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REPORT OF THE SECOND REGIONAL COORDINATION WORKSHOP OF GEWAMED

J. A. Sagardoy*, M. Abdellatif, D. Chimonidou***, K. Mellouli****, R. Quagliariello*****,
B. Tomassini***** and L. Vassiliou*******

* GEWAMED Project Manager, Email: sagardoy@iamb.it

** Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC), Palestine, Email: abdellatif@pal-arc.org

*** Agricultural Research Institute, Cyprus, * Email: Dora.Chimonidou@arinet.ari.gov.cy

**** Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, Tunis, Tunisia,

Email: khadouja.mellouli@cawtar.org

***** GEWAMED Technical Officer, CIHEAM Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy;

Email: quagliariello@iamb.it

***** Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
(MIO-ECSDE), Athens, Greece; Email: mio-ee-env@ath.forthnet.gr

OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

The Workshop was held from 12 to 14 March 2007 at the premises of the Hotel Golden Bay located in the outskirts of the city of Larnaca (Cyprus). It was organised in close cooperation with the Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) of Cyprus who voluntarily offered to host the meeting. An expression of sincere thanks is due to Mrs. Dora Chimonidou, and all ARI collaborators for the considerable effort made in the organisation of the event.

The Workshop was attended by 39 participants including a good number of Cypriot professionals and Government decision makers. All partners were represented except those of Lebanon and Turkey that, due to last minute circumstances and visa problems respectively, could not attend. Several partners sent a delegation of two persons. In addition the following resource persons also participated presenting highly relevant papers: Ms. Ilaria Sisto (Equity and Rural Employment Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation), Mr. Atef Hamdy (Consultant, Egypt), Ms. Fatima Soumi (Ministry of Agriculture, Morocco) and Mrs. Nadia Aziz (National Water Research Center, Egypt).

At the Opening session of the meeting the following persons participated: Ms. Dora Chimonidou, National Coordinator of the GEWAMED project, Mr. Nicola Lamaddalena, GEWAMED Project Coordinator, Mr. Costakis Gregoriou, Acting Director of ARI, Mr. Christakis Papayiannis, Representative of the Minister of Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment and Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager as well as other local authorities.

The objective of this regional workshop was to improve the cooperation, dialogue and knowledge among partners and external organisations interested in the subject of food security, food safety and their link to the gender and water issues. The opportunity of the workshop was also used to review the progress made in the implementation of major activities by the project partners and this proved to be a highly participative session.

The Workshop was organised into 4 main sessions: Sessions 1 and 2 were concerned essentially with Mainstreaming Gender in Food Security and Food Safety, Session 3 was dealing with Gender and Water Indicators and the Establishment of National Central Focal Points and Session 4 with the set up of Regional and National web sites. The working sessions were intensive and required long working days. In addition to these planned working sessions, the participants requested some guidance in the preparation of the management reports and the Project Manager provided an extended briefing.

The papers presented at the session dealing with Food security and Food safety were relevant to the topic and some of them offered innovative approaches. The subject of food security received more attention than food safety which is to be expected considering that food security is a topic of high relevance in the Region. Partners have done a considerable effort in researching the topic and offered quite a good overview of their respective countries. Several partners have undertaken specific studies to research the issues at field level and the results were very informative. Session 3, dealing with

indicators and the establishment of National Central Focal Points, was the subject of an intense exchange of views and experiences. The establishment of these national networks is one of the major outputs of the project and an important mean of communication and dissemination of gender information. Session 4 was dedicated to review the progress in setting up the regional and national websites. Seven partners are making considerable progress in their development, with four of them having already their websites online. The workshop provided a good opportunity to exchange national and regional experiences.

Chairpersons conducted the morning and afternoon sessions with the assistance of rapporteurs. Everyday the rapporteurs provided a summary of their respective sessions including the main issues of the discussions.

The expected results of the meeting were:

- a) to improve the cooperation among partners and external organisations interested in the subject,
- b) to increase the knowledge of the participants on issues related to food security and safety and the role that women can play in their effective implementation, and
- c) to improve the coordination and collaboration in the implementation of GEWAMED project activities.

It is felt that the three objectives were achieved but in particular the Workshop was also an important instrument to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among all participants and the social events and the setting of the meeting helped to boost this sense of collaboration.

The evaluation of the meeting made by the participants showed their overall satisfaction with the organisation as well as with its technical development.

OPENING SESSION (12 MARCH)

During the opening ceremony, speeches were addressed by representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture Research Institute and the GEWAMED project. The main features of their interventions are briefly summarised below:

Dr. Doral Chimonidou, National Coordinator of the GEWAMED project, welcomed all the participants and expressed her satisfaction of having offered the collaboration of ARI to co-organise this important event of the project. The significant attendance and large participation of GEWAMED partners was already a great satisfaction. She wished to all participants a pleasant stay and a fruitful meeting.

Dr. Nicola Lamaddalena, Project Coordinator, presented a short summary of the project objectives and the achievements made during the first year of operation. The project has been particularly active in creating awareness about some of the gender problems within the sphere of the water resource management and strengthening the dialogue among project partners and national stakeholders.

Ing. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, Project Manager, expressed his satisfaction for the holding of this event which offered not only an opportunity for increasing the knowledge of all the participants about such important subject, gender mainstreaming in food security and safety, but also about the coordination of the project's activities. He reminded the participants that one of the reasons for selecting the subject of food security and safety is that agriculture production is not the final point of the food chain but processing, marketing and selling are important links of the chain where women and men play differentiated roles. The main sessions of the Workshop were outlined and the role of chairpersons and rapporteurs clarified.

Mr. Costakis Gregoriou, Acting Director of ARI, welcomed the participants and expressed his satisfaction of the involvement of ARI in this project. Gender is a horizontal issue that is much interlinked in the activities of the Institute and was hopeful that the contribution to the project will be significant.

Mr. Christakis Papayiannis, Representative of the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, expressed that it was a pleasure for his Ministry and Cyprus to host such relevant

event. In Cyprus family farms are prevailing and within them women provide more than 15% of the labour force. Their contribution in greenhouse production is even greater where it reaches 80-90% and their contribution in post-harvesting activities is also significant. After wishing a successful workshop to all participants he formally opened the Workshop.

After the opening ceremony, the presentation of the papers by the invited resource persons took place. The salient features are summarised below:

Gender - Key to Food Security and Food Safety by Ilaria Sisto, Gender and Development Training Officer, FAO Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division

The presentation covered the following main issues:

- a) *Global Commitment for Food Security*. Since 1996, when the World Food Summit was held, the UN have committed to reduce the malnutrition affecting 800 people to half by 2015. Although considerable progress has been made we are far from reaching this objective and often women are the ones that constitute the largest malnourished part.
- b) *Women's contribution to agriculture*. Women represent a substantial share of the agricultural labour force: (50% at Global level; 61% in Developing countries; 79% in the Least Developed Countries) but often receive lower salaries than men. They play an increased role in managing farms due to male migrations and other reasons but do not have the knowledge neither the access to loans to undertake a proper management of the farms.
- c) *Access to land and water resources* is highly unequal and so is the access to decision making processes.
- d) *Food security programmes*. They should be made at 3 levels: households, national and international levels and cover the four Dimensions of Food Security: i) availability, ii) access, iii) utilisation and iv) stability, should be considered when promoting gender mainstreaming. The analysis should cover: women and men's different and complementary roles in food security, nutrition analysis of the economic and cultural context, availability of clean water and firewood and special nutrition needs of mothers and children
- e) *Food Safety and discrimination*. Main aspects of food safety and discrimination were presented.
- f) *Information needed for Gender-responsive Food Security Programmes*. It is important to gather information regarding demographic, social, economic, political, institutional and security factors to determine the actions that need to be taken.
- g) *Actions for gender equality programming*. A detailed list of the actions and surveys that are needed when undertaking food security programmes was presented.
- h) *Checklists to assess gender equality in the food security sector*. Several checklists were presented which can be particularly relevant in assessing the inequities in the food security sector.

