

Gender related issues in the Ribeira Seca Basin, Cape Verde



Impact of DESIRE (workshops) on land management



During the 2 workshops of socialization of the project with the stakeholders involved in the management and use of natural resources (WS1) and the consensus definition of technologies to test (WS2) in our study area. All the stakeholders (young, not so young, women and men) have participated in the two workshops at the same level. Targeted measures may be divided into two categories: (1) Agricultural i.e., inter crops (maize and beans in combination), (2) vegetative i.e. planting trees (forestry species and fruit trees) and vegetative barriers. Regarding the participation of stakeholders during the Workshops, 9 women participated in WS 1 and 8 to WS2.

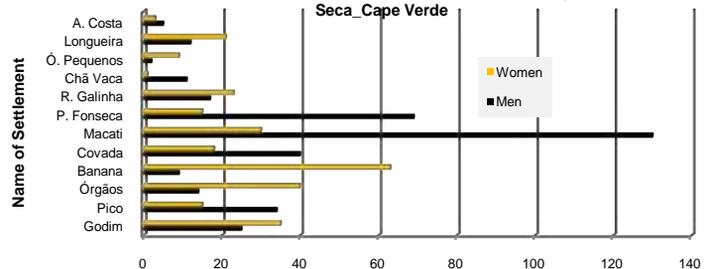
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For the past two years, the Delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture has introduced, in the sub watershed of Longueira, a new land management approach for protection of mountain areas. It consists in combining forestry with forage production of high quality. Women have strongly contributed to the adoption of this new management approach by collecting forage seeds, preparing soil, sowing, harvesting and transporting fodder. Though the new management approach has not affected the task distribution between man and woman, the results are very positive in terms of legislation, production and soil conservation.

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Women and men involved in the land uses examined in the study site of Ribeira Seca, Cape Verde



Of the 12 settlements where DESIRE intervenes, 6 have a more significant participation of women in relation to men. The total number of stakeholder is 641, of which 273 (or 43%) are women. Women and men will practically have the same chances in the implementation of the actions selected during the WS2. However, where the number of women is lower than that of men, the priority for the fruit trees will be given to women. Eleven (11) men and 6 women are involved in the monitoring stage.

Theme: Study on "The issue of access of women to land in the watershed of Ribeira Seca _ Santiago - Cape Verde"

Women account for two thirds of about 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty and are more affected by land degradation and desertification than men. Cape Verde, in spite of being a medium development country, faces serious difficulties related to water scarcity, shortage of arable land and declining of soil fertility due to land degradation. These constraints reduce crop yields and threaten food security of households, in particular, the full workforce of women. Aiming to better understand the position of women regarding land degradation and desertification, a study was carried out in four localities of the Ribeira Seca watershed.

Of the 70 women surveyed, 69% do not own the land they cultivate and 15% are landless. Among those who engage in agricultural activities, only 1.5% practice irrigated agriculture while 98.5% practice rain fed farming, the hardest work for women. The results showed that 64% of the surveyed women cultivate land with very low fertility level and only 7% cultivate land with acceptable fertility level. The average maize grain yield is about 350 kg / ha / woman. The One reason that may explain the burden of women is that 91 % of these women have no access to credit and 55% among them cannot read or write. Their time is allocated in the following way: 35% is devoted to the preparation of meals, 24% in search of forage, 23% in search of fuel wood and 18% in search of water. All these elements suggest that desertification and poverty in Cape Verde Island has the woman face.



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