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EUROPEAN UNION – JOINT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EU-JRDP)

Capturing and Learning from EU-JRDP' Experiences

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THE EUROPEAN UNION – JOINT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (EU-JRDP)

2015-2020

Capturing and Learning from EU-JRDP's Experiences

Best Water Harvesting Practices in the Drylands of North West Coastal Zone of Egypt

In Matrouh Governorate, EU-JRDP, promoted water harvesting practices in the *wadis* and constructed/rehabilitated water harvesting facilities (e.g., cisterns and roman wells) for agricultural, human and animal use. The aim was to increase water harvesting capacity and bring into production additional lands inside the *wadis* and make water available for animal and human consumption and agricultural use.

In total, EU-JRDP succeeded to establish and rehabilitate 1,355 cisterns and Roman wells with total storage capacity of about 208,000 m³ and contributed to reduce the water gap for human and animal consumption by 72%. EU-JRDP succeeded to reduce drinking water costs by 87% per household and reduce time to collect and access water from 2.14 hours to 28 minutes.

The 55 km of *wadis* constructed/rehabilitated are contributing to reduce erosion and converted the surface of lands to agricultural production (about 750 *feddans*). The decrease of soil erosion is reducing land losses in the surface layers of soils and, consequently, lands have better productivity. Land degradation, from 50% (before rehabilitation) is reduced to 25% (after rehabilitation). In total EU-JRDP worked in 49 *wadis*.

Development of new wadis and the rehabilitation of existing wadis.

- The decrease of soil erosion is reducing land losses in the surface layers of soils and, consequently, lands have better productivity.
- Preserving the rainwater and preventing torrential flows that are causing damages, had a positive impact on the environmental ecosystem in the *wadis* and surrounding areas.
- The increase in the number of concrete dykes inside the *wadis*, was reflected positively on the increase in the area suitability for agricultural use (+91%) and plant productivity increased (+22%) and, consequently, on the income.
- The rehabilitation or the construction of *wadis* can be considered a best practice of sustainable management of natural resources.
- The increase in the number of new cisterns inside the *wadis*, was reflected positively on the increase in the area for agricultural use and, consequently, on the income of the beneficiaries.
- The livestock production is not directly affected by the development of *wadis*.

Construction or rehabilitation of cisterns, Roman wells, and reservoirs.

- The most relevant social benefit is related with the increased availability of water for home consumption.
- Drinking water costs were reduced by 87% per household and the time to collect and access water was reduced from 2.14 hours to 28 minutes.
- The intervention increased personal hygiene and reduced pollution and disease.
- The increase of water availability for home consumption are increasing incomes at family level (e.g., home gardening).

The main recommendations for future projects:

Development of new wadis and the rehabilitation of existing wadis.

- To prioritize *wadis* to be rehabilitated based on i) soil fertility and ii) land morphology criteria. The third criteria of choice shall be the population density.
- To construct more dykes per each Km of wadi (in both new and existing).
- To increase the number of cisterns and related capacity for agricultural use inside the *wadis*.
- To protect *wadis* with fences made with local available materials.
- To plant trees in the *wadis* of large catchment area.

Construction or rehabilitation of cisterns, Roman wells, and reservoirs.

- To rehabilitate more roman wells and to construct more cisterns.
- To prepare data base on roman wells.
- To adopt preventive measures improving water quality.
- To organise awareness campaigns to spread basic water treatment measures: and other water treatment practices in case of contamination.

Increasing Land and Water Productivity - Rehabilitation of Irrigation Infrastructure and Best Waste Management Practices

The shortage of irrigation water, low efficiency and low quality and quantity of water, poor water management, insufficiency of modern irrigation technologies, inequitable water distribution among farmers and, pollution of water bodies due to agricultural and solid wastes are in fact the key challenges facing agricultural development in the old lands of Minya and Fayoum.

EU-JRDP rehabilitated irrigation infrastructure at the level of the main canals (secondary canals) serving a total of 10,838 *feddans* (3,942 in Fayoum and 6,896 in Minya). In addition to the rehabilitation of the secondary canals, 3,554 *feddans* (out of the 10,838) serving 2,348 farmers benefitted also from the rehabilitation of *meskas* (tertiary canals) and part of these farmers (1,094) received support in terms of improved irrigation management practices at *marwas* level (irrigation canals at farmers' field level) and rehabilitation of on-farm drains. Technical training was provided to 40 Water Users' Associations (WUAs). A total of 5,053 people participated in awareness campaigns meetings on agricultural and solid waste management best practices.

Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure - labour-intensive technologies and design and supervision from national institutions

- The works of rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure promoted by EU-JRDP in Minya and Fayoum: i) increased the water flow, ii) reduced the pumping costs, iii) increased the water efficiency (+ 30%), iv) increased land value (+ 40%), v) improved the access to land plots (due to the increased quality and quantity of the service's roads as effect of rehabilitation of the canals).
- There is no degree of restriction on the use of water for irrigating any kind of crops.
- The use of local materials and the adoption of labour-intensive technologies during the rehabilitation works generated job opportunities within local rural communities.
- The rehabilitation of the main canals (especially those crossing the villages) with riprap (use of stones and cements) reduced the illegal discharge of human sewage into the canals and consequently the negative effect of pollution on water bodies.
- All interviewed farmers confirmed that i) the rehabilitation of the canals reduced the percentage of wasted water; ii) they have now appropriate water gates to ease the use of water for irrigation, iii) there are no more weeds along the canals and, iv) the water is distributed fairly among them. The farmers said also that the rehabilitation of the canals is increasing the land occupancy rate and improving the crop productivity as well as improving water quality, soil properties, crop quality and farmers' general health.
- The creation of waters users' associations and the trainings that said associations are providing to their water users are changing small farmers' mind-sets based on inherited old practices and are facilitating the adoption of improved irrigation practices.
- All that lead to an increase in income and marketing potential since the agricultural products are better managed now.

Solid waste practices – integrations with rehabilitation works of irrigation infrastructure

- In Minya and Fayoum, well-integrated waste management activities have i) reduced the negative effects of pollution on water bodies and generated job opportunities within local communities and ii) promoted hygiene practices and income opportunities to the benefit of women' groups.
- In the concerned villages, solid wastes were reduced by almost 60-70%.
- The centres for waste management and the start-ups are nowadays filling a void in the waste value chain, which will benefit the whole local community, in terms of income and environmental and health benefits.

The main recommendations for future projects:

Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure - labour-intensive technologies and design and supervision from national institutions

- To scale out the EU-JRDP participatory approach/empowering existing irrigation bodies and WUAs.
- To scale out the EU-JRDP approach of associating water's users since the design phase of the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures.
- To scale up the methodological approach based on the provision of legal instruments and legal competences of irrigation bodies and final beneficiaries.
- To promote the rehabilitation works envisaging i) the employment of local labour and the use local materials and equipment to generate job opportunities at local level.
- To reinforce the management capacity of WUAs to better maintain *meskas*.
- To maintain, at farmers' field level, both open and covered drains with low-cost machineries that need to be provided.
- To train WUA's water users to improving the distribution and regulation of water at the level of the entire length of *meskas*.

- To maintain and clean the rehabilitated canals at least once a year.
- To associate WUAs in the cleaning operation of the canals (cf. recommendations for axis 2).
- To reinforce the management capacity of WUAs to better deliver services to water users.
- To promote good governance principles among WUAs:
 - ✓ To make WUAs democratic through establishment of appropriate water management and governance structures.
 - ✓ To increase participation within the WUAs including assigning quotas for participation by women.
 - ✓ To promote good leadership to better promote WUA both internally (among members) and externally (relationships with third parties).
 - ✓ To better define policies and procedures governing the WUAs.

Solid waste practices – integrations with rehabilitation works of irrigation infrastructure

- To scale out the EU-JRDP i) innovative participatory approach/empowering existing irrigation bodies and ii) integrated approach based on the rehabilitation of infrastructures and the promotion of waste management practices and income generation opportunities.
- To prioritize behaviour changes of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers that need to be replaced with composting (to be produced locally) and integrated pest management practices.
- To enhance working partnerships with local entrepreneurs and community associations and facilitate the development of new public policies and policy-related innovations.
- To promote better environmental hygiene practices in association with income generating opportunities.
- To increase involvement of women when promoting the use of wastes to be reused for agricultural production and income generation.
- To expand the start-ups and the construction of gasification and compost units in other areas.

