

Female entrepreneurship – ITALY

The experience of ONILFA “National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture”.



The “National Observatory for Female Enterprise and Labour in Agriculture” (ONILFA) was founded in 1997 by the Italian “Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry policies” (MiPAAF) as an Institutional instrument aimed to verify actual employment possibilities for women in the rural sector, and formulate the necessary strategies.

Website www.onilfa.gov.it

ONILFA is involved in several projects at the National and International level for the promotion of woman’s role in agriculture and for allowing **new business opportunities for women’s farms** (in particular concerning **wine** and **quality food** trading).

International events organised by ONILFA at: <http://www.onilfa.gov.it/Fiere-Eventi/Internazionali>

National events organised by ONILFA at: <http://www.onilfa.gov.it/Fiere-Eventi/Nazionali>

Every year the Observatory organizes the Italian celebration of the World Rural Women’s Day as a way of emphasizing women’s vital contribution to food security and safety and to the development of rural areas (during the event a special award is given to women managing innovative and successful farms).

Link at: www.onilfa.gov.it/De-Terra

ONILFA is also partner of international projects dealing with rural development:

- *GEWAMED Project*: (Mainstreaming Gender Dimension into Water resources Development and management in the Mediterranean Region) Main purpose of the project is to contribute to the mainstreaming of gender in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Mediterranean Region, thus making water management more efficient and equitable. (financed by EU).
- *TERCOM Project*: Activation of mechanism to support rural territories and communities in Lebanon after the 2006 war in these territories. Within this project it has been created in 2008 an Observatory in Lebanon similar to the ONILFA called NOWARA, as a tool to sustain good agricultural practices through women activities. (financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- In 2010 the Italian Observatory has launched a project involving rural women in Haiti to transfer know how and best practices in the multifunctional sector with special reference to rural kindergartens.

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