



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



CIHEAM
International Centre for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

Watch Letter Number 40

Joint publication between CIHEAM and UfM

Strengthening the role of women

Obstacles and opportunities in rural and agricultural areas

Call for papers

To be published in September 2018

About the CIHEAM

Founded in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is a Mediterranean intergovernmental organisation devoted to the sustainable development of agriculture and fisheries, food and nutrition security and rural and coastal areas.

It is composed of 13 member States (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and operates through its 4 Institutes based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain) and the Headquarters located in Paris (France).

The CIHEAM collaborates with several international and regional organisations.

At the CIHEAM, we strongly believe that a Mediterranean that fosters a better future for the younger generations is possible. We contribute to promoting solutions that lead to human development and sustainable growth and we strive to strengthen intercultural dialogue.

Closely related to the specific needs of the countries, the actions of the CIHEAM rely on a bottom-up collaboration and a problem-solving approach. With its member States, public and private partners and academics, the CIHEAM strives to meet the 4 following challenges:

- Combating “triple waste” (Waste of Knowledge, Natural Resources and Food);
- Boosting sustainable agriculture and food;
- Investing in new generations and fragile territories;
- Preventing risks and managing tensions.



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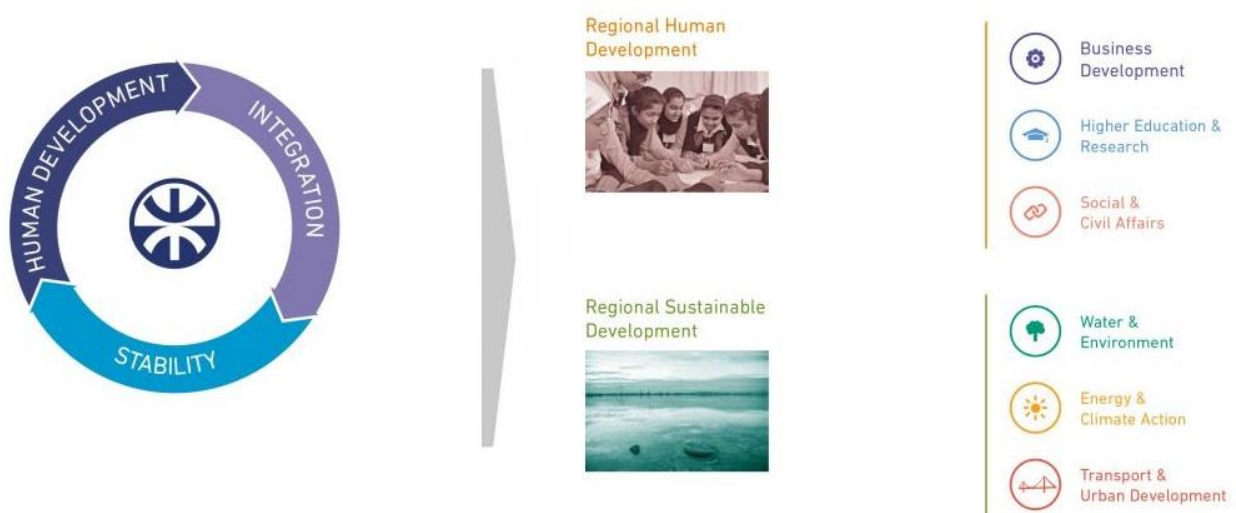
About the UfM

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is an intergovernmental Euro-Mediterranean organisation which brings together all 28 countries of the European Union and 15 countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

UfM's mission is to enhance regional cooperation, dialogue and the implementation of concrete projects and initiatives with tangible impact on our citizens, with an emphasis on young people and women, in order to address the three strategic objectives of the region: stability, human development and integration.

The UfM works proactively to achieve greater levels of integration and cooperation in the region through a specific methodology that has yielded positive results in terms of political dialogue and the implementation of region-wide initiatives in which young people play a key role.

With more than 50 labelled projects and over 300 ministerial and expert fora gathering 25,000 stakeholders since 2012, UfM activities illustrate the strong belief that regional challenges call for regional solutions and that there is no security without development. For more information: <http://ufmsecretariat.org/>



The Watch Letter

Devoted to major topics in Mediterranean Agriculture, Food and Environment, the CIHEAM Watch Letter is published since 2007.

While enabling the CIHEAM to gain widespread recognition, it disseminates studies and analyses on emerging agricultural and food issues targeting a broad and heterogeneous audience (policymakers, researchers, journalists, etc.). The Watch Letter is aimed at feeding the debate on the Mediterranean and the broader global debate on food and agriculture.

The CIHEAM Headquarters directs and manages this bilingual publication (English and French).

Strengthening the role of women: Obstacles and opportunities in rural and agricultural areas

Background

In the Mediterranean, there are significant development gaps between and within countries, but when considering the common economic, socio-political and environmental challenges that the region must overcome, we can perceive a promising path for the achievement of a sustainable and inclusive growth where women could play a major role provided that their potential is acknowledged and unlocked and that the struggle against gender inequality takes centre stage in public and private policy.

Global and regional studies show that women are essential to food and nutrition security mechanisms as they represent an important part of the agricultural labour force especially in the poorest areas. Women are also significant bearers of knowledge, best practices and innovations in the sustainable use of natural resources, including in climate change adaptation and the conservation of agrobiodiversity. Moreover, as men of working age move out of rural areas, because of territorial imbalances and poverty, women consequently become progressively the main financial pillar of their household and contribute to maintain local socio-economic activities.

