



Conférence Parménides IX – GID-CIHEAM – Bari – octobre 2021
**Gestion durable des bassins versants méditerranéens face aux impacts des changements
sociétaux et climatiques**

Juan Antonio Sagardoy and Patrizia Pugliese
Gender lessons of the GEWAMED Project

Juan Antonio Sagardoy is a senior Water Management Specialist with more than 50 years of work with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), European Commission, CIHEAM Bari and several other international organizations. The main area of expertise includes: preparation of national participatory irrigation management programmes, preparation and supervision of many irrigation development projects, water pricing policies for irrigation and gender consultant for several project and programmes.



Summary

CIHEAM Bari has a more than twenty-year experience and engagement in promoting gender equality and a multidimensional approach to women's empowerment in the Mediterranean region. Lessons learnt from various initiatives on the ground suggest that men and women can be powerful drivers of changes in institutions, communities and households. Beyond numbers and statements (which undoubtedly play a crucial role) it is important provide real windows of opportunities for individuals, groups and institutions to contribute to change and own the process towards gender-sensitive culture and behaviours. The evolution of the organisation's commitment to GEWE and some lessons learnt from various initiatives are illustrated in this section of the presentation.

The other section of the presentation basically focuses on a brief description of the achievements made in the EU financed regional project called GEWAMED (Integration of



Gender Dimensions in Water Management in the Mediterranean Region) that was implemented by the CIHEAM-Bari. The Project was a major effort that involved 14 countries and 18 organizations of the Mediterranean Region and lasted 5 years and a half. Its main purpose was to collect information on the gender issues affecting the irrigated agriculture in the Mediterranean region but also to promote gender mainstreaming as part of the government actions in the agriculture sector. The analysis of this experience provides an opportunity to draw lessons that are presented at the end that may be useful in the context river basin management under the present sociological and climate changes.

Communication

As earlier mentioned, gender mainstreaming in the management of the water resources has already an extended tradition in the CIHEAM- Bari Institute since activities were started in 2003. Among the several projects undertaken, the **“Integration of Gender Dimension in Water Management in the Mediterranean Region (GEWAMED) Project”** was an important one undertaken in the period of 2006-2011. A brief summary of the activities and results obtained was presented but emphasis was placed in drawing some lessons from this experience that may be contribute to the goals of the Conference and that are summarized below.

Most of these gender experiences point out that any program or project that aims to improve the living conditions of women and men in the irrigated agriculture needs to be based in a clear identification of the problems that affect men and women as productive farmers but also within the household and for this purpose useful guidance tools exists. The fact that important societal changes are taken place due to different causes, like climate change, internal and external migration, political changes and many others, makes even more necessary nowadays the assessment of the gender needs and related problems of the rural societies.

Agriculture development projects, and in particular those concerned with irrigated agriculture, should include this type of assessment as it is of utmost importance to identify well those barriers that limit the access of women and men to productive resources like: land tenure, credit, supporting services, markets, decision making, time, information, awareness raising, education and others. The success of planners will be in the identification of those which are most critical and concentrate efforts in their resolution though participatory planning. Assessment of gender needs is only the beginning of a process that should include several other activities which are summarized below:

A. On the planning side

1. Ensure that any agricultural development project has a “gender component”, which should be the result of the gender needs assessment and a participatory

process where the potential lines of development are shared, discussed and agreed with the beneficiaries.

2. Study agriculture production chains and see where women can add value to the chain.
3. Study the agricultural production processes and identify the possibilities for reducing the burden for women and increase productivity.
4. Promote the establishment of Gender Units in any government and private organization that will be managing “the project” and to contribute that in the place of work equitable gender policies are effectively applied.
5. Promote the establishment of Gender Observatories as a mechanism to promote gender mainstreaming
6. Share any women oriented new activity with the concerned men

B. On the implementation side:

1. Ensure that know-how knowledge transfer takes place since is fundamental in any program or development project.
2. Creating women groups to transfer educational knowledge has proven efficient. Additionally, media (TV; radio) should produce more educational programs for women.
3. Training on negotiation, communication and presentation skills, will support women in building both personal and professional competencies.
4. Establishment of workers’ committees (men and women) in working places are a good channel to conveying workers’ demands and achieve significant improvements for the labourers.
5. Ensure that new working opportunities do not add more work to women without any financial compensation.



