



CIHEAM

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & GENDER EQUALITY
WORKING GROUP**

2020-2022

ACTIVITY REPORT



CIHEAM
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I. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PERSISTENT CONSTRAINTS

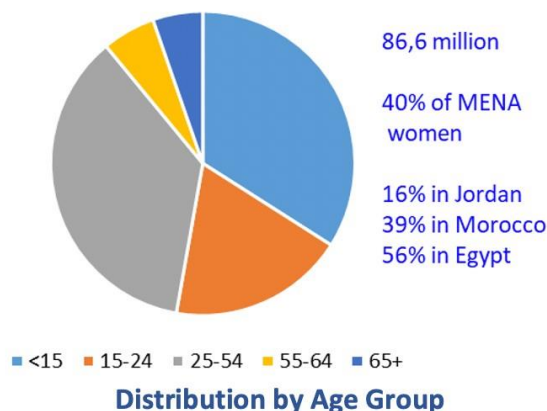
Women play an essential role in Mediterranean agri-food systems and in the development of rural and coastal areas, including in the related scientific and research fields.

Women are responsible for the majority of agricultural work, controlling most of the non-monetary economy (subsistence agriculture, childcare and child education, household responsibilities, water and energy supply...). They are major contributors to food and nutritional security. They generate incomes, improve livelihoods and general welfare of households, particularly those with low incomes. Despite normative reforms and societal changes in favor of women empowerment, they still face persistent constraints that limit their formal socio-economic participation and their involvement in decision-making processes. These situations of inequality or invisibility, especially in already fragile areas, make them more vulnerable to crises. Indeed, COVID19-related crises are currently affecting women and girls disproportionately due to their work in informal employment or vulnerable sectors such as family farming.

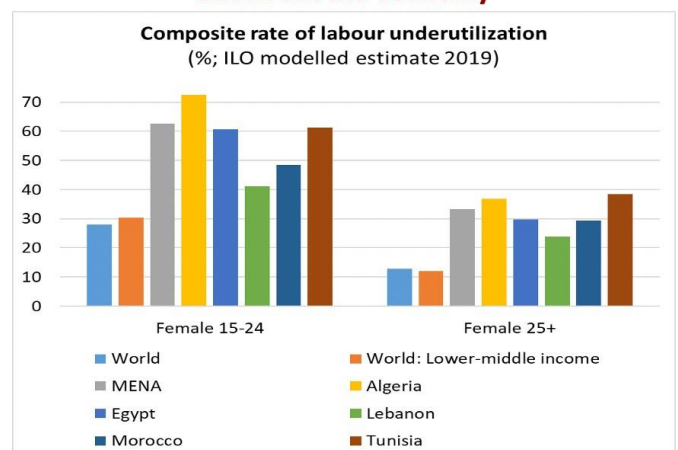
WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AND AREAS: INTERSECTIONALITY ISSUES

Many factors contribute to the vulnerability of women, including that of the urban-rural divide. Informal work, limited access to essential services, lack of infrastructures, digital and technological gaps, two-speed education systems, etc. These development inequalities within countries call for the adoption of an intersectionality approach when considering empowerment of women. Beyond being an issue in terms of equal opportunities, the socio-economic exclusion, and the lack of participation of women in public/communities decision-making processes lead to a considerable waste of potential and human capital. They also lead to significant losses in terms of development and sustainable economic growth in areas that face poverty, the negative impacts of climate change and the scarcity of natural resources. Moreover, the unprecedented health crisis of the COVID-19 has worsened the living conditions of the most fragile populations and exacerbated existing socio-economic tensions. It has also layered on additional challenges especially for women, to already existing inequalities.

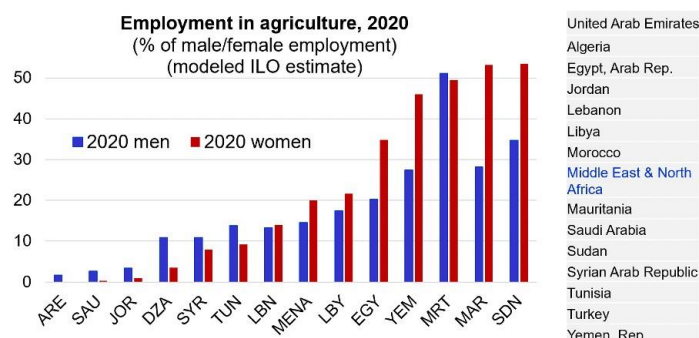
Rural women in MENA countries in 2015
(ILO - modelled estimates)



**Gender Gap closing in education and health,
but not in the economy**



**High unemployment level of women:
32% in Palestine, 22% in Tunisia...**



- Agriculture = 20 % of women employment > men (14,5%)
- Strong contrast: 35% in Egypt; ~50% in Yemen, Mauritania, Morocco, S
- Share of agriculture in women employment has decreased (32% in 2000; 20% in 2020) but important

