

Analyses

Gender and Rural Employment in the World Status, trends and gaps

Nikita Shahbazi

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At present, 75 percent of the world's poor live in rural areas in developing countries. For these people agriculture is the main source of livelihoods. An estimated 86 percent of rural people depend on agriculture, fisheries, forestry and livestock for their living. For this reason, the international development community has recognized agriculture as an engine of growth and poverty reduction in developing countries and is committed to tackle issues that are related to the underperformance of agriculture to enhance food security.

One of the main reasons why agriculture in developing countries is performing below its capacity, is because it does not make optimal use of one of its most valuable resources, *women*. Women constitute more than half of the rural poor. The workforce in the agricultural sector of rural areas consists of 70/80 percent of home-based women. They participate in the rural labour market mostly as self-employed producers, agriculture wage workers, and unremunerated family worker. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) women produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing countries and are responsible for half of the world's food production.

These data suggest that only if gender equitable opportunities are ensured, efforts by national governments and international community to achieve agricultural growth, poverty reduction and food security will be realized.

Women's contribution downplayed

The term "gender" describes the socially determined attributes of men and women, including male and female roles. Gender has proven to be an essential variable for analysing the responsibilities, constraints, opportunities, incentives, costs, and benefits in agriculture.

Although rural women, beside men are engaged in a range of productive activities essential to agricultural productivity and economic growth, women's contribution is systematically marginalized in rural employment and agricultural development. The reason derives from the disparity of gender roles and is twofold:

- *Women's work is generally unpaid or segregated:*

Usually, women work on the farm of their husbands or male relatives because they have limited bargaining power in the family and find it difficult to leave their work for other kind of jobs. The number of women contributing to non-remunerated jobs is two times larger than the number of men, while more men than women work in profitable jobs.

Contents of this issue:

Dossier "Women in agriculture and the rural environment"

- Analyses

Gender and Rural Employment in the World: Status, trends and gaps, by Nikita Shahbazi (FAO)

Mediterranean women in agriculture, by Karen Serres (IFAP)

Women and the diversification of the rural economy in Italy, by Veronica Navarra (ONILFA)

Farm Co-Ownership, by Paloma López-Izquierdo (MARM, Spain)

Women and water resource management in the Mediterranean Region, by Rosanna Quagliariello (CIHEAM-MAI Bari)

- Interviews

Wafa'a Dikah Hamzé (Nowara Project, Lebanon)

Faouzia Slama (GIAS and CNFCE, Tunisia)

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Founded in 1962,
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CIHEAM

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Montpellier and
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In pursuing its three
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regional debate),
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itself as an authority
in its fields of activity:
Mediterranean
agriculture, food and
rural development.

At present,
Mr Abdelaziz Mougou is
CIHEAM's President and
Mr Francisco Mombiola
Muruzabal is its
Secretary General.

- *Women's responsibilities are confined to reproductive care:*

Besides helping their husbands in the field, rural women are mainly responsible for reproductive and domestic work such as fetching water, fuel wood and preparing food. This type of work confines women to home-based activities. On average, employed women in rural areas spend over four times as many hours in unpaid care work as employed men. The time spent on unpaid and reproductive activities reduces women's opportunities to organize, to network and to invest in their human and social capital. This lowers women's bargaining power in the family, community and workplace. As a result, it has a negative impact on agricultural productivity, their family income and rural economic growth.

Hence, promoting economic participation of women in rural areas and tapping into their unused potential will have an immense effect on rural development.

Impediments to economic participation of rural women

A growing body of evidence suggests that women invest more their income in the children's nutrition and development than men. In this regard, it is essential to create decent employment opportunities and higher level of earnings for rural women to achieve sustainable livelihoods for the next generations and reduce poverty. In order to achieve this, the following obstacles need to be tackled:

- *Low paid and precarious jobs in rural areas*

One of the major problems affecting rural labour markets is the existence of the "working poor". The term working poor indicates the active participants in labour markets that earn a low wage and live below the poverty line due to low labour productivity, temporary jobs and underemployment. This is not surprising given the fact that rural labour markets are influenced by the seasonality of labour. However, women constitute a significant share of the working poor in rural areas. In addition to being perceived as flexible workers, women's low level of human capital, segregation at work and their weak bargaining position contribute to this situation.

- *Human capital*

Lack of education opportunities and the absence of appropriate school infrastructure such as sanitary facilities lower girls' participation in education. Moreover, girls in rural areas face more cultural constraints related to their schooling and face certain responsibilities regarding care for their siblings. This form of early discrimination and child labour also reduces girls' opportunities in rural labour markets and their contribution to rural economies. However, women are not only disadvantaged in terms of investment in their education and human capital, but also in terms of returns from their investment in human capital. There is a wage gap of 80 percent between men and women in developed or developing countries. This gap can not be explained and is attributed to gender discrimination. The existence of gender discrimination in labour markets accompanied by social roles attributed to women, make investing in girls' education and future less attractive. In addition to the lack of education for girls, there is a bias towards men in farmer vocational trainings for farmers. Traditionally, agricultural extension strategies have mainly focussed on increasing production of cash crops by providing men with training, information and access to inputs and services. Since women are underrepresented in formal training programmes, the trainings are not always adapted to their needs. This impedes skills accumulation of women and will reduce their participation in agricultural activities.

- *Segregation*

Rural women tend to work in fewer sectors than men whereby their task and responsibilities are segregated. For example, women are generally the main producers of food and subsistence crops, whereas men are in charge of commercial crops. This occupational segregation raises a barrier for women to move to better jobs in other sectors when opportunities arise. Segregation of jobs, together with performing unpaid responsibilities has led to the notion of a *feminization of "bad" jobs* in the agricultural sector.

- *Weak bargaining position*

The fourth factor that limits women's opportunity to participate in rural economies and earn a reasonable income is their bargaining position. The bargaining power of women is generally weak, both within the household and in labour markets. Women's voice is in general unheard and their interests in decision-making process are unrecognized. This is because of women's predominance in unpaid and low skills jobs.

CIHEAM Governing Board

Since the end of 2009, five new CIHEAM member country delegates have been appointed to sit on the Governing Board:

Mr Toufik MADANI,
Director of Education at the Algerian Ministry of Agriculture, is the new Algerian Delegate, replacing Mr Mohamed Fouad RACHEDI.

Mr Pavlos D. PEZAROS, Director of Agricultural Policy and Documentation at the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food, takes over from Mr Eleftherios TJAMOS as Greek Delegate.

Mohammed SADIKI, Director of the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine is the new Moroccan Delegate, replacing Mr Fouad GUESSOUS.

Therefore, besides the quantity of employment opportunities for rural women, the quality of their employment in terms of productivity, income and working conditions should be taken into account. In recent years, migration of male workers in rural areas has resulted in a significant increase in the share of women working in wage jobs. However, women are forced to accept jobs with irregular wages, no social protection and in precarious working conditions. Hence women need to participate fully in representative bodies to ensure their voices are heard and their working conditions are improved.

- *Limited access to assets*

Gender inequalities in access to assets in rural areas reduce women's capacity to efficiently engage in agricultural activities, thereby jeopardizing their labour productivity, their income and their ability to have a decent livelihood. The constraints affecting rural women's ability to improve their labour productivity and profit are: land tenure systems, legal access of women to assets and productive resources, and inheritance laws. In some developing countries legal and cultural status affect the degree of control women have over land. Although 70 percent of rural labour force consists of women, less than 10 percent of them own property and have control over the use of the land through their male relatives. Denial of the right to land will in turn influence women's degree of control over other inputs such as financial services, information and the benefits which flow from them. The lack of credit also hinders the development of rural markets as well as local and national economies.

- *Social customs and laws*

Differences in access to recourses, social capital, human capital, employment opportunities and division of tasks are determined by socio-cultural practices, beliefs and values. Agriculture is an area where traditional values and mindsets dominate and limit women's opportunities. In some countries social norms define for women what kind of jobs they can do and under what kind of working conditions. Consequently, women produce less than they could and often less than what would be necessary for their households.

Conclusion and remarks

Increasing women's economic participation outside the household has positive multiplier effects on agriculture production and rural development. With full economic participation, women have more control over their income, invest more in the well-being of their children and are able to strengthen their social capital. This implies that they have access to better information, to economic resources and finding better employment opportunities. Accordingly, gender inequalities in participating in rural economies and in decent work opportunities will be significantly reduced.

Gender inequalities in distribution of resources and employment opportunities exist all over the world, regardless of the economic development of the country. However, they constitute economic inefficiencies that result in high economic costs and hence are a lost opportunity to create wealth and to reduce poverty. In addition, gender inequalities exhibit different patterns according to social, cultural and economic factors. It is therefore crucial to view rural women as a heterogeneous social group and to derive policies and services for them that capture their diversity. Identifying gender-specific constraints and their respective consequences in each country-specific context is a key in designing policies to overcome these constraints. For example, if employer organizations, farmers' organizations, and trade unions are not represented by women, quota systems can be applied to raise the number of women who can address women's interest. In case low paid jobs prevent women from acquiring new skills and capability, barriers to combine men's and women's tasks and responsibilities should be addressed. Although, since gender differences related to rural development are interlinked, it is necessary to take a package of complementary policy measures, such as legal reforms to ensure women have access to land together with provision of child care facilities and vocational training so that women have possess the necessary skills in order to participate in agriculture.

Finally, men should also be involved in addressing gender disparities and in defining the solutions that increase their agriculture productivity and income level. Promoting equitable gender opportunities is more than improving women's economic empowerment and decision-making power. It concerns also improving living conditions of their children, their family and their communities. The goal is to find a win-win situation for women, men and their communities.