GID- CIHEAM

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**Gestion soutenable des Bassins versants méditerranéens
face aux impacts des changements sociétaux et climatiques**

**Session 3 – Governance
Dialogue des Parties prenantes :
Implication des femmes et des jeunes**

Patrizia Pugliese

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Advancing GEWE at CIHEAM Bari

from early beginnings to present engagements

2000
2006

Early initiatives

Gender & Water Management in Med
Cairo Conference; INGEDI, GEWAMED

2008
2012

First Gender-focused networks

NOWARA, GEMNET

2015
2016

First Gender-targeted initiatives

-GEMAISA, Regional Programme (Egypt,
Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia)
-WEE, Egypt

2017
2021

EXT
pathway



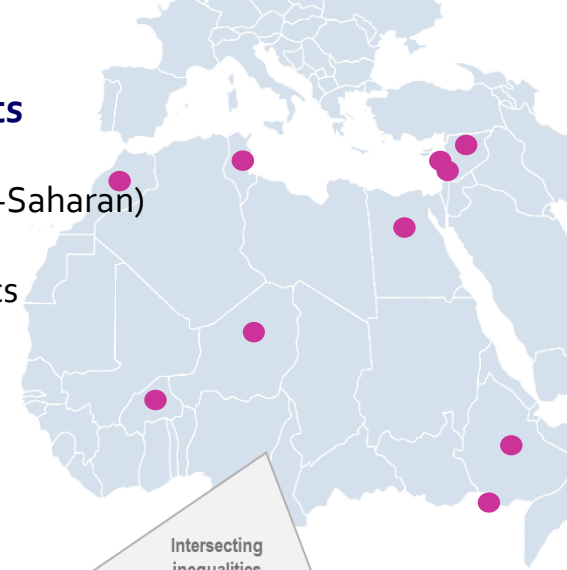
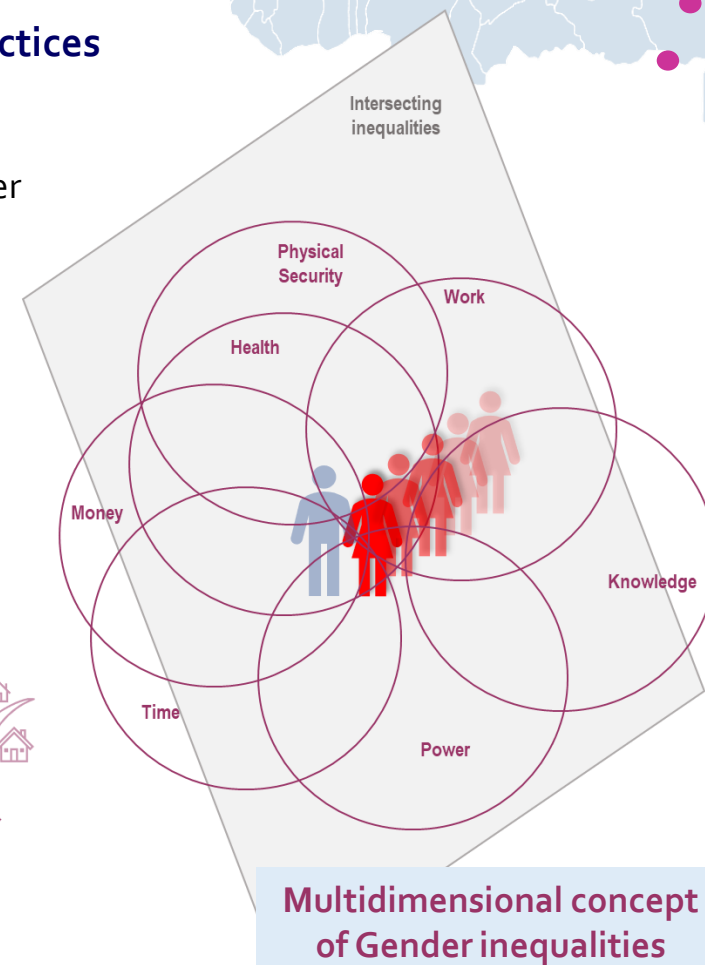
INT
pathway