Source: ILO (International Labor Organization)

II. CONNECTION WITH THE SDGS, CAPMED, THE E.U AND A.U. STRATEGIES

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Gender equality figures in SDG 5 and is linked to other SDGs such as SG 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 6 (Clean water & sanitation), 8 (Decent work & economic growth), 9 (Industry, innovation & infrastructure), 12 (Responsible consumption & production patterns), 13 (Climate action)

CIHEAM ACTION PLAN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN (CAPMED)

In the CAPMED, gender equality is one of the specific priorities (10-Gender Equality/Vulnerable Group Inclusion) as well as a crosscutting issue in several key priorities (Knowledge & Know-How, Natural Resources & Energy, Food security, Youth, employability & employment, Rural & Coastal development)

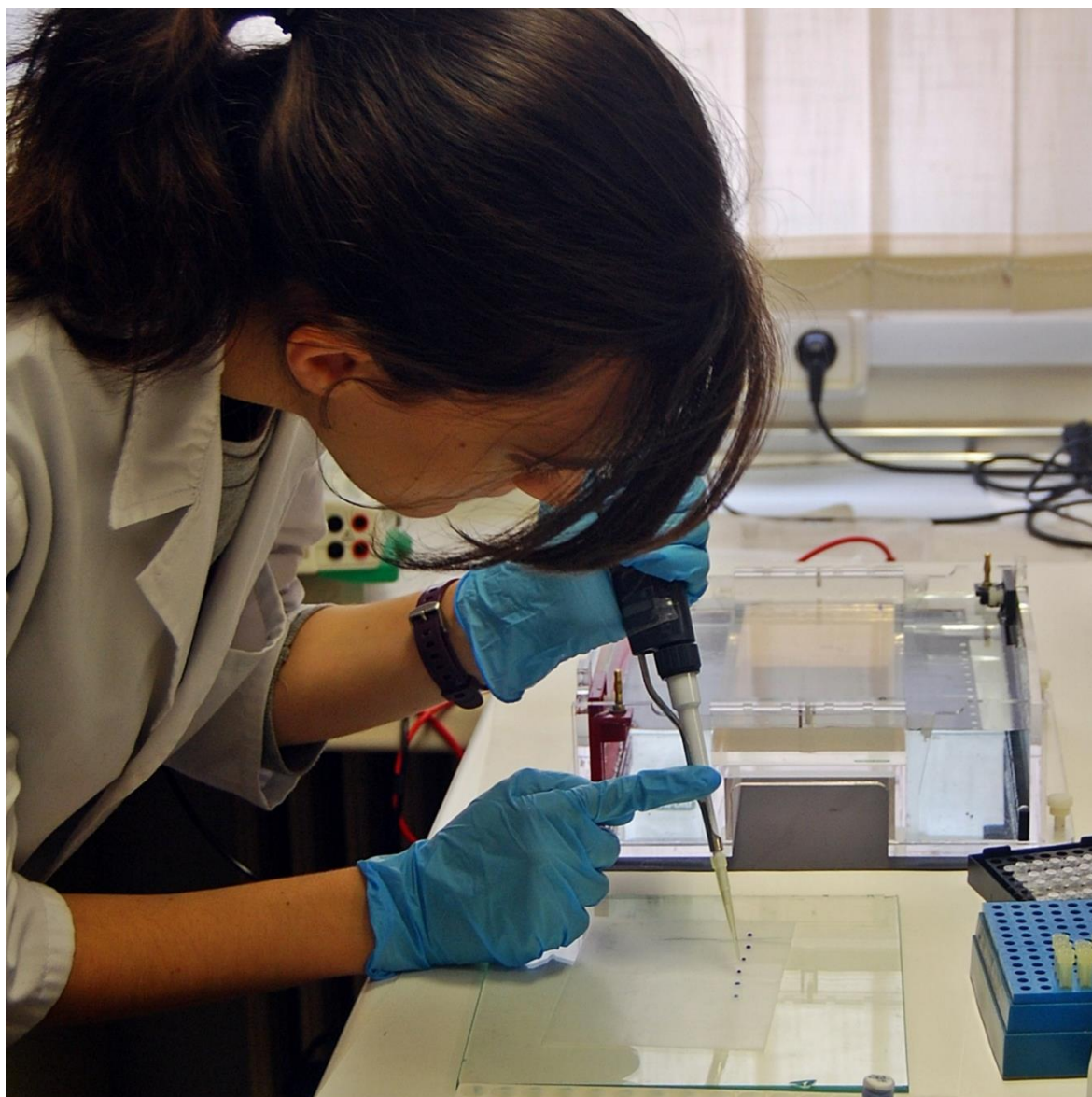


GAP III (EUROPEAN UNION GENDER ACTION PLAN)

The EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III) aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls. This plan makes the promotion of gender equality a priority of all external policies and actions. It provides a roadmap for working together with stakeholders at national, regional and multilateral levels

AFRICAN UNION AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Africa has recognized the fact that enhanced agricultural performance is key to growth and poverty reduction through its direct impact on job creation and increasing opportunities, especially for women and youth, food security and improved nutrition, and strengthening resilience



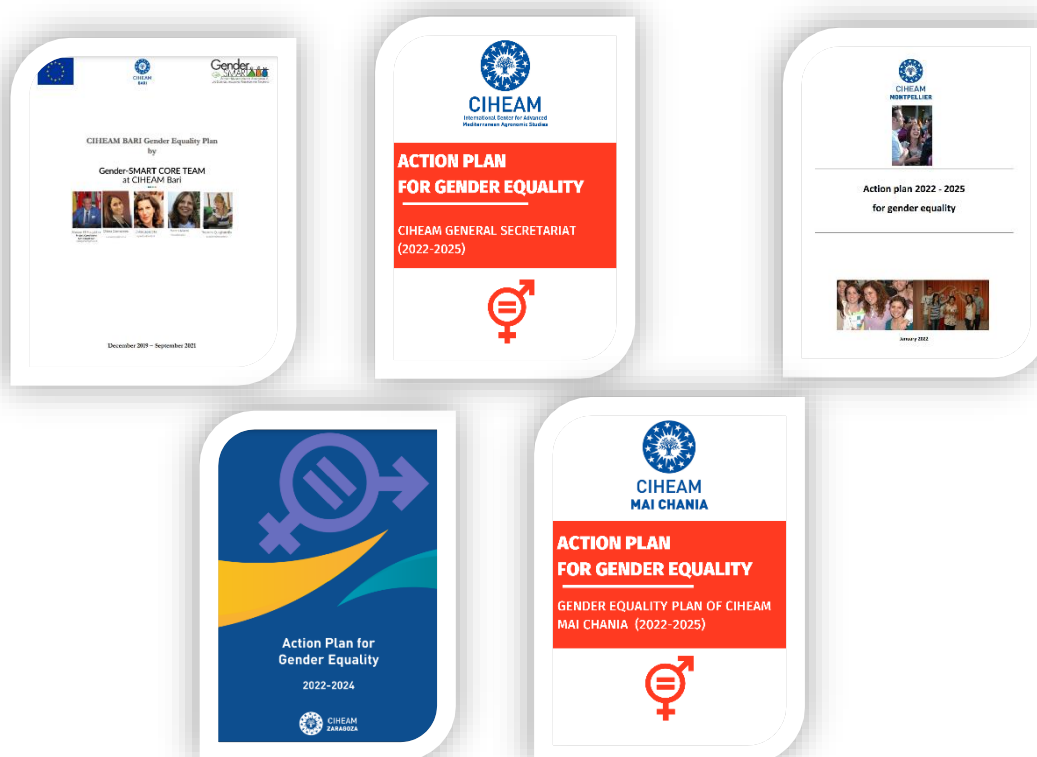
III. CIHEAM's SOLUTIONS THROUGH EDUCATION, RESEARCH & COOPERATION

In line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, [the CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean \(CAPMED 2025\)](#) gives prominence to issues of capacity building and empowerment of women in agriculture, fisheries and more generally in rural and coastal Mediterranean areas. Identified as a priority, gender equality and women empowerment are crosscutting themes that invite us to reflect on several components of the Mediterranean agriculture and rural development.

Over the past years, the CIHEAM has developed and implemented several activities to promote gender equality and support women's empowerment and socio-economic inclusion, both through its General Secretariat and Institutes. In fact, CIHEAM's Secretariat has developed partnerships and joint activities with different international and regional organizations on the subject and is part of different dialogue platforms on gender equality and women empowerment.

At the political level, the Secretary General and senior management have highlighted gender aspects on rural and agriculture in several speeches and public interventions. Furthermore, numerous articles and publications on the CIHEAM website and the CIHEAM's newsletter have contributed to create a gender-sensitive culture and increase building staff and organization-wide awareness of gender concepts and norms.

To be in line with these values, CIHEAM developed a **Gender Equality Plans, for the General Secretariat and the CIHEAM Institutes**. A dynamic has been launched, following the new Horizon Europe eligibility requirements, supported by the corporate working group on Women Empowerment and Gender Equality and the Gender Smart project, and had resulted in a complete diagnosis of gender equality within the institution as a first step, including a review of organizational data, existing policies and practices. A second step of identifying the gaps and developing an action plan in each institute and in the general secretariat has been achieved, to resorb these gaps and improve Gender equality in the CIHEAM.