Nikita Shahbazi

Mediterranean women in agriculture

Karen Serres

President of the Committee on Women in Agriculture at the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)

Agriculture is the main economic activity in Mediterranean rural areas. In all Mediterranean countries, however, rural areas have been affected by poverty, high unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, *terroir* degradation and ongoing rural-urban drift. Even though Mediterranean women farmers tend only to work on small-scale family farms, they still make an active contribution to economic and social development in their regions and play an essential role in maintaining food security and developing the rural world. Despite the importance of their role, very few statistics are available on women in Mediterranean agriculture, particularly those living on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. The percentage of women in the active agricultural population varies from around 40% in Italy to 70% in Turkey. But even in different national contexts, the experience of the female agricultural community is similar, particularly in terms of:

- professional recognition and the access to goods and services that comes with it;
- initial and continuous training in technical and non-technical subjects;
- the severity of the work and working conditions;
- the difficulty of reconciling professional and family life;
- the number of women farmers in agricultural organisations and their authority to make decisions.

Lack of recognition and difficulty in gaining access to resources

The work situation of women farmers in the Mediterranean is determined by social factors. Mediterranean women must contend with a patriarchal society that generates male-female inequalities in the agricultural sectors of the entire region.

Women farmers in the Mediterranean are all too often unrecognised for the work they perform since it is frequently of an informal kind. This informal approach to women's farming produces a vicious spiral in which three problems (access to resources, access to finances and social status) interlock and interact to their disadvantage. Having little or no access to finance, women farmers cannot buy the seeds, other inputs, materials or tools that are indispensable to developing their operations and thus generating the resources they need to improve their social status. Furthermore, women farmers have difficulty gaining full access to natural resources (land, water, etc.), which has consequences for their own living conditions and those of their community. All these factors contribute to the precarity of the situation of women farmers in the Mediterranean Region.

Access to the market may in some cases be impeded by ways and customs that limit the possibility of trading or marketing certain agricultural products, the cattle trade in the South of the Mediterranean region being a case in point. Whatever the products traded, the difficulties women face in gaining access to credit and the inadequacy of their training seriously impede their chances of taking full advantage of agricultural markets. In some countries, customary restrictions on women's movements outside the home also make it more difficult for women farmers to obtain the best prices for their products. For traditional and cultural reasons, specific factors relating to land compound the other handicaps borne by women farmers. It often happens that land is the property of their farmer husband, that it is registered in his name alone or that women have no right to administer their own property themselves: in Egypt for example women are not authorised to administer property they have inherited and in Syria they have to relinquish their right to land.

Access to funding is also a serious problem for women, linked as it is to patrimony and cultural factors. If women do not have access to adequate funding, they are unable to obtain the productive resources they need to do their job, which prevents them from expanding their enterprises and moving towards a more professional form of operation and hence from improving their social status. Women farmers in the Mediterranean are therefore not equipped to take a dynamic, forward-looking approach to their work and may therefore be driven, as a last resort, to accept badly paid agricultural labouring jobs. However, with the establishment of micro-finance institutions in rural areas some of these problems are now being solved.

Structural policies and a regulatory framework enabling women in the agricultural sector to escape from the informal economy would encourage the creation of quality jobs and open up access to funding (agrarian legislation governing "the law of the soil", social policies on social cover and the status of persons working in agriculture, rules on guarantees and mortgages applied by banks and financial organisations, etc.).

MAI Montpellier

From 21 to 23 October 2010 an international seminar on "Quality in research and higher education in life sciences in the Euro-Mediterranean zone" will be held at the Lebanese University of Beirut.

This seminar is jointly organised by QuaRES (Association for quality in research and higher education) and MAI.M (whose teaching procedures are certified ISO 9001), together with other Lebanese and Mediterranean partners.

The seminar will consist of plenary sessions devoted to sharing of experiences and observations, which will alternate with round tables and workshops on more targeted issues.

This meeting is part of the regular collaboration between QuaRES and MAI.M (dating back to 2006), whose particular goal is to organise Mediterranean seminars and promote quality in higher education and research.

www.iamm.fr

Measures should also afford women farmers protection in the event of serious setbacks (invalidity of spouse, widowhood, etc.) and allow them to go on working in agriculture if they wish and retain ownership of the family farm.

Level of education and training, access to courses

Women farmers level of professional education and training is relatively low. They often begin agricultural work after their marriage to a farmer and therefore have little or no initial training. Indeed most of them would not have known that agriculture would one day be their profession. Lack of professional training for women farmers prevents them from gaining recognition in the sense that they are not regarded as true farmers in their own right but as farmers' wives. While there has been some progress in schooling levels in most rural areas in Mediterranean countries, access to training and education is still easier for men and town dwellers than for women and rural populations.

In the rural areas of some countries, the lack of school facilities and/or basic infrastructure (roads, electricity, potable water, etc.) restricts access by girls to agricultural colleges or adult training courses. The constraints imposed by work and family life are a serious obstacle to quality education and training for women farmers, present or future. Moreover, the quality of the training given to women farmers may suffer from the lack of financial resources. In the southern Mediterranean countries, training is fairly informal and the lack of funds is even more marked. More comprehensive, better quality training in agricultural practice would also serve to keep women farmers informed about the latest agricultural research findings and help make them more effective. If women farmers were better qualified they would find it easier to leave insecure situations. The need for adult training, both to improve technical skills and to produce women leaders, is addressed in one of the conclusions of the IFAP working group on women in Mediterranean Agriculture.

Working conditions

Women farmers have a physically demanding job and work long difficult hours. Given their lack of social recognition, the variability of harvests and the prices of their products, the conditions of their lives are precarious. The agricultural tasks for which they are responsible are many and various. Most of them, such as dairy, fruit and vegetable and processed food production, are not mechanised and are highly labour intensive. Women often manage work associated with sowing, irrigation, soil fertilisation, harvesting and storage of foodstuffs. They are also responsible for water management (collection and storage). Lastly much of their time and effort tends to be devoted to the processing of agricultural produce and to farm-gate selling. They are more often required to perform unpleasant manual work than to operate modern labour-saving machines, which moreover are not designed for feminine morphology.

Difficulty of combining work and family life

A further difficulty encountered by Mediterranean rural women is that of combining their work with their family life, especially when they are so far from essential services (schools, training centres, day-care centres for children and elderly persons, medical services, etc.), which are concentrated in urban areas. In rural parts of some countries to the south of the Mediterranean, women farmers are still too far away from places where they can obtain information about health and hygiene. Distribution of contraceptives and medicines is limited, as is access to emergency services, which partly explains the high rate of death in childbirth. The countries in the North are admittedly slightly ahead in this area, although local health services there are currently under threat for national economic reasons. As a result, waiting periods are longer and patients have to travel further for the same medical treatment. This situation could have very serious consequences for health and safety and would exclude the possibility of rapid intervention in the event of industrial accidents. The heavy agricultural workload, together with the responsibilities that are the traditional province of women, are an impediment to feminine involvement in agricultural organisations (cooperatives, unions, chambers of agriculture, etc.).

Limited participation and power in agricultural organisations

In situations where women farmers can participate fully in the activities of agricultural organisations they act as a catalyst for women's agriculture. Agricultural organisations often serve as the driving force behind education, information and pooling of information by women farmers, all of which play an important role in improving the position of Mediterranean rural women, enabling them to build their capacity and develop their potential and aptitude for individual and collective organisation.

International Horticultural Congress 2010

The 28th International Horticultural Congress (IHC) was held from 22 to 27 August 2010 in Lisbon.

The theme of the Congress was "Science and Horticulture for People", underlining the cross-cutting nature of the subject, which concerns scientists, producers, consumers and society as a whole.

On this occasion, CIHEAM-MAI Bari coordinated a seminar on fruit tree pests and took part in a symposium on organic horticulture.

For more information:
www.ihc2010.org

They also help give them a better sense of the possibilities open to them and to improve the building and management of their projects. Mediterranean women farmers' associations deserve to be encouraged in so far as they serve to develop a spirit of enterprise. In order for such bodies to be established governments need to become aware of the work performed by country women in the Mediterranean and to promote their role in maintaining and improving agriculture. In addition, agricultural organisations in the Mediterranean countries should push for the development of programmes that increase women's participation in decision-making processes and implement gender

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quota policies to increase the representation of women as fully autonomous individuals.

In Mediterranean countries, women farmers most often live in difficult conditions. Instruments and measures that might serve to improve conditions do exist but women farmers still have to be able to participate in discussion and debates on the avenues to be followed. It would be helpful if decision-making bodies were to include women farmers in their deliberations when measures concerning them were put into effect.

Such a step would require greater awareness that women are key players in sustainable rural development. Agricultural organisations play an important role in raising such awareness. As members of agricultural organisations, women can better defend their rights through lobbying and give full play to their entrepreneurial and decision-making capacities. The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), through its Committee of Women Farmers, is committed to disseminating information about the living conditions of women farmers across the world, improving their status, building their capacities and helping them play an active role in agricultural organisations.

Conclusion

The main obstacles to good living conditions for Mediterranean women farmers therefore arise from lack of education, the difficulty of combining farming and family life, inadequate economic, technical and financial conditions and the pervasive influence of tradition. Mediterranean women have a capacity for innovation, which they use to advance economic and social development in rural areas. They also assume an essential role in helping to maintain food security. Equality of opportunity between men and women in the agricultural world should therefore be a priority, since it is in the interest of all players in the Mediterranean Region.

