



## Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region

### Newsletter

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IV International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management

The Consortium of GEWAMED

Issue No 9

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### Training of Trainers on “Gender Aspects of Water Resources Management” 7- 9 May 2008

The Aquastress Project, with the collaboration of the GEWAMED Project, organised a **Training of Trainers (ToT) course on Gender Aspects of Water Resources Management**.

The Aquastress partners involved were: HYDRODATA, INAT, CIHEAM-MAIB and IRD while those from GEWAMED were CAWTAR and CIHEAM-MAIB. The course was held at the Regional Center for Agriculture Development (CRDA) of Kairouan (Tunisia).



The ToT course came from the request of the local stakeholders and from the results of the survey of the actual situation regarding the gender issues, as analysed in the study on “Methods for fostering the integration of women in agricultural water management”, carried out by INAT in Merguellil Valley.

The course was foreseen as a “**Raising Awareness and Exchange of Experiences**” event and was attended by some 18 participants who were mostly local stakeholders and managers, experts and professionals in the water sector. They participated very actively and were keen to set up strategies for the promotion and strengthening of the integration of gender aspects in water management (both woman and man) and who, in turn, will be able to transfer the knowledge into local society.

The course was structured as mix of presentations and exercises that allowed very active and vivid discussions. The main topics covered during the course were:

- EU Project AquaStress, and the present practice of gender mainstreaming,
- Water Resources in Merguellil Valley,
- The Gender concept,
- Gender analysis,
- Gender and Water Resources Management: needs and issues involved,
- Gender indicators,
- The importance of information and communication: The CIHEAM-IAMB EU GEWAMED project,
- How to mainstream gender in IWRM: Case Study from Tunisia,
- Familiarization with some of the existing training tools and materials,
- Gender Mainstreaming in the Project Cycle,
- PRA: Techniques and Tools,
- Lessons learnt in Integrating the Gender Dimensions in Agriculture Water Management.

Most of the mentioned topics were presented by local and foreign experts that included: Zohra Lili Chabaane (INAT), Khadouja Mellouli (CATWAR), Juan Antonio Sagardoy (CIHEAM-MAIB), Stephanie Guidon (IRD), Mohamed Slimani (INAT), Rakia



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Laatiri (GR/MARH), Tarhouni Jamila (INAT), Hamdi Bargaoui (INAT). The ToT course was opened with statements of Mr. Moncef Omrani, General Director of the CRDA of Kairouan and Mrs. Zohra Lili Chabaane (INAT) while the closure was made by Mladen Todorovic (CIHEAM-MAIB) and the main facilitators of the event. Mrs. Cecilia Mosca (Hydrodata, S.pA) also actively participated in the event.

The evaluation made by the participants showed a high score for the contents, lecturers and future usefulness of the course. In particular the intensive use of the working groups was highly appreciated.



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## **GEWAMED Third Regional Workshop "Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Rural Development" 19 - 22 May 2008**

GEWAMED Third Regional Coordination Workshop on "Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for Rural Development" was held in Tunisia from 19 to 22 May 2008 at the premises of the Barceló Carthage Hotel located very near the capital Tunis.

The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) was the main organizer. Sincere thanks are particularly due to Ms. Khadouja Mellouli and all CAWTAR team for their considerable efforts for organizing such event.

The workshop was open to all the partners of the project as well as to all interested participants. The opening session was attended by some 80 participants. In addition to the project partners, several resource persons attended the workshop and gave their contributions by making relevant presentations covering the topics specifically selected for the workshop. Partners from Lebanon and Spain could not participate due to last minute circumstances.

### **THE OPENING CEREMONY**

The workshop was opened by Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui, CAWTAR's Executive Director, Mr. Mekki Hamza, General Director at the Ministry of Agriculture & Hydraulic Resources, Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika, President of ARMEDD (Associations du Réseau Méditerranéens pour le Développement Durable) and adviser to the Prime Minister, Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, and Prof. Muhammad Shatanawi from UJ-FA (University of Jordan, Faculty of Agriculture).

Dr. Bouraoui and Mr. Mlika underlined the main objectives of the workshop and the vital importance of bolstering women's role in rural development and water management.