On the other hand, CIHEAM's Institutes have developed and implemented targeted interventions and cooperation projects on women's and gender issues in agriculture and rural areas. Integrated 'multidimensional' support packages and gender-sensitive (and/or targeted) development interventions have been elaborated to help increase the full participation of women and girls in local economies. In addition, the adoption of a systemic approach inherently connecting business-household-community, economic and social empowerment of women is used.

The **CIHEAM** supports women by contributing to:

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

- Support of female students and researchers in Gender Studies
- Collection of data on gender



JOBS CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- Job creation /women entrepreneurship in creative, innovative and inclusive businesses
- Capacity building for future professions in the green economy and agriculture, blue economy and fishing, by mobilizing new technologies, technical and social innovations

GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- Decision-making at local/national/regional levels (local decision-making bodies, cooperatives...) / Leadership of women in the community
- Raising awareness and policy dialogue
- Gender mainstreaming in agricultural institutions, research, policies and programs



IV. CIHEAM PROJECTS ON THE GROUND

CONTRIBUTION TO JOBS CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT

EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ENPARD SOUTH) (2012-2018)



ENPARD South is an initiative launched by the European Union to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the Neighborhood countries in terms of agricultural and rural policies. Managed by the CIHEAM Montpellier, its objective is to accompany partners in strengthening their agricultural and rural policy and answers to this question “What policies are needed to support farmers and rural population?” ENPARD deals with 6 main themes: production chains organizations, youth and women, extension and training, governance of rural territories, marketing of rural and agricultural products, good agricultural practices.

CROSS-BORDER RURAL COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT IN LIBYA AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (2013-2016)

The main goal of the project is to enhance cross-border socio economic development in the rural coastal communities in Libya and in Neighboring Countries. This main objective includes several aspects like socio economic improvement and development in coastal-rural areas where fishery represents the only revenue for local livelihoods, fostering sustainable coastal resource management, considering climate changes in fishery activities.... A Gender oriented approach in order to rationalize and facilitate the role of women in the rural coastal community development toward its multifunctional role is also an objective.

W.E.E : DEVELOPING THE HANDCRAFTS SKILLS AND ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN UPPER EGYPT (2014-2017)

WEE is aimed at improving the social and economic status of rural women of the poor communities in the Governorates of Fayoum, Sohag, Assiut and Aswan (Egypt), by triggering and sustaining their capacity to produce and sell food and non-food items, while taking care of their children and families.

HILLY AREAS SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (HASAD) (2016-2018)

The HASAD project, implemented in Lebanon. aimed at supporting rural women in the development of their agricultural products by setting up small processing units and facilitating access to markets and improving qualifications and skills.

SOCIAL INNOVATION IN MARGINALIZED RURAL AREAS (SIMRA)(2016-2020)



SIMRA is a project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. As partner of the project, CIHEAM Zaragoza is in charge of innovation, communication and dissemination activities to reinforce the understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and boost them, particularly in marginalized rural areas across Europe, with a focus on the Mediterranean region (including non- EU) where there is limited evidence of outcomes and supporting conditions.

FAO DONNE TUNISIA (INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP CIHEAM-FAO) (2016-2018)

The main objective of the LoA CIHEAM-FAO is to improve the livelihoods of rural women and communities engaged in the artisanal fishery sector with clam gathering/production on the Tunisian coastline through training and the development of micro-projects for market access and income generation. In collaboration with FAO and its local partners in Medenine Governorate (South Tunisia), the CIHEAM Bari supports beneficiaries in setting up and carrying out their income-generating activities, in accessing information and vocational training, appropriate services and tools, including financing and marketing opportunities.

INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT IN OROMIA (2017-2018)

The “Inclusive and Sustainable Value Chains Development in Oromia” program, funded by Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been launched in April 2017. The project benefits to 42 cooperative associations, with some 16,000 members and value chain actors. It is implemented in 20 woredas of Oromia Regional State. The intervention approach of the CIHEAM is to strengthen a specific value chain (e.g., horticultural products) reinforcing the role of women throughout its stages in order to have an impact on increasing the availability of those products at household level and on local markets, thus leading to improved diets.

OLIO DEL LIBANO III (2017-2018)

The project aims to promote new and better forms of organization, to protect and inform consumers, to support producers, young people and women. The olive and olive oil value chain is to be strengthened by farmers and cooperatives through the implementation of a virtuous quality- oriented olive oil strategy, by integrating the MoA laboratory with the necessary technologies, and creating opportunities to build support for the policies to add value and promote African oil, at national and international levels.

