

## Integration of gender dimension in water management in the mediterranean region: INGEDI Project

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Part 1

***Background Papers***



# **INTEGRATION OF GENDER DIMENSION IN WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION: INGEDI PROJECT**

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## **BACKGROUND**

In most of the Mediterranean developing countries, although women should play a central role in the economy, their contribution to water management and irrigation, and consequently to agriculture production is largely invisible.

Gender analysis and studies are rarely incorporated in water planning and water policies.

Gender is a priority on the agendas of irrigation policy makers, irrigation managers and researchers. Existing gender studies demonstrate that there is a considerable gap between positive policy intentions and the conversion of these intentions into concrete actions, due to:

- Generic conceptual framework and appropriate methodologies for implementation.
- Analytical tools that can diagnose gender issues in the water context.
- Absence of gender related performance indicators.
- Vague and weak roles of institutions and agencies.

## **BARI INSTITUTE INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES: CAIRO WORKSHOP, 2002**

The problems listed above have been identified at the workshop on “Gender and water resources management in the Mediterranean”. The workshop has been organized by the CIHEAM – IAMB in co-operation with the National Water Research Center (NWRC) of Cairo in Egypt under the EU Regional Action Programme “RAP” (DG External Relations) for water resources management in the Mediterranean Region (October 12 – 14, 2002 Cairo).

The workshop was attended by more than 200 participants covering most of the developing Mediterranean countries and representatives from different Arab countries, national and regional institutions and international organizations.

Seventeen experts from the Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Italy) have contributed to the workshop, bringing case studies, projects results and research outcomes.

## **Major Achievements of the Workshop**

- In the Mediterranean region, irrigation is a crucial part of a broader movement of gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development.
- Gender is seriously considered by a wide array of people from grass-roots women's organizations to international development and financing agencies.
- Women labour forces are growing in number, but yet the accumulated knowledge from present case studies and experiences achieved, did not give the appropriate insight that could effectively guide in policy and interventions.
- The delay and the slow conversion of gender issues to practices, in particular in the water resources management and irrigation are attributed to lack of analytical tools, appropriate concepts, generic conceptual framework, implementation methodologies and gender performance indicators.

The workshop intended to produce an impact in the Mediterranean countries since it was organized as a special session of an important regional conference on “Perspectives of Arab Water Cooperation: Challenges, constraints and opportunities”, with the participation of decision makers and experts from the whole region with full involvement of local governments and institutions.

Nevertheless, it has emerged the need of continuing the dialogue on the integration of women in the Mediterranean water management by discussing deeply some relevant issues through the implementation of more focused Euro-Mediterranean workshops or conferences.

### **Gender Promotion: Major Challenges**

- Enforcement of the participation, information and consultation as basic elements for gender development and implementation.
- Establishment of a network to put together the local institutions, NGO's, stakeholders and water user associations focusing on:
  - ✓ to gather the scattered information in this field,
  - ✓ to build the needed knowledgebase,
  - ✓ to facilitate communications and dissemination of information
  - ✓ to formulate policies strategies and implementation methodologies in view of social, cultural and economic conditions on both national and regional level.

The outcomes and knowledge derived from Cairo event was formulated to the INGEDI Project

### **INGEDI PROJECT, GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

Is the integration of the women dimension in Mediterranean water management and development of adequate national and possibly regional policies that would support the effective integration in water management.

### **INGEDI PROJECT, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- To build up a Mediterranean dialogue on the integration of women in irrigation management.
- To improve skills and public-private awareness that facilitate integration of women in irrigation management.
- To build a Mediterranean vertical-horizontal consensus and common knowledge regarding gender issues.
- To set-up new policies for gender implementation that respond positively to the socio-economic and cultural conditions prevailing in the Mediterranean region.
- To develop common ground for strategies regarding gender issues, measures, challenges and actions.
- To improve and enhance cooperation among Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries in relation to the relevant gender issues.
- To establish regional advocacy and partnership, working for new developing paradigm with and for women.

### **INGEDI PROJECT WORKPLAN**

The main target of the WorkPlan is to:

- establish a dynamic and effective Mediterranean dialogue among the relevant national-international institutions and bodies (including private ones).
- ensure a shared and common understanding and knowledge on the integration of women in water management and
- stimulate governments and international organizations to develop and implement real gender policies.

The WorkPlan is based on five interlocked WorkPlan tasks, respectively addressed to:

- 1) **WP1:** State of the art and analysis of gender related policy.
- 2) **WP2:** The organization and implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean workshop aiming to widening and structuring the Mediterranean dialogue on women integration in water resources management and the implementation of a permanent dynamic Internet based Mediterranean Forum addressing women integration in water resources management.
- 3) **WP3:** Building a post-workshop reference frame and recommendation to policy-decision makers and relevant organizations and agencies operating in the Mediterranean.