After welcoming all the participants and guests and wishing them a pleasant stay in Tunisia and a successful workshop, Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui stated that the main aim of the workshop was to exchange information and experiences on the subject of gender and water resources management for rural development in order to bolster the dialogue in the Mediterranean region. Moreover, she added, it is an opportune setting in which to consolidate dialogue and co-operation between the countries of the region and between the organizations within each country in order to identify and effectively disseminate information among all parties concerned with integrating gender dimensions in water management.

She further highlighted CAWTAR's dedication to mainstreaming gender dimensions in water resources management describing the center's involvement in similarly oriented projects through partnerships with organizations such as the Gender & Water Alliance as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization with whom CAWTAR is working on developing "Gender Sensitive Indicators" in the frame of the AQUASTAT project.

Dr. Bouraoui finally underlined the fact that the workshop should serve as a synthesizing point for the experiences gained and lessons learned up to this point, reiterating its importance as a meeting place for disseminating and sharing information, and as a way to assess the state



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of gender mainstreaming in order to strengthen women's and men's roles in the development and management of water resources.

Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Mlika stressed the importance of water resources management highlighting the need for the Mediterranean region to rationalize the use of this resource which is under great strain in many of the countries in the region, especially in the developing ones. Mr. Mlika called for bolstering the role of women in rural development, in particular in water resources management, stressing women's pivotal role as an equal partner to men in development activities and as the most important link in the water management chain whether it is in domestic or agricultural tasks. Mr. Mlika further indicated that Tunisia is putting forth great efforts in order to integrate the gender dimension in the country's different development programmes and plans among which those dealing with water resource management with a specific focus on rural areas.

Mr. Juan A. Sagardoy underlined that the workshop marked a critical moment of the project life since, after two years of project execution, it was time to consolidate the work done but also to face positively the important challenges that the project still has to face. Mr. Sagardoy stressed that the project has made an impressive progress in terms of acquiring knowledge in all aspects of the gender interactions with the water resources development and management but this body of knowledge needs now to be disseminated. He recalled some of the efforts made by the project to disseminate this knowledge including: the project has been engaged, with different degrees of intensity, in the participation and, often direct organization, of 35 international and national events. More than 3500 persons have been directly receiving the messages of the project so far. In addition, a regional website and 7 national websites have been established by the partners and are open windows to collect and disseminate project information in English but also in local languages. Furthermore, the Project in collaboration with other EC projects, regional and national organizations has contributed to the organization of two Training of Trainers courses on gender and water management.

#### THE TECHNICAL WORKING SESSIONS

Four were the main technical topics covered during the workshop and the main speakers and issues discussed are summarized below.

**"Law and Practice related to Women's Inheritance Land and Water Rights in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Region"** was the topic of the first day of the workshop where highly relevant contributions from Mrs. Sana Ben Achour (ATFD, Tunisia), Mrs. Ilaria Sisto (FAO), Dr. Jamila Tarhouni (CAWTAR, Tunisia) were presented. These presentations evidenced that a strong discrimination still exists in many countries regarding the inheritance of land and water by women. Even in countries where the law provides the framework for equal opportunities, this is often bypassed by malpractices and local traditions. The topic generated a very vivid discussion and some of the emerging points were: more laws are needed to provide equal opportunities for the inheritance of land but other resources as well; enforcing the law is as important as the law itself, education at the schools can greatly contribute to change the traditional attitudes; the need to use an integrated strategy as discrimination does not only occur with regard to land but also to other resources like potable and irrigation water, credit and information; and the need to mobilize women to stand for their rights.

During this day also other presentations were made by Mr. Haji Abdelmalek (AMSED; Morocco) dealing with a case study concerning the gender access to water resources management in Morocco (Ouarzazate and Taroudante Regions) which evidences the fact that the control of the water resources and their management still remains in male's hands. The partner in cooperation with the government is now preparing an Action Plan to improve the situation in the concerned areas. Also an interesting study was presented by Mrs. Sophie Bialais Fernagu (ps-Eau, France) regarding the provision of drinking water in Rural Mauritania. The study showed very clearly the great importance of involving women in all the project stages and particularly at the planning stage. Prof. Atef Hamdy made a presentation about the need of using integrated strategies when dealing with rural development programmes.