Karen Serres

Women and the diversification of the rural economy in Italy

Veronica Navarra

President of the National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture (ONILFA)

In the past few years, the Italian national debate, like the international debate, has frequently focused on a new agricultural model and on the very important role it might play, given its multi-dimensional character, in the socio-economic context of the rural territories. According to this new model, feminine entrepreneurship is an essential factor in the support and promotion of new activities and in the implementation of multifunctional measures that have already been introduced and/or should be progressively developed. The aim of this article is to give a brief assessment of developments in Italy's policy on improving employment prospects and raising income levels for women in agriculture. It also examines certain matters relating to the different ways in which women contribute to rural development and the multifunctional nature of agriculture.

Rural development policy and support for women farmers

First all it is necessary to understand the strategic objectives of the public policies introduced to encourage and support the development of the agricultural world and feminine entrepreneurship in Italian agriculture.

MAI Bari

MAI.B is participating in the project INCAM (Improving National Surveillance and Monitoring Capacities for Integrated Management of the Environment and the Coastal Ecosystem), which aims to integrate countries neighbouring the EU into the ERA (European Research Area).

This two-year project (2011-2012) is coordinated by the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) in partnership with MAI.B and the IRD (Institute for Research and Development) in France.

It is expected to yield the following results: the setting up of a centre of excellence/regional centre for research into water, biodiversity and management of coastal areas within the CNRS; a higher level of participation by Lebanese research centres in the European Union's 7th FPRTD; networking with research centres of other neighbouring countries; and increased chances of employment for young Lebanese scientists.

www.iamb.it

The Italian Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF) has drawn up a National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the period 2007-2013. This plan, the outcome of consultations and negotiations with all players in the sector, is designed to implement European rural development policy (second pillar of the CAP) in the peninsular. It identifies four priorities, in line with the Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development adopted by the European Commission:

- Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors;
- Protecting the environment;
- Optimising quality of life and encouraging diversification in rural areas;
- Implementing the Leader+ approach to rural development.

The strategy defined in the NSP is put into effect through 21 Rural Development Programmes each of which is managed by one of the Italian regions. This process is facilitated by the National Rural Network (NRN), administered by the MIPAAF with the support of a steering committee, whose members include ONILFA. The inclusion of gender mainstreaming in the Rural Development Programmes has become a priority in nearly all the regions.

The aim of the National Rural Network is to integrate all activities associated with development in rural areas during the programming period 2007-2013 and to encourage active participation by all rural players. The characteristic features of the Network are its pyramid structure, topped by the Central Unit for Animation and Coordination (UNAC), and its horizontal support structures. UNAC has set up a management and coordination unit with different thematic working groups, one of which is devoted to equality between men and women and operates in synergy with ONILFA.

Established in 1997 by ministerial decree, ONILFA has 30 members, who represent the main public and private institutions in Italian agriculture and rural affairs. The main aim of the observatory is to develop an entrepreneurial spirit in women and improve knowledge about the circumstances in which women entrepreneurs work. To that end it uses, among other things, *ad hoc* studies, which may inspire new proposals and/or solutions to the most recurrent problems facing rural women.

ONILFA's field of operation is very broad and its efforts are directed into various fields:

- Research (carrying out analytical studies, compiling statistical data);
- Monitoring (analysing regulations in the Italian employment sector to make sure that the principle of male-female equality is respected in the labour market);
- Support measures (facilitating the work of women entrepreneurs in national and international markets by helping them participate in trade fairs and other events);
- Information and communication (organising training/information courses on the more significant aspects of the feminine condition in rural areas).

The Observatory's work also focuses on the function and role women must fulfil if they are to encourage and advance socio-economic development in rural areas. The results of all these activities prove to be very important for public administrations, particularly when they are determining new strategies and new operations to stimulate territorial development.

Rural women in Italy

In 2009, according to data from the research centre of the Italian Union of Chamber of Commerce, Industry Artisan Crafts and Agriculture (*Unioncamere*), the number of agricultural enterprises run by women, whatever their legal form, was 245 141, corresponding to 29% of all agricultural companies and 28% of women's companies in all sectors. Even though this figure shows that there are still fewer farms run by women than by men, it should be emphasised that the number of feminine agricultural enterprises has increased significantly in the past decade. There is no denying that women are assuming an ever more important legal and economic role in these concerns.

The data provided by the National Institute of Statistics of Italy (ISTAT), shows that between 2003 and 2007 the number of women entrepreneurs in agriculture fell by around 9%, which is lower than the figure for men and women combined, namely 14% (cf table 1). Furthermore, in the North-East of Italy, the number of women entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector rose by around 13% even though the overall number in the region (men and women) actually fell by 4.6%.

Controverses de Marciac

For 16 years now, the *Mission d'Animation Agrobiosciences* has been organising its annual *Controverses de Marciac* (formerly known as the *Université d'Été de l'Innovation Rurale*), a European benchmark event held in the heart of Gers (France), which gives a very wide public an opportunity to discuss agricultural and food issues in the convivial setting of the Marciac Jazz Festival.

This year it was held from 30 July to 1 August and addressed the subject "Agriculture, food and society. The Mediterranean at the heart of Europe: tracing the cracks, uncovering the flaws, finding agreement".

The object was to consider the current role and possible future role of agriculture in Euro-Mediterranean relations. CIHEAM-MAI Montpellier took an active part in the three days of discussion.

For more information:
www.agrobiosciences.org

TABLE 1: Entrepreneurs broken down by sex and geographical location

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	TOTAL ENTREPRENEURS	WOMEN	TOTAL ENTREPRENEURS	WOMEN	TOTAL ENTREPRENEURS	WOMEN
	RATE 03-05		RATE 05-07		RATE 03-07	
NORTH WEST	-8.1	-3.8	-2.6	-2.5	-10.5	-6.2
NORTH EAST	-4.7	4.8	0.0	7.3	-4.6	12.5
CENTRE	-11.8	-11.6	-4.6	-0.3	-15.9	-11.9
SOUTH:	-14.5	-15.5	-3.2	3.7	-17.3	-12.4
SOUTH	-14.0	-2.5	-16.2	-13.7	0.1	-13.5
ISLANDS	-16.1	-4.5	-19.8	-20.5	13.9	-9.4
ITALY	-12.0	-11.5	-2.8	3.0	-14.5	-8.8

Source: ISTAT data, statistics on agriculture and stockbreeding

Table 2 shows that in 2007 women entrepreneurs operating as individual legal entities in the southern region accounted for around 53% of the total (five percentage points higher than the national figure).

TABLE 2: Women entrepreneurs broken down by legal form (in percentage terms)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	PHYSICALE PERSON, INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY ENTREPRISE	LEGAL PERSONS	TOTAL	PHYSICALE PERSON, INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY ENTREPRISE	LEGAL PERSONS	TOTAL	PHYSICALE PERSON, INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY ENTREPRISE	LEGAL PERSONS	TOTAL
	2003			2005			2007		
NORTH WEST	26.7	12.8	26.5	41.0	7.7	38.5	39.2	6.7	38.5
NORTH EAST	23.1	9.1	22.9	34.6	5.9	33.7	37.6	9.8	37.1
CENTRE	30.2	11.8	29.9	43.9	10.2	42.8	46.7	7.3	45.7
SOUTH:	32.4	11.4	32.4	47.4	6.8	47.1	52.5	5.0	52.2
SOUTH	34.7	9.4	34.6	53.4	3.3	53.1	55.7	5.5	55.4
ISLANDS	27.8	15.0	27.8	35.9	13.7	35.7	46.0	4.1	45.8
ITALY	30.1	11.3	30.0	43.9	7.7	43.1	47.5	7.3	47.0

Source: ISTAT data, statistics on agriculture and stockbreeding

Rural women and multifunctionality

Some studies confirm that women have come to play an increasingly important role in agriculture. This development has been encouraged by public policies launched by MIPAAF in accordance with the EU Strategic Guidelines and based on the concept of multifunctionality in agriculture. It is necessary to stimulate the rural economy accordingly and improve the quality of life of the populations there, notably by promoting and creating new kinds of job. The characteristic features of most companies managed by women are efficiency, innovation and dynamism and they are more inclined to embrace diversification and multifunctionality.

By diversification we mean use of the land and other resources available at farms (capital and labour) to produce secondary and tertiary goods. It refers notably to the development of activities such as tourism, leisure pursuits, education and even therapeutic treatment. More traditional types of diversification in agriculture mainly take the form of on-site processing and farm-gate sales, which at the same time serve to boost agrotourism.

Multifunctionality means developing functions other than production at the farm. They may be environmental (contributing to the sustainability of rural areas and maintenance of landscapes), social (maintaining cultural diversity and safeguarding heritage), or economic (through the leverage effects of agriculture on other economic activities).

This new concept helps the authorities move beyond the traditional idea of agriculture and include innovative strategies in national rural development policies. These strategies are intended to help agricultural undertakings discover new economic opportunities by encouraging optimum use of local resources, promoting greater awareness of environmental, cultural and traditional factors and fostering integrated development of deprived areas. Many multifunctional concerns thus operate as "sentinels", conserving and managing natural resources such as water, soil and vegetation, which are essential to the development of agricultural activity. In this way multifunctionality in agriculture routinely associates production with social and ecological work.

MAI Chania

MAI.Ch has brought its academic programmes into line with the European standards of the Bologna Process by adopting the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the Diploma Supplement (DS), two labels that promote transparency in education and scholarship and facilitate recognition of studies and qualifications.

