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Part 3

Country Papers

INTEGRATION OF THE ALGERIAN WOMAN IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND HER ROLE IN THE WATER MANAGEMENT

C. Ait-Ameur*

* Department of Rural Economy, Agronomic National Institute of Algiers

The Algerian women take a fundamental place in the agricultural production, rural development and food security. Their economic and producing activities contribute essentially to the family need which come primarily from agriculture (food crops and ground rent), and other processing...

However, the rural women are always exposed to many problems, which limit their goodwill to integrate an agriculture, which uses modern techniques in particular the irrigation. The access to the ground and the property rights constitute the principal constraints of their adhesion to the development. This situation challenges the governments, the international institutions and the non-governmental organization for the promotion of the rural woman in order to adopt strategies, which allow a better integration of the woman in a durable development.

A long time where marginalized in policies of rural development, the women appeared, during this last year, the significant actors in the social groups reproduction and, sometimes, in relation to the economic crises, like an essential family actors and social survival.

Today major changes appear in the rural community:

- transfer of the authority in the communities resources,
- accelerated monetarisation,
- Affirmation of individual strategies (departure of the dependents, head of family...)

The women, especially in rural community, remain attached to the values, which melt their social status and their identity.

Major reactions appear in our community, like:

- The feeling of inequality and injustice concerning the access to the production factors, to the formation ...
- The will to seem essential actors in the decision-makings.

In general, by considering as reference the censuses and investigations carried out in some Arab countries we observe that the woman participation in the economic life remains very weak. According to some indicators, Algeria shows the weakest rate of participation: 10, 8 % in Algeria, 15, 5 % in Egypt, 17, 5 % in Tunisia and 22, 8 % in Jordan.

Furthermore, this contribution of the Arab woman, to the economic life relates especially to the sector of agriculture. The weakness to the agricultural landed property (ground) access constitutes the principal obstacle to the woman promotion. More especially as the policies of land distributions in our country give the privilege to the men.

In Algeria, the examination of the employment evolution, by branch of industry, shows that the women employment develops apart from the productive sector. A downward trend of the women labor in the total activity was recorded, particularly agriculture with a rate with the fall of 2, 22%.

The rural women in Algeria represent more than 49 % of the female population. The participation of the rural woman employment does not reflect the real participation in the development. Indeed, for the women, the assistance to the agricultural activities does not appear in the statistic official documents.

STRATEGIES:

Recently many associations are created (co-operative) through the own territory. Case of a national association (ANFDR):

National Association Woman and Rural Development: ANDFR

The activities, which are undertaken, relate to the multiform aspects of the life in rural community: agriculture and locals handicrafts, environment, health and family planning. The various actions carried out by association consist:

- To identify different projects to improve the women productivity in the agricultural fields;
- To support the productive women in order to improve the quality of their production, to develop marketing networks;
- To assist the women to access to the various sources of financing;
- To inform and vulgarize the social safety devices, in particular the law on the domestic industry and part-time work which concerns the majority of the rural women;
- To sensitize the rural women for their effective implication in the process and circuits of natural resource management (in particular water);
- To establish research on their ability and the traditional activities of these women for their valorization.

CONSTRAINTS OF DEVELOPMENT

In rural region, the women labor concern only by small and average farm.

- They concern especially by the local's handicrafts activities, which regarded as secondary resources and are not associated to the management and the marketing production coming from the principal activity (agriculture);
- A very high rate of illiteracy;
- Woman Statute, heritage, capacity to pose commercial acts, access to the ground as an owner;
- Access and equality in labor, the functions and remunerations to the subsidies and allowances, social and family.

PROSPECT AND PROJECT OF DEVELOPMENT IN FAVOR OF INTEGRATION OF THE ALGERIAN RURAL WOMAN

The agriculture ministry introduced recently many actions in the short terms to the support the technical aid of the women in order to reinforce the production capacity of their exploitation. These actions concern:

- The integration in the national system production of vulgarization of a personnel female in order to identify the women farmer, their aspirations and the generating activities of incomes, to elaborate a specific program to the rural women and to evaluate the carried out actions,
- The development of an inter-sector strategy for a total assumption expressed by the rural women.

The various projects intended:

1. "Integration of the woman in the rural development" with the contribution of the Arab organization for the agricultural development (OADA 02 years). It has an immediate objective to create a female agricultural assistance, which will specialize in vulgarization in favor of the rural women who activate in the agricultural sector.
2. "Integration of the rural woman in the development ". This project financed by FAO July 1993. The effects expected by this project aim at the emergence of an associative movement female, able to take part in the actions of rural development and to develop the role of the rural woman in the socio-economic development.
3. "Rural Employment" with the contribution of the World Bank the objective is the creation of 39000 employments.

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