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The second topic on **"Gender, Institutions and National Policies for Rural Development"** was discussed during the morning of the second day. Seven presentations were made under this topic that emphasized the need for having adequate local institutions for managing water resources and the need for having a more ample representation of women in these institutions. Prof. Shatanawi (UJ-Jordan) highlighted the considerable progress that women have made in education at university level where in many fields they have higher representation than men. He also pointed out that women are playing a major role in the private sector where many NGOs are being managed by women or have a large participation. Dr. Alia Gana (Ladyss-France) provided an overview of the need to develop gender indicators in the water sector and particularly in the institutions responsible for their management; she also provided some of the data available for the 3 countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) that are participating in a regional study undertaken in cooperation with FAO and CAWTAR. Mrs M. E. Venezian Scarascia provided an overview of the Italian Water Users Associations for managing water resources and the participation of women in them, which is still relatively low. Ms. Katreena Khalaf (PARC-Palestine) presented a survey showing that many Palestinian women have become head of households due to the political situation but they lack of any kind of government support. The situation with regard to drinking water is rather critical since the average consumption is less than 65 litres per person and many rural households lack connexions to domestic water supply. Mrs. Quagliariello (CIHEAM-MAIB-Italy) reported the efforts made by ONILFA, in collaboration with TERCOM and GEWAMED projects, in establishing an observatory for rural women in Lebanon. This presentation found a strong support among the participants and some recommendations were made to support similar efforts in other countries of the South and East Mediterranean Region. Finally, Mrs. Narjess Hamrouni (MAHR-Tunisia) presented an interesting case study regarding the extension services for rural women in Tunisia. The approach used was largely based on the identification of needs and the provision of supporting services and training.

The third topic was on **"Gender and National Policies for Rural Development"** and was discussed during the afternoon of the second day. Mrs. Veronica Navarra (ONILFA-Italy) provided a complete overview of the rural development policies and programmes in support of rural women of Italy indicating that the National Programmes are framed within the European Directives. In these National Programmes the main agriculture federations play an essential role in identifying the actions and projects needed at the field. Each of these federations have women sections that are specifically addressed to identify and support women farmers. Ms. Barbara Tommassini (MIO-ECSDE-Greece) provided a comprehensive framework of the regional policies concerning rural development in the Mediterranean and those specifically concerning women. Mr. Juan A. Sagardoy made an overview of the main gender problems that are connected to rural development programmes and more specifically to water resources and identified the main lines of political actions that are needed to resolve or take positive steps for their solution. The presentation generated an ample discussion and suggestions were made to structure the report of the meeting along the lines presented. Mr. Ali Kaisi and Samira al-Zoughbi (GCSAR-Syria) presented the institutional and political gender dimensions in rural development. Mr George Adamides (ARI-Cyprus) presented the gender and national policies for rural development in Cyprus. Ms. Yasmina Yacoubi (CREAD-Algeria) gave a complete overview of the agricultural policies in favour of the rural population, particularly for women, that have been available in Algeria since 1987. The day was closed with the general discussion of the topic presented as with the other sessions.

The third day was entirely dedicated to the field visits. Particularly interesting was the visit to two "Groupement de Développement Agricole" (Agriculture Development Association) of Oued Sbayhiya and Jradou in Zaghouan-Tunisia. These GDA show how dedicated rural women are, who very enthusiastically can make a change in the life of their communities. It was possible to understand to what extent these women are involved, their level of commitment,



Field visit to GDA of Oued Sbayhiya and Jradou Zaghouan, Tunisia



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The morning of the fourth day of the workshop dealt with "Gender and Capacity Building for Rural Development". Six presentations were made under this topic. Mrs. Ilaria Sisto (FAO-Italy) provided an overview of the gender and capacity building programmes that FAO undertakes in this area. She underlined some of the tools that are available and can be used by interested persons to support their training efforts. The gender training is one of the most essential elements to reduce inequities and provide a better understanding of the issues that need to be dealt with. Dr. Alaa El-Din Abdin (SRU/NWRC-Egypt) presented a survey undertaken in the Fayoum Governorate to identify the existing gender problems and the needed actions, including training sessions. The survey provides a large base of information regarding the situation of women in the mentioned governorate and provides good guidance on the information that need to be collected in such surveys. Mrs Samah Saleh (EE.AA-Egypt) presented an interesting case of environmental and waste management with the heavy involvement of the Community Development Associations. The training component was most relevant to mobilize local resources and to motivate users to a better environmental behaviour. Mr. Houcine Dellai (ODYCEPANO-Tunisia) presented the rural development programme of the Sylvopastoral Development Authority for the Northwest. The general methodology was explained with particular reference to the training activities. The programme has external financing and this provides greater possibilities and local impact. Dr. Bülent Ozekici (CUKUR-Turkey) made a presentation about the capacity building activities in water management, with particular reference to the role of the Faculty of Engineering of Cukurova University, which for the time being are relatively limited. He emphasized that the number of women engineers in the management of irrigation systems is now quite substantial. The session ended with the presentation of Mrs. Jamila Tarhouni (CAWTAR-Tunisia,) who presented an assessment of the rural development programmes on rural women in Tunisia.

