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MANPOWER TRAINING IN THE FIELD OF WATER/WASTEWATER

by

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ESTABLISHMENT OF CEHA

CEHA is the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities. It has become operational in 1985 after the agreement reached between the Government of Jordan and WHO for the hosting of the Centre in Amman. The Centre is part of the Environmental Health Division of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) of WHO in Alexandria, Egypt. The Centre offers services to 22 Member States of the Region, in addition to what is provided by the Regional Office in the field of environmental health.

Promotion of environmental health is a major area of WHO activities. WHO has long recognized that a healthy environment is an essential prerequisite for the health of the individuals and for the quality of life.

MANDATE OF CEHA

The main mandate of CEHA is to promote environmental health. In order to fulfill its mandate, CEHA is aiming to:

- Support the development and strengthening of national institutional capabilities and programmes
- Provide flow of information to and between Member States
- Promote health awareness in relation to development and environment in the Region
- Strengthen the scientific and technical basis of environmental health work in the Region.

WHO/CEHA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TECHNICAL AREAS

Centre's activities constitute a component of the regional programme and are developed in close coordination and cooperation with both the Regional Office and WHO's environmental health interventions at country level.

The programmes include the following technical areas for the promotion of environmental health:

- Community Water Supply and Sanitation (CWS)
- Control of Environmental Health Hazards (CEH)
- Food Safety (FOS)
- Chemical Safety (PCS)
- Environmental Health in Rural and Urban Development and Housing (RUD)
- Environmental Health in Refugee Camps (RCE)

CEHA ACTIVITIES

In achieving its objectives, CEHA basically carries out the following activities:

1. Training/human resources development (HRD)
2. Information exchange (CEHANET)
3. Special studies/applied research
4. Technical cooperation

Another most important task of CEHA is to follow up on the recommendations produced during regional consultation meetings, plans of action proposed in the short term consultants and/or WHO staff mission reports.

MANPOWER TRAINING

Shortage of trained professionals/technical personnel is a major handicap to progress in the field of environmental health in the Region. Training/HRD activities of CEHA is aiming at filling this gap so that there will be better changes for the fulfillment of the essential goal of WHO "HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000". During the first six years (1985-1990) of CEHA's existence, training activities of CEHA concentrated most of its efforts on "Community Water Supply and Sanitation" field to meet the challenges of the "International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1980-1990)".

WHO has got its historical interest in drinking water quality and treated effluent quality for reuse as they have direct impact on human health. Within this framework of interest, CEHA initiated a campaign of introduction and promotion of 1984 Drinking Water Quality Guidelines, offering Member States to hold national seminars for possible adoption by national authorities in forming their drinking water standard. About 15 countries accepted this offer and national seminars held. Now CEHA is preparing another campaign for introducing and promoting 1993 Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

Later in 1991, CEHA launched similar campaign of national seminars on "Wastewater Effluent Reuse" to introduce and promote 1989 Health Guidelines for the Use of Wastewater in Agriculture and Aquaculture covering 14 Member States within three years.

MODES OF TRAINING

Training activities of CEHA offered to Member States may be in the following modes: training courses; workshops; seminars; conferences and consultation meetings. The training activities of CEHA may either be at a national level in those modes mentioned, to be held in Member States or it may be at regional (intercountry) level which is usually held in its premises.

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF SUBJECTS FOR TRAINING

Following are the channels through which subject of CEHA training activities are identified:

1. National Level:

- a. Officials of the country environmental health institutions may request a training on any field of environmental health;
- b. Subject for a national training may be identified by CEHA based on the recommendations produced during regional consultation meetings;
- c. The current environmental health problems faced in Region were prioritized in the "Regional Strategy for Health and Environment". One of these areas of highest priority may be the subject of a national training activity;
- d. Subject of a national training may also be identified by CEHA from the recommendations of the mission reports of STCs and/or WHO staff visited Member States.

