However, she added that these regions have considerable potential for increasing the productivity of smallholder agriculture, for improved food security and more secure livelihoods for poor rural women and men. But, to materialize this potential it is necessary that development programs address gender differences and specifically target women in the policy and programming, including water management, as they have been identified as a sine qua non conditions for success.

Barbara Tomassini from the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) focused her presentation on the role of women in promoting food security and safety by presenting the main outcomes of the Regional Workshop on 'Mainstreaming gender dimensions in water management for food security and food safety' that was held in Cyprus in 2008.



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2 SECOND TOPIC - "Gender Mainstreaming in Natural Resources Management and Climate Change"

The second topic "Gender Mainstreaming in Natural Resources Management and Climate Change" was addressed within the afternoon session of the first day of the Conference.

Ilaria Sisto, Gender and Development Training Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division, FAO, analysed the gender dimensions of Natural Resources Management (NRM) and the key issues that need particular attention in NRM. Attention was particularly drawn to the land right issues in relation to gender. FAO has developed a country data base with related information that may be a useful reference in documenting country and regional situations.

Joke Muylwick, Director of the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA), talked about gender, water and climate change. She first reviewed some of the concepts related to gender and empowerment and then analyzed the interrelations between climate change and human behavior.

Also Maria Elisa Venezian Scarascia, General Secretary of the ITAL-ICID and Candia Marcucci, Director of the Consorzio di Bonifica di Umbria (C.B.B.U.) focused their presentation on gender mainstreaming in natural resources management and climate change, with particular attention to the possible effects that climate change may have in the agricultural production, to the adaptation process and the fundamental role that women's agricultural knowledge could play. The second part of the presentation was dedicated to the essential role of WUAs in the adaptation process.

Alaa Eldin Abden, Director of the Strategic research Unit of the NWRC of Egypt, Ali Kaisi and Samira Alzoughbi, Research Department, GCSAR, Syria, presented two papers focused on the field surveys that were undertaken in several villages of the Fayoum area (Egypt) and in the South of Syria, respectively. The amount of information presented in both papers was very large and gave a clear idea of the gender issues in the agricultural areas. The main objective of these surveys was to identify the different roles that women and men play in the irrigated agricultural production but also to identify the differences in the access to land management, water and other economic resources.





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The international Conference on Integration of Gender Dimensions in Water Management Amman, Jordan, 21-26 March 2010

3 THIRD TOPIC - "Gender Mainstreaming in water policies and institutions"

The morning of the second day of the Conference was dedicated to Topic 3 "Gender mainstreaming in water policies and institutions". Many were the contributions made and really valuable those providing valid and concrete examples of how women's associations and institutions can be established and how their role is fundamental for improving the future of rural women.

Atef Hamdy, IAM-B Emeritus Professor presented a paper on the current situation and future perspectives of the integration of the gender dimension in water policies and institutions in several countries of the Mediterranean Region. His extensive analysis revealed that there are still many weak points and therefore many actions were recommended.

Fatima Mosseddaq, IAV Hassan II, Rabat Morocco, presented a case study of Morocco that evidenced that, although there are still important constraints, progress is being achieved in the production of gender sensitive indicators and statistics, the integration of gender approaches in development plans, the development of several initiatives of participative gender sensitive budgeting and in the intensified and diversified offers for trainings on gender approaches and methodologies.

Ramadhan Mohammed from the University of Duhok in Iraq (WFEO), gave an overview of the main aspects of water management in Northern Iraq, where women play a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of agricultural and domestic water.

Batir Wardan, from the Jordan's Ministry of Environment, focused his speech on the role of women in water and environmental management in Jordan, by talking about the experience of the Earth Charter, which is a vivid example of how new policies can incorporate ethical principles in which the notion of gender equity is imbedded.

Wafa Dikah Hamze, talked about the establishment of the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA) in Lebanon, which constitutes a remarkable example of how women's institutions can be developed providing future opportunities for improving the future of rural women.