Amplifying & diversifying GEWE efforts

- Gender-targeted initiatives (GEMAISA II)
- Gender components in projects (Med & Sub-Saharan)
- Gender as a cross-cutting issue
- Sex-disaggregated data collection & statistics
- Gender modules in training
- Partnerships & Networking (FAO, UfM)

Integrating GE culture & practices within the organization

- Gender SMART project (GEP)
- CIHEAM Corporate WG on Gender



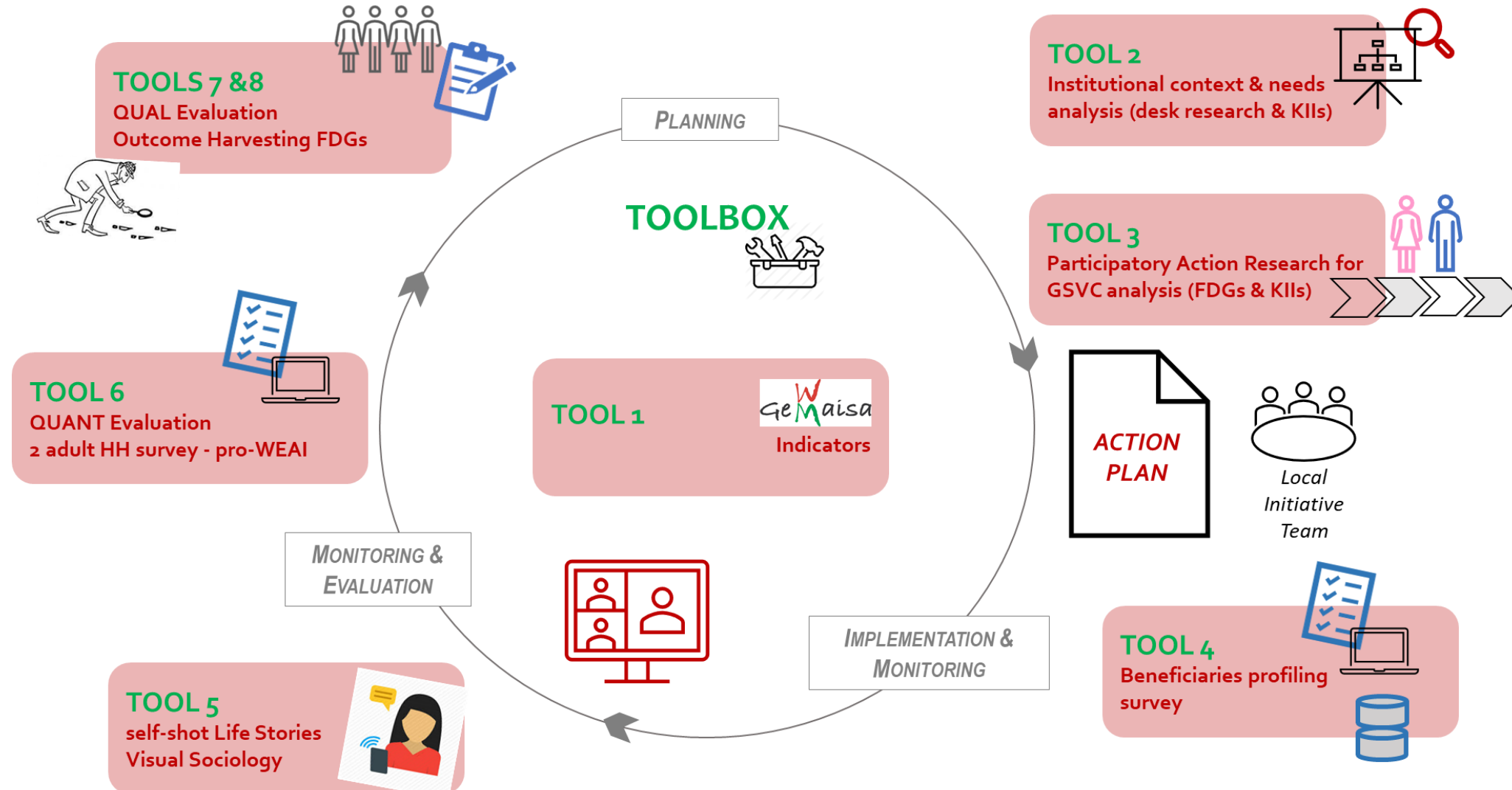
A gender-targeted initiative

Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming for Sustainable Rural Development & Food Security Actions



Approach:

- Comprehensive
- Integrated
- Mixed
- Longitudinal
- Participatory
- Reflexive



A gender-responsive initiative

WES Gender & Youth Guidelines

Stages and process:



Water and
Environment Support
in the ENI Southern Neighbourhood region

Approach:

- Graded
- Adaptive
- Inclusive
- No tokenism
- Reflexive



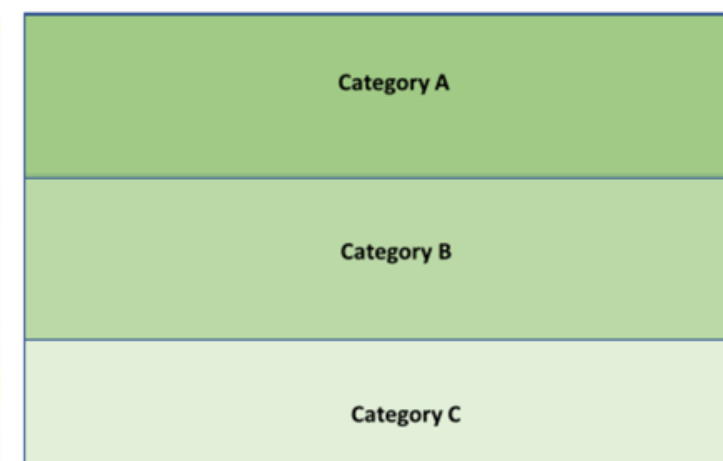
Categories of activities:

National and regional WES activities are classified into 3 categories for Gender (A_G , B_G , and C_G) and 3 categories for Youth (A_Y , B_Y , and C_Y):

- **Categories A_G and A_Y :** Activities of the WES Work Programme where specific gender and youth interventions have been proposed to be integrated
- **Categories B_G and B_Y :** Activities of the WES Programme where **deepening of gender-mainstreaming and youth involvement may be explored further** and undertaken by involved stakeholders if they wish to, with some expert input/advice from WES.
- **Categories C_G and C_Y :** Activities where the **general gender- and youth-mainstreaming provisions of WES are applied.**



Specific recommendations





Technical training for women on bee keeping & honey production (a male-dominated supply chain), Morocco

When you provide genuine opportunities to progress and “dare” thinking of a better future, when you provide physical and emotional spaces to exchange, think, plan and shape the future,

people, men and women, become **powerful drivers of change and excellent implementation & research partners**



Multifunctional centre, Tunisia



Women taking a break during their work at a dairy cooperative, Syria (post conflict early recovery)