## THE CLOSING SESSION

Chaired by Mr. J. A. Sagardoy, the closing session was entirely dedicated to the review of the progress made in the implementation of the project activities with the main aim of receiving comments and suggestions from the participants and discussing and planning future activities and events, as well as exchanging views on how to improve them.

A summary of the Annual Activity Report was presented by Mr. Sagardoy, describing under each Work Package, the main activities undertaken, those undergoing, and those to be completed. The session was productive since many comments, suggestions and recommendations were made by all participants who demonstrated a high level of commitment to the project.

Mr. Sagardoy concluded by expressing his sincere thanks and congratulations to CAWTAR, and particularly to Ms Khadouja Mellouli, for their intensive efforts in organizing the workshop, and his satisfaction over the work carried out during the Workshop since its main goals have been achieved, namely: to increase the knowledge of participants on the main topics of the workshop, and to discuss and plan future activities.

He further expressed his satisfaction with the project since, although communication is not always good because of problems with the Internet, it has created a very committed group, and so far it is the first project for the Mediterranean countries that gathered so much information and knowledge, essential tools that now need to be put into practice and disseminated as much as possible.



Ms. Khadouja Mellouli from CAWTAR concluded the Workshop by expressing her sincere thanks to all the participants for their relevant contributions and special thanks were for the interpreters for the excellent translation, Dr. Jamila Tahrouni, Mr. Yusef Hatira, CAWTAR team, the organizers of the field visits and Mr. Juan Antonio Sagardoy for his relevant guidance.



## International Meeting “Women Status in the Mediterranean: Their Rights and Sustainable Development” 16-17 June 2008

“Women Status in the Mediterranean: their Rights and Sustainable Development” was the central topic of the international meeting held at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (Valenzano, Bari, Italy) from 16 to 17 June 2008.

In the Mediterranean basin, the gender dimension has been entering the programmes and projects of international cooperation with even greater priority. Yet, a deeper analysis of the issue has pointed out the gap between the good political purposes and their fulfilment into concrete actions. In the Mediterranean countries, it is still necessary to work more strongly in order to abolish, as much as possible, the existing gender problems in order to reach a real social integration. A well balanced, organic and true development policy, offering social, scientific and cultural programmes, must necessarily deal with the gender integration issues in the hope of achieving more sound results.

In this regard, about a hundred of participants from Egypt, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Lebanon, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey shared their experiences in the field of women’s rights to work and training, socio-economic differences, and women and rural development. The objective of the event was to improve the institutional dialogue and promote synergies in the field of “gender empowerment” in the different scientific and cultural sectors. Furthermore, the event represented a very good occasion to gather and share information in order to encourage the creation or the extension of partnerships and suggest the start-up of new specific projects of cooperation.

The meeting was organized by the Community of Mediterranean Universities (CMU), the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAI-B) the Equal Opportunities Commission of Bari University and the GEWAMED Project, and was sponsored by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Apulia Regional Government and the Province of Bari.

During the opening session, participants were welcomed to the meeting by Mr Cosimo Lacirignola, Director of MAI-B, Prof. Luigi Ambrosi, President of CMU, Prof. Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, Vice President of CIHEAM, Ms Silvia Godelli from Apulia Region, and Prof. Cecilia Saccone, “Ambassador” of the EU-funded Set Routes Programme.