DEVLOK (2017-2021)

Devlok is a project dedicated to the development of a local governance process in the Kerkennah Islands (Tunisia) that ensures inclusive dialogue between the involved stakeholders and their participation in the definition, implementation and monitoring of a sustainable territorial development strategy. Its objectives consist in reinforcing the maritime, agricultural and rural economy by supporting economic and social initiatives that enhance the local and specific resources of the Kerkennah Islands for the benefits of the overall population, with a focus on women entrepreneurship.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN SYRIA - EARLY RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS IN AGRICULTURE

Since 2015, in Syria, the CIHEAM Bari is implementing interventions aimed at increasing the resilience of rural communities through the strengthening of agricultural and livestock productions, thus increasing food security in the program areas. Both the previous program “Agriculture and Livestock Support for Syrian People” as well as the ongoing program Ra.L.A “Strengthening Raqqa Local Administration to Support the Rural Communities”, strive to assist Syrian rural communities by supplying agricultural and livestock inputs, rehabilitating veterinary and crops services, strengthening the skills of local communities and creating income generating opportunities for women. The capacity of Syrian local administrations and local technicians are particularly strengthened to provide appropriate agriculture and veterinary services for their farmers and breeders.

These efforts are done in collaboration with local administrations and associations and are encouraging the reconciliation between populations of different ethnic origins and religion, hereby increasing dialogue, agricultural and economic exchanges. Implemented actions supported rural women by prioritizing female-owned farms when distributing agriculture inputs as well as by helping set up women associations, supporting them in developing income generation activities in the field of dairy and food processing. So far, 5 women associations have been set up and assisted in implementing their business ideas thus creating stable livelihood opportunities. The associations are supported through the provision of inputs and equipment for the start-up of the activities and are accompanied through trainings and continuous technical assistance by the program technicians.

RURAL EMPOWERMENT OF KURDISTAN REGION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLIVE OIL VALUE CHAIN (2018-2019)

The objective of the project is to reinforce the institutional support and the capacities of producers within the Kurdish virgin olive oil value chain. The project covers the whole Kurdistan Region, with a particular focus on the olive oil developed area in the territories of Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Garmany Governorates.

OROMIA-ETHIOPA 2 (2018-2019)

The main objectives of this project are to improve and reinforce the horticulture value chain through capacity and institutional building and introduction of improved agricultural practices. The aim is to strengthen the role of women in agriculture value chains and finally to improve nutrition and dietary diversity of vulnerable target population, namely women and children.

WES “Water and Environment Support” (2019-2023)

Building on previous similar projects, ‘Water and Environment Support (WES) in the ENI Neighborhood South Region’ project is a regional technical support project funded by the European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI South). WES aims to protect the natural resources in the Mediterranean context, improve the management of scarce water resources in the region and solve the problems linked to the pollution prevention and the rational use of water. The WES Project Countries are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. From its design phase WES has been committed to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth in its structure and management, as well as in its activities. Besides strong involvement in various capacity building activities, CIHEAM Bari is also contributing to the drafting of WES Gender and Youth Action Plan with the aim to contextualize ‘gender and youth issues’ within the framework of water and environment and elaborate on how WES can integrate gender and youth considerations effectively, in a practical and strategic manner and contribute to influence the regional and national gender and youth agendas.

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT (WEMADE)

WEMADE is a project financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign affairs that aims to Combating marginalization and poverty of rural women by supporting their economic empowerment and facilitating their access to the market in Egypt.

CONTRIBUTION TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN SCIENCE

A significant number of students are women

- **CIHEAM Bari:** 40 % (from 1998-2020) and growth rate of women students + 20% (from 1998 to 2020)
- **CIHEAM Chania:** 2/3 of CIHEAM CHANIA Masters students are women
- **CIHEAM Montpellier:** 2/3 to ¾ of CIHEAM Montpellier Masters students are women
- **CIHEAM Zaragoza:** For an average academic year, 55.3 % MSc programme participants are women, who are awarded 73.0 % of the scholarships. In the advanced courses, 50.8 % of participants are women, who are awarded 57.9 % of the scholarships

GENDER-SMART



Gender-SMART is a community of seven European Research Executing Organizations (RPOs) and Research Funding Organizations (RPOs), operating in the field of food science research, agriculture and life. This community has the operational objectives to develop Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) that contribute:

- To building a culture of gender equality;
- To developing measures to support equal careers;
- To reshaping decision making and governance;
- To mainstreaming gender in funding, research and teaching.

As a partner in this 4-year European program, the CIHEAM Bari has designed and defined its GEP after nearly two years of audits and training. The Headquarters and the 3 others Institutes have followed the same line based on this first experience and lessons learned as well as the benchmarks and tools that have been mobilized.

Moreover, CIHEAM Bari and Gender smart project are participating in raising awareness to gender inequalities through a series of conferences and a vast communication campaign on social media.

↻ CIHEAM Bari Retweeted



CIHEAM @CIHEAM · May 10

📌 Don't miss tomorrow the conference:

#GenderEquality in **#Research** & **#Academia**: Showing the Way !

organized by **#CIHEAMBari** **#GenderSMART**

📅 May 11th, 2022

🕒 14:30 to 17:30

#HorizonEurope

Registration: events.iamb.it/p/event/confer...