Its efforts were rewarded in 2010 with a quality label granted by the European Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive, acknowledging the Institute's excellence in applying the Diploma Supplement. The DS is a document attached to a higher education diploma, which is intended to improve international transparency and facilitate recognition of qualifications in the academic and professional worlds.

MAI.Ch had already been awarded the Erasmus University Charter in 2007 and this latest honour is a testimony to MAI Chania's determination to pursue its quest for high-quality education.

www.maich.gr

According to this philosophy, agriculture not only supplies foodstuffs, but also provides a wide range of non-tradable services while protecting the environment. The importance of these functions is increasingly acknowledged by our societies. Furthermore, unlike diversification, which may result in the relinquishment of the primary function of agriculture, the adoption of multifunctional practices actually reinforces the productive function of agricultural concerns.

In Italy, the National Strategic Plan 2007-2013 and the operative rural development programmes in the regions provide for measures to stimulate diversification. One such is Axis III: "quality of life in the rural environment and diversification of the rural economy", whose aim is to support diversification of the rural economy by encouraging investment in emerging or existing economic activity. It also focuses on investment and operations intended to improve quality of life and develop socio-economic and environmental activities in rural areas (including local tourism, child-minding, running of educational farms and ecofarms, and energy production). It thus helps to increase the attractiveness of rural territories for companies, as well as the population, notably the feminine one. Improving quality of life and ensuring its sustainability in the rural areas where women entrepreneurs live are the two essential requirements for development, given that rural women play an important role in maintaining food security and safeguarding bio-diversity.

Rural women and agricultural diversification in Italy: some examples

The most common diversification concerns in Italy are the agro-tourism companies, educational farms, facilities for games and leisure/games libraries, teaching centres offering courses on local crafts and culture, care centres for the elderly, and family aid associations offering support for handicapped persons (*pet-therapy*, *horto-therapy*). More recently child-minding centres have also sprung up in rural areas. At this point we should present some of the activities spawned by diversification and multifunctionality, such as the development of rural tourism and educational farms, as well as farm-gate sales, in which women play a major role.

- Rural tourism

As to agrotourism, activities in the enterprises concerned are governed by professional regional registers (*Hall farm*). According to data provided by ISTAT (cf Tables 3 and 4) the number of agrotourism concerns in Italy has been growing steadily since 2003. By 2008 there were 18,480 of them, a third of which were concentrated in Central Italy. Over the past few years it is estimated that on average 35% of them have been run by women. It should be emphasised that the number run by women rose by around 50% between 2003 and 2008, the increase being more marked in regions in the Centre (+57%) and the North West (+52%).

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- **UNIONCAMERE**, Osservatorio nazionale sull'imprenditoria femminile, Communication, 6 March 2010, cf. www.unioncamere.gov.it
- **ISTAT**, Sistema informativo su agricoltura e zootecnia, cf. <http://agri.istat.it>

TABLE 3: Agrotourism enterprises in Italy (absolute figures)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	TOTAL AGROTOURISM ENTREPRISES					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
NORTH WEST	1,572	1,808	2,048	2,162	2,371	2,512
NORTH EAST	4,373	4,599	4,944	5,507	5,521	5,778
CENTRE	4,377	4,729	5,366	5,877	6,302	6,510
SOUTH:	2,697	2,881	2,969	3,219	3,526	3,680
SOUTH	1,846	1,994	2,016	2,186	2,386	2,466
ISLANDS	851	887	953	1,033	1,140	1,214
ITALY	13,019	14,017	15,327	16,765	17,720	18,480

Source: ISTAT data, statistics on agriculture and stockbreeding

TABLE 4: Agrotourism enterprises run by women in Italy (absolute figures)

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	FEMININE AGROTOURISM ENTREPRISES					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
NORTH WEST	663	750	843	878	950	1,006
NORTH EAST	874	932	1,032	1,114	1,173	1,214
CENTRE	1,721	1,887	2,166	2,418	2,620	2,709
SOUTH:	1,066	1,164	1,193	1,303	1,439	1,512
SOUTH	770	849	864	944	1,042	1,079
ISLANDS	296	315	329	359	397	433
ITALY	4,324	4,733	5,234	5,713	6,182	6,441

Source: ISTAT data, statistics on agriculture and stockbreeding

- Educational farms

Educational farms seek to bring schoolchildren into contact with the world of agriculture and indeed they have a very important role in educating young people (future consumers) about the environment and food. The aim is to make them more aware of food-related issues (the importance of healthy, quality food) and introduce them to new environments. The activities organised in these teaching schools highlight the close relationship between agricultural products and particular territories and the coursework is designed to show children the different phases of the agricultural calendar. The work often includes courses on history and culture, given by associations and organisations working in these sectors, the object being to show the close relationship between people, foodstuffs and territories. By providing these services, educational farms and eco-farms also help increase farmers incomes with no alteration of the productive features of their farms.

Today there are 1,747 accredited educational farms in Italy, most of them in the North and South of the country, Many Italian regions have accordingly drawn up "Professional Registers of Educational farms", which include guidelines and the standards a farm must meet if it is to obtain accreditation from the regional authorities.

TABLE 5: Educational farms in Italy

	ABSOLUTE VALUES	VALUES AS %
NORTH WEST	440	25.2
NORTH EAST	568	32.5
CENTRE	206	11.8
SOUTH:	533	30.5
SOUTH	404	23.1
ISLANDS	129	7.4
ITALY	1,747	100

Source: Websites of different Italian Regions

- Farm-gate sales of agricultural produce

One of the strengths of rural women is their talent for changing and optimising the quality of agricultural produce. Their experience, as women, wives and mothers living and working in a rural environment, has helped build capacities, which, although unique, are not sufficiently recognised or highlighted.

Since the end of the nineteen-nineties, farm-gate sales of agricultural produce have increased considerably in Italy. This development is a contributory factor in lowering the price of food products by reducing the number of intermediaries between farmer and consumer and at the same time allows consumers access to fresh, healthy products. It also provides new sales outlets for high quality products and encourages an entrepreneurial, innovative climate. Furthermore, the direct sales system can be expected to attract tourists and provides an additional source of income for small farmers, organic farms and other alternative farms. Direct sales also benefit the environment by causing less pollution. Socially they help bring together towns and rural areas by giving urban populations an opportunity to discover the natural world and its quality food products. The increased interest in food safety, protection of the environment and alternative agriculture has undoubtedly encouraged the growth of direct sales.

Veronica Navarra

ARIMNet

The ERA-Net programme for the scientific coordination of agricultural research in the Mediterranean Region (ARIM-Net) is organising a conference of stakeholders in Palma, Majorca (Spain) on 28 and 29 October 2010.

The network, financed by the EC's Research DG as part of the 7th FPRTD, was launched in 2008 to promote synergies and encourage cooperation between participating Mediterranean countries through greater sharing of knowledge about agricultural research programmes.

The conference aims to mobilise the Mediterranean agricultural research community and the different stakeholders for the purpose of identifying common research priorities.

ARIM-Net comprises twelve countries, thirteen national institutions and two international institutions: CIHEAM and ICARDA.

For more information:
www.arimnet.net

Farm Co-Ownership

Paloma López-Izquierdo Botín

General Sub-directorate for Equality and Modernisation
Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, Spain

Current Situation

One way to favour the survival of the rural environment, at least in Spain, is to ensure the continued presence of women in rural areas to prevent the rural population from becoming male-dominated, and to minimise the intense rural exodus observed in recent decades. This is a problem not only of social justice but also of territorial cohesion and interconnection. Despite the attempts made through numerous policies, on many occasions the strong trend of rural exodus leaves territories on the verge of extinction.

In Spain approximately five million women live and work in the rural environment. However the special features of these areas, characterised by abandonment and a predominantly male population as well as the persistence in some areas of strong gender roles, an ageing population and deficient infrastructures, make it difficult for women to participate in socio-economic life on an equal footing with men. In particular, there are marked male-female differences in farm ownership, with only 30% of women holding title to the farm. There are also substantial differences in land ownership and a very small female participation in public associations, in fact in any position with responsibility or in a decision-making capacity.

Spanish women, mainly in family farms, perform agricultural work, and take on many tasks contributing both assets and labour. However, this labour is not sufficiently acknowledged in legal terms. This is normally because only one person holds title to the property, which makes it difficult to evaluate women's contribution to the equal rights and obligations related to the farm.

In Europe the situation is not very different. Despite most female farmers sharing agricultural tasks with their partners on the family farm, these activities are looked upon as an extension of their domestic chores and looking after the rest of the family. Furthermore, as criteria of different statistical sources are so diverse, comparisons between existing data cannot be made and therefore it is difficult to obtain a global vision of the situation. Over three million people are declared as spouses of farm owners in Europe; 80% of whom are women. This means that almost one out of every two women registered in the agricultural sector has the status of "housewife". This figure varies according to country, with 66% in Spain, 72% in France, 94% in Ireland and 97% in the Netherlands.

According to the European Commission in their Report on Equality between men and women 2009, "*persisting gender gaps confirm the importance of eliminating barriers to women's full participation in the labour market. It is important to combat deep-rooted gender stereotypes which shape women's and men's roles in society and influence the gender imbalance in paid and unpaid work*". This continued situation of inequality and invisibility of the work carried out by females in the agricultural sector has negative consequences for women in particular and for society in general, such as:

- Lack of social and economic recognition: many women are not paid for their work, nor are their social rights recognised, such as national social security cover, as they do not normally pay into the scheme and are therefore more vulnerable.
- Lack of professional recognition: work on the farm under the category of "family workers" makes this work invisible and women are denied acknowledgement as agricultural workers. Likewise, women cannot gain access to vocational training and professional advancement in the sector.