GAPs in Agriculture: Introduction of Ad-hoc Technologies for High Yielding Crops for Marketing Purposes

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) are "practices that address environmental, economic and social sustainability for on- farm processes, and result in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products". When promoting/adopting GAPs, the capacities of rural associations, both farmers and non-farmers, should be reinforced.

EU-JRDP promoted six GAPs of which three in the rain-fed areas of Matrouh: i) provision of agricultural service to farmers under *wadis* rehabilitation, ii) scaling out GAPs for sustainable production/home gardening and iii) promotion of Geographical Indications (GIs) and three in the irrigated old lands of Minya and Fayoum: iv) scaling out GAPs for sustainable improvement of the quality and quantity of horticultural production in Fayoum, v) mproving on-farm irrigation in Minya and Fayoum and vi) promoting rural resilience in Minya. More in details:

In the in rain-fed areas of Matrouh:

- Agricultural services were provided to farmers cultivating inside all *wadis* rehabilitated by EU-JRDP (49) aiming at improving income by scaling out ad-hoc agricultural practices adapted to rain-fed areas.
- Ad-hoc agricultural practices were scaled out in 35 *wadis* (out of the 49 rehabilitated by EU-JRDP), improved seeds (barley and wheat) were distributed, demonstration sites/pilot farms were established, home gardening/drip irrigation plots to the benefit of 70 women' groups were created
- Ad-hoc GAPs aiming at improving the value addition of traditional crops through the promotion of GIs were promoted for the first time in Egypt.

In the irrigated old lands areas of Minya and Fayoum:

- GAPs for sustainable improvement of the quality and quantity of horticultural production under protected environment (e.g., introduction of high-yielding hybrids, new techniques for seedlings, integrated pest management) were scaled out in Fayoum
- Water productivity by improving on-farm irrigation management (e.g., laser levelling and raised bed cultivation of main cereals, practices improving soil fertility and reducing salinity) was enhanced in both Minya and Fayoum.
- New replicable and measurable rural development models to increase small farmers income (e.g., application of the territorial approach, promotion of the value chain concepts) were established in Minya.

Introduction of new technologies in the rain-fed areas of Matrouh

- The services provided to farmers contributed to decrease the agricultural production costs by 40% and increased crops' productivity by 30%. The fruit quality improved. Said services had an impact on the social and economic conditions of the farmers. The distribution of olive seedlings is by far the most relevant activity.

- The proposed technologies had a positive environmental impact in terms of maintaining soil fertility, improving the control of weeds and diseases, reducing the use of chemicals.
- The active engagement of beneficiary communities, combined with hands-on capacity building, is bringing sustainable results.
- The establishment of home gardens along with necessary irrigation systems and field training tailor-made to women improved the nutrition status of local people.
- The promotion of GIs proved to have a direct impact on i) improving market access, ii) adding value to existing products, iii) bringing an exclusive territorial benefit to all actors, iv) preserving traditional knowledge and production methods and, v) creating job opportunities at local level.

Introduction of new technologies in the irrigated old lands of Minya and Fayoum

- The farmers who adopted the technologies in horticulture production under protected environment, increased their income drastically (e.g., doubled or even tripled depending on the crop) while cultivating on the same piece of land. The income mainly increased because of: i) the introduction of improved agricultural practices (28%), ii) the use of improved seeds, iii) the adoption of integrated production and protection methods (18%).
- The intervention improving on-farm irrigation management led to water saving of 20/25% and to yield increase of 25% for the typical crops in the project areas (wheat in winter and maize in summer). Further, the increase in yield and income resulted in enhancing general well-being of participating families.
- The new replicable and measurable rural development models promoted in Minya, succeeded in building the capacity of small farmers to work collectively (creation of farmers' groups/CBOs, elected committees, and community cadres) and to increase female participation in the farmers' groups and their representation in the elected committees. The improvement of marketing agreements between CBOs and local traders resulted in increased income of farmers. Meanwhile, weak market chains between farmers and exporters are still present. Limited credit facilities for small farmer's agricultural business might affect farmers adoption of crop varieties.