The discussion focused on several of the issues presented, particularly those about the limited access to land and water resources, the need to provide guidance when assessing food security national situations under a gender perspective and the difficulty of obtaining some of the information needed to prepare gender responsive to food security programmes.

Strategic Vision for Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety from Childhood to Grownup by Nadia Aziz, Gender Coordinator of the NWRC

The paper focused on the need to recover millions of street children that are often malnourished and without access to education and shelter and highly vulnerable to delinquency. Some of the relevant points made during the presentation were:

- Gender has no single meaning and children are part of the gender concept.
- Gender analysts must search hard in the grass roots of chronic social problems and try to introduce non-traditional solutions. The existence of the millions of street children must be sought in the society behaviour, lack of education and economic constraints.
- Street Children represent a severe uprising gender problem that needs attention from governments and social actors.

- This marginalised group represents a severe problem from the perspective of the impacts on the environment. Lack of clean water and sanitation, malnutrition due to very limited food, health decline and dissemination of epidemic diseases that arise from the poor living conditions were some of the environmental risks associated to them. Their social recovery will contribute to reduce these environmental problems.
- To solve the problem at the root, a well designed education networking is required. Communication is the efficient mean of transferring and routing on-line information.
- A proposed comprehensive gender oriented action plan to help this marginalised group of the society was presented.

The presentation generated a strong impact in the audience and several questions regarding the importance of this phenomenon were addressed. The mobility of these children make difficult the quantification and characterisation of the situation. Some successful experience regarding the integration of these children in terms of education and vocational training are taking place. Egypt has great experience with these marginalised groups and it will be useful to have their contribution in solving similar problems in other countries. It was mentioned that Morocco is suffering from a similar situation.

Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management: A Key to Food Security and Poverty Alleviation by Atef Hamdy, Professor Emeritus, MAI, Bari

The paper made an extensive review of the concepts associated with gender mainstreaming in water resources under Mediterranean conditions. The following points highlight his presentation:

- Women represent the majority of the rural poor (up to 70% in several developing countries),
- women carry most of the responsibility for household food security and food safety but rarely are duly compensated for these tasks,
- women have indigenous technical knowledge skills and motivations that are not well known,
- *women tend to remain on the margin without access to critical resources such as: land, credit, markets, and water,*
- male biases in labour market regulation, in property rights and inheritance laws are continuing to restrict and shape the activities of women,
- *limited access to education, information, training and extension,*
- *limited access to rural organisations.*

In order to remove some of the above constraints, it is necessary:

- to develop gender-sensitive guidelines and training materials for improving the business management and marketing skills of women and men farmers,
- to produce and disseminate information materials to promote the equitable participation of women and men in new enterprises and equitable access to support services,
- to know the effect of gender differentials in property rights on the control of income and the effect of income control on welfare,
- to develop gender-sensitive training materials on a broad range of topics for institutional capacity building and to encourage women's participation in capacity building training activities,
- to promote women's participation in rural organisation which often requires a step-by-step process to remove the barriers to their membership,
- to analyse critically the experience of women that have succeeded in establishing food related enterprises and provide useful guides to promote such processes.

In particular, he recommended for the GEWAMED project:

- to cast gender analysis lens,
- to identify critical gender asymmetries in property rights, and
- to analyse how these asymmetries affect the efficiency of natural resource use, equity of resource distribution, the empowerment of resource users and the response to their natural resources needs in order to increase food production moving towards food security and poverty alleviation.

The discussion focused on the question of the land and water rights. In the view of several participants, this is an aspect that is difficult to change due to traditions and inheritance laws. However, information and awareness can contribute to change the social attitudes.

GEWAMED Project and Its Linkage to Food Security Mainstreaming in Developing Countries by Rosanna Quagliariello, GEWAMED Technical Officer MAI, Bari

She called attention to the multifunctional role of agriculture which among other functions must provide healthy and safe food. She reviewed the international commitments to promote gender mainstreaming in water management. She further reflected on the global process of the feminisation of agriculture which is the result of male migrations often leaving unprepared women to take management responsibilities for a complex and demanding task. To overcome this difficulty Mrs. Quagliariello recommended a massive effort in terms of capacity building programmes specifically addressed to women farmers. The type of training needed should be: performed by women for women, extremely flexible in time schedule, and should convey not only notions but also messages of social emancipation and encouragement to take responsibilities that succeed in promoting leadership roles also in the rural sphere. ICT can play an important role in bringing knowledge and training to local levels and reach much more people than conventional training.

Women Contribution to the Agricultural Production and Food Security in Morocco by Soumi Fatiha, Administration du Génie Rural, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development and Marine Fisheries, Morocco

Mrs. Soumi presented a brief overview of the situation of rural women in Morocco. In rural areas women illiteracy rate is 74.5% (which is nearly double than in the urban ones). The access to potable water is on average 57.5% but in rural areas it is only 18.1. Rural women are suffering from other constraints and inequities.

The labour contribution of women to food production is certainly higher than 50% considering that much of the work provided is not paid. Furthermore, their contribution to food security is also quite substantial as they are the main responsible for food preparation, provision of potable water for the family, collection of wood for cooking, processing and conservation of food production.

In addition they participate or lead many cooperatives aimed at the production of scent oils and other products used in body and health care. Most of these cooperatives are subsidised by the Government as part of different policies aiming at reducing poverty. In spite of these substantial contribution to food security, the living conditions of rural women remain low and often without access to education and resources. To overcome this situation a number of recommendations were made.

WORKING SESSION 1: MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY (12 MARCH)

Food Security and Food Safety of the GEWAMED Project by Khadouja Mellouli, National Coordinator, (CAWTAR, Tunisia)

The presentation of Ms. Mellouli started with some general information on the global commitments for Food Security defined in the framework of the World Food Security Summit and the Millennium Development Goals. She focused then on National commitments to implement these, stressing on the fact that important concepts have been assimilated and strategies and programmes are already in place to implement them. Salient points of the situation in Tunisia are summarised below:

- Food availability, supply and access are secured in Tunisia.
- Women's contribution to Food Security and Food Safety in Tunisia:
 - ❖ There is a clear political commitment in this direction.
 - ❖ However, the path towards action is difficult due to several factors (e.g., weak perception of gender mainstreaming in policies, strategies, programmes, not enough efforts to raising awareness etc.).
- Women's role and situation in agriculture:
 - ❖ Big share of women involved in irrigated agriculture mainly as help farmers, few as head of exploitation.
 - ❖ Limited access to land.
 - ❖ Precarious economic situation: normally the gains remain under the control of the head of the family (in some areas, i.e. Kairouan things are changing) and women are paid less than men.