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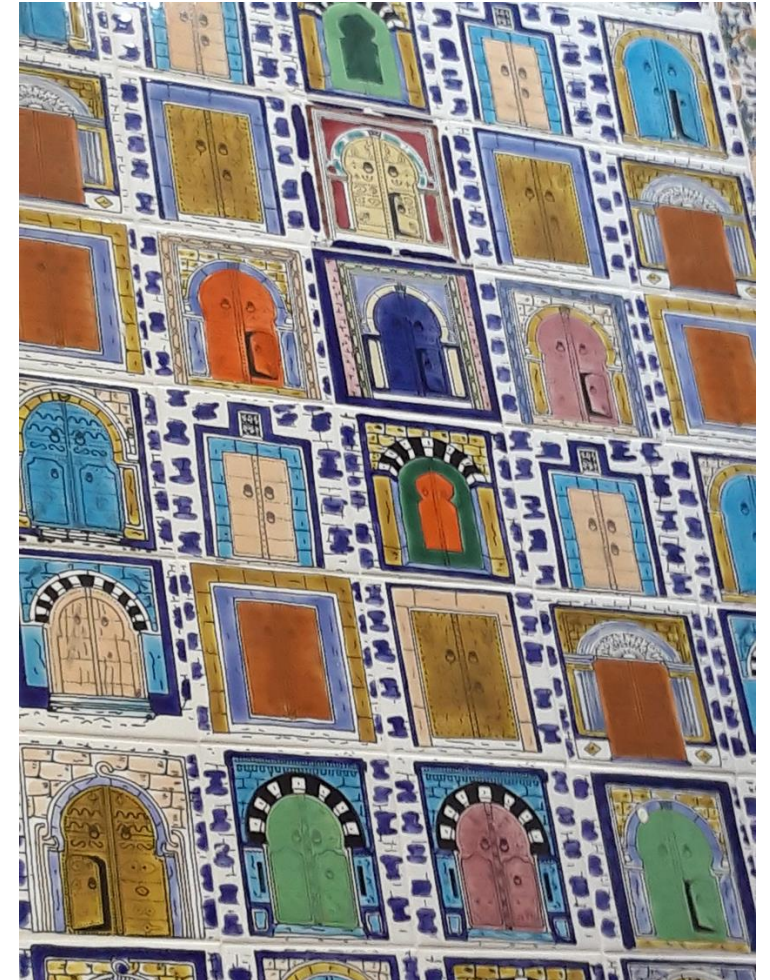
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organic farming



THANK YOU!





THE GEWAMED PROJECT AND FOSTERING GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE WATER SECTOR

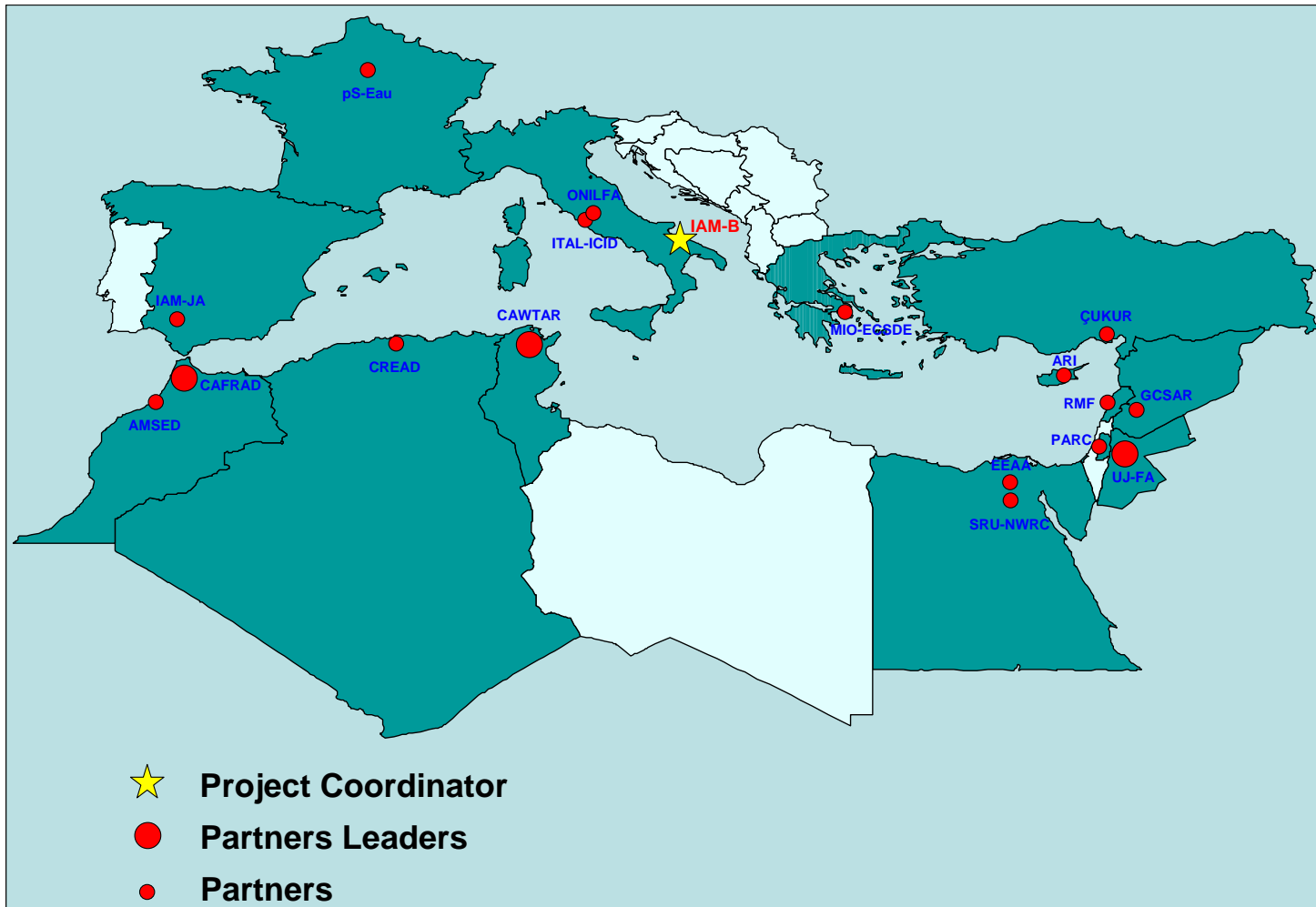
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IX Parmenides Conference on: “Sustainable management of Mediterranean watersheds in the face of societal and climate change impacts” (19-20 October 2021) Bari, Italy