The poster features logos for the European Union, Gender SMART, and CIHEAM Bari. The title 'CONFERENCE' is in large blue letters, followed by the subtitle '“Gender Equality in Research and Academia: Showing the Way”'. The date and time are 'WEDNESDAY 11.05.2022 14:30 CET 17:30'. A registration link is provided: <https://events.iamb.it/p/event/conference?preview=true>. Two speakers are listed: Marcela Linková and Maxime Forest. The hashtag #WeLookAhead is at the bottom right.



CIHEAM Bari @CIHEAMBari · May 2

👉 Venture a guess !!! How do we call gender imbalance in senior roles in Academia? 🤔🤔

Find it out with our **#GenderTermOfTheWeek** 📌

@CIHEAM

@MAIBFTNComm

@GenderSmart_EU

The infographic features logos for the European Union, Gender SMART, and CIHEAM Bari. The title 'LEAKY PIPELINE' is in blue. The text describes the concept: 'Describes how much careers in science and academia are still subject to discrimination according to the sex. A progressive “evaporation” or disappearance of women occurs as they advance to senior positions especially in STEM faculties. Berryman, 1983; Alper, 1993'. An illustration shows two people watering a plant labeled 'make EQUALITY Bloom!'. The hashtag #GENDERSMARTERCULTURE is at the bottom right.



CIHEAM Bari @CIHEAMBari · Apr 26

...

👁️💬 How can we untangle the lines that create the complex web 🕸️ of [#inequalities](#) ? ?

📖 Learn more with our [#GenderTermOfTheWeek](#) 📖

[@CIHEAM](#)

[@MAIBFTNComm](#)

[@GenderSmart_EU](#)

The infographic is a rectangular card with a white background and a blue border. It features several logos at the top: the European Union flag, the Gender SMART logo (with the text 'The project has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement N° 101019180'), the CIHEAM BARI logo, and the 'make EQUALITY Bloom' logo (which includes an illustration of two people holding a plant). The main text is titled 'INTERSECTIONALITY' in blue. Below the title, it defines the term: 'Describes the way in which different types of discrimination (i.e., unfair treatment because of a person's sex, race, etc.) are connected to and affect each other.' This is attributed to 'Cambridge Dictionary'. At the bottom left, there is a link to 'www.gendersmart.eu' and a Twitter handle '@GenderSmart_EU'. At the bottom right, it says 'Advocate for #GENDERSMARTERCULTURE'.

INTERSECTIONALITY

Describes the way in which different types of discrimination (i.e., unfair treatment because of a person's sex, race, etc.) are connected to and affect each other.

Cambridge Dictionary

www.gendersmart.eu
 GenderSmart_EU

Advocate for [#GENDERSMARTERCULTURE](#)

Capacity building & training activities

WORKSHOP ON “SHARING APPROACHES, TOOLS AND GOOD PRACTICES ON RURAL WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER” (July 2018, CIHEAM Bari)

The workshop was attended by the Ministries of Agriculture of Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine, representatives of FAO, UN Women, UfM, the Italian Association of Women for Development (AIDOS), the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and other partners. It provided an excellent opportunity for institutions and practitioners to share experiences and good practices on the empowerment rural women. It helped strengthen collaboration and networking among the different participants to synergize development cooperation interventions and foster exchanges on the development of innovative approaches and tools for women empowerment.

ONLINE CONFERENCE "CULTIVATING EQUALITY: ADVANCING GENDER RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS" (12 October 2021, CIHEAM Bari)

The conference aims at capacity strengthening and methodological highlights on how can research foster Gender Mainstreaming for Sustainable Rural Development and Food Security in the Mediterranean Area.

THE 16TH CONFERENCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL UNION: "WHY DOES THE GENDER DIMENSION PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN PLANT PATHOLOGY?" (4-8 April 2022, Cyprus)

Co-organized by the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology and Food Science of the Cyprus University of Technology, this special two-hour seminar aims to provide practical examples of gender mainstreaming in research and teaching, with particular emphasis on plant health and phytopathology. The experiences that the speakers will share with the public aim to contribute significantly to the emergence of gender-related challenges in the field of science, as well as to suggest good practices to alleviate the problem in the field of research, university and technology education and research funding.

CONTRIBUTING TO INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

ENHANCING GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY (GEMAISA) (2015-2020)

GEMAISA project is implemented by the CIHEAM Bari and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. Currently in its second phase, the project aims to improve the livelihoods of rural women in five Mediterranean countries by increasing the participation of women within selected local agri-food value chains and contributing to the strengthening the capacity of the Ministries of Agriculture's capacity to mainstream gender issues and promote women empowerment within their policies, strategies and program.