- ❖ Increase in seasonal female work and young girls' participation in agricultural work with the ambition to get their financial independency.
- Decision Making potential of women:
 - ❖ Family level: mainly in children education and domestic expenses management but this is not systematic.
 - ❖ Farm level: very limited participation.
 - ❖ Economic level (i.e. price of products): only 2% have a word to say and that has an impact on the price.

The Multi-Functional Role of Agriculture in Italy by Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA

The relevant issues of her presentation were:

- Women's leading agricultural enterprises in Italy represent 30% of the total number of agricultural enterprises in the country.
- There is a growing trend of women managing farms.
- A key issue in the farms run by women is the interest towards quality (hygiene, typically of products) in order to build the trust of consumers towards the agro-alimentary system.

The presentation of Mrs. Navarra stressed on the support of the State (in particular the Ministry of Agriculture) to the following aspects:

- Quality Production and Multi-functionality of agriculture, understood as the link between sustainable agriculture, food security, land equilibrium, landscape conservation and guarantee of food safety. Law No 228 (18 may 2001) supports multi-sectoral farms, i.e. farms in which several activities are practiced (agro-tourism, education/training activities, transformation and selling of products). Here the role of women is substantial.
- Children education and provision of training and information of farmers on specific issues.
- Women to enter the global market through the formation of joint ventures (either inside Italy or in cooperation with women farmers of other countries).
- Direct selling of products generated in women-run farms.

She also stressed on the importance of transferring existing good gender practices through North-South and South-South cooperation.

Poverty in Rural Areas: Women's Roles and Strategies to Face Difficult Living Conditions. Results of a Research in Hadj Mecheri Community by Yasmina Yakoubi, Researcher of CREAD (Algeria)

She started her presentation with the description of the study area:

- Typical rural steppe area.
- Scarcity of natural resources, particularly water.
- The main activity is agro-pastoral (71% of the population).
- Unfavourable climate conditions (aridity).
- Unfavourable living environment: most of the houses have no access to sanitation systems, electricity, limited water supply with high contents of sediments.

Despite their important role in most agro-pastoral and house tasks, women face many constraints:

- Traditions and the belonging to one tribe hamper their freedom and decision power, even their property rights.
- High illiteracy rates (75%) even among the youngest (19-29 years old).
- Revenues of women's work are taken by their male relatives.
- Limited hygiene due to water scarcity/low quality, scarce availability of wood to heat house/water.

Despite these constraints, women have started developing strategies to improve their daily well-being by:

- Developing informal women networks to sell their handicraft products.
- Acquisition of new knowledge to produce and sell new products even in urban areas where there is demand for these.
- Environmental and natural resources degradation offer paradoxically a chance for the emancipation of women.

Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety in Cyprus by Dora Chimonidou, National Coordinator of Cyprus (ARI)

Mrs. Chimonidou provided an overview of the role of women in the European Agriculture context and extended the analysis to Cyprus. Some of the relevant issues in Cyprus are:

- Most of the farms are family-run. Rural women account for 16.5% of the total population and are a substantial part of the country's labour force.
- The scarcity of water together with its high cost have become real constraints for the Cypriot Irrigated Agriculture and alternative water resources, innovative approaches and new technologies were introduced to overcome the problem. This has led to extensive use of protected cultivation and soilless culture. Women are responsible for more than 80% of the labour force in greenhouses.
- Women's work is generally undervalued.

A recent study focusing on the mountain region of Cyprus showed that women participation in decision-making related to farm production activities is scarce but they have an equal responsibility in the management of the farm budget. Other studies have shown that:

- Women are mainly involved in farm operations rather than in farm administration or management.
- The majority runs non-agricultural enterprises, e.g. cottage agro-industries, handicraft and agro-tourism activities.
- In spite of the fact that their involvement in farm decision making is limited, they expressed that they have equal responsibility in the management of the farm budget.

The study concluded with a number of recommendations that are still valid like the need for restructuring training programmes in rural areas, improving participation of women in local planning processes and establishing association networks for farm-women to improve their representation in rural development and in decision-making.

Mrs Christina Pitta shared the presentation with a review of the main issues associated with Food Safety Control. She explained that food safety controls have become very necessary with the increase in food trade but also with the increase use of store and processed food where many food additives and contaminants are introduced. She presented the characteristics of the main food safety management systems. She also illustrated the procedures used for risk assessment and risk management processes.

Mainstreaming Gender Dimension in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety by Nahla Aboul-Fotoh, Alaa E. Abdin and Shaban A. Salem

Mrs. Aboul-Fotoh presented the results of a research study undertaken specifically for the GEWAMED project. The objectives of the study prepared and presented were: a) investigate the role of women in water management towards food security and safety, b) identify the constraints of rural women in participating more actively in water management and c) suggest recommendations on how women's water management capabilities for sustainable food security and safety challenge existing constraints.

The presentation started by reviewing some of the concepts associated with food security, food safety and the interrelations between water management and gender. It was followed by the description of a technical methodology developed to identify women's role and responsibilities in the water management sector from the perspective of food consumption and agricultural production (the main pillars for food security and safety).

The study tries to assess the role of women in reducing the waste of virtual water in food consumption and the role of women in agricultural production. The methodology used to assess the role of women in food consumption was based on the calculation of wasted virtual water from produces like maize and wheat that constitute a great share of Egyptian food consumption. For the estimation of the amount of water managed by women in food production, the calculations were based on the collection of a large amount of local information.

The main conclusion regarding food consumption was that the total wasted virtual water of the wheat and maize wastes, from bread consumption, are 0.7 and 0.18 billion m³ for the two investigated scenarios (maximum and minimum), respectively indicating that there are ample opportunities to reduce the waste of water and of essential food elements of the Egyptian diet.

Regarding the agricultural production the study concluded that women manage a huge amount of water (38% from the total Egyptian share of water from the Nile River), share 79% of the total amount of water used in irrigation, and own 16% of agricultural lands.

To improve the situation women's water management role and responsibilities have to be improved and the constraints to be overcome (high illiteracy ratio, traditional barriers, limited financial resources, decrease in women's political participation etc.). The study formulated a set of recommendations to improve women's behaviour in food consumption and for better water conservation and management in agricultural production.

Water Availability and Food Security Relationships (A Case Study at Matrouh Resources Management Project) by Moustafa S. El Hakeem, from the Environmental Quality Sector of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

The presentation started with some data on the general situation of water availability in Egypt and the relations between water management and food security. The Matrouh Resources Management Project (MRMP) was then presented. The MRMP project covers a large coastal area (320 km long for some 60 km wide) where nomadic people (Bedouins) have been settled. Mr. El Hakeem presented rich information on the topography, climate (rainfall in the range of 150-200 mm), water availability, agro-ecological zones (4), and agricultural production of the project area. Information regarding the social features of the area was also provided: nomadic Bedouin culture that is becoming sedentary in the last 20-30 years, evolution of the farming systems towards permanent crops as a result of this phenomenon, customary laws still apply for local administration, adjudication and common issues.

