



Press release: Khartoum, 14 August 2018 - 1st meeting of the National Committee of Experts for the elaboration of the Sudan's National Strategy on Gender and Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Resources 2019-2023

In the framework of the support of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to the Ministry of Agriculture of Sudan for the elaboration of the *National Strategy on Gender and Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Resources 2019-2023*, the National Committee of Experts has held its first meeting yesterday, 14 August 2018.

The Committee is composed by 15 Sudanese professionals in the field of gender, agriculture, economic development, environment, strategic planning, statistics, and social security, representing various governmental and ministries, the academia and research institutions. The meeting was led by Ms. Carla Pagano – Gender Expert at the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and Ms. Asma Muddathir, Head of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit at the federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Resources.

The meeting discussed the gender aspects of the food security and safety, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and animal husbandry sectors in Sudan, and the challenges and opportunities that affects the Sudanese farmers in urban, peri-urban and rural agriculture in different areas of the country. The participants focused on the importance to protect farmers' and rural peoples' rights in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and on how to integrate them into the Strategy that will be developed over the next nine months.

The National Committee of Experts will hold at least nine meetings within the coming nine months to guide the elaboration of the National Strategy on Gender and Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Resources 2019-2023.

The initiative is part of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation programme TADMEEN that is the result of the commitment of Sudanese institutions in the fields of social and human development, especially in child protection, gender and disability. The initiative is in line with the Sudan National Development Strategy as well as with sector-based acts, policies and development plans issued by the Sudanese institutions, both at the federal and state level.