# Working group n° 2: women and rural development

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*in*

Ambrosi L. (ed.), Trisorio-Liuzzi G. (ed.), Quagliariello R. (ed.), Santelli Beccegato L. (ed.), Di Benedetta C. (ed.), Losurdo F. (ed.).
Women status in the Mediterranean: their rights and sustainable development

**Bari : CIHEAM**
**Options Méditerranéennes : Série A. Séminaires Méditerranéens; n. 87**

**2009**
pages 97-98

http://www.ciheam.org/
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# WORKING GROUP n°2
## women and rural development

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## I – General frame

Rural development, analyzed in a gender perspective, should focus on the setting up and enforcement of the institutions (agricultural federations, national and regional observatories, land reclamation authorities, networks for research and information) especially involved in development. This is aimed to:

1. Facilitate women access to training and information;

2. Create new job opportunities expressly addressed to women and youth people;

3. Develop the relationship between agriculture and the other economic sectors.

## II – Recommendations and conclusions:

Regarding the first and second objectives:

• Training on policies for multifunctionality at the university level (counting on the experience of women managing multitasking firms);

• Developing women managerial skills through extension services;

• Promoting the vision of an agriculture that cares about quality preservation of rural environment;

• Encouraging the creation of demonstrative/didactic farms and rural kindergarten.

### 1. The institutions involved in promotional and training activities should include:

• Universities and Research Centres;

• Extension agricultural services;

• NGOs and local supporting groups;

• Governmental institutions involved in national action plans.

### 2. For the third objective:

• Favouring the political dialogue and institutional strengthening;

• Promoting the collaboration between different Ministries (Agriculture, Education and Research, Labour etc);

- Encouraging the exchange of information between agricultural entrepreneurs;

- Promoting the direct sale of processed products in the production areas;

- Facilitating the communication and links of small and medium enterprises with the central government and with non-agricultural sectors;

- Encouraging the setting up of networks among those who operate in land management.

## 3. For training, the main topics are:

- The promotion of new development models focused on *gender empowerment;*

- Re-thinking gender role assignment;

- The analysis of legal aspects, access to resources, use of bioenergy and ownership right;

- The transmission of economic and business management knowledge (marketing, microfinance, microcredit etc);

- The perspective of a multitasking agriculture as a vehicle to spread cultural models and local traditions;

- The knowledge of quality assessment methods.

## 4. Some practical considerations:

- Avoid planning separate actions for men and women;

- Improving the economic conditions before introducing any change;

- Climate changes (notably desertification) have significant impacts on rural population. Specific actions addressed to women (training, information etc) are required;

- Increase rural women's interest for cash crops and knowledge of market rules.