Women's status has been strongly affected by this new sedentary lifestyle: it has restricted women's mobility and has brought new responsibilities like fetching water and wood from long distances, illiteracy is very high.

The MRMP project has undertaken several relevant activities to improve the conditions of women, mainly the enhancement of women's involvement in resource management and productive activities by providing skill training and access to small loans for income generating activities to enhance their economic independence and alleviating their work burden through financial support for water pumps, gas stoves and donkey carts. Extensive programs for literacy education for girls were also undertaken, and small crafts as well as the selling of local cloths were promoted.

An intensive program of Water Harvesting and Watershed Management was developed in MRMP in order to reduce the burden of water collection and to facilitate the establishment of home orchards. The program covered:

- construction of cisterns and reservoirs for water storage,
- construction of dykes (earthen, stone, and cemented) for water spreading, to improve crop production and reduce soil erosion.

Water harvesting had a significant impact on productivity enhancement (particularly due to the increase in fruit trees). Net benefits to poor farmers were higher in percentage as compared with those of medium and large farmers. It has also a positive impact on the basic water needs and reduced women's time and drudgery in collecting water.

Furthermore, the Project has an active strategy in resources conservation carrying out activities as reseedling of natural vegetation in order to improve vegetation cover and reduce soil loss and planted windbreaks to conserve sandy soils from wind drift erosion. Check dams were also constructed to control excessive gully and channel erosion.

In summary, the project has contributed to improve the living conditions of the nomadic people and at the same time to improve the conditions of women under this new environment.

WORKING SESSION 2: CONTINUATION OF MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY (13 MARCH)

The session started by 3 reports on the previous day sessions:

- a. Rosanna Quagliariello presented a summary of the opening ceremony. In her presentation she presented an overview of the content of the speeches that were given in the opening session.
- b. Loukia Vassiliou presented a very detailed summary of papers presented by the 4 resource persons during the first session. Her presentation was a good reminder of the topics discussed and particularly useful for those who were unable to attend that session.
- c. Barbara Tomassini gave a good briefing of the presentations made in the afternoon session of the first day.

After the briefing on the opening ceremony and of the first working session, 8 papers were presented in the morning session, and are summarised below.

Food Security and Food Safety in the Mediterranean by Barbara Tomassini (MIO-ECSDE)

She started by showing the relations between agricultural production (including water management and other production factors), food security, fair trade and the role of women in this system. She proceeded then with the analysis of some of the main issues between food production and food consumption and pressure over resources in a Mediterranean context. Aspects to be highlighted were: the Near East and North Africa are the regions with the lowest prevalence of under nourishment among the developing regions (9% of the population is undernourished) and they concentrated (70%) in rural areas. The three major food systems - rangelands, croplands, and marine fisheries - have started to decrease their output and the competition for natural resources has increased considerably. Not only production of crops is significant but pasture lands and marginal lands are extremely important because they are closely linked to particular forms of poverty. Hence, the challenge is to identify specific agricultural and rural development needs and opportunities and to focus investment in areas where the greatest impact on food insecurity and poverty will be achieved.

She has focused on the importance of the creation of EMFTA and highlighted the opportunities, the challenges and constraints that will accompany the creation of this zone. It is relevant to highlight some of the major issues involved:

- Opportunities arising through agricultural trade liberalisation measures will mostly benefit commercial farmers, whereas many of the threats will be experienced in the small scale traditional farming sector where the involvement of rural women is more prominent.
- In the absence of measures to mitigate these effects, a considerable fall in rural employment is to be expected, with higher poverty levels and increased migration to the cities in search of alternative livelihoods.
- Stresses on water resources are expected to be particularly high in Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

The management of the above issues and others that were mentioned requires appropriately designed transitional arrangements to avoid adverse effects during the period of adjustment that would include a further deterioration in food security in urban as well as rural areas. A number of resolutions have been adopted by Mediterranean partners at ministerial conferences but still their implementation is lagging behind.

Furthermore, Mrs. Tomassini presented the detailed analysis of the impact of EMFTA in Egypt, Turkey and Tunisia which further illustrates the different impacts of this agreement.

The discussion focused on the impact of adopting EMFTA and the resistance of several countries for its adoption.

Women's Contributions to Food Security: Current Status and Perspectives in Syria by Ali Kaisi, ANRR Deputy Director and Samira Al Zoughbi, Researcher Assistant (GCSAR/SYRIA)

The paper was presented by Mrs. Samira Al Zoughbi and she gave a comprehensive report on the food security in Syria. She underlined that Syria has achieved self sufficiency in most of the strategic

commodities, although the calorie intake remains lower than in some European countries. Still there are pockets of food insecurity in several governorates, mostly in rural areas, and a vulnerability map of food insecure areas was shown.

She highlighted that rural women are among the most disadvantaged groups in Syria and they account for 65% of the development assistance. She also showed that still 10% of the children aged less than 5 years suffer from some form of malnutrition but the country expects to reduce this percentage to the half by the year 2015.

Then she proceeded to analyse the role of women in food security and underlined that women produced about 50% of the food, and about 16% are household heads. They are involved in many agricultural sectors among which are the food processing and animal production. A recent survey done in the framework of the GEWAMED project in two pilot areas indicated that women were undertaking nearly 100% of the activities related to livestock care and food processing and providing a high contribution to the agricultural labour work of the farm. In spite of the important and relevant role of women to food security, they face many constraints and inequities.

She concluded that the Government should continue to facilitate and strengthen the contributions of women to the agricultural growth and the alleviation of rural poverty. This in turn will enhance the availability and stability of food supplies while ensuring access to food for all.

The Italian Agriculture and the Role of Women by Maria Elisa Venezian Scarascia, ITALICID, Rome, Italy

Mrs. Venezian gave a detailed summary of the main features of the agriculture and the water resources in Italy. She underlined that farming has a modest impact on the national economy contributing an estimated 2.6% of value added, and employs 5.3% of all Italian workers. The situation is further aggravated by the effect of urbanisation. These figures point up the rate at which the countryside is being abandoned, especially in marginal hilly and mountain areas. Irrigated agriculture remains the largest contributor of the sector.

She analysed the role of women in agriculture which is quite relevant. The Italian laws 125/1991 and 215/1992 support the principles of parity in employment and provide women workers with economic incentives specifically for: a) new agriculture enterprises b) innovative projects for improving farm management c) technical and consultant services.

She showed that the number of women workers in agriculture has increased in recent years and it is accompanied by a decrease in the number of men, who have migrated to seek other jobs. Women are managing 596000 farms (30% of the total) covering more than 3 million hectares. In spite of the large representation of women in the management of farms, they have a low presence in the WUAs with a 10% in the local Consortia Boards and 22% in the Regional Consortia.

The Participation of Jordanian Women in Food Security and Food Production by Hadeel Smadi, Researcher, Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Jordan (UJ-FA)

She provided a brief summary of the agriculture in Jordan with particular reference to irrigated agriculture which covers 76000 ha. Then she presented some of the gender issues affecting Jordanian women and gave some indicators that showed real progress in the last ten years. Several indicators were also presented to illustrate women's empowerment in the public sector which is still low but improving. At the higher education level (university), the enrolment of women is higher than men (64%) on average.

