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# ADVANCING THE BLUE REVOLUTION INITIATIVE

**WUA WOMEN MINI-WORKSHOP REPORT**

**TAMELLAT MAY 16, 2009**

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**TAMELLAT MAY 16, 2009**

**Ouiam Lahlou and Amer Jabarin**

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

## Objectives of the workshop

The main objective of the mini-workshop is to conduct a situation analysis of the gender issues in the project's targeted area in Tamellalt.

## Workshop approach

**Organization:** The workshop was organized in full collaboration with the gender specialist at the ORMVAH office in Marrakech, Ms. Yamna Ait Chitt. The team was also accompanied with Ms. Uguette, a French volunteer working with the ORMVAH on rural women issues.



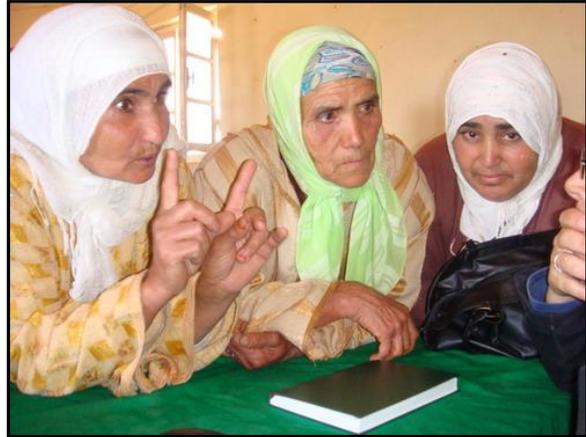
**The Venue:** the workshop took place at the center of the Rural Woman Development Society at Tamellalt on May 16, 2009. The meeting started at 2:00 PM and ended around 5:00 PM. More than 45 rural women attended the workshop in addition to few of their husbands.

**Discussed Issues:** The workshop dealt with several issues. Dr.Ouiam, the facilitator of the workshop started with the main streaming issue the "WATER and its' relationship with women activities in the region". The following are the main issue related to the current situation in the region:



- Women deal with only domestic water (water used inside the house). The water is brought by women from the source (the well) twice a day.
- Men are responsible for irrigation water. They take all decisions related to irrigation water on the farm and the distribution of water among the other members of the WUA.
- Women are also involved in many of the farm activities especially those related to livestock such as milking, cheese processing, etc.
- The majority of the land in the targeted area is owned by men, except those parcels owned by widows. However, it should be stated here that widows cannot do the irrigation directly. Usually they authorize a man to perform the irrigation on their behalf since this process involves certain on-farm procedures which are done only by men.
- The main obstacles facing women in the area in relation to water:

- Much of the land in the village lacks wells. This means, that these lands cannot be cultivated with any crops. However, the women currently use it as a natural pasture for animal grazing.
- Other lands also lack irrigation water because the level of water table has dropped and the wells got dry. It is believed that these wells should be deepened to a minimum of 100 meters to get water.



**Immense Needs:**

The group discussions with the women revealed that the following are needed:

- Needs related to water resources:
  - Digging wells in the fallow lands which can be used to cultivate forage crops as animal feeds;
  - Deepening the current wells to provide water for all purposes; and
  - Two of the women cooperatives requested a support to build a water reservoir for domestic uses.
- Needs related to agricultural activities:
  - As a result of the brainstorming session, the ABRI team was able to rank the needs of the participated women for crops and other food products as follows:
    - About 10 percent of the women requested support for producing the Caper plant;
    - Around 10 percent requested support for establishing plants nursery for producing seedlings and ornamental plants;
    - About 10 percent requested support for producing aromatic plants;
    - About 40 percent believed that processing of green and black olives using traditional recipes could generate more incomes for woman and increase the added-value of olives produced in the village;
  - Following the identification of the women needs, Dr. Ouïam delivered a presentation on the potentials of producing the Tapenade product in the region. There was a consensus among the whole group that the Tapenade



is a highly potential product that can be produced by the women in the region for the following reasons:

- There will be no need for additional lands for olive production, at least in the short run since they will get a fraction of the current olives to produce the Tapenade;
- In comparison with the other proposed requests by the women, the Tapenade dose not requires additional water sources for processing.