Manal Swidan from the Department of Statistics of Jordan, talked about the gender indicators in agriculture, underlining the fundamental importance of incorporating a gender perspective in the agricultural statistics in order to document essential aspects of the roles that women and men play in the sector.

The afternoon session was also dedicated to discussing the role of rural women as leaders of local associations to promote efficient water use. One of these associations concerned with water distribution, capacity building and environmental improvement is the "Um Lulu Charity Association for Women and Children" which is led by a group of rural women and represents an outstanding example of how women can take initiatives in the management of water resources. Interesting was also the research study carried out by the Palestinian Institute of Environmental and Water Studies whose aim was to respond to the basic questions of "How can we strengthen the involvement and influence of women in the innovation processes within IWRM?". Many were the relevant conclusions and recommendations, not only applicable to Palestine but to many other countries of the Mediterranean region.



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4 FOURTH TOPIC - "Four years of GEWAMED: lessons learnt and the way forward"



As the name suggests, this session was completely dedicated to the GEWAMED Project.

Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, made a presentation on the GEWAMED Project's activities and outputs during the four years of operation, underlining both positive aspects and main constraints.

He stressed on the fact that the Project has made large efforts to collect and analyse gender and water information that were not available before. Rosanna Quagliariello, from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, talked about one of the major concerns of the Project, namely the dissemination of the knowledge generated by the

project over its four years of operation through regional workshops, large field surveys, review of statistical information and other sources. Among some of the activities that the project has undertaken to disseminate and create awareness on the gender issues in the water sector, are the 15 Newsletters distributed to some 700 recipient institutions and individuals, the preparation of 2 short documentaries, the distribution of a CD with all the country profiles, a CD with educational material for the schools, field days and many international conferences and national events where Project activities and related information were disseminated.

Relevant was also the second contribution of Ilaria Sisto who made a brief presentation of the pocket guide on "Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management for Agriculture" that has been prepared by FAO, GWA and GEWAMED. This guide is meant to be used as a sort of rapid appraisal methodology to identify the main gender issues in areas where water projects have been carried out or are planned for the future.

In conclusion, Maria Luisa Tamborra, DG research, EC, made a presentation on 'The Way Forward', which highlighted the main financing windows within the FP7 that may be relevant for Mediterranean countries. She also provided useful information regarding the participation of the MPC (Mediterranean Partners Countries) in a certain number of proposals presented and approved for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

A Special Working Session of the GEWAMED partners was also organized, during which they presented the activities carried out in the past year (2009) and indicated the planned ones for 2010 as the project has been extended one more year. This session was particularly interactive and, although the GEWAMED project has made a breakthrough in terms of generating and disseminating knowledge on the interactions of gender in water management, it was strongly felt that there is a need to expand the project activities to the whole agricultural sector covering women empowerment in its widest sense. Therefore the GEWAMED partners recommended that the IAM-Bari studies the possibility for preparing, in consultation with the concerned partners, a follow-up project proposal to be submitted to potentially interested international organizations for its financing.

The Special Session was closed by expressing congratulations to Dr. Shatanawi and his team for the excellent arrangements made in conducting the Conference but also to all organizers and speakers for the high standards of the presentations made. The conference was considered by all participants as a successful and fruitful event.



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Participation to the Public Administration Forum 2010

From 17 to 20 May 2010, at the “Nuova Fiera” in Rome, the General Direction for the Cooperation Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGCS/MAE), participated to the Public Administration Forum 2010. On Thursday 20th, in particular, they organized a Round Table on “Women and Water”: Rosanna Quagliariello from CIHEAM/IAMB took part to this event illustrating the activities of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari on gender issues and describing GEWAMED Project, its aims and its results. The importance of women’s role in the development of the cooperation policies has been underlined and their relationship with the water management, within the household and in rural sites, has been stressed. Contribution from academic and entrepreneurial world were proposed together with the intervention of representatives from NGO’s and organizations working in the field of cooperation for development.