She reported that Jordan has recognised the fundamental role of women in environmental protection and water resources management, and has incorporated them in decision-making processes at all levels. Strengthening the capabilities of women has taken many forms including workshops, training of different kinds and specific environmental activities.

She gave an overview of food security in Jordan. 15-20% of the population is living below the poverty threshold and the country is considered as food insecure due to its very limited resources and

the high dependency on imported food and agricultural products. Consequently, the government of Jordan has put increasing food self-sufficiency and food security at the top of the development and economic agenda.

The role of women in food security in Jordan was reviewed. Women contribute to agricultural production but they are strongly emerging in post harvest activities and in the processing of food as: food drying processing and preservation, establishment and improvement of livestock and poultry rising and preparation and marketing of dairy products. Some of these activities are supported by a considerable number of national and international NGOs, government agencies and international agencies.

Mrs. Smadi emphasised the important role of women in water management with particular reference to domestic water supply and therefore their inclusion in the planning and implementation of such projects was essential. She concluded by giving some recommendations aimed at improving women's participation in all aspects of the Jordanian society.

The French Vision on Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security and Food Safety by Jean Andre, pS-Eau, France

Mr. André presented an overview of the pS-EAU. Its main objective consists in connecting members and sharing experiences in order to make more efficient solidarity actions between France and foreign countries. The development of websites by the GEWAMED partners constitutes a good dissemination activity and the pS-Eau website provides the opportunity to join all the GEWAMED members to spread the gender spirit. He stressed that there is a lot of existing information to be collected before looking for new ones. He analysed some concepts related to food security and the role that gender plays on it.

He recommended that in order to implement effective gender policies, there is a need for establishing observatory boards responsible for collecting information and indicators to monitor the progress. He briefly described the perception of gender problems in France.

The Services of the Instituto Andaluz de La Mujer (Andalusia's Women Institute): Improving Employment, Training and Qualifications for Women in Rural Areas by Josefina Pereira Lorenzo Andalusia's Women Institute (IAM)

Mrs. Pereira Lorenzo presented an overview of her institute and the work it performs. Its key aim is to promote proper conditions for real and effective equality between men and women in Andalusia by a number of services to encourage women to take part in the political, economic, cultural and social life. The main programmes and services provided are summarised below.

The Programme to Promote Employment developed by the IAM is an orientation programme for women that seek to combine a number of solutions for each user to develop her own pathway towards becoming integrated into the work force. The programme offers information and labour orientation via several modules:

- *Pre-training*, to stimulate self-confidence.
- *Occupational Guidance*, to provide assistance in the search for concrete information that will allow women to make decisions when choosing an occupation.
- *Job Search* methods.
- *Encouragement to use new technologies*.
- *Support and monitoring of the entire process*.

The main purpose of *"The training programme on Women and Agriculture"* is to extend the occupational training offered for women who live in rural areas, in order to facilitate their access to work and new occupational activities. During the programme, courses with a variety of topics are given. The duration of the courses varies from 30 hours for more specific activities to 300 hours for courses at higher levels. In 2006, a total of 105 courses were given, in which 1,611 students took part. Among those courses, 41 were related to preparing and handling food security and food safety, in which a total of 709 women students took part.

A Unit for Equality and Gender has been developed by the IAM in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Treasury. The Unit's mission is to facilitate the incorporation of the gender perspective in the analysis, monitoring and assessment of the plans and programmes developed by the regional government of Andalusia. One of the Gender Unit's lines of intervention is specific training in Equality and Gender Mainstreaming Policies, targeting Andalusian regional government staff.

She provided also some interesting information regarding the students that participate in the different programmes. In general, the work of the Institute has contributed substantially to improve the conditions of women in the Andalusian region.

CAFRAD Related Activities to Food Security and Food Safety: Training Workshops on the Preparation and Evaluation of Agricultural Projects by Lizette Michael, Senior Expert in Public Administration, (CAFRAD)

Mrs. Michael gave an overview of the work and organisation of CAFRAD. She gave also detailed information regarding the following training seminars:

- Training Workshop on the Preparation and Evaluation of Agricultural Projects, Tangier (Morocco), 3-21 April 2000.
- Training Course on Capacity-Building in Agricultural and Rural Development Project Preparation and Monitoring, Tangier (Morocco), 27 October - 16 November 2001.

Both events were of long duration and were attended by high officials of the member countries of CAFRAD.

Mrs. Michael also referred to a working paper, which she has prepared, entitled "Water Resources Management for Food Security in North Africa" that was intended to provide background information on the water resources situation in the North African countries with particular reference to the domestic water sector and the re-use of wastewater.

CONTINUATION OF WORKING SESSION 2 (13 MARCH)

The Role of Women in Agriculture, Irrigation and Food Security. Study on 5 Moroccan Regions (Ain Taoujtate, Skhirate, Tadla, Outat, Lhaj, Missouri) by Tarik Maaroufi, Institut Agronomic Vétérinaire (IVA)-Hassan II

Mr. Tarik Maaroufi (AMSED) presented a summary of a regional Study undertaken by IVA-Hassan II in 5 different regions of Morocco. The purpose of the study was to make a socio-economic assessment of the main gender issues that affect the respective areas and to compare the results.

The study identified the main constraints that affect women such as high illiteracy (87%), the fact that only 16% of them are responsible for managing the farms, and that their age is relatively high (70% are more than 45 years old). Farms are essentially managed by men. The participation of women in agricultural activities varies between 14 and 25% (harvest) but they are generally responsible for the rising and care of small animals.

Regarding the provision of water for domestic purposes, most of the women get the water from wells although in large irrigation systems they have access to watering points.

Women in the research areas were well acquainted with traditional irrigation methods but even with the importance of water conservation.

Women play an important role in food security as they are responsible for food preparation and conservation. They have a considerable knowledge about indigenous plants and their use for food or medical purposes.

The constraints affecting women were reviewed and largely coincide with those presented for other countries. To overcome such constraints the study recommended:

- To facilitate the access of women to the resources and to credit.
- To reinforce the capacities of rural women through training and sensitisation programmes.

- To improve their institutional capacity, and
- To strengthen their role in all aspects related to the management of the water resources.

During the discussion, the important role that new local associations, formed at the village level, can play to facilitate credit and other services to women and men was emphasised.

Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Food Security in Palestine by Mohamed Abdellatif (PARC), Palestine

The presentation from PARC illustrated that food security in Palestine is going through a very critical period. Local production does not provide sufficient stable food commodities and relies upon imports and commercial channels. More than 1/3 of the population fall under the categories of “marginal secure” and “vulnerable” and the percentage of women in these categories are even higher. The ongoing socio-economic decline and overall de-institutionalisation processes are expected to further impact food security in the coming months.

Mr. Abdellatif presented also some of the constraints that rural women are facing: a fifth of Palestinian rural women cannot read or write, 65% have finished primary school, and 30% are forced to marry before the age of 18. The proportion of households living under poverty conditions reaches 60%, a number that reaches 73% in households headed by women. Many other figures and examples illustrated that rural women are suffering from many other constraints.

He analysed the role of women in water management. Although this role is important, government interventions fail to take into consideration the actual imbalances between men and women. The political situation is resulting in lack of institutions to deal with these problems and this is the major reason why the local committee, requested by the Project, has not been established yet.