MAI Zaragoza

MAI.Z is organising a seminar entitled "Diagnosis and Control of Diffuse Pollution in Mediterranean Irrigated Agriculture" on 20 and 21 October 2010.

This seminar is the last of the events organised to disseminate the findings of the European QUALIWATER project (2006-2010) coordinated by MAI.Z.

The object is to bring together players responsible for managing irrigation water (water authorities, irrigators) and scientists working in these areas for a presentation and discussion of the findings of the project.

For more information:
www.iamz.ciheam.org/qualiwater

MAI Bari

Another MAI.B project designed to involve EU neighbouring countries in the ERA (European Research Area) concerns Syria. The name of the project is SUWARESA (building capacity and knowledge for sustainable use of water resources in Syrian agriculture).

The project coordinators are Syria's Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR), General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research (GCSAR), and Administration of Natural Resources Research (ANRR). The partners are MAI.B and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Zaragoza, Spain.

This three-year project seeks to define priorities for research and cooperation between Syria and the EU in irrigation water management, strengthen Syria's scientific research capabilities in this field and promote knowledge exchange networks.

www.iamb.it

- More women falling into poverty: as they are not paid for work they carry out on their own farms, women are more likely to fall into poverty, especially in the case of separation and/or divorce. Despite having worked all their lives they are totally unprotected. According to figures from the United Nations, 70% of people in poverty are women.
- Vulnerability to domestic violence. Economic dependence has repercussions on women's self-esteem and autonomy, increases emotional dependence in situations of violence, leading women to refuse to acknowledge such a situation and consequently domestic violence in the rural environment may be overlooked.
- Women's health: double working days negatively affect women's health. As farm work is considered an extension of their domestic chores and has no social recognition, it is more difficult to identify health problems arising from their work activity.
- Participation: As they lack professional and social status they are unable to occupy posts of responsibility and that involve decision-making, either at public or private level.

Reference legal framework in the EU

Concerning Community legislation, gender equality is one of the main pillars of the equal opportunities policy in Europe. A large number of issues are regulated in this legislation, including access to employment, working conditions, payment for work performed, social security entitlements, self-employment and the protection of women during pregnancy and motherhood. One of the European directives adopted on equality between women and men, binding for the Member States of the Union, is Council Directive 86/613/EEC of 11 December 1986 on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity, including agriculture, in a self-employed capacity.

In 1994, the Commission of European Communities (hereafter, the Commission) drafted a report on the implementation of Directive 86/613/EEC concluding that, even where the Directive did oblige Member States to take action, in practice, the results had not been completely satisfactory, such as the objective of giving assisting spouses a clearly defined professional status and by extension to establish their social security entitlements. Spain did not transpose the Directive considering that its content was already contemplated in Spanish legislation.

The opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on "The role of rural women in sustainable development of the agriculture of the European Union", refers to specific problems when co-ownership is not acknowledged and considers that: "...urgent efforts should be made to achieve recognition of the work carried out by spouses on the farm, in the countries where it does not occur, and regarding contributions to the social security scheme, a possible route to take would be the introduction of a single payment for self-employed and co-workers".

The European Parliament asked the Commission to re-examine the Directive, in particular to improve the situation of assistant spouses in agriculture. The Commission requested legal experts to draw up a report on the evaluation of impacts to determine whether the modifications made in the Directive could improve the implementation of the principle of equality of treatment between men and women and increase the participation of women in self-employed activities. The report concluded that the best option to reach these objectives would be the proposal of modifications to strengthen Directive 86/613/CEE. This proposal should contain the following elements: the possibility of maternity leave for self-employed women, with a maximum duration of 14 weeks, 2 of which would be compulsory; the right for collaborating spouses to be covered by the same provisions for social protection as those applied to other workers; for competences to be awarded within the scope of the Directive to national bodies entrusted with equality issues. The new European directive is still only a proposal to date.

During the Spanish Presidency of the Council in the first half of 2010 one of the priority issues for the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs has been to introduce the focus of gender into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Some of the conclusions reached during the technical seminar on "The role of women in rural development" held in Cáceres in April 2010 are highlighted:

- Introduce the focus of gender into the debate of the future of the CAP, having reached a consensus between all the member countries to that effect.
- Enhance, especially within the EU, viable formulas to guarantee women farm co-ownership to favour their visibility and financial independence.
- Break down data according to gender in the official statistics and indicators of the Rural Development Policies conferring greater visibility to women.

Even though changes in legislation have not been made in the current CAP, the issue of rural women has been placed on the agenda for discussion in the programming period of the CAP beyond 2013. Therefore, with the backing of all the Member States and with the fundamental support of the Commission, the European Parliament is also taking up this matter and it is envisaged that in October 2010 the Commission of Rural Development and Agriculture will publish a Report on this issue, considered equally important by this institution.

Co-Ownership in Spain

Within the scope of the Spanish legislation, gender equality is contemplated at the highest level. The Spanish Constitution establishes the right to gender equality and non-discrimination and contains the mandate for the public authorities to provide for equality of individuals and of the groups to which they belong. In order to reach genuine and effective equality in the agriculture sector, the Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, for effective equality of women and men in the agricultural sector, entrusted the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and of Employment and Social Affairs the development of the legal status of co-ownership. Thus, Law 45/2007, of 13 December for the sustainable development of the rural environment, makes reference to co-ownership and instructs the Government to promote and develop the legal status of property co-ownership, and equal rights and duties in the agricultural sector as well as the corresponding eligibility for social protection.

Therefore, the Government of Spain intends to use the necessary legal mechanisms to regulate farm co-ownership. In order to do so Royal Decree 297/2009 on farm co-ownership was drawn up in an effort to guarantee effective equality between women and men in the rural environment. The objective of this regulation is to promote farm co-ownership, with all the rights and duties derived from the farm modernisation scheme and other regulations stemming from the CAP system in its implementation in Spain, so as to widen the benefits of participating in the social security scheme.

The Royal Decree works within the framework of a merely administrative regulation of farms and consequently, as far as the scope and effects of co-ownership are concerned, establishes that aids, payments, production rights, subsidies, quotas or other measures of equivalent effect that correspond to the owner of the farm will be jointly attributed to both co-owners. As this is a measure to enhance and promote the legal status of shared ownership, the regulation indicates that Public Administrations may establish public aid, preferential treatment for support and other incentive measures to enhance farm co-ownership. Benefits from these measures can already be observed in increased contributions to the social security scheme, or the possibility that the Autonomous Communities may acknowledge female co-owners as partners in an association and when providing support to young farmers for their first farm, if at least one of the partners is a woman, assign aid to each young partner.

In order to develop the legal status of co-ownership, legal regulatory reforms will have to be implemented in the future as property rights is a civil issue and farming is classified as a business activity and is therefore regulated by Commercial law and other legal provisions.

Casa Mediterráneo

Casa Mediterráneo is a public consortium established in 2009 by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the AECID in partnership with the regional government of Valencia and the provinces of Alicante, Benidorm and Xàbia.

The institution exists to promote forums where players can meet, consider ideas and present the many different aspects of Mediterranean cultural and socio-economic life. It also wishes to help strengthen cooperative relations between different countries in the Mediterranean Basin.

CIHEAM will be collaborating with Casa Mediterráneo for the first time on 2 December 2010, when it will be organising a joint seminar at the Polytechnic University of Valencia to present the *Mediterra 2010 Atlas* and discuss questions relating to agriculture and rural affairs in the Mediterranean Region.

For more information:
www.casa-mediterraneo.es

Although the Royal Decree cannot fully comply with the mandate of both laws, (since the Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March for effective gender equality and Law 45/2007 of 13 December for sustainable development of the rural environment cover a much wider scope), it is indeed one of the first building blocks in the promotion and development of farm co-ownership and supposes an initial step forward in the development of the legal status of property co-ownership, and of rights and duties in the agricultural sector, largely demanded by the rural women's organisations. This initial necessary measure, in the future should be accompanied by others and will make the appropriate changes or will require civil, commercial, tax, labour, notarial and recording laws to be promulgated or modified.

Effects of co-ownership

The farm titleholder is the only person whose name appears on bank documents, subsidies and accumulated rights and is also the only recognised representative at associations and cooperatives. As stated previously, there is a clear male predominance among farm title holders, therefore the acknowledgement of joint farm ownership will have important effects for women in the sector. The scope of these effects will depend on the mechanisms that are set up for development of this legal status, which will be the joint responsibility of the state administration and autonomous administrations.

Royal Decree 297/2009 has two immediate consequences: to make the role played by women in agriculture visible and provide social recognition of the co-ownership of family farms.

For co-ownership status to be valid, both partners must pay into the social security scheme and be included in the Register of Co-Ownership, currently being set up. To complement state aid, Autonomous Communities can provide incentives to favour the access of women to the Special Scheme of the Social Security for Employed Workers and the Self-Employed and encourage them to continue within the system.

In the long term, farm co-ownership will affect women in the following way:

- Professional recognition

The legal status of co-ownership will give women on the corresponding register the opportunity to develop their professional skills as farmers in their own right, making their work in the sector visible and being actively represented in agricultural organisations. This will help to increase the participation of women in employment and in decision-making bodies of the agricultural sector. It will have a positive repercussion on the professional and personal status of women and on their personal self-esteem as farm workers and owners.

- Control and access to farm management

The development of the legal status of co-owner will allow women the control and access to direct management of the farm, and they will no longer require authorisation from their husbands. Female farm co-owners will have the same rights as their partners as far as subsidies, benefits and similar mechanisms are concerned.