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Subregional GEWAMED Training Courses



The information given below refers to two sub-regional training courses that are being organized by the GEWAMED project. Both courses are under active planning and the information given here may undergo some changes. In the next GEWAMED newsletter we will provide an updated version.

LEBANON



The Renè Moawad Foundation (RMF) is organizing in cooperation with MAI-B, MIO-ECSDE, several GEWAMED Partners, and other local organizations, like NOWARA, a Sub-Regional training course on “How to mainstream gender in water management: Experiences and Challenges” which will be held in Beirut from 18-22 October 2010.

The purpose of the course is to provide trainees with the necessary knowledge on gender issues to promote the implementation of gender actions in their development programmes in the field of agricultural water management.

More specifically, the course will review the positive experiences of the Sub-region in supporting gender mainstreaming in agricultural water management and will make specific proposals for future developments.

The agenda of the course is still under preparation, but, as the title suggests, the general topic will be gender and agricultural water management, with special emphasis on the identification of the main constraints hindering women's effective participation in agricultural water management and rural development programmes, of the possible future actions to be implemented to improve their condition, and on the importance of encouraging female entrepreneurship in agriculture.

The course is intended for stakeholders active in promoting gender equality in water resources management, who, at the end of the course, will be able to support a fairer integration of women in their development programmes. The number of participants is limited to about 25 and participants will be from Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Turkey and they are expected to be professionals responsible for water management or rural development programs that may be able to mainstream gender in their programmes.



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Subregional GEWAMED Training Courses



MOROCCO

CAFRAD, with the assistance of MAI-B, is planning a four-day Sub-regional training course on "How to mainstream gender in water management: Political and Institutional dimensions of Gender mainstreaming in water resources management, Selected Maghreb countries' Experiences and Challenges" to be held in Tangier, Morocco, tentatively scheduled from 18-21 October 2010. The course will gather selected Maghreb Countries to share their experiences and challenges in the field of gender and water resources management with the main objective of creating awareness



On gender and water issues in the selected Maghreb Countries and promoting changes that improve gender issues in water management.

The agenda of the course is under preparation but the course will cover topics such as identification of the main constraints that hinder the effective participation of women in agricultural water management; gender indicators; gender and agricultural water management; and gender participation in decision making.

The course will be in French and the number of participants sponsored and budgeted for to attend the course is about 18 plus two resource persons. Participants will be from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania and possibly Spain and France, and they will be actors already involved in the management of water resources and in rural development programmes whose relatively high professional level will enable them to use the knowledge acquired in the course to integrate a gender perspective in their future development activities.



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Overview of Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions Into Water Resources Management in Egypt



This gender report has been prepared by the National Water Research Centre-Strategic Research Unit (NWRC-SRU) within the framework of the activities of the GEWAMED Project, and particularly it contributes to building an extensive knowledge base for mainstreaming gender dimensions into IWRM. Indeed, one of the main activities of the National Water Research Center (NWRC) in the GEWAMED project is developing gender sensitive indicators for monitoring and evaluating the mainstreaming of the gender dissemination into water resources management in Egypt.

The document provides an excellent and detailed overview of the gender situation in Egypt in relation to water resources and irrigation management, as well as of women's socio-economic status.

In brief, the study reveals that in urban areas the number of women as professional engineers in the agricultural sector, as well as decision makers in different governmental and non-governmental organizations is increasing, while in rural areas, although women play an important role in water management, their participation in decision-making depends on the size of the household and how women's roles are perceived in various social settings.

The report provides plenty of data disaggregated by gender that reveal the percentage of men and women in administrative positions in the government, private and public sectors; the percentage of research projects headed by women and the number of women in Research Institutes; the percentage of female students in certain faculties and of female graduates; and the number of women as heads of households.

The full report is available in the documentation section of GEWAMED website.



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The Consortium of GEWAMED



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- * Algeria (1)
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)
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