BACKGROUND OF THE GEWAMED PROJECT

- ◉ **GEWAMED stands for Integration of Gender Dimension in Water Management in the Mediterranean Region.**
- ◉ *It was a coordinated action (CA) financed under the FP6 of research of the EC.*
- ◉ *GEWAMED was a mix of applied research and awareness actions to promote gender mainstreaming in the water for agriculture sector.*
- ◉ *Initial duration was of 4 years but extended by one year and a half (2006- 2011)*
- ◉ *It was coordinated by the CIHEAM- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari*
- ◉ *Involved 14 countries of the Mediterranean region and 18 organizations.*

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS



WHY A PROJECT LIKE GEWAMED ?

- ◉ In 2006 There was an **overall lack of information about the gender situation in the water for agriculture sector in the Mediterranean Region.**
- ◉ Awareness of the gender issues in the water for agriculture sector organizations was low particularly at decision making level.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED ??

Objective 1. Generation and dissemination of knowledge Objective

1. Guidelines for **gender-water indicators**.
2. **Gender surveys** carried in most countries of the South East Mediterranean Region that (SEMR)
3. **National data bases** were established



QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE MAIN GENDER ISSUES AFFECTING WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

WATER FOR AGRICULTURE SECTOR ISSUES

- Reduced participation of women in water for agriculture organizations
- Limited access to credit
- Limited access to agriculture information and formal education
- Limited access to land and water resources
- Heavy engagement of women on household affairs, children care and agriculture tasks that leave little time for any additional work.
- Uneven distribution of work at the farm. Women are not perceived as farmers but as helpers. Unpaid labour prevails
- The effect of migration of men and women to other countries and in the context of the agriculture sector. Feminization of agriculture
- and several others.

Most of these subjects were quantified with gender indicators in surveys made to assess the local and regional situations.

The information collected was analysed and discussed at Regional Seminars and guidance provided to reduce the inequities.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED ?

