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# PRESENTATION OF THE CREAD, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES RELATED TO THE GENDER APPROACH AND ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GEWAMED PROJECT

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## ABOUT THE CREAD

The CREAD is a public entity of scientific and technical nature, established in 1985. The CREAD is located in Bouzaréa (district of the Western periphery of Algiers) from approximately 20 km of the Algiers airport. It has a building of an about sixty offices within the Bouzaréa Social Sciences University.

30 permanent researchers and about 60 associated researchers, located mainly in the Algerian universities but also in the companies and the institutions of State, work with the CREAD.

The CREAD is a national centre of multi-field research, only one mainly centred on the economy. Currently, its research activities are related to:

- Economy of natural resources and environment,
- Education and training,
- Economy of companies and production,
- International Economy and foreign trade,
- Money and finances,
- Health,
- Human resources and population (employment, unemployment ... ),
- Regional and space economy.

The CREAD publishes a quarterly review (*Les Cahiers du CREAD*) with international reading panel and regular quarterly publication including, in each number, 10 to 20 papers produced by the permanent and associated researchers having research projects financed by the Centre as well as other academics institutions.

## PREVIOUS WORKS ON GENDER ISSUES

Only few works were realized by CREAD on women issues, among them "*Algerian women and space*" (1982), and "*Women's work and land reforms*" (1983) by Fatma Oussedik, which highlights the modifications made by the land reform concerning the women's work and wage-earning. Other works done by the same author and published by CREAD are: "*Women and fruitfulness in urban environment*" (1983) and "*The female identity in Algiers*" (1996). Other topics were developed by CREAD such as "*The Algerian feminist movement*" (Djamila Belhouari – Musette, 2000), and "*Performances and governances of the agro-alimentary public companies*", a PhD thesis carried out by Fatima Brabez in which a distinction between the two sexes was made, in 2004, at the INA institute.

In 1999, the CREAD profited from a workshop of formation on "*the integration of the Gender approach in the policies and the programs*", organized by the Ministry for Health and Population in collaboration with the Program of the United Nations for the Development; this manifestation was made in INSP (Institut National de la Santé Publique).

Currently, it seems that CREAD researchers are interested more and more in Gender studies.

What is interesting to mention is that CREAD projects are research-action type. We passed from the fundamental research which is not concerned by the application, to the research action which is interested on the field applicability.

This is the case of the on-going project "*sustainable management of the steppe grazing areas*". In addition, the safeguarding of the natural resources is one of the priority of the Coordination Action between the European Commission and the different Institutions of the Mediterranean region, with the aim of ensuring food safety and public health. We believe that GEWAMED project will consolidate this Coordination Action.

## **CREAD TEAM WORKING ON GEWAMED**

Actually, the problems of water management involve not only the researchers but also the decision-makers. Algeria is in a phase of transition towards an open-market economy, and the government is setting-up an economic plan of revival, by which we hope to put an end to the existing imbalances. Nevertheless, the integration of the Gender dimensions in the management of the natural resources remains a recent vision.

The project envisages the constitution of a data base for the mainstreaming of Gender dimensions in the management of water resources. Consequently, the dynamics of the team will be directed primarily towards data acquisition from various institutions, female associations, as well as other organizations working on gender and/or water issues. In Algeria, data collection is not an easy process and the best way to go through is the realization of surveys.

GEWAMED Project in Algeria will be coordinated by Slimane Bedrani with the collaboration of Yasmina Yakoubi as a full time researcher and Samia Akli as a partial time researcher. This team is a part of a research unit which works on economics of natural resources, agriculture, rural development and environment.

CREAD and its research team can contribute, thanks to its experience, to promote the role of the woman in the water resources development and management. Through different approaches and methods, we will be able not only to mainstream the gender dimension into water resources management within the Algerian context. In addition, the collected data will be fed on the National and Regional web sites.

Furthermore, through the organisation of seminars, conferences and workshops, CREAD will try to involve the different actors, from the bottom to the top of the society, in the subject of mainstreaming Gender dimensions in the water resources development and management.

## **ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE CREAD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GEWAMED**

- Within the framework of GEWAMED project, the following activities will be carried out:
- Data collection through direct contact with other institutions as well as carrying out surveys.
  - Establishment of national web site where the collected data and the elaborated knowledge will be added.
  - Periodical up-date of the web site.
  - Establishment of a National Central Focal Point.
  - Participation in the national and local workshops and seminars about gender issues and public awareness.
  - Participation to the workshop on: "Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety".