

Gender related issues in the Zeuss Koutine watershed, Medenine, Tunisia

site and gender highlights

6 women and 45 men have been involved in the particular land uses being examined in the study site

All women and men are working on their owned lands. Woman has the same tasks like man in the farm before and after the new strategies. But these strategies encourage women to involve their contributions to development.

During the rainy season both of men and women share tasks in the farm. Breeding children at home is sole task of woman because men occupied by working outside and out farm to earn money.

Men are used to quit (at least occasionally) their households to earn money as the local raised income is not sufficient to cover the needs.

If all the tasks are done by the men, what are the women doing?

The right of access to credit, to agricultural advisory systems and to stakeholder meetings, and other access depend on the degree of involvement and first responsibility rather than on gender.

Impact of land degradation on inhabitants (women and men) with and without changes in land management.

The change in land use is related to change of agriculture practices and techniques. So man and women profited from this situation. They explore natural resources, they practiced productive crops and they earn money for the short time. But for the long term, problems of land degradation and scarcity of natural resources cause random for these opportunities of development.

Man and woman have the same opportunities according to the problem of change in land management. This is the main problem that blocks development actions. But in the other hand, this is an incentive to a modernization life that's related to globalization. Inhabitant needs depended on the market goods and services (foods, clothing, education, medicines)

Impact of DESIRE (workshops) on land management

Both men and women attend the workshops, 26 men and 3 women

All women and 15 men participants of the first workshop have remained involved in some way, e.g. with monitoring the field technologies, or hosting open-days, etc.

As the selected conservation measures are already implemented in the area, no division of labour between the men and women were recorded.



Women collecting fig leaves for animal feeding

General remark on gender policy

The target of Desire is to establish promising alternative land use and management conservation strategies based on a close participation of scientists with stakeholder groups in the degradation and desertification hotspots around the world. The DESIRE consortium of the 6th framework program therefore includes activities to promote gender equality. The project strategy is also to improve the gender neutral approach in environmental research .

A Global initiative

Involvement of female researcher is a key for building mutual trust.



Participation of women in olives harvest is a crucial operation.

Though man is still dominating the household management, the role of woman remains very crucial for the sustainable use of natural resources in this typical dry environment. In fact, the measures they agreed upon to provide a mosaic of integrated land use will increase the possibility for both men and women on local work.

Local gender success story.....

In the DESIRE study site, there are many surveys with both man and women about land management and land conservation. Like man and woman, they are interested to sustainability of their farm and agriculture production systems. There are women farm owners who involved their farm exploitations. They planted trees, take care about their farms (water and soil conservation techniques), they shared their time between farm and family and they succeeded to support both of these tasks..

Gender neutral / gender friendly information about new land management strategies

Surveys with men and women facilitate the task of monitoring of land management strategies.

There are some suggestions during surveys proposed by men and women like essentially location of water and soil conservation techniques, and about planting olive trees to fix land and explore this plants.

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