Several recommendations were made but he emphasised that:

- Donors play an important part of the economy of Palestine and it was felt that they must give a gender perspective to their support programmes.
- Training activities addressed to promote home gardens and income-generating activities are of great interest to women.

Gender Indicators in Water Management: Review, Proposals and Guidance by Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager and Raouf Guelloubi, GEWAMED Technical Support Officer, CIHEAM-MAI-Bari, Italy

One of the deliverables of the GEWAMED project is a publication on gender indicators. A draft of the publication was prepared and distributed to all participants. Mr. Sagardoy presented a summary of the publication whose main features are described below.

The document is divided into two main parts; the first part concerns indicators to be used at national level while the second are those to be used in studies at local level.

Before proceeding to describe the 10 indicators recommended at national level the authors have reviewed the existing information regarding gender indicators. The review evidenced that several indicators have been developed by agencies of the UN system mostly concerned with the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. However, none of them tries to relate gender and water resources. To fill this vacuum the document proposes 10 indicators basically concerned with gender and the access to land and water resources management, to the labour market and education, and with gender empowerment in water management institutions.

The second part presents a large number of indicators that should be developed when undertaking studies aiming at investigating the gender constraints of a rural community. By maintaining a standard set of indicators comparative studies will be easier to implement.

The presentation generated an extensive discussion. Many points were of clarification of the intended approach but also several useful contributions were made. Partners were requested to review the document and send contributions or comments before the end of March 2007.

SESSION 3: GENDER AND WATER INDICATORS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL NETWORKS (13 MARCH)

The partners from Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan presented the progress made in the implementation of the national networks. In general, a good progress was made in their implementation although the partners from Palestine and Lebanon have not initiated yet this activity due, in some cases, to the difficult political situation of the countries, and Morocco and Turkey due to difficulties in obtaining the government support, but they are in the process of establishing them.

The establishment of national networks, made up of collaborating institutions, was considered a useful instrument for improving the communication with interested institutions. It was also considered as an efficient way for disseminating the project activities. In some countries they have played an important role.

After the presentations an attempt was made to identify the main features of these national committees and they are described below.

The Process of Establishment and Criteria for the Selection of the Members

The process of establishing the networks is a complex one for several reasons. Assessing the organisations that will be more appropriate for integrating the local networks takes time for exploring their responsibilities and potential interest. Their participation is voluntary and the process for assessing their interest and willingness to participate requires considerable efforts in explaining the project and what is required from their participation. The participation of governmental institutions requires negotiations with directors and sometimes ministers to support their participation.

The selection process is delicate and requires a close evaluation of the potential participants. The main criteria followed for the selection of the members of the national networks were:

- Coverage of the different water sectors.
- Capacity to disseminate the project results.
- Sustainability of the institutions.
- Interest in the subject.
- Willingness to cooperate.
- Participants' willingness to act as focal points in their institutions.

Composition of the National Networks

- The common composition is made up predominantly of government institutions and several NGOs; in some cases representatives from the media were included.
- The size of the networks ranges between 8 to 14 members which is a manageable size. Their progressive growth is envisaged. The establishment of subgroups is a future possibility also.
- The participation of the media was considered relevant and partners were encouraged to pursue their inclusion.
- Possibility of including representatives from the academic world should be considered.

Role of the National Networks

It was agreed that the main role of the national network is information collection and dissemination in the area of gender and water resources management. During the extended discussion some of the relevant issues raised were:

- Adequate TORs should be prepared from the start.
- Members of the national networks should “appropriate the project”, meaning that they should feel an integral part of it and committed to its objectives.
- It should be clear to all members that their contribution is voluntary.
- The activities to be undertaken need careful planning and consultation with the members.
- The exchange of information and communication is encouraged among national committees. Peering national committees were promoted.
- It is very important to continuously keep national committees active and involved.
- Periodic reports should be produced and sent to MAIB for information and integration.

Communication among Partners

The discussion on the national networks showed that there were shortcomings in the communication among partners and therefore a strong plea was made to improve the communication among all partners.

The use of websites will be a possibility but any other means are welcomed. All partners need to be well aware of the activities planned or undertaken by the other partners.

WORKING SESSION 4: ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WEB SITES (14 MARCH)

During this session partners reported on the development of the regional and national web sites, which are a part of the communication strategy of the project. Their main characteristics and state of development are reported below.

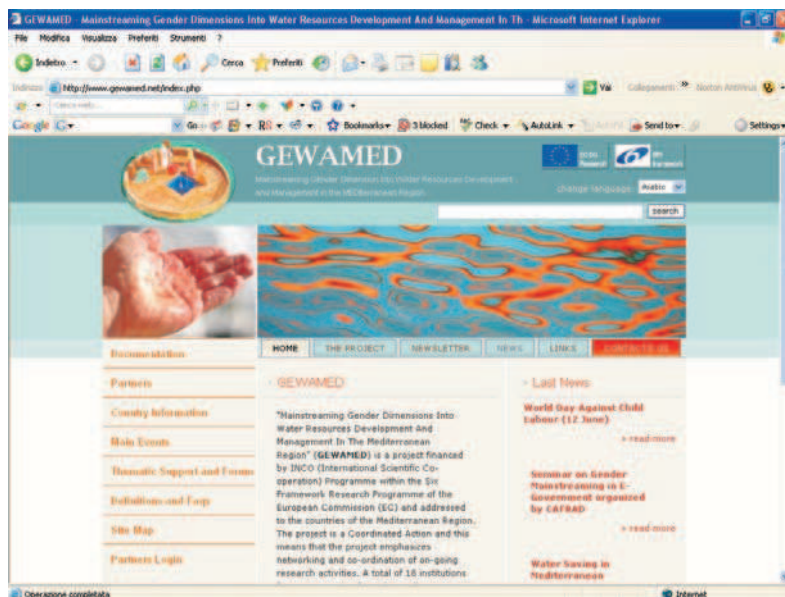
GEWAMED Regional Website

The regional Website can be accessed through the following sites: www.gewamed.net and www.waterandgender.net. The reason for having two domains for the same website is that the acronym GEWAMED may not have a clear meaning to large audiences but people looking into the web for the subject of water and gender will be more easily redirected to the second address.

The regional website is an important mechanism not only to communicate with the partners but also with the public in general. It is essentially a way of exchanging experiences, disseminating results to wide audiences and improving the coordination between the activities of the Project and the participants. The log file of the regional website will be monitored regularly and results will be analysed to find out the number of visitors and the areas of greater interest.

The regional website is predominantly in English but some parts will be soon translated into Arabic and French. The national websites include an English version but they are predominantly developed in the local languages so that information can be accessed by local populations who may not be familiar with English.

The GEWAMED regional website is subdivided into several sections (6 sections are placed in the horizontal bar while 7 additional sections are in the vertical one). The main sections were presented to the participants.



Home page of the GEWAMED regional website

GEWAMED National Websites

The national networks are a powerful tool for storing and disseminating information and knowledge on gender and water issues at national level. As already mentioned above, the question of language has received particular attention in each of the national websites.