The GEMAISA project has been included among the [36 promising practices in Mainstreaming Gender into European External Action \(2018 Annual Implementation Report of the European Commission GAP II\)](#).



The project was also selected for its ability to promote dialogue and interaction on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) issues in the Mediterranean area and promoted by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development in the Sustainable Development Festival as part of the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women, to highlight the importance of the participation of rural women in development processes on this significant day. During this event, the results obtained in the framework of GEMAISA by CIHEAM BARI, at the local and institutional levels, as well as the video documentary: "I am a farmer. I am a woman" by Ernesto Pagano were presented.



V. Institutional dialogue and partnerships

Gender inclusion and the empowerment of women is a priority area of the MoUs that CIHEAM has signed with the UfM or the Mediterranean Integration Centre (CMI-World Bank). These areas have given rise to collaborations with FAO and the OECD Development Centre.

5TH UFM WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE: A FOCUS ON RURAL WOMEN AND AGRI-FOOD SECTORS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfMs) and the CIHEAM co-organized during the 5th Women4Mediterranean Conference a side-event on the Gender Impacts of COVID-19 and the Solutions in agri-food sectors, food security and Rural Areas of the Mediterranean Region (19 November 2020). High-level speakers from FAO and the European Commission took part to this side-event and included the participation of H.E Ms Akissa Bahri Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries in Tunisia.

4TH UFM WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE REAFFIRMS THE KEY ROLE OF WOMEN IN BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES AND UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (10-11 October 2019)

Organized in partnership with renowned international organizations such as UN Women, UNIDO, UNDP, the Parliamentary Assembly of the UfM (PA-UfM), Science Po Paris, Konrad Adenauer, the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation and the CIHEAM, this edition brought together some of the most active voices on gender equality in the region, involving 300 participants from over 30 countries. The participants discussed the role of men, the private sector and the media to shift stereotypes and social barriers. They explored ways to combat gender-based violence, means to empower women in rural and agricultural areas, the role of women in science, technology and innovation, and measures to invest in reproductive health.

CIHEAM-UFM WORKSHOP "EMPOWERING WOMEN IN RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS" (11octobre 2018)

During the Conference, the CIHEAM and the UfM co-organized the workshop "Empowering women in rural and agricultural areas". The workshop invited the panelists and the participants to exchange, present their experiences and to provide recommendations for the conference.



UFM-CIHEAM WEBINAR "WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP, TOWARDS AN EQUAL REGION IN A COVID-19 WORLD" (5 March 2021)

This webinar analyzed the challenges that women and girls face to access leadership positions. The discussions brought together a variety of stakeholders from across sectors, who analyzed the gendered barriers to leadership. Speakers shared best practices on how to foster women and girls' leadership across the region.



GENDER-SENSITIVE INNOVATION AND DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL WOMEN: WHAT ROLE FOR INNOVATION SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS?" (6-7 July 2021)

In the framework of the Women Business Forum, organized by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) focused on the digital transformation and how technology can be harnessed to empower women as entrepreneurs, traders, workers and professionals, the CIHEAM session focused on gender-sensitive innovation and digital opportunities for rural women. Experts provided diverse solutions to make regional entrepreneurial ecosystems more gender-sensitive by adapting training sessions, calls and competitions to the needs and strengths of women, as well as incubator capacity building and networking.

CONFÉRENCE PARMENIDES IX « GESTION SOUTENABLE DES BASSINS VERSANTS MÉDITERRANÉENS FACE AUX IMPACTS DES CHANGEMENTS SOCIÉTAUX ET CLIMATIQUES » (19-21 Octobre 2021)

During a session dedicated to the Governance & inclusion of women and youth, a round table of partners was the opportunity to present the activities of CIHEAM regarding the project: integration of Gender Dimensions in water management in the Mediterranean region, financed by the UE. Its main purpose was to collect information on the gender issues affecting the irrigated agriculture in the Mediterranean region but also to promote gender mainstreaming as part of the government actions in the agriculture sector. The analysis of this experience provides an opportunity to draw lessons that are presented at the end that may be useful in the context of river basin management under the present sociological and climate changes

“AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS FACING CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN REGION (MENA): GENDER EQUALITY FOR BETTER RESILIENCE” (7 March 2022)

For the commemoration of the International Women's Day, recognizing this year the

contribution of women and girls to build a more sustainable future, this event was co-organized with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa of FAO

and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), in order to identify challenges faced by women as change drivers for more resilient agri-food systems facing climate change.

SUPPORTING THE ARAB WOMEN IN THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR PARTICIPATION OF THE CIHEAM IN THE AG OF THE COI/PARTNERSHIP COI- AOOWN

(7-9 June 2022)

In parallel of the participation of the CIHEAM to the General Assembly of the COI, the CIHEAM has set the basis to develop a collaboration with the support of the COI and the OADE for the network of Arab women in the olive oil sector. Working meetings and field visits were organized for this purpose.