The main recommendations for future projects:

Introduction of new technologies in the rain-fed areas of Matrouh

- To scale out the proposed agricultural practices adapted to rain-fed areas and proposed by EU-JRDP.
- To extend to the rest of the governorate, the promotion of GIs. GIs shall involve more women in capacity building programs since women are responsible for processing and post harvesting operations.

Introduction of new technologies in the irrigated old lands of Minya and Fayoum

- To scale out the technologies for sustainable improvement of the quality and quantity of horticultural production under protected environment. These technologies shall be applied together.
- To scale out the technologies enhancing water productivity by improving on-farm irrigation management. These technologies shall be applied together.
- To enhance CBOs and rural communities of farmers in future interventions.
- To encourage finance and micro-finance institutions to open specific credit facilities for small farmers since the proposed technologies demand fresh investments.
- To build the capacity of current farmers' federations, organizations, and farmers' groups, by empowering them in service provision of technical and financial nature.
- To diversify the role of farmers' organisations for them to be more actively involved with marketing and negotiations with buyers and input/service providers. These organisations shall be equipped with marketing tools and shall receive qualified continuous training.
- To continue to deliver refresh training courses to Agricultural Extension Agents staff to further strengthen the role of these cadres.
- To scale out the EU-JRDP approach based on continue qualified technical assistance for supporting small farmers and on continue capacity building with trainings, dissemination, and awareness campaigns.
- To provide means of access to soil amendments provided by the project in the future, as most beneficiaries indicated that no mechanism is in place for that.
- To reinforce management capacity of WUAs that could make more readily available and better maintain raised bed machines and harvesters than the Agriculture Department.
- To strength the relationship between farmers and exporters and to facilitate access of farmers to micro-finance and ad-hoc credit lines.

GAPs in Livestock: Increasing the Resilience Capacity of Pastoralists of North West Coastal Zone of Egypt

In Matrouh Governorate, EU-JRDP, promoted GAPs in livestock increasing the resilience of Barki sheep and goats to drought conditions and to generate income and increasing feed resources availability for Barki sheep and goats to the benefit of Bedouin communities. The final goal was to address the main constraints facing Barki goats and sheep population such as low productivity of local breeds, improper breeding and management practices, continuous degradation of rangelands, high feeding costs, insufficiency of veterinarian and extension services.

The interventions have proved to have successful tangible results on the ground as an effect of the disseminated GAPs (e.g., dissemination of heat tolerant Barki rams, dissemination of improved Barki goats), the vaccination campaigns and veterinary services, the fattening techniques, and the trainings provided to pastoralists.

Increasing resilience of Barki sheep and goats to drought conditions and generation of income to the benefit of Bedouin communities.

- The selection and dissemination of heat tolerant Barki rams contributed to: i) adapt local breeds to drought and high temperature (all interviewed pastoralists are satisfied with the resilience increase), ii) improve the growth rates (+ 31%) and iii) reduce the fattening period of lambs (-38%). The value per head of Barki sheep increased by 50% and the average number of flock's heads increased by 3%.
- The results of the cross breeding with Damascus Bucks were so much impressive and had strong economic impact on the livelihood of the pastoralists. The local goat breeds are nowadays more resistant to drought and high temperature and the value of the first crossbreds produced by each distributed Damascus buck exceeds the value of those produced by Barki bucks by nearly 25% annually.
- The increased milk production generated income for those women that processed the milk into cheese. The participating women saved family expenditure on milk products and obtained safe food product for family use. The exhibitions organised by APRI were good opportunities for the Bedouin ladies to present their processed products.
- The pastoralists are satisfied from the trainings and other veterinary services they received.

Increasing feed resources availability for Barki sheep and goats.