- Economic recognition

In order to obtain access to co-ownership it is necessary to pay into the Social Security Scheme, and hence be paid for work performed and achieve economic independence. This will have a positive repercussion on the situation of women in the event of divorce or separation, as they will not rely financially on their partners. Besides, female co-owners will be eligible for aid for setting up and improving farms, and benefit from direct subsidies and appropriate fiscal treatment as well as their co-owner partners.

- Social recognition

Female farm co-owners will obtain individual social rights that have been denied to them until now.

Paloma López-Izquierdo Botín

Women and water resource management in the Mediterranean Region

Rosanna Quagliariello

CIHEAM – Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari

"Local communities must be involved at all stages of the water resource management process: the full participation of women is particularly necessary given the importance of their day-to-day role in obtaining, managing and using water"

Agenda 21 - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992

Introduction

The question of strengthening the role of women in rural areas of the southern Mediterranean countries is being treated with increasing urgency and related themes accordingly occupy an important place in programmes designed to promote sustainable rural development in the region. This urgency is due to the worsening of a range of problems, which have always been characteristic of the social, economic and cultural context of these countries but which have been thrown into sharp relief by globalisation, the speed with which information is disseminated and the spread of technological expertise.

It is difficult nowadays to ignore the fact that lack of coordination between institutions and political programmes, lack of institutional support and women's ignorance of their own rights are preventing women from integrating more into the world of work and achieving a proper degree of social recognition.

It is likewise difficult to ignore the realities of this rural world, where technology is lacking, information is difficult to obtain, the political will to introduce new legislation is weak and women do not participate in decision making or in the management and allocation of resources. It is also difficult to deny that lack of reliable data is clearly a serious problem since it prevents us from gaining a true understanding of the feminine condition in the rural environment.

The GEWAMED project

Work by CIHEAM-MAI Bari in enhancing the role of Mediterranean rural women has intensified over the past ten years. Recently the "GEWAMED" project (Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region), assigned by the European Union to CIHEAM-MAI Bari, has sought to disseminate information about gender initiatives and water resources, particularly in rural areas where women's participation in decision making is often neglected. The project's acronym refers to the three pivotal aspects of the programme: "gender", "water" and "med" (Mediterranean) and is concerned both with management of water resources in Mediterranean countries, where water is rare, and with gender discrimination in the management process.

The project was launched in February 2006, following review of the role of effective water resource management in achieving equitable and sustainable development. Eighteen institutions from 14 countries in the Mediterranean Region are taking part in it and it is precisely this shared commitment by such a wide range of players that makes the programme so rich and interesting. It consists of coordinated action under the 6th European Union Framework Project (FPRTD). Its main objective is to set up a standing information and research network to ensure dynamic sharing of information, dissemination of knowledge and promotion of good practice.

Its field of action is rural development with particular reference to water resource management. Its main objectives are:

- to pool knowledge (essential if time and resources are to be saved);
- to promote dialogue between different countries and within countries;
- to push for the adoption of national policies that will help women contribute to the economic growth of their own countries by becoming involved in rural affairs.

The project seeks to produce a common understanding among players at national and regional level of gender issues in the field of sustainable rural development. Indeed, the GEWAMED project is particularly concerned with the problem of water resources in agriculture, but its scope is widening, inevitably, to encompass agricultural questions in general.

Conference – Debate CIHEAM

CIHEAM is organising a conference-debate on "Agriculture and Geopolitics. Do we want to feed the world?" at Sciences Po Paris on 18 November 2010, from 3 pm to 6.30 pm.

The meeting will be divided into two sessions. The first will address global challenges and local tensions associated with agriculture and food security in the Mediterranean Region and worldwide.

The second session will be devoted to the multilateral plans to combat food insecurity that are now taking shape.

Entrance to the conference is free.

www.ciheam.org

Italian-Lebanese cooperation on problems faced by rural women: the TERCOM and NOWARA projects

In March 2007, the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs charged MAI Bari to help reorganise the Lebanese rural sector, which was perhaps the one most badly damaged by the events in the war of Summer 2006. The mission began with the emergency project "Tercom", which sought to establish support mechanisms for Lebanese rural territories and communities. The aim of this bilateral Italian-Lebanese initiative, part of the regional FEWAMED project, was also to develop strategies and programmes designed to improve the quality of agricultural output, promote the development of rural areas and support the food and fisheries sector in the South of Lebanon. These strategies also had to take account of the need to develop and highlight the role of women in rural society. To that end, a National Observatory on Women's Entrepreneurship and Work in Agriculture in Lebanon was set up, following a determined effort by local institutions. The purpose of the observatory was to improve knowledge about the circumstances in which rural Lebanese women work, facilitate the coordination of work, improve the general situation of women and offer a valuable service to women in the rural environment.

The enhancement of the role of women in rural areas has therefore been recognised by the Italian government as something to be promoted and encouraged under the emergency programme to aid the economy of a country in serious crisis, such as Lebanon. This is the context in which the project NOWARA (*National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas*) is now being developed in Lebanon. The project owes its existence, not only to the commitment of Italy's Directorate General for Development Cooperation, but also and above all to the political will of the Lebanese authorities (the Lebanese Observatory was instituted by a ministerial decree issued by the Ministry of Agriculture; moreover, other Lebanese Ministries and Organisations will be involved in NOWARA-related activities). Given its social and cultural dimension, NOWARA is able to make an important contribution to the national debate on establishing a movement to promote agriculture and rural territories, since it is able to assimilate civil society as well as professional organisations and exert a positive influence on the condition of women in the rural environment.

For more information about Nowara, see the Interview with Wafa'a Dikah Hamzé in this issue.

Towards new rural development policies

A significant development recently observed in the field of water-resource control policy is the rise and increasing prevalence of "integrated management", which takes a multi-sectoral approach to water issues. With this approach technical matters are addressed alongside social, political and economic ones, which means that managers have a more accurate and practical overview of the situation. The aim therefore is to achieve coordinated action between the different players involved in the formulation of water policy together with a form of economic and social development that does not compromise environmental sustainability.

According to this philosophy, water is a finite, vulnerable resource, whose exploitation should not only be ecologically acceptable but should also be accessible to everybody without distinction. Weaker social groups, such as women, minors and the poor should not be excluded from its benefits for economic reasons.

The woman-water relationship is consequently becoming a crucial issue because it is based on two fundamental considerations. First, agriculture is the human activity that requires the largest amount of water to develop (one need only consider that irrigated agriculture provides 40% of world food output using nearly 75% of the world's available renewable water resources); second, the phenomenon of "feminisation" of agricultural activity, which is now very widespread, especially in the developing countries, including those to the south of the Mediterranean. In these countries men are tending to leave the land and seek alternative occupations in the hope of achieving more favourable living conditions and better incomes. The countryside is therefore increasingly managed by those who stay behind, ie the women, for whom it has become the sole source of subsistence for them and their families. Agricultural work and exploitation of water resources are becoming spheres of activity in which the predominance of feminine labour is neither rare nor accidental and it is therefore imperative to increase the productive capabilities of women and the scale of their contribution to food and water security.

Women collect, use and manage the water needed both for domestic purpose and for irrigating the fields they work. Statistics show that 50% of all food production worldwide is from land cultivated by feminine labour and in some African countries the percentage may be as high as 80%. Moreover we should not overlook the effects of women's management of water on levels of hygiene and sanitary conditions in the rural communities where they work or the experience of these women, in whom the communities place their trust.

**MAI
Montpellier**

MAI.M is leading a project (A2DTRM) to stimulate the development of rural territories in the Mediterranean. It has begun striking partnerships in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and France with a view to setting up regional arrangements for experience sharing, capitalising on the development of rural territories in the Mediterranean Region and supporting the players involved by providing training, advice and expertise and conducting research.

The project is financed by the *Agence Française de Développement*, the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the French Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

MAI.M is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the Mediterranean network.

www.iamm.fr

Background to the gender issue in development policies

- Nineteen-sixties: development policies focused on the needs of poor women in their capacity as wives and mothers. Women were to benefit from improvements in the economic situation of their husbands. They would be passive beneficiaries of these improvements.
- Nineteen-seventies and nineteen-eighties: development policies were based on the idea of integrating women into the development process and were aimed at activities specific to women. But although many projects improved health, income and resources, they failed to right the male-female imbalance and several of them foundered.
- Nineteen-nineties: development policies were designed to do away with social, economic and political disparities between women and men with a view to achieving overall development.
- Since the beginning of the twenty-first century: development policies have been based on gender and encourage women to enhance their role through self-help.

Despite recent developments, the involvement of women and the importance of their role as farmers and managers of resources such as land and water continue to be neglected or undervalued, even though awareness of their role could be an important factor in environmental development and sustainability.

If we wanted and were able to reduce the environmental and socio-economic repercussions of managing natural resources in general and water resources in particular, it is quite clear that emphasis on the gender dimension would be a key element in promoting the introduction of innovative and responsible agricultural and rural policies.

Rosanna Quagliariello

Interview

Wafa'a Dikah Hamze

Consultant to the National Observatory for Women in Agriculture and Rural Areas (NOWARA). Former Lebanese Minister

Q – Which political and social initiatives or strategies implemented in Lebanon better succeeded in improving women status? Which of them, if any, were less successful and why?

