Founded in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is an intergovernmental organisation composed of thirteen member states (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

CIHEAM is at the service of its member states to promote multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean in the fields of agriculture, food, fishery and rural territories, aiming to respond to the needs of the States and of the agro-food actors.

CIHEAM pursues this cooperation mission through specialised training, networked