Jordanian Partner (UJ-FA) <http://gewamed.ju.edu.jo>

The structure of the website is simple and clear. It reflects the main local activities and results and it is the most advanced one with respect to the other national websites. Sections are well divided in the vertical bar and the GEWAMED Project is exhaustively and clearly explained. Sections are the following: About GEWAMED, Expected Project Results, Project Partners, Data & Documents, News & Activities, Local and International Links and Contact Us.



of Statistics, etc.) and some UN Organisations (FAO, UNIFEM, UNESCO and UNDP).

The section on Project Partners contains a full list of all GEWAMED partners but it is still under construction. Data & Documents section includes some tables which show the growth of population in Jordan during 1952-2004, some key socioeconomic indicators, the number of female and male students and staff in both private and public Jordanian Universities, and the number of women in professional and leadership positions.

Through the National and International Link sections it is possible to enter directly the websites of the main Jordanian institutions (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department

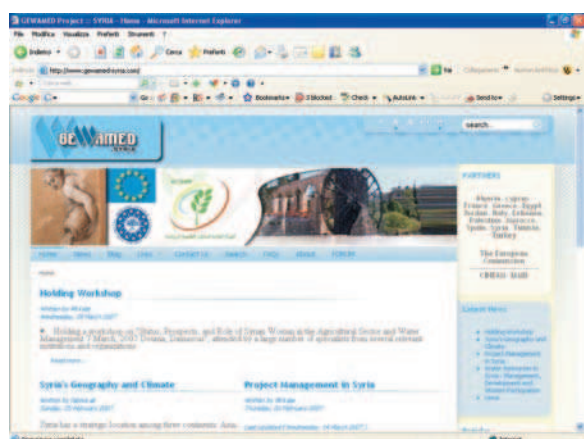
A key aspect to be stressed refers to the language. In the main page, users can select English or Arabic. This means that here the language barrier doesn't constitute a real problem since Arabic is the official language of the majority of GEWAMED partners and certainly of a great part of the Mediterranean population.

Algerian Partner (CREAD), <http://www.gewamed-algerie.com>



is not available yet.

Syrian Partner (GCSAR), <http://www.gewamed-syria.com>



The structure of this website is effective and well-developed. The vertical menu is very detailed including a complete list of sections about CREAD (Centre De Recherche En Economie Appliquée Pour Le Developpement) and its activities, about the GEWAMED Project with a subsection on its objectives, activities, partners..., and other important sections (i.e. Documentation, Forum and About Algeria). At the moment, the only one available is about GEWAMED partners which provides a full list of the Project partners. All the other sections are still under construction. When entering the website the only information that users can have is a general description of the GEWAMED Project in French. The English version

Its structure is fairly complete but information entered is still limited but it is being gradually fed in. Apart from the section on Forum which is available only in Arabic the website is in English.

The horizontal menu contains the following sections: Home, News, Blog, Links, Contact us, Search, FAQs, About, and Forum. Some sections like "About" contain detailed information regarding the GEWAMED Project which mentions who are the funding partners and the other partners, the overall objective and the specific objectives. Other sections are gradually being completed. The Forum is already operative and contributions have already been received.

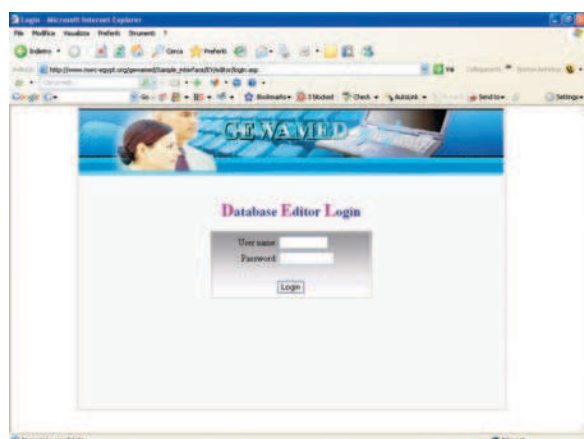
Palestinian Partner (PARC), <http://www.gewamed.ps>



The general structure appears very adequate and clear. Several sections of the horizontal and vertical menus are still under preparation (i.e. News, Country Profiles, National Gender/Water Committee and Forum). Moreover, users can enter the sections placed in the horizontal bar only from the homepage. Links are divided into local and international and their list is quite exhaustive.

In the homepage there is a map of all the Project partners which is very useful in helping readers localise immediately the Project coordinator and all the partners. It is also possible to click on each name in order to obtain additional information (e.g., Type of Organisation, Acronym and Country) on the organisation which has been selected. Like in the other cases, information has already been fed in but there are some sections still to be completed.

Egyptian partners (SRU and EEAA) www.nwrc-egypt.org/GEWAMED



The site has been developed by the two partner organisations of Egypt, namely, The Strategic Research Unit of the National Water Research Center and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. The site has not been completed yet and therefore access has been restricted only to GEWAMED partners through the use of passwords in order to obtain their contributions and suggestions. Once completed, the site will be open to the general public.

Lebanese (RMF) and Tunisian (CAWTAR) Partners

There is a small section about the GEWAMED Project in the website of René Moawad Foundation (www.rmef.org.lb/en/social/gewamed.htm) but the real national website is under construction and it is making good progress. Also the website of CAWTAR (Tunisian partners) is under construction and its launching in the web will take place soon.



EU Partners

Most of the European partners that have already their own websites, have included a section about the GEWAMED activities; among them, the following are already online:

1. S-Eau (France): http://www.pseau.org/edmed/pgm/gewamed_fr.htm
2. ARI (Cyprus): http://www.ari.gov.cy/gewamed/new_page_1.htm
3. MIO-ECSDE (Greece): <http://www.mio-ecsde.org/staticpages/index.php?page=gewamed-en>

Concluding Remarks Regarding the Websites

The GEWAMED project is making a substantial effort to create a communication mechanism at regional local level to create greater awareness about the project activities but also to provide points of reference where users may find relevant information that may be useful in terms of creating greater awareness of the gender problems but also disseminating lessons learnt that may contribute to solve some of the existing problems in terms of gender inequities and empowerment. The process is at a development stage and still some time will be needed to see the result of the work but partners are hopeful that these tools will represent an important element to achieve the project objectives.

Partners have been very enthusiastic about the establishment of these websites and the project minimum contractual requirements (6) have already been satisfied and we realistically expect that the number will increase.

The challenge now is to make every website a lively tool but also to find ways and means to inform local populations about their existence improving the access to these sources of information and communication technologies.

EVALUATION OF THE WORKSHOP

At the end of the workshop, forms were distributed to the participants asking their views about the undertaking of the workshop under different perspectives. The results of the evaluation are summarised in the graphs presented below.

The results evidenced an overall satisfaction with the organisation and technical contents of the workshop. Also some positive comments and suggestions were made.