- The introduced technologies are the best available technologies for the rain fed areas and are all supposed to have a positive impact on the environment (because of the prevailing practices of burning barley straw and crop residuals) and to provide good and cheap source of animal feed.
- Despite the above, 9% only of the interviewed breeders (3 out of 35) are practicing chemical treatments, ii) 4% only of the interviewed breeders (1 out of 35) are practicing both mechanical (threshing all types of available residuals) and chemical treatments; iii) 4% only of the interviewed breeders (1 out of 35) are practicing mechanical treatments only. Only 6% of interviewed pastoralists received acacia seedlings.
- Most of the interviewed breeders were not satisfied of both mechanical and chemical treatments of agricultural residues and of the barley hydro grass technology. It is also too early to evaluate the impact of acacias' seedlings on animals' feedings.
- In conclusion, the hydro grasses and the mechanical and chemical treatments were not paying off especially with pastoralists that have large size of herds while the planted acacia's trees are still too young to produce feeds for animals.

The main recommendations for future projects:

Increasing resilience of Barki sheep and goats to drought conditions and generation of income to the benefit of Bedouin communities.

- To scale out the practices promoted by APRI (e.g., dissemination of heat tolerant Barki rams and cross breeding with Damascus Bucks) provided that i) there is a continuous Governmental support for a sustainable improvement of Barki sheep strain, ii) marketing tools of dairy products made by women are enhanced and iii) marketing strategies for GIs products are promoted in parallel.
- To promote GIs from the livestock sectors (e.g., Barki sheep products and goat cheese) to preserve traditional knowledge and local practices.
- To scale up the mandate of ADBS that is i) indispensable for registering livestock products under GIs and ii) and must play an important role to support breeder and follow up with different activities after project (e.g., organizing the best ram competition and Barki sheep fairs).
- To scale up the empowerment of Bedouin women through ad-hoc livestock value chains development for selected GIs products.
- To promote household animals rearing including the poultry development initiative promoted by FAO to the benefit of women groups.
- To support continuous vaccination campaigns and veterinary services to pastoralists and to plan these services at early stage.
- To increase the trainings in animal production and marketing and in veterinary health care.

- To open doors for exportation which will immensely increase pastoralists' economic resilience especially for this type of sheep that is well known and preferred in the surrounding countries.
- Increasing feed resources availability for Barki sheep and goats.
- To scale out the pasture seedlings (e.g., acacias) distribution practices developed by FAO and to increase the number of beneficiaries of acacias seedlings.
- To increase the trainings in animal feedings. The trainings shall include an assessment of the value of shrubs as fodder.
- To familiarise the pastoralists with mechanical and chemical treatments and better explain to the reasons behind these treatments.
- To provide hydro grasses units to feed household animals, especially lambs/kids and milking goats. Barley hydro grass technology shall be promoted among women and for rearing limited number of herds only.
- To reinforce research activities improving the vegetative cover/increasing grazing capacity in the inland grazing strips (rangeland) of the NWCZ.
- To introduce new fodder crops highly adapted to rain-fed environment (e.g., desmodiums).

Promotion of GIs – a practical approach for boosting local products and culture

EU-JRDP introduced, for the first time in Egypt, the concepts of Geographical Indications (GIs). GIs include i) PDO: Protected Designation of Origin and ii) PGI: Protected Geographical Indication. The concept of GIs is new in Egypt, despite that there are several countries in the region and globally that have been adopting it since many years.

All interventions carried out by EU-JRDP on GIs, were implemented at national level and in Matrouh. Many products in Matrouh in fact have specific traits and characteristics facilitating considerably the identification of products that qualify for GIs. In Egypt, still there is not a specific law protecting the registration of GIs.

By registering a product under GI, the producers acquire a right over the sign that constitutes the indication. The producer, therefore, especially smallholders, can exercise more control over the marketing of their products, combat counterfeiting, and secure a higher share of the value added.

In November 2015, the first workshop on “Good Agricultural Practices on GIs” was organised by EU-JRDP in Marsa Matrouh. One national and one local committees on GIs were formed. Members of the committees were trained. Eight Egyptian representatives from different Egyptian institutions participated to a study tour in Morocco. A 2-day restitution workshop was organized in Cairo to share the lessons learnt from the Moroccan trip. A national workshop was organised in Fayoum. Potential products that qualify for GIs were identified in Matrouh and Fayoum. Three products from Matrouh (olive, grape, and fig) were registered under GIs for the first time in Egypt.