The national campaigns led by the Women's movement in Lebanon during the last decade and support from international and bilateral donor countries, coupled with a minor presence of supportive political leaders has succeeded in mobilizing government initiatives since 1995 i.e. after the Beijing conference and at many levels in policy making and field programs. I will mention few examples:

- The National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW), established in 1998 under the Jurisdiction of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as the first official body responsible for the preparation of women strategies, which holds consultative status vis-à-vis the government, and the coordination of tasks with public Administrations and Institutions for women's advancement and gender equality. This commission was able to coordinate a national dialogue and actions related to women legislation, awareness campaigns, training and capacity building through the different activities implemented in cooperation with concerned women organizations. The NCLW can definitely double its output with a fully operational body furnished with proper human and financial resources and full government commitment.
- The adoption of the quota system by the Lebanese Cabinet in the last Municipality draft law - still under discussion in the Parliament - likewise for the electoral law: such initiatives have created a momentum among the Lebanese different communities and raised awareness on the importance of women's political participation. But unfortunately it did not lead to the aspired change and increase women's participation in high-level decision making positions, policy formulation and political life.

- Cabinet statements since the year 2004 included commitments on women's advancement which were used as a pressure tool for women leaders but did not translate as a priority issue in national strategies and actions.
- Economic and social Programs and development projects financed by international donors such as the Italian government, EU, UN agencies, international and local organizations.

In our area of interest there are many successful initiatives, which the Nowara project will be highlighting on its website. But I should say the impact of such initiatives is measured by its sustainability, the degree of its integration and consistency with national policies and programs, and the extent of the changes made in the targeted areas or with the targeted groups.

Q - Do you think there are concrete synergies among South Mediterranean countries to foster gender rights protection?

Despite all efforts, advances in gender rights are still slow. These countries of South Mediterranean are all members of the Arab Women's Organization established in 2003. This body can be considered a channel for better synergy and coordination together with national women's mechanisms set up in each country. Spreading awareness on this issue is still crucial and is an ongoing requirement for growing generations. So we need to trigger societies by improving NGO's mobility to act as pressure groups to make governments translate their promises and commitments into real actions. Networking and sharing experiences is essential as well.

Q - About NOWARA, what are the main activities carried out by the project and the services offered? Which are the most successful and the most demanded?

NOWARA is a new institution, still acting as a program with the support of Italian cooperation programs, CIHEAM-MAI Bari and Puglia Region. Its main activities are implemented in this framework and the focus mainly is on creating a data base on women in rural areas in Lebanon through collection of information, making profiles on successful stories of women entrepreneurs and conducting local studies. We believe that women as producers or labourers are still hidden and neither addressed in national statistics, nor in national studies, with the exception of very minor and project-based studies. One of NOWARA's objectives is to create a momentum towards women in rural areas, which will involve policy makers, women themselves and other concerned stakeholders, such as service providers, donors and development agencies.

Another activity is training and capacity building. In the framework of the TerCom project in 2008, 12 women had the chance to travel to Italy, get training at MAI Bari and visit the Puglia region's different rural projects and women producers. I believe that such interaction and sharing of experiences among Mediterranean countries is one of the most important services NOWARA could offer. Why? Because women after this trip understood their own capabilities, the possibility of developing their business, the importance of their role as economic producers as well as raised self esteem for their family. Another training program is being prepared for Nowara. 10-15 coordinators in outreach in the framework of the project "Strengthening women's role in the Lebanese rural areas", financed by the Puglia Region and implemented jointly by Nowara and MAI Bari. This program aims to provide the proper training in local community development and the creation of opportunities in local products and territorial valorization as well as information and technology, and the necessary information tools and internet access for its newly identified focal points in 10 rural areas, enabling trainees to succeed as Nowara local animators. Another activity: promotion and recognition through the Annual Award for best rural women economic initiative. Preparations are in progress to announce this award for the first time in September 2010.

As to the most demanded activities, I would say those relevant to our main target group i.e. women in rural areas or other concerned actors who benefit from Nowara. Women mainly demand technical support and market access. I should add that with this type of training we are offering women the opportunity they miss most of the time either because they are neglected as producers or they don't have the means. As for concerned actors such as NGO's, development agencies, etc, the data base and information on women producers are very important. So NOWARA I believe was established as a need-driven tool for many players.

MAI Chania

Over the past few years MAI.Ch has been pursuing a quality policy designed to bring its facilities and procedures into compliance with the most exacting standards and obtain accreditations such as ISO 17025 for its test laboratories and ISO 9001:2000 for its conference services.

Other installations and procedures should obtain comparable accreditation by 2012. As a result of this policy Mai.Ch's plant biotechnology and GMO test laboratory, already certified ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for tests on wheat and tomatoes, obtained additional accreditation for tests on soya, maize and their derivatives and products in July 2010.

ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is an international standard established in 2005, which lays down general quality and performance standards for test and analysis laboratories. It covers tests and sampling using standard and non-standard methods as well as methods developed in the laboratories.

www.maich.gr

Q – How did CIHEAM and MAI Bari in particular support the creation of NOWARA?

If one wants to be fair I would say without MAI Bari technical support and their full commitment to assist in identifying financial resources Nowara's creation wouldn't have been possible. Its true there is the national commitment and strong will from Lebanese actors, but CIHEAM-MAI Bari role was instrumental through TerCom's activities and also through assisting Nowara in preparing other projects to sustain its activities.

Q - The Observatory was launched in 2008. So far, even if this is a short period of time, is it possible to see some impacts on Lebanese rural areas?

The Observatory is implementing very small activities as a program, given its assigned objectives and tasks at national level as stated in the Decree, ie the official document which is not yet officially issued. It is early to talk about impacts in rural areas but we can talk instead about women's reaction to the establishment of Nowara and its activities. I cite snaps of what a group of women from different rural areas in Lebanon wrote after learning of Nowara and participating in one of its activities:

"I received strength from others' experiences on how I can continue to persevere since I needed someone to trigger my sleeping mind";

"Even if I don't have the funds to establish a business, after this training I will start-up a small activity for me and my family";

"There is an urgent need for an institution to support us to sustain our lands";

"And support women entrepreneurship, empower us for decision making in business as well as in family affairs, particularly decisions pertaining to educating our girls".

Q – In your opinion, which are Nowara's hardest goals to reach and future challenges? How do you see Nowara's future?

Still early to talk about "hard to achieve" since we are at the beginning of our journey. To tell you the truth the hardest part might have been establishing the Observatory but it is operational now. Although the legal instrument is not yet officially issued, Nowara is a functional program and should continue to achieve its goals whether as governmental institution through issuance of the Decree or maybe as an NGO with official recognition from the government.

I admit challenges are numerous but more important are the great potentialities for Nowara's role, now and in the future. This Observatory represents a first occasion in the Arab Mediterranean countries to integrate gender issues in the agricultural and rural sectors, and a dynamic tool to mainstream gender in policies and practices oriented towards rural areas and targeting agriculture and related fields. In this framework Nowara's future role was defined in the Round table organized on the occasion of its launch in Beirut on 28 October 2008. With participants from local authorities, Lebanese experts, university professors and NGO representatives of CRTDA and Lebanese women producers, representatives from CIHEAM-MAI Bari, ONILFA, AWO, IFAP, and the Italian Embassy in Beirut.

One of the important potentialities outlined is Nowara's ability to animate a debate at national level in order to enhance a lobby movement for the promotion of agriculture and rural areas in Lebanon, integrating civil society and professional organizations. Equally important Nowara Observatory is considered as a tool for spreading the policies of the Ministry of Agriculture and promoting initiatives that could support the establishment of young persons' and women's entrepreneurship; in this orientation the participants of the round table recommended the support of the Governmental authorities for the sustainability and action of this institution. In addition, it is imperative to utilize this model to foresee the establishment of similar structures in other countries – as expressed by participants of the round table and many Arab country representatives who knew about Nowara – and hence create a network of experience-sharing among the Mediterranean and Arab countries. Finally for many of the small producers the Nowara Observatory stands as an important reference institution to support their cause, provide guidance and bridge the gap with policy makers.

Inteview by CIHEAM-MAI Bari



CIHEAM
Centre International de Hautes Études
Agronomiques Méditerranéennes

Interview

Faouzia SLAMA

Director General of GIAS (*Générale Industrielle Alimentaire Slama*) and President of the CNFCE (National Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs), Tunisia

Q: Could you tell us about the main stages in the history of your company?

I set up GIAS (*Générale Industrielle Alimentaire Slama*) in association with my husband and with 20 employees in 1984 with an investment of 500,000 Tunisian dinars from the *Foprodi* (Fund to promote and decentralize industry). The *Foprodi* is a personal loan granted to graduates and senior executives to enable them to pursue projects in areas far from Tunis, the object being to encourage industrial decentralisation. In 1986 my company began production, making reconstituted butter, which was packaged under the brand name of "Le Rif". In 1993 we began to manufacture margarine under the brand name "Goldina".

In 1995, with the opening up of the Tunisian economy, GIAS was selected as a pilot company in the National Upgrading Programme. Since then – and mainly since 2000 – it has launched a series of upgrading programmes, which have enabled us to launch new products for bakers, confectioners and housewives, including ingredients and food preparations (such as food improvers, white hard glaze, fondants, toppings, custards, baking powder, cake and fondant cookies) under the brand name "Vanoise". The last upgrading programme, begun in 2007, opened up new horizons for GIAS: it entered into a major and very successful industrial partnership with Kraft Food International, making Tang instant drinks. Tangible and intangible investment under these upgrading programmes have enabled us, among other things, to modernise production equipment, introduce the latest technologies, optimise the working environment, computerise several production processes, improve product quality and rein in costs, explore new export markets and strengthen our brands through communication and innovation. While pursuing the policy of industrial upgrading, GIAS has been taking steps to gain quality certification: ISO 9000 v2002 (production), ISO 14000 (environment) and 22000 (health and safety). With a capital of more than 8 million Tunisian dinars, GIAS currently has a turnover of more than 48 million Tunisian dinars. Today the company employs about 500 people, 25% of them at management level.