2. Regional Level:

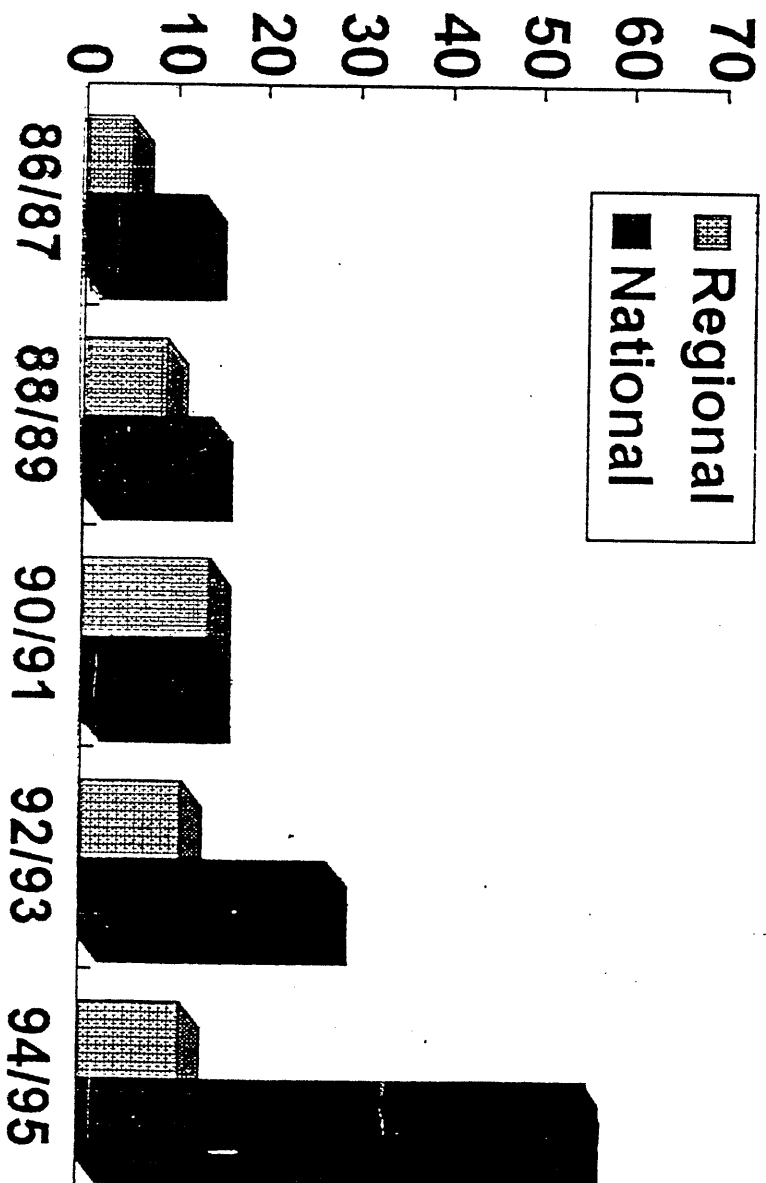
- a. Global and regional strategies for health and environment have identified some areas of high priority. One of these areas may be identified as a subject of a regional meeting;
- b. WHO/HQ or any other UN or regional organizations may propose a regional meeting for co-organization;
- c. Any regional meeting which may not be held in a biennium may be shifted to the next biennium.

CEHA TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Figure 1 shows the number of national and regional meetings held during the present and the past biennia. From Figure 1 it is clear that for training activities, emphasis is shifting from regional level to national level. For the cost of one average regional level meeting, about four national level meetings can be held. For a regional meeting, one or maximum two participants are invited from Member States, whereas 25-30 or more participants take part in the national training activities. Now, it is the policy of CEHA to organize such expensive regional meeting for the training of trainers only. Participants to regional meetings should function as trainers during the national training activities which will be organized in their countries.

CEHA has trained about 2850 national staff during the first nine years (1985-1993) until the present biennium through national and regional training activities. Majority (90%) of this training was achieved through national level training activities, while only a small portion (10%) were trained through regional activities. In the coming years, in every biennium about 1800 national staff are expected to be trained. CEHA, with its current resources, will be able to train about 9000 national staff in different areas of environmental health by the year 2000.

Regional and National Meetings



MANPOWER TRAINING IN WATER/WASTEWATER FIELD

Table 1 shows the number of CEHA training activities through the bienniums.

Table 1: Training Activities of CEHA

Biennium	National			Regional		
	Total Training Activities	Training on Water/Wastewater	%	Total Training Activities	Training on Water/Wastewater	%
1994-95	57	14	24	11	3	27
1992-93	27	14	52	11	3	27
1990-91	14	10	71	13	5	38
1988-89	14	12	86	8	3	38
1986-87	13	11	85	4	3	75

It can clearly be observed that, diversification is taking place on the subjects of the training activities of CEHA through bienniums.