Although women participation in the economic, social and political spheres remains unequal at global level, it is more significant in some areas of the Mediterranean countries. Very often, women must deal with compounded difficulties, inequalities and discriminations. Unskilled jobs, less paid (if paid at all), less access to education and capacity building, less access to financial services, to the use of fertilisers, mechanical equipment or new technologies... As a matter of fact, women benefit less from development policies than men. Moreover, depending on the country, women may also be victims of gender-related discrimination ranging from sociocultural pressure – fostering the isolation of women relegated to the domestic space – to legalised discrimination, namely with regards to access to land.

Women in rural areas experience the effects of territorial marginalisation with limited access to early childhood services, training, transport, socio-medical, cultural facilities and are confronted more than elsewhere with the lack of job opportunities. Particularly affected by the effects of climate change on agriculture, women are also the primary “shock absorbers” during food crises. The underrepresentation of women in rural organisations and institutions is an aggravating factor as they remain poorly informed about their rights and this prevents them from having an equal say in decision-making processes.

Although rural women are the object of compounded inequalities and discriminations and bear a “double penalty,” they remain a key element for the stabilisation of territories. They play a major role in the resilience of rural societies and provide different means to meet Mediterranean challenges such as food security and the preservation of rural ecosystems.

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 Mediterranean areas. Identified as priority n°10 in the Strategic Agenda of the CIHEAM 2025, gender equality and women empowerment are crosscutting themes that invite us to reflect upon several components of the Mediterranean agriculture and rural development.

Whether in the struggle against the waste of natural and human resources, in the formulation of poverty alleviation policies, the support of entrepreneurship and in decision-making processes, the participation of rural women should be fostered and greater investment should be made in building their capacities and for their empowerment. For these reasons, the CIHEAM supports women by implementing programmes, by promoting social, technical and economic innovations and by encouraging gender research. The CIHEAM also supports the participation of women in its research networks and encourages young girls to choose scientific studies in the fields of food security and nutrition, natural resources management and energy, rural and coastal development, climate change adaptation and mitigations strategies, animal and plant health and agricultural markets, issues that are all at the heart of the Mediterranean challenges.

On the other hand, the focus on women empowerment, as a main contribution to addressing the root causes of the current challenges faced by the Mediterranean region is at the heart of the UfM strategy. This strategy has been progressively built and structured over the past three years in close coordination with the UfM Member States and with the involvement of key stakeholders operating in the region, including local authorities, international organisations, donors, civil society and private sector. In the last UfM Ministerial Declaration¹ on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, adopted the 27th November 2017 in Cairo, Ministers agreed on the urgent need to undertake the necessary measures and policies to ensure full women participation, in particular in rural areas.

The thematic focus

The Watch Letter n°40 will try to put into the different situations in the Mediterranean into perspective by analysing the challenges and opportunities related to strengthening the role of rural women in the economic, social, legal and political spheres. Contributions can have a national, regional, thematic (climate, migration, education and employment, access to services and resources ...) or sectoral (agriculture, fisheries, livestock, crafts, entrepreneurship, politics, etc.) approach.

The analyses should help to better understand the challenges but also the opportunities of the gender approach in rural, coastal and agricultural sustainable development initiatives and policies.

They will also help to identify levers and good practices for the empowerment of women at three interrelated levels (macro, meso and micro) such as:

- **The enforcement of laws and regulations;**
- **The integration of gender dimension in the rural and agricultural policies and objectives ;**
- **Strengthening women access to innovation, productive assets, services and infrastructures, including the access to land and property, to markets and to quality transport;**
- **Fostering women's and girls' access to education, training and mentoring;**
- **Ensuring women's access to decent work in agricultural areas.**
- **Support the participation and leadership of women in rural organizations;**

¹ <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/womenfinaldeclaration.pdf>

- Support to the participation of women and girls to scientific and research networks in the fields of food and nutrition security, natural resources management, sustainable and inclusive rural and coastal development, climate change adaptation and mitigations strategies, animal and plant health etc.
- The adoption of gender-sensitive budgets to ensure fair distribution of resources.
- The reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work etc.

The analyses will also attempt to include considerations on the general lack of available sex-disaggregated data at the rural level and in agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors.

Timeline

February 2018

Launch of the call for papers

23rd of March 2018

Deadline for submissions and write-up of the summary

April- 15 June 2018

Reception of the articles

15 June- 15 July 2018

Exchange with the contributors and Edition

September 2018

Publication of Watch Letter 40

October-December 2018

Presentation and debates around the WL during institutional events with the participation of interested contributors

Technical Details for articles

Languages

English or French

Length

2000-2500 Words (or 12,500 - 15,000 characters)

Signature

Please kindly indicate your position-title and/or the institution to appear in the article

Title and Bibliography

Each article should have a clear title and a brief bibliography/webography (not more than 4-5 references)

Delivery

The summary and paper must be sent via electronic mail at seghirate@ciheam.org

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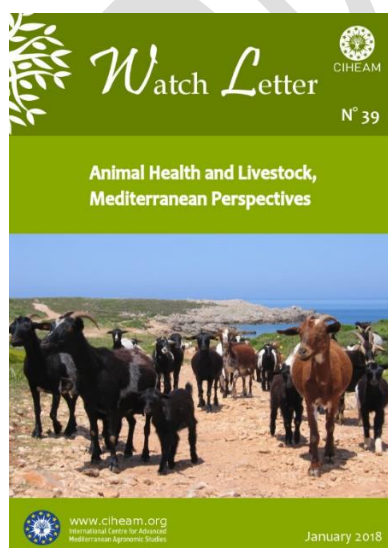
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Discover the WL 39, Animal Health and Livestock, Mediterranean Perspectives
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