EU-JRDP established a forum on GIs (<http://www.gis-egypt.org/>). The forum (in Arabic and in English) is hosted by MALR and is managed by the GI's focal point. The forum is facilitating farmers, officials, private partners, and international consultants' discussion about GIs in Egypt. Most of the documents produced by EU-JRDP on GIs can be downloaded from the forum.

In the Governorate of Matrouh, EU-JRDP, among others: i) trained and created awareness among local operators about GIs concepts; ii) assisted local authorities to form the Geographical Indication Matrouh Committee (GIMC), iii) reinforced one community-based association (MADAD) that is providing services to 165 members and is aiming at boosting local products by promoting GIs concepts. Three preliminary vocational maps for three crops in Matrouh (fig, grape and olive) were also prepared as a tool for operators to identify the most suitable areas for each selected crop.

Strengthening GIs systems at national level.

- A preliminary GI system for the registration of the first GIs in Egypt was set-up in connection with the ministry of agriculture, ministry of trade and local operators. This system can be used to identify and/or protect additional GIs.
- A list of local or traditional product is available for Matrouh and Fayoum.
- This specific GI protection system provides specific protection for the producers and reassures consumers about origin of products.

Preserving traditional knowledge and practices in the dry-land areas (case of Matrouh).

- Almost 80% of the targeted farmers are participating to the GIs initiative for figs, grapes, and olives (oil).
- All farmers are practicing organic agriculture and integrated pest control methods.
- The participating farmers are using the GI logos and selling their products directly to consumers including in Cairo.
- The consumers are aware of the GI origin of the products.
- GIs products are of better quality mainly because of the dry weather conditions and the nature of the soils in Matrouh.
- The developed GIs are nowadays contributing to: i) maintain jobs in rural areas, ii) boost local economy, iii) support tourism, iv) protect diversity and heritage.

- The promotion of GIs proved to have a direct impact on i) improving market access, ii) adding value to existing products, iii) bringing an exclusive territorial benefit to all actors, iv) preserving traditional knowledge and production methods and, v) creating job opportunities. These performances are expected to have a huge impact on local economy considering the importance of the selected crops on the territory.

The main recommendations for future projects:

Strengthening GIs systems at national level.

- To promote GI system to stimulate the reinforcement of rural communities and community-based associations.
- To declare the selected products “public goods” and register those products under GIs or collective trademark.
- To scale out at national level the existing GI system developed by EU-JRDP in Matrouh.
- To select additional traditional products for registrations of additional GIs. To focus first to those Governorates that have products under rain-fed conditions (including oasis).
- To support the participation in national and international exhibitions to improve marketing.
- To develop code of practices for selected agricultural products.
- To protect original lines/ varieties of typical Egyptian GIs crops in cooperation with MALR.
- To reinforce organizational and institutional structures among producers to better establish a common plan to protect and market GIs.
- To establish association of producers for GIs registration and to reinforce their capacity in GIs protection and registration.
- To prepare marketing strategies for potential GIs products selected by EU-JRDP in Fayoum.
- To carry out extensive training to develop capacity and create awareness about GIs concepts at national level.
- To raise public awareness among consumers on the importance of GIs through different media channels.
- To identify the most appropriate modes of protection for GIs in Egypt (e.g., to protect GIs through a sui generis system, as an individual or a collective trademark).
- To identify and select the most suitable verification process (system of control) for Egypt.
- To build a network of technical partners, policy dialogue partners and other partners from institutions producing the data needed for the analysis from the start.
- To develop a strong legal protection and domestic GI system.
- To provide sustainable support to the already established GIs forum (<http://www.gis-egypt.org>). To promote the existing forum into a better structured “GI platform”.
- To draft ad-hoc laws for GIs effective protection at national level.
- To start registration of Egyptian GIs abroad.

Preserving traditional knowledge and practices in the dry-land areas (case of Matrouh).

- To assist local organizational and institutional structures among producers during the preparation of long-term marketing plans tailored-made to GIs products for consistent market positioning.
- To assist MADAD for i) identifying and fairly demarcating a GI and, ii) organizing GIs practices and standards.
- To extend the registration process to additional crops (e.g., summer watermelon, dates, mint).
- To scale up the mandate of the already established MADAD associations that is called to register additional agricultural products under GIs.
- To promote GIs from the livestock sectors.
- To scale up the mandate of ADBS that is called to register livestock products under GIs.
- To scale up the empowerment of Bedouin women through ad-hoc value chains development for selected GIs products.

The added value of gender aspects within EU-JRDP

In Matrouh, Minya and Fayoum governorates, EU-JRDP, mainstreamed gender aspects in connection with i) water sanitation for the cisterns rehabilitated for domestic use, ii) the production of dairy products, iii) solid waste management, iv) GAPs in agriculture, v) pottery and community kitchen, vi) GAPs in horticulture, etc. It is estimated that a total of about 3,700 women and 70 women groups directly benefitted from EU-JRDP interventions. EU-JRDP in fact, through his grantees has always paid attention to the role of women, with some activities being more focused towards them.

In Matrouh for instance, 70 women' groups benefitted from home gardening and 76 women benefitted of awareness campaigns in GIs. Bedouin women are responsible for processing the additional goats' milk obtained through other interventions of the programme. EU-JRDP promoted activities in relation with poultry/goats' development to the benefit of women groups. The incomes of women and the nutritional status of their family increased thank to the introduction of homestead gardens.

In Minya and Fayoum, EU-JRDP established a Women Farmers' Association (WFA) producing seedlings and horticultural crops. EU-JRDP created 13 start-ups for the collection and processing of agricultural and non-agricultural residues, which provide an income to 13 women. 1,654 part time jobs for women were created for the collection and sorting of agricultural and household wastes. EU-JRDP promoted a community kitchen that is providing income to rural women in Tunis village.

The interventions promoted by EU-JRDP are aiming at i) improving the demand for gender mainstreamed labour (strengthening business environment, access to inputs, services, and markets) and ii) improving the supply for gender mainstreamed labour (strengthening the supply of economics' opportunities to women).

The first case (strengthening the demand side for women labour), refers to interventions influencing positively the demand-side for improving the gender-oriented demand such as: provision of ad-hoc trainings tailor made for gender, strengthening the business environment facilitating the demand for women, or facilitating the access to inputs, services, and markets for women, drafting ad-hoc legislations and policies facilitating women labour...

The second case (improving the supply for gender mainstreamed labour), refers to interventions promoting economic opportunities to the benefit of women such as for instance the promotion of income opportunities, the creation of start-ups, the support of business opportunities...

Improving the demand for gender mainstreamed labour (strengthening business environment, access to inputs, services and markets).

- In Minya and Fayoum, most women received information about EU-JRDP activities through community associations (44% of the sample), advertisement printed at the village's religious institutions (26%), neighbours and friends (8%). In Matrouh the situation is different (women in Matrouh have limited authority to move outside houses): women received the information through the visit of project/governmental staff.
- The main reason for women to participate in project activities was related with economic factor (e.g., to increase their family income or to promote small business which will increase family income).
- Almost the totality of the trainees interviewed declared that the main benefit of the trainings they received was related with the learning process (learn new topics and add new information).
- Only 29 interviewees (out of 50) received additional training outside EU-JRDP and all of them based in Minya and Fayoum (none from Matrouh). The large majority of those who were trained was through NGOs.
- To the question "which is the difference between previous and current project you benefitted", 27% of the 22 women that replied declared that they earned more money in the previous project while 18% said that they earned more money in the current project. Meanwhile, 16% of women preferred the support received from EU-JRDP because was better technically and financially.
- To the question "who takes decision on the use of money in your family, 79% of women declared that they decide together with the husband while the remaining 21% said that they take decision alone.
- Only 41% of the women (all in Minya and Fayoum) that received the training started new business after.
- The provision of ad-hoc financial services tailor-made for women is the main factor influencing the demand for gender. Ad-hoc financial services are in fact the most important support that can positively affect the demand for gender labour.

