



AHG OF INGOs
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ICID·CIID



International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage



The complex agriculture process is still dependent on climate since sunlight and water are the main drivers of crop growth and production. The present trend of the climate change leading to higher temperature and evapotranspiration will negatively affect the growth and yield of rainfed crops and the hydrological cycle altering the water resource renewal. Hence climate change will have a negative impact on food security, on fresh water supply and it is expected to exacerbate gender inequity. The occurring changes in rainfall and runoff pattern will reduce water availability, particularly in water scarce areas, already running the risk of desertification and groundwater over extraction.

Farmers and in particular rural women always carried out adaptive changes to weather by modifying cropping pattern and management practices. Rural women are the most effective subjects to react to extreme meteorological events: they have a great experience in adopting traditional methods for water saving and developing practices for an efficient and sustainable exploitation of natural resources. Therefore it is essential to enhance their skill in land and water management strategies mainly through establishment of women's farmers associations, and in particular Water User Associations (WUA)

There is a strong and complex relationship between food insecurity, poverty and low rate of illiteracy. In order to improve food productivity and income, new opportunities should be created for raising the education and professional training of rural women, their empowerment and active participation in water management mainly in view of their important role in the farm irrigation management.

By the last decades the growing acknowledgement of women role as farmers spurred the irrigation Agencies to change their intervention approach for WUA better working by encouraging the admittance of female farmers and giving them the opportunities to participate to the decision making processes.

The past activities: from 2000 to 2006 five training courses on irrigation management for Africa and Asian rural women were organised on the initiative of ITAL-ICID (ICID Italian Committee) and in collaboration of FAO and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 2006 to 2011 the ITAL-ICID operated as partner on the European Project GEWAMED (Gender into Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean Region).

A future activity is being planning specially oriented to recommendation disseminating in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as the rural women participation to decision making in this field is very far to be reached.

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