Q: How do you approach questions of food hygiene and flavour and international standards?

At GIAS, strategy is based on our three strong points: innovation, quality management and communication. When implementing its strategic plan "Horizon 2011", GIAS accordingly followed a sustained, rigorous management policy and was able to make pursuit of "total quality" the basis of its corporate culture, which was embraced by multidisciplinary teams.

It takes great pains to satisfy its customers and assumes full responsibility for food safety and the well-being of consumers, the preservation of the environment and the health and safety of its staff. To that end it has introduced an integrated total quality management system to improve performance in terms of quality, food safety, health, environmental stewardship, and in this way we have been able to certify our company management system and comply with the requirements of international standards: ISO 9001 v2008; ISO 22 000 v 2005, ISO 14 001 v 2004 and OHSAS 18 001 v 2007.

Thanks to this quality system, the company obtained the *Prix du Président de la République pour la Promotion de la Qualité*, which brings us new challenges and responsibilities. We are still mainly concerned to improve our performance, succeed in becoming more competitive, and establish ourselves more firmly in the domestic and foreign markets as a 100% Tunisian company. Our endeavours have been quick to yield results: today GIAS exports more than 35% of its output, notably to Africa, the Maghreb and the Middle East.

Prize for best CIHEAM thesis in 2009

At its 123rd meeting in Paris on 11 June 2010, CIHEAM's Governing Board, having heard the recommendations of the President of the Scientific Advisory Board, agreed to award the prize for CIHEAM's best Master of Science thesis for 2009 to Mr Mohamed FRIKHA (Tunisia), a student at MAI Zaragoza.

His research on "Influence of some nutritional factors on productive performance and digestive tract in commercial Brown-egg laying pullets" was conducted under the direction of Professor Gonzalo GONZALEZ MATEOS.

It is possible to access the best theses produced by MAI students in 2009 on the CIHEAM website in the section "Research".

www.ciheam.org

MAI Zaragoza

The 7th International Seminar of the FAO-CIHEAM sub-network on production systems entitled "Economic, social and environmental sustainability in sheep and goat production systems" will be held at MAI.Z from 10 to 12 November 2010.

The aim of the seminar is to encourage participation and interaction between scientists and technicians involved in small ruminant production systems with a view to identifying methodologies for sustainability analysis of these systems, present case studies and determine possible strategies for improving the systems in order to ensure their survival and development in a difficult context.

For more information, go to the seminar website:
www.iamz.ciheam.org/sg2010/index.htm

Q: What is the position of women in your company and how are they trained?

Women account for a large proportion of the company staff. There are even women in senior management posts, including the Director of Marketing, the Director of Research and Development and the Director of Human Resources. On-the-job training is provided as are specially prepared training programmes. We invest a considerable amount in training our staff to ensure that it is always capable of making decisions, choosing the best options, innovating and fulfilling its responsibilities with a true sense of conviction.

Q: What lessons have you learned from your collaboration with foreign partners?

Since its creation, and particularly since the opening up of the Tunisian economy, GIAS has taken a proactive approach in its effort to establish lasting partnerships in neighbouring countries. We have accordingly forged tight links with partners in the southern Mediterranean countries: Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and more recently Algeria. These partnerships, based on confidence and long-standing familiarity, have enabled us to succeed in developing our business: with our Libyan partner, for example, we succeeded in acquiring Nestlé's ice cream operation in Tunisia.

Q: As president of the CNFCE (National Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs), perhaps you could tell us which are the main operations directed by women in Tunisia's agricultural and agrifood companies?

I would say that the main operations tend to be in the area of oil, biscuits and fruit juice production, tomato, date and honey packaging, and local and organic product packaging.

Q: In what ways can agricultural and agrifood companies on the northern shore of the Mediterranean be of help to women working in similar companies in Tunisia?

In Tunisia, like everywhere else in the southern Mediterranean countries, we need genuine, long-term, worthwhile partnerships. We need to set up joint ventures that will enable us to import expertise and discover new processes, new trials, and new ideas capable of generating wealth and creating new jobs, particularly in organic agriculture and processing of organic products, a sector which is currently undergoing extensive development in Tunisia

These partnerships may also seek to involve rural women, who play an important role in the country's regional development programme. They are often included in integrated regional development projects so that they can improve their living conditions and acquire the means to thrive and enjoy financial freedom. Rabbit keeping, bee keeping, poultry rearing, dairy husbandry, craft work and small trades are all lines of work that open new horizons to rural women, enabling them to participate more and more in the economic process and become an integral part of it.

Interview by Hassane TLILI

Journalist specialising in agricultural and environmental issues

Publications

OECD/FAO, *Agricultural Outlook 2010-2019*, Paris, Rome, 2010.

Ringler C., Biswas A.K., Cline S.A., *Global change: impacts on water and food security*, Water Resources Development and Manager, Berlin, Springer, 2010.

Imache A., Hartani T., Bouarfa S. and Kuper M., *La Mitidja 20 ans après. Réalités agricoles aux portes d'Alger*, Algiers, Alpha, 2010.

Blondel J., Aronson J., Bodiou J.-Y., Boeuf G., *The Mediterranean region: biological diversity in space and time*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2010.

UNCTAD, *Economic Development in Africa Report 2010. South-South Cooperation: Africa and the New Forms of Development Partnership*, Geneva, June 2010.

UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2010. Investing in a low-carbon economy*, Geneva, July 2010.

Doré T. and Réchauchère O. (dir.), *La question agricole mondiale. Enjeux économiques, sociaux et environnementaux*, Paris, La Documentation française, 2010.

Tabet-Aoul M., *Développement et environnement au Maghreb. Contraintes et enjeux*, Québec, Université Laval, Institut québécois des hautes études internationales, July 2010.

Daniel S. and Mittal A., *(Mis)investment in Agriculture. The Role of the International Finance Corporation In Global Land Grabs*, Oakland, The Oakland Institute, 2010.

Ayeb H., *La crise de la société rurale en Egypte : La fin du fellah ?*, Paris, Ed Khartala, 2010.

Hervieu B., Mayer N., Muller P., Purseigle F. et Rémy J., *Les mondes agricoles en politique. De la fin des paysans au retour de la question agricole*, Les Presses de Sciences Po, Paris, juin 2010.

Events

10-12 November 2010 – Zaragoza (Spain)

Seminar on sheep and goat production systems organised by MAI Zaragoza in partnership with the FAO

15-18 November 2010 – Coimbra (Portugal)

6th International Conference on research into forest fires organised by the Portuguese Association for the development of industrial aerodynamics (ADAI)

18-19 November – Brussels (Belgium)

CIAA Congress: The European Food and Drinks Industry's vision for 2020

29 November – 3 December 2010- Tunis (Tunisia)

5th session of the International Congress Geotunis on the use of GIS and remote sensing for sustainable development

30 November – 3 December 2010 – Marseille (France)

Colloquium "Observation and adaptation to climate change in Mediterranean forests" (1st seminar of the European cooperative project "For Climadapt", coordinated by the IAMF

13-14 December 2010 – Cairo (Egypt)

International Colloquium "Innovation and development in the Mediterranean countries" organised by the GDRI DREEM with the participation of FEMISE and the Economic Research Forum (ERF)

13-18 December 2010 – Oued Souf (Algeria)

The 1st Arab Khaïma on agriculture and the agrifood industries "Arabe agro export" will be held in Oued Souf (Algeria) under the slogan "tous pour la sécurité alimentaire".

More information on past and future events in the Mediterranean Region at:
www.ciheam.org – Observatory – Events

Renovation of the CIHEAM website

In its quest to make its communications policy ever more effective, CIHEAM will soon be inaugurating its new website.

One of the main aims will be to facilitate access by visitors to information on the education, research and cooperation activities carried out by CIHEAM and its institutes and to the content of the Publications and the Observatory, two key sections containing analyses and data on the agricultural sectors of the Mediterranean world.

The site will be entirely bilingual (English, French).

www.ciheam.org

CIHEAM website

Latest publications

CIHEAM Analytical Notes

- *Geographical indications and territorial, agricultural and agrifood brands in the Euro-Mediterranean zone*, by Hélène Ilbert and Jean-Louis Rastoin, No 60, September 2010.
- *Current events in Mediterranean agriculture. May-June 2010*, CIHEAM, no 59, July 2010.

CIHEAM Briefing Notes

- *Pauperization of Egyptian small farmers*, by Pierre Blanc, No 68, September 2010.
- *Poverty and living standards of the rural population in Tunisia*, by Riadh Béchir, No 67, August 2010.

NewMedit

- Summary of the 02/2010 edition of the review, June 2010.

CIHEAM Watch Letter

- Watch Letter No 13, "Food, nutrition and health in the Mediterranean", Spring 2010.

Options Méditerranéennes

- *La reconnexion agricole Nord-Sud. Quels enjeux pour les pays en développement ?*, Henri Regnault (ed), Options Méditerranéennes, Series A, No 90, CIHEAM-MAI.M, Montpellier: 2010.

Press Review

- Press review for July - August 2010. Latest news on Mediterranean agriculture, food and environmental issues, CIHEAM, September 2010.

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CIHEAM Website and Observatory

tools for analysis and discussion
of Mediterranean agriculture, rural affairs and food

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The Watch Letter

Every quarter
CIHEAM issues its Watch
Letter in English and
French.

The next issue will be
published in
December 2010 and will
be devoted to
"Agricultural trade and
trade liberalisation in
the Mediterranean
Region".

To receive the
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