Objective 2. Improve the cooperation and dialog among the Mediterranean countries and increase the institutional capacity of project partners to promote gender mainstreaming

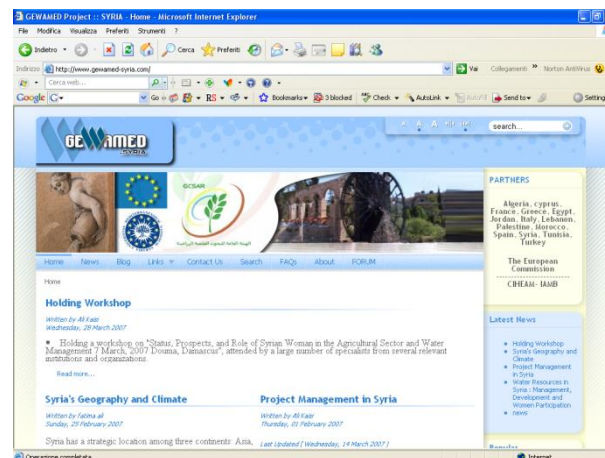
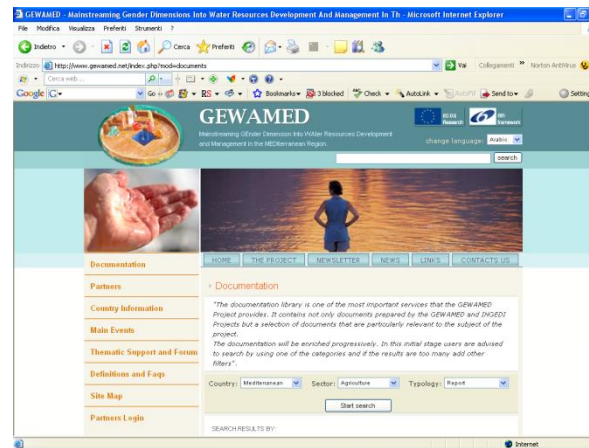
- ◉ 3 Regional Seminars and one International Conference were organized on selected gender topics.
- ◉ Project partners participated and collaborated in many international events (40) and organize national gender mainstreaming events (59)
- ◉ Tested 6 National “Gender-Water” coordination networks were established at national level but had sustainability problems.
- ◉ Contributed to the establishment of a Women Observatory in Lebanon (NOWARA).



WHAT WAS ACHIEVED ?

Objective 3. Promote the adoption of gender policies and gender awareness

- ◉ **National policy seminars** were undertaken to sensitize decision makers and promote gender awareness
- ◉ One **Sub -Regional training course with CAFRAD** and **many national training activities** were undertaken
- ◉ **Field days** were organized to sensitize farmers on gender issues.
- ◉ **9 websites** were established and special “GEWAMED sessions” added to other partners websites. They were widely accessed.
- ◉ **Quarterly newsletters** were regularly distributed to large audiences.



SOME IDEAS FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN WATER GOVERNANCE ORGANIZATIONS

1. **Engagement of users' local** organizations in the planning and development processes of river basin management.
2. Ensure that any development activity undertaken in the watershed has an adequate **gender component properly identified through Gender needs assessment (GNA).**
3. **Study agriculture production chains and see where women can add value** to the chain.
4. **New development activities require generally new knowledge that must be transferred to men and women.**

IF THERE IS A WILL FOR CHANGE...

1. If there is a **WILL FOR CHANGE** in the organizations responsible for the management of water resources the following actions may be required:
 - **Gender institutional scanning** is needed for a better understanding of the gender situation in governance organizations
 - **Gender awareness training** in each main department or section
 - Establishment of **Gender units or similar organizations (gender advisory committees)** to promote gender mainstreaming
 - Allocation of **budget and monitoring of gender mainstreaming activities**
 - **Establishment of workers' committees** (men and women) in working places
 - Ensure that **contractors comply with principles of gender equity**

Several of the above measures have been implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture of Tunisia and other participating countries under the GEMAISA project implemented by CIHEAM-

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- ◉ Two main lines of actions need to guide the future:
 1. Gender equality is an horizontal issue that has a place in any development effort. The challenge is to identify activities that may lead to a more balanced future for men and women in the rural sector.
 2. There are many opportunities for improving gender equity in the organizations of the water sector that need to be identified and improvements implemented

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small bouquet of yellow daffodils. The hand is positioned in the lower right, with fingers gently gripping the green stems. The daffodils are in various stages of bloom, with bright yellow petals and green centers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light blue, suggesting a clean, bright environment. The overall mood is warm and appreciative.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION !**