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Part 3

Thematic Network

A THEMATIC NETWORK ON “INTEGRATION OF GENDER DIMENSIONS INTO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION” (GEWAMED): DRAFT SUMMARY FOR DISCUSSION

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1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND STATE OF THE ART

The state of the art will be prepared on the bases of some of the papers presented at this workshop. Nevertheless some of the main conclusions arising from the review of related literature are:

1. Sustainable water development and management and gender issues are mutually supporting and interdependent.
2. Involving men and women in influential roles at all levels can hasten the achievement of sustainability in the management of scarce water resources
3. Women and men play different roles in the use of water by each sector (agriculture, drinking water supply, industry, environment and others). Such roles are dependent on prevailing local social rules and they need to be considered in each case when development activities are planned or executed.
4. In spite of the specific needs of each sector an integrated approach to water resources management can contribute substantially to improve the access of women and men to the benefits of water and related services.
5. Considerable material has been developed to undertake project development and management under a dynamic gender perspective but still its practical application remains limited.
6. The availability of statistics disaggregated by gender and other related information is still limited and therefore it becomes difficult to quantify the gravity of situations connected to the access of women and men to land and water resources.
7. There is an important gap in the dissemination of information to the society in general on the role of women in water resources.
8. There is a consistent lack of indicators that can measure the level of women participation in water resources activities.

The overall objective of the thematic Network GEWAMED is to contribute to the mainstreaming of gender dimensions in the development and management of water resources in the Mediterranean Region by promoting a dialogue among the countries of the Region. In particular the specific objective is to promote a change in attitude at all level of society whereby gender issues receive the necessary attention in all the processes of integrated water resources management and rural development.

The following general and specific objectives are envisaged

General Objectives

1. Building a common knowledge base regarding gender issues, policies, actions and measures to support the integration of women in all processes related to sustainable water resource development and management
2. Enhance the cooperation and dialogue among Southern Mediterranean countries and EC Countries in gender related issues.

Specific Objectives

- a. Establish a communication and information network for the Mediterranean countries aiming at mainstreaming the gender dimension in the sustainable management of water resources development.

b. Promote the collection of new and existing research related information and increase its dissemination.

c. Identify regional and national research priorities which may contribute effectively to enhance the role of women in water resources development and management.

d. Promote the adoption of national and international policies for mainstreaming gender dimensions in the planning development and management of water resources.

2 MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE GEWAMED THEMATIC NETWORK

a. Design, implement and maintain an Internet permanent Forum where members of the network will store relevant research information which will be classified and stored by organizations and topics, provide permanent access to the information and link partners through on-line communication.

b. Organize 4 workshops at 8 months intervals addressing the following issues:

- i. Mainstreaming a Gender Dimension in Water for Food
- ii. Mainstreaming a Gender Dimension in Water for Food and Sanitation
- iii. Mainstreaming a Gender Dimension in Water for Rural Development
- iv. Political and Institutional Dimensions of Women Integration in Water Resources Management to Promote Sustainable Development

c. Organize an International Conference on Integration of Gender Dimension in Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region at the end of project duration

d. Preparation of a monograph on the subject of the workshops and International Conference

e. Organize 4 visits to research project sites or to institutions concerned with the topics of the 4 mentioned workshops.

f. Identify information gaps and undertake surveys aimed at reducing the gaps (selected countries).

g. Develop and agreed on a set of indicators to assess women involvement in each of the major sectors (food, water supply and sanitation, rural development and policy).

h. Create a conceptual framework to improve private and public awareness on gender-water related issues and education at different society levels.

i. Promote the link with other organizations and external partners to stimulate the dissemination of information.

j. Preparation of CD-ROMs and newsletters

k. Preparation of leaflets for workshops, International Conference and other activities

3. EXPECTED RESULTS

- A greater adoption of gender mainstreaming approaches in water resources development and management.

- Improved communication among partners and external organizations interested in this subject.

- Facilitated access to relevant research information and the related organizations.

- Reduce the information and knowledge gap.

- A comprehensive and agreed set of indicators for better assessing the involvement of women in water resources and rural development activities.

- Identification of future research priorities with particular attention to their potential funding by the EU research programmes.

- Identification of policies, institutions and laws that have contributed effectively to promote the participation of women at all decision levels related to water resources and rural development.

- Identification of training packages that have been adopted and used.

- Improved interaction between Southern Mediterranean countries and the European Union.

- A wider adoption of Participatory Integrated Water Resources approaches that will increase the sustainability of the actions taken.

4. RELEVANCE OF THE OBJECTIVES TO SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES AND THEMATIC PRIORITIES

One of the priorities for supporting cooperation between EC and Mediterranean countries is the appropriate management and protection of natural resources. Such management cannot take place without the active participation of women who represents at least the fifty percent of the recipients of the project initiatives.

There are clear gender disparities in the South Mediterranean that need to be reduced or eliminated. The project intends to promote attitude changes in all the stakeholders leading to a more equalitarian distribution of the benefits of water resources development. This is in full accordance with EU Mediterranean Policies where the social dimension of the management of water resources is considered of utmost importance.

It is remarkable that within the South Mediterranean countries there are considerable differences in the integration of gender issues in water resources with some highly positive examples and experiences and therefore the dialogue among all interested stakeholders should bring about new opportunities for an overall improvement.

The project is also in accordance with the recommendations of major international conferences held recently.

5. OUTLINE OF THE WORK PACKAGES

The project is structured in 7 Work packages (WP) which are briefly described below:

WP 1. Building of a Knowledge Base, Communication and Dissemination (via Internet)

1. Design of a dedicated Internet web site.
2. Maintenance of web site
3. Implementation and development of country information knowledge Data base
4. Develop procedures for insertion of data in the Data base
5. Stimulate communication through the web site
6. Organization and further aggregation of results and outcomes of workshops and reviews of the work packages.
7. Preparation of six monthly newsletters
8. Preparation of CD-ROM on project activities

WP 2. Mainstreaming a Gender Dimension in Water for Food

1. Review and construction of knowledge base
2. Identification of indicators for monitoring and assessment of women participation.
3. Actions to increase awareness
4. Workshop
5. Preparation of proceedings

WP 3. Mainstreaming a Gender Dimension in Water for People and Sanitation

1. Review and construction of knowledge base
2. Identification of research needs
3. Identification of indicators for monitoring and assessment of women participation.
4. Actions to increase awareness
5. Workshop
6. Preparation of proceedings.

WP 4. Mainstreaming a Gender Dimension in Water for Rural Development

1. Review and construction of knowledge base
2. Identification of research needs
3. Identification of indicators for monitoring and assessment of women participation.
4. Actions to increase awareness
5. Workshop
6. Preparation of proceedings.

WP 5. Political and Institutional Dimensions of Women Integration in Water Resources Management to Promote Sustainable Development

1. Review and assessment of existing policies and directives (including economic incentives).
2. Identification of indicators to assess the integration between women related policies directives and sustainability
3. Create a conceptual framework to improve private and public awareness and education at different society levels
4. Workshop
5. Preparation of proceedings

WP 6. International Conference on Integration of Gender Dimension in Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region

1. Integration and harmonization of results and outputs derived from WP2 to WP5.
2. Completion of the knowledge base developed
3. Preparation and undertaking of Conference
4. Preparation of the Conference report with recommendations and suggestions for action

WP 7. Management and Coordination

1. Establishment of a management structure
2. Overall coordination
3. Steering meetings and related minutes
4. Monitoring the Implementation Plan
5. Organization of Workshops and International Conference
6. Final report

The interrelations among work packages are shown in Figure 1.

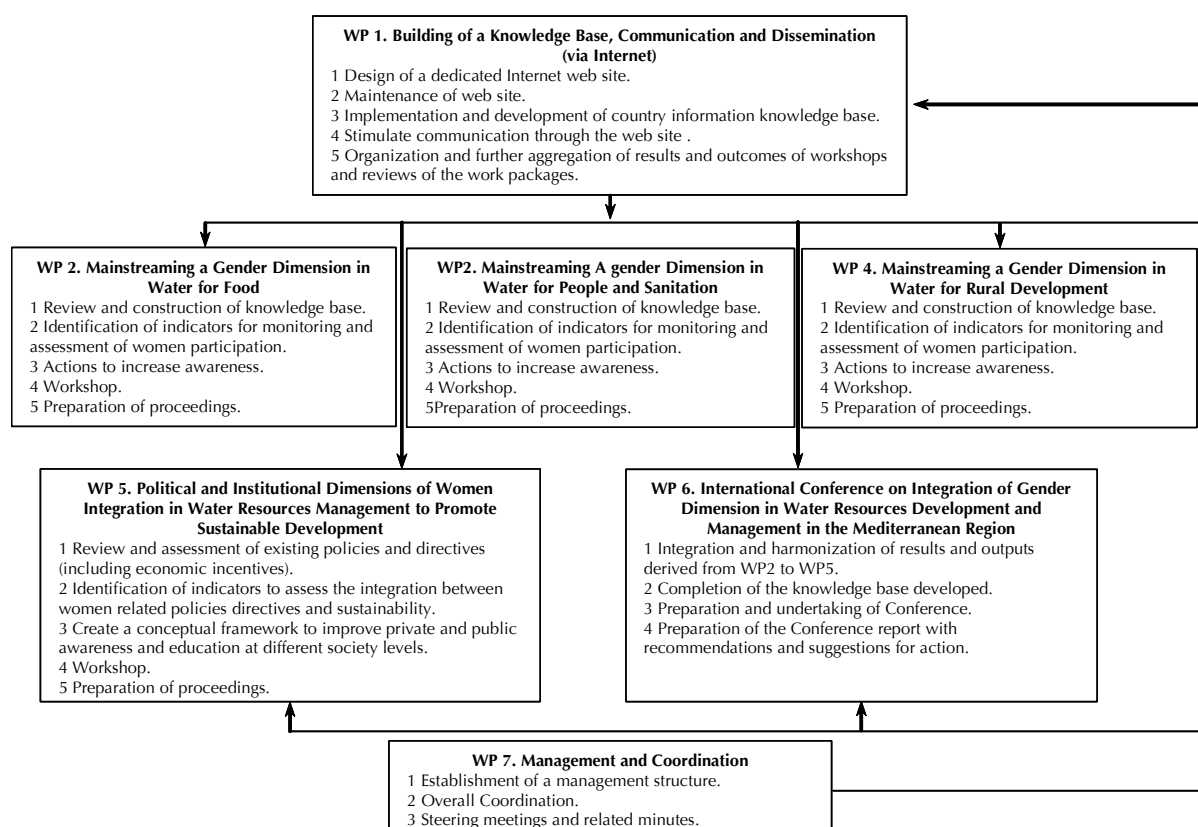


Fig. 1. Work Packages and Linkages

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

CIHEAM-IAMB will be the organization responsible for the management of the project.

The proposed management structure is made of the following persons and bodies:

1. A Steering Committee made of 5-7 representatives (composition to be determined but following suggestion is made: 1 from CIHEAM- IAMB, 1 EU Country, 1 Magreb country, 1 Mashreck country, 1 NGO, 1 International Organization). The steering Committee will meet twice a year.
2. Project Coordinator. Responsible for the institutional contacts within the project and in its relation with external bodies (EC, International organizations). The Coordinator reports to EC and to the Steering Committee.
3. Project Manager. Responsible for the implementation of the day- to day activities of the project. The project Manager reports directly to the Coordinator and the Steering Committee when requested.
4. Organizing team. Group of consultants that will support the project manager in organizing the workshops and International Conference.
5. Communication and Technical team. Group of consultants that will assist the Project Manager in all the activities related to Work Package No. 1 but will also provide technical inputs to the workshops and International Conference.
6. Administration Team. Likely to be provided by CIHEAM- IAMB on financial bases to be agreed upon.
7. Project Partners. Each of the members of the thematic network

7. PROJECT DURATION

The estimation of project duration is of 48 months.

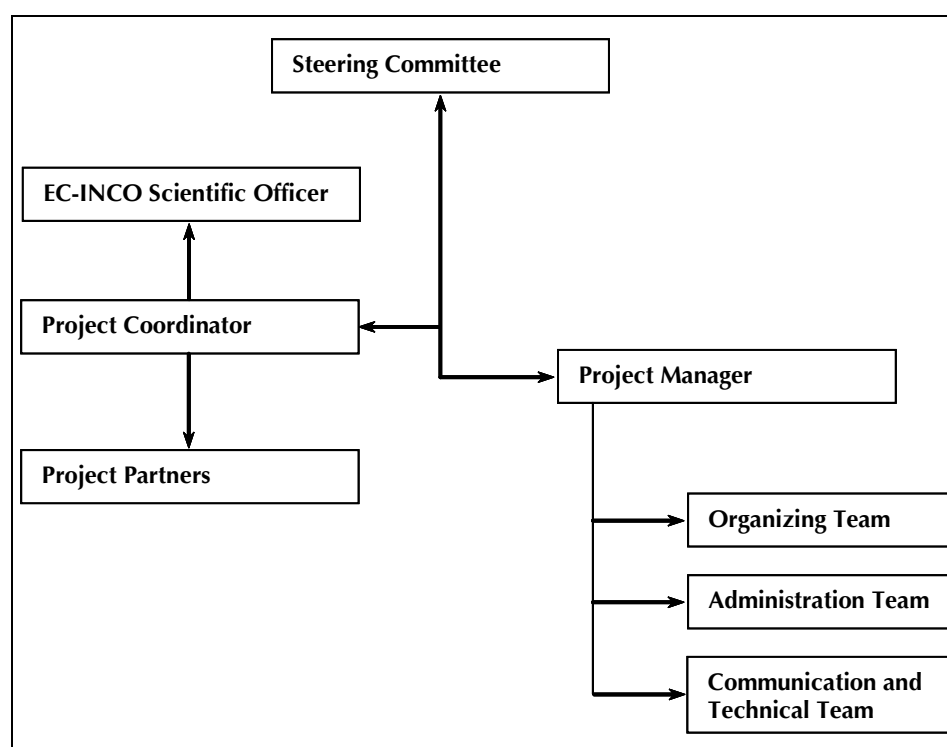


Fig. 2. Management Structure