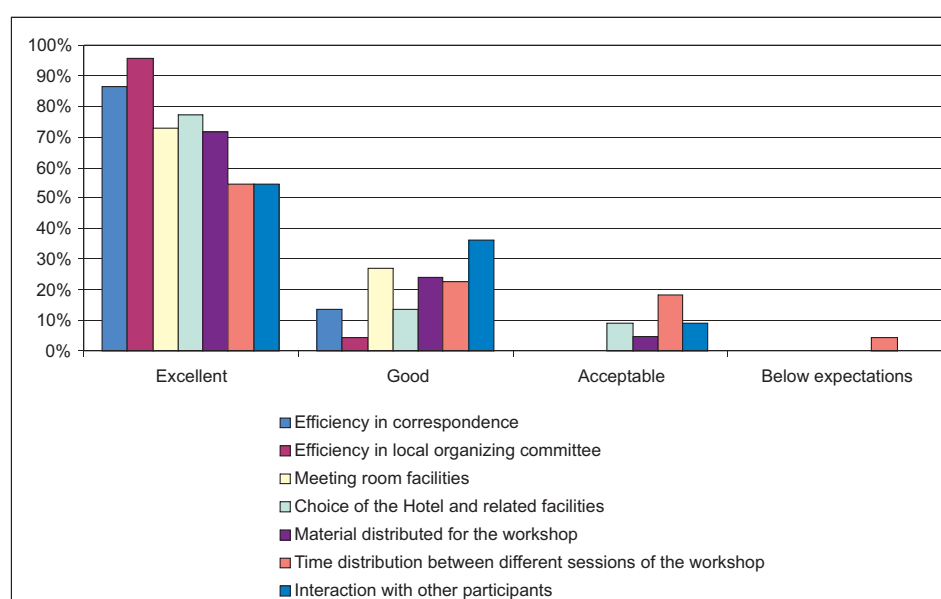


Fig. 1. Organisation of the event

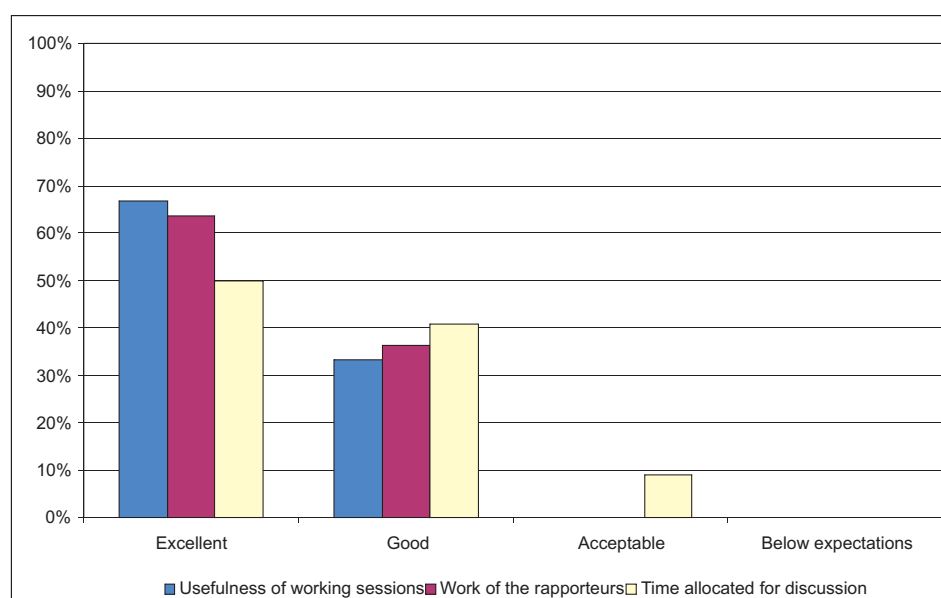


Fig. 2. Working Sessions 1 and 2

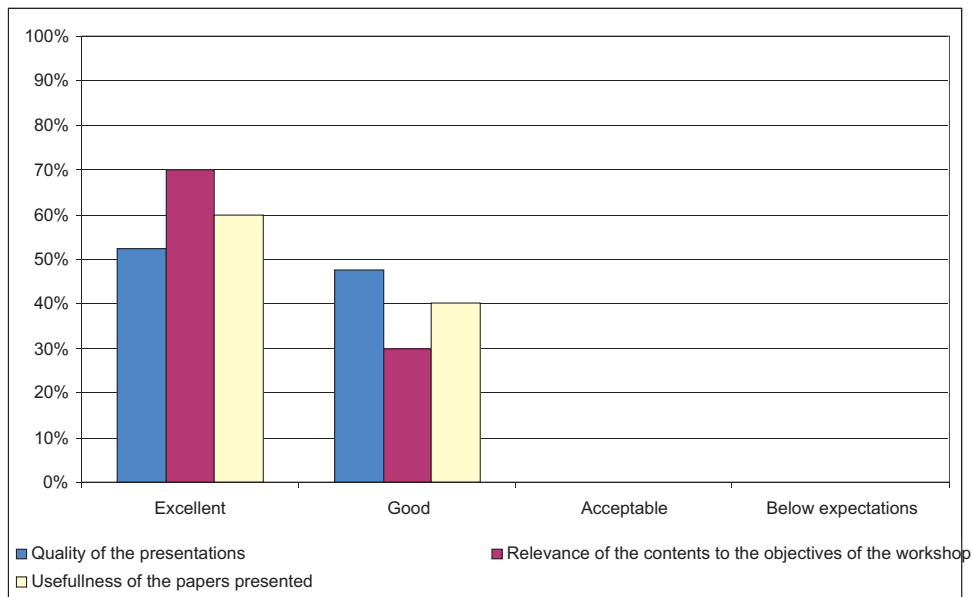


Fig. 3. Working Sessions 3 and 4

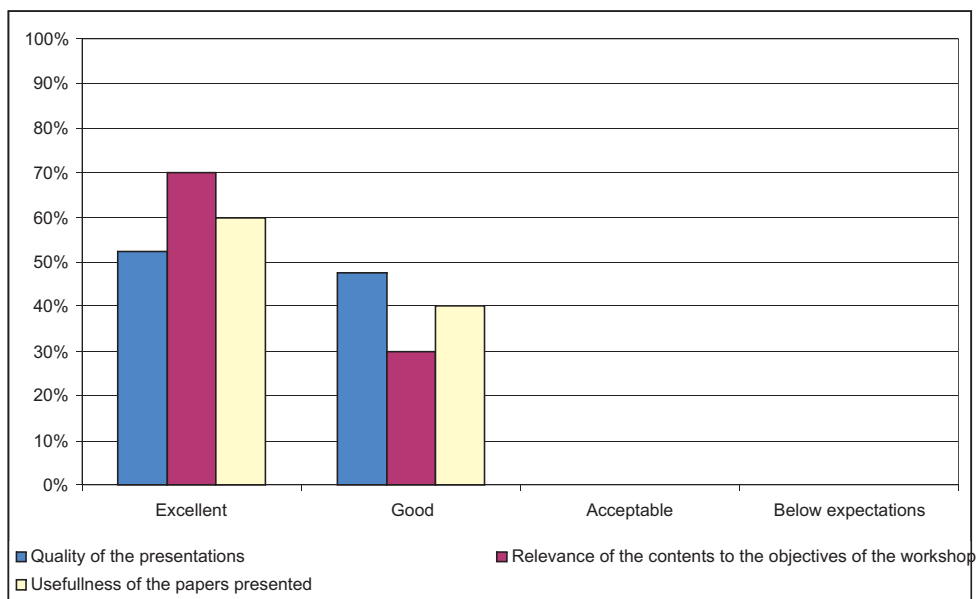


Fig. 4. Overall impressions about the Workshop