- 4) **WP4:** Identification of gender indicators for monitoring and evaluation of women integration in water management.
- 5) **WP5:** Organization of a post-workshop follow-up seminar of Training for Trainers (ToT) to:
  - ✓ Amplify dissemination of results and consensus obtained in the Euro-Mediterranean Workshop
  - ✓ Increase awareness of relevant institutions (decision makers, policy makers, planners, managers) and other stakeholders.

The outcomes, findings and recommendations of the 5 working packages will be taken as fundamental bases for the construction and the formulation of a Network proposal “Gender approach and water resources management in the Mediterranean” to be submitted to the EU for financial support.

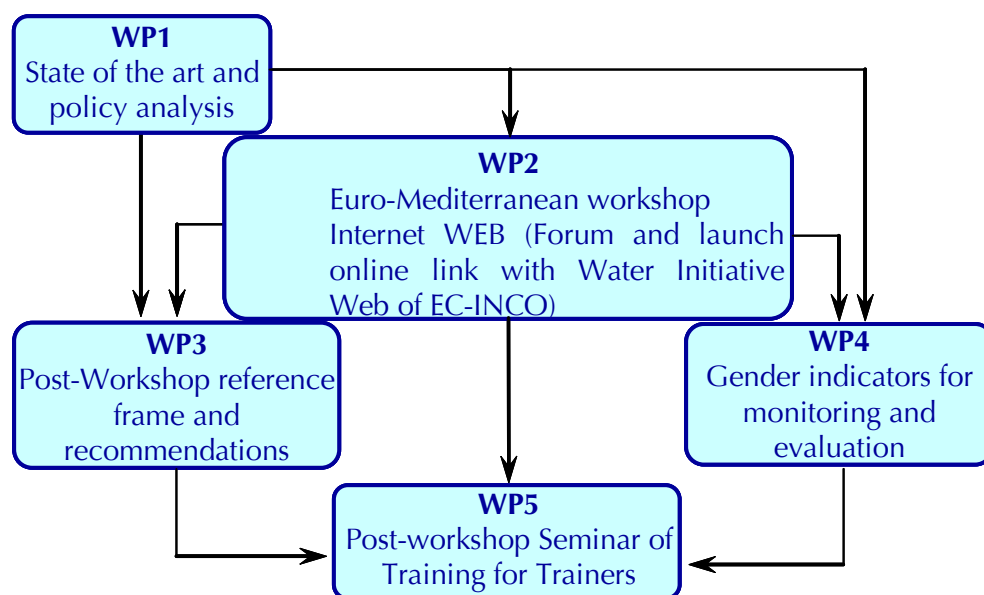


Fig. 1. Flowchart showing the main project structure

## INGEDI ACTIVITIES

Two main events:

- One Euro-Mediterranean workshop on the integration and involvement of women in Mediterranean water management.
- One post-workshop follow-up seminar to booster transfer and share of workshop outcomes at national and regional level.

Other important side activities:

- The design and implementation of a dedicated WEB site, which will be also linked to the existing EC WEB on the water initiative.
- The analysis of state of the art and policy regarding the development and involvement of women in Mediterranean water management.

## Euro-Mediterranean Workshop

### *The tasks*

- Preparation of an executive summary covering the major topics presented in the workshop.
- To acquire further knowledge, ideas, proposals and strategies for promotion of gender in policy planning, budgeting and design to encourage and empower women through management of water resources and irrigation structure.

- Appropriate analysis of the presented case studies highlighting the positive and negative actions, policies, strategies.
- To prepare a proposal framework to establish a regional advocacy and partnership network to integrate gender dimensions in water resources development and management.

### **Follow-up ToT Seminar**

The seminar will be held in Cairo, Egypt, in cooperation with the National Water Research Center – Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the partner in the programme.

#### *The objectives*

- To support dissemination and exploitation of the Euro-Mediterranean workshop held at Bari Institute.
- To increase awareness and determine more impact on policy and programmes development.
- To create a common reference framework to develop recommendations and identify new perspectives for effective involvement of women in the Mediterranean Water Management through the formulation and implementation of developing programmes, studies and projects of relevant policies.

#### *The tasks*

Detailed analysis of the recommendations, drawn up jointly by the participants from both events, to establish a regional network on integrating gender issues in water resources management identifying:

- The countries and the institutions to be involved,
- The personnel from various disciplines to participate
- The construction of the network, the priority of the topics to be included, the working plan as well as the activities to be concentrated on.

### **Potential Impact**

The following impacts are foreseen:

- Providing concise information and dynamic knowledge base on various aspects of water management from a gender perspective.
- Opening the dialogue between different disciplines and stakeholders in order to define a common frame of reference and actions to support a sustainable approach to the integrated water management.
- Steeping-up exchanges of experience among the technical and scientific institutions.
- An increased public and private awareness bring the gender issue under the focus of policies, planning and projects.
- Establishing of a reference system network based on a bottom-up participation, focusing on the role of women in the water management and the cultural traditions related to water.