WORKSHOP: WOMEN AND FISHERIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

(14 October 2022)

In the framework of the seminar entitled: Sustainable Development of Coastal areas and fisheries in the Mediterranean, to be held in Alicante to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the CIHEAM, a workshop on women and Fisheries in the Mediterranean will be organized, with the collaboration of the Spanish Network for Women in the Fisheries Sector in order to have a first forum of exchange of experiences of already existing initiatives in the Mediterranean.

GLOBAL ONLINE COLLABORATIVE PLATFORM



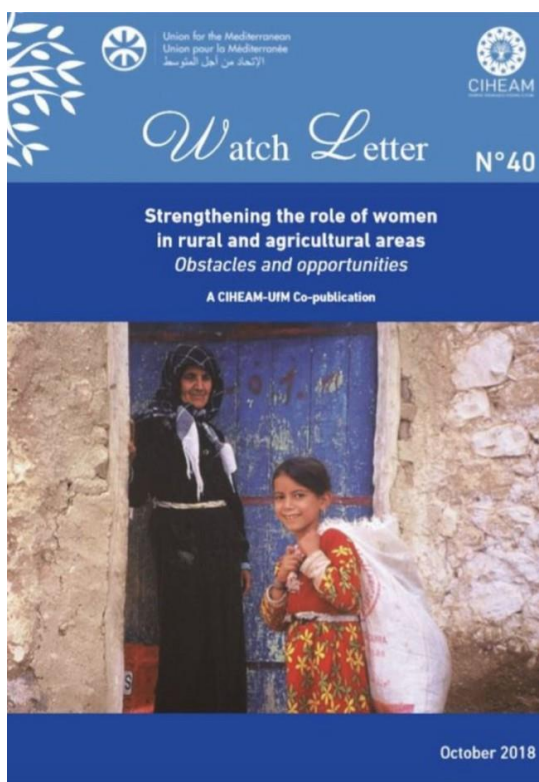
In the context of growing recognition of the role of rural women to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Wikigender (OECD Dev), the CIHEAM and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) organized an online discussion on "Strengthening the role of women in rural and agricultural areas in the Mediterranean region". Over 50 insightful and expert comments were posted which identified the challenges facing rural women; Policy recommendations towards the achievement of the SDGs; and examples of good practices to unlock the empowerment of rural women.

PUBLICATIONS

Gender Equality in the Mediterranean:
General overview and focus on the
agricultural sector and rural areas,
CIHEAM, 2022



Strengthening the role of women in
rural and agricultural areas - Obstacles
and opportunities, a joint publication
CIHEAM-UfM, [Watch letter n°40](#), October
2018



[Why are men and women affected in different ways by COVID-19?](#) – The importance of gender equality for building resilience in the response to the pandemic in rural areas in the Mediterranean region, FAO, CIHEAM publication

Gender and climate-induced migration in the Mediterranean: from resilience to peace and human security, Mediterra Migration and Inclusive Rural Development in the Mediterranean, CIHEAM, 2018

Mediterranean Women in Rural and Agricultural Communities: Double Jeopardy, Multiple Opportunities, Seghirate, Y. (2017), IEMed, [Mediterranean Yearbook](#), pp.243-246.

Building Resilience of Mediterranean Rural Communities Through the Empowerment of Women, Quagliariello, R. & Ciannamea, C. (2016), [Watch Letter n°36](#)

Women Entrepreneurs in Rural Greece: Do They Come from the Same “Neck of the Woods”? Locals, Daughters-in-law and Urban-Newcomers, Iakovidou et al. (2012), [New Medit](#), 11(2), pp. 58-64

[Women in Agriculture, summer 2010, CIHEAM, Watch Letter n°14](#)

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Cooperation and Research partnerships strengthen efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. As such, the CIHEAM collaborates with the following organisations:





Established in 1962, the **International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)** is a Mediterranean intergovernmental organization composed of 13 Member States (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey). It operates through its 4 Institutes based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain) and the Headquarters based in Paris.

As a key player in multilateral cooperation in the fields of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food systems, coastal and rural development, its missions revolve around four main objectives:



Protection of the planet by combating all forms of waste: waste of natural resources, food waste, waste of knowledge and know-how



Food and nutrition security by boosting sustainable agriculture and food systems



Inclusive development by investing in new generations and fragile territories



Prevention of crises by managing tensions and working for the resilience of communities

The CIHEAM strives to achieve these objectives through education and capacity building, networked research, cooperation and technical assistance and political dialogue. Cooperation is essential for CIHEAM, which collaborates with more than 50 countries, several regional and intergovernmental organisations, and more than 600 universities and research centres.

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