Improving the supply for gender mainstreamed labour (strengthening the supply of economics' opportunities to women).

- Birds/small ruminants (Minya and Fayoum) or dairy products/small ruminants (Matrouh) as well as eggs' production are the most successful small business activities promoted by EU-JRDP. Those activities are generating high incomes in the short period. Sorting and packing vegetables/seedlings' production and the community kitchen (Fayoum) are also successful income generating opportunities. The milk processing activity in Matrouh on the contrary is mainly perceived by the promoters for family use and not for generating income.
- The main constraints women are facing to start new business are related with the unavailability of ad-hoc financial services (main factor), followed by educational barrier (women with technical diploma are more willing to do small business) and lack of information.
- Most of the interviewed women are satisfied from the support they received in terms of non-refundable materials and inputs. Women are also satisfied with the clean environment in the villages and in the houses and the increased family income because of processing solid wastes.

- Almost half of the interviewed people believes that the activities promoted by EU-JRDP are increasing family incomes and said incomes are mainly used to cover houses' expenses. In Minya and Fayoum in fact, most women who got extra income used it for buying food, medicines and paying for education of children.
- More than 80 % of the customers appreciate the products obtained by women (e.g., home birds, eggs, cheese, packed vegetables, meals).
- More than 70% of the women sold their products by themselves.

The main recommendations for future projects:

Improving the demand for gender mainstreamed labour (strengthening business environment, access to inputs, services and markets).

- To prepare future project proposals containing the following interventions tailor made to support the demand for gender: i) provision of ad-hoc trainings tailor made for gender, ii) strengthening the business environment facilitating the demand for women, iii) facilitating the access to inputs, services and markets for women, iv) drafting ad-hoc legislations and policies facilitating women labour, v) integrating health and education aspects tailor-made to women, vi) improving the governance of gender aspects, vii) removing structural barriers and gender norms that govern ownership of assets, viii) promoting effective access of women to productive resources and entrepreneurship, ix) reinforcing managerial and advocacy capacity and other skills tailor made for women, x) promoting businesses and other economic opportunities for women, etc.
- To include in project proposals ad-hoc activities i) building women's self-confidence, ii) developing their negotiating and network-building skills, iii) empowering women to take action to address their needs.
- To embed health and gender aspects as well as the environmental, nutrition for children and mother health awareness concepts in basic training packages on GAPs,
- To integrate education aspects into trainings to promote change, gender equality, personal wellbeing and create a better environment for women under traditional pressures.
- To reinforce entrepreneurial training aiming at enhancing commercial opportunities, self-esteem, knowledge, and skills to act on them.
- To provide ad-hoc trainings tailor made for gender facilitating the access to inputs, services and markets.
- To promote gender equality and create a better environment for girls under traditional pressures
- To promote ad-hoc legislations and policies facilitating women labour at early stage of project design.
- To increase women representation in the management committees and women participation in the farmers' groups and their representation in the elected committees.
- To facilitate deeper policy dialogue and inclusion of gender aspects into national policy processes.
- To promote networking with strong local community institutions and national council for women to have governmental and non-governmental accreditation
- To continue to provide support to the established RWADA as well as to the other women's groups in small animals and birds' production, community kitchen groups... supported by EU-JRDP.
- To expand advertisement in different ways and locations to ensure reaching women who have no access to association to ensure equal opportunity and that services reaches disaggregated women.

Improving the supply for gender mainstreamed labour (strengthening the supply of economics' opportunities to women).

- To provide ad-hoc financial services tailor-made for women and to increase women demand for financial services.
- To promote GIs with strong involvement of women in processing, post harvesting operations, handmade crafts...
- To empower women through ad-hoc value chains development for selected agricultural and handmade GIs products.
- To scale out the poultry and bird development, household small animal production, backyard horticultural production, community kitchens... to the benefit of women groups.
- To increase involvement of women in projects promoting the use of wastes to be reused for agricultural production and the generation of additional income.