The meeting was, then, chaired by Ms Luisa Santelli Beccegato from the Equal Opportunities Commission of the University of Bari who gave an overview of the three main issues to be discussed and introduced the speakers. The speakers were divided into three groups on the basis of the three selected topics to be discussed. Ms Ersilia Grazia Spatafora, Professor of International Law at the University “Roma Tre” in Italy, and Mr Mohamed Knidiri, Professor at the University Cadi Ayyad in Morocco, were part of the first group and presented their experiences in the field of women’s rights in their respective countries. The second group, composed by Ms Virginia Ferreira, sociologist of Coimbra University in Portugal, and Ms Gülsung Saglamer, Vice President of Istanbul Technical University in Turkey, focused on the socio-economic condition of women in Portugal, Western Europe and Turkey. Women and rural development was the subject of the third and last series of presentations made by Ms Veronica Navarra, President of ONILFA, partner of the GEWAMED Project, and by Ms Rosanna Quagliariello, Responsible for External Relations of CIHEAM-MAIB.

The second day was opened by Prof. Atef Hamdy and the programme included Working Groups and discussion about experiences, problems and projects related to the main topics of the event. Mr Juan Antonio Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, participated as rapporteur



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in the second group chaired by Ms Veronica Navarra and centred on women and rural development. Discussion among the participants was very interactive producing many useful recommendations and suggestions with the main aim of creating a strong network in that specific field.

At the end of the working groups there was a general and summarizing discussion chaired by Prof. Atef Hamdy. In particular, the rapporteurs presented the main conclusions and recommendations prepared by each group.

The closing remarks were made by Ms Luisa Santelli Beccegato, Prof. Luigi Ambrosi, and Prof. Giuliana Trisorio Liuzzi, whose paintings, dedicated to women, were exhibited on that specific occasion.



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**Second Meeting of the European Regional Process for  
the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul 2009  
8 - 9 July 2008**

The second meeting of the European Regional Process (ERP) for the fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul 2009 took place on the 8th and 9th of July in Zaragoza, Spain.

The goal of this meeting was to discuss the overall Regional Process and the progress within the eight themes of the ERP as well as to identify the next steps that will have to be taken to prepare the European input to the World Water Forum. To achieve this, the programme has been divided into a plenary session and workshops on the different themes. More than 70 professionals from many European Institutions participated in the event.

The plenary session addressed the general activities of the European Regional Process, explaining the work done so far, discussing the European Regional Document as well as the European Regional Session in Istanbul and any other initiatives that can be undertaken. Furthermore, it aimed at identifying any missing issues that should be addressed, specifically from a Southern perspective. In particular, Mrs. Lessa Witmer (Women for Water) made a presentation emphasizing the need for mainstreaming gender, indigenous and other social topics in the European Regional Process.

Each workshop focused on some of the themes of the European Regional Process. The objective was to discuss the work that has already been executed, identify next steps to be taken as well as identify which sessions to focus on in Istanbul. The themes of the four Workshops were:

- The European Water Vision.
- River Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation.
- Sanitation.
- Water Scarcity and Droughts.

Mr Juan A. Sagardoy, GEWAMED Project Manager, was invited to participate in the European event. Several attempts were made during the plenary session and workshops to insert or promote the need for more specific reference to gender issues with the main aim of emphasizing them at the Forum in Istanbul. However, at this stage of the process, it is not clear to what extent the gender issues may be developed in the final products. The participants of the event had the opportunity of visiting the Expo Saragossa that has as main theme Water. It was quite impressive to see the great efforts made to create a greater awareness among citizens about some of the water issues and its importance for everybody. Some of the audiovisual were spectacular as well as some of the Pavilions dedicated to water themes were quite impressive as the Water Fall depicted in the picture. Also technical issues received great attention through "The Water Tribune" where during 9 weeks technical meetings are taking place dedicated to different themes of water. For more info visit [www.expozaragoza2008.es](http://www.expozaragoza2008.es)



The water fall Pavilion.  
Expo Saragossa 2008



## IV International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management

Transboundary water resources are increasing in importance as sources of freshwater worldwide. As much as 80% of water resources in the Mediterranean region are shared between two or more countries, and in North Africa and the Middle East, transboundary groundwaters are the most important source of freshwater.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, UNESCO Chair INWEB, UNESCO-IHP, SAHRA and IGRAC are organizing the IV International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management which will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 15-18 October 2008.

The main topic of the symposium is Transboundary Surface Waters and Shared Aquifers and its aim is threefold:

1. To assess the state of the art and the progress recently made in the sustainable management of transboundary waters by different disciplines such as law, socio-economics and water science;
2. To review current major international programmes concerned with the assessment and management of transboundary water resources; and
3. To promote interdisciplinary approaches for integrated transboundary water resources management.

For further information please visit the following website [www.inweb.gr/twm4](http://www.inweb.gr/twm4) or contact Prof. Jacques Ganoulis, Chairman of the Organising Committee, at [iganouli@civil.auth.gr](mailto:iganouli@civil.auth.gr)



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Sustainability of  
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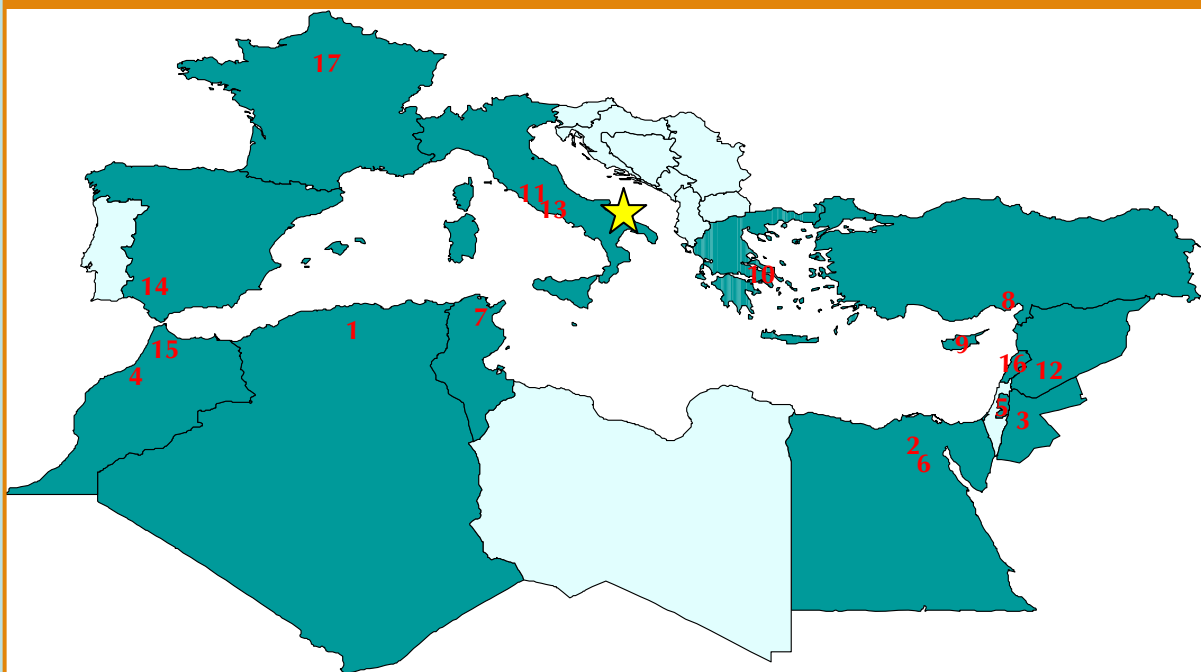
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- 2 Strategic Research Unit-National Water Research Center, (SRU-NWRC), EGYPT
- 3 Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan (UJ-FA), JORDAN
- 4 Association Marocaine de Solidarité et de Développement (AMSED), MOROCCO
- 5 Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), PALESTINE
- 6 Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), EGYPT
- 7 The Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR), TUNISIA
- 8 Çukurova University, Faculty of Agriculture (CUKUR), TURKEY
- 9 Agriculture Research Institute (ARI), CYPRUS
- 10 Mediterranean Office for Environment, Cultural and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), GREECE
- 11 Osservatorio Nazionale per l'Imprenditoria ed il Lavoro Femminile in Agricoltura (ONILFA), ITALY
- 12 General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research-Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (GCSAR), SYRIA
- 13 International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage-Italian Committee (ITAL-ICID), ITALY
- 14 Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer - Junta de Andalucía (IAM-JA), SPAIN
- 15 African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development (CAFRAD), MOROCCO
- 16 René Moawad Foundation (RMF), LEBANON
- 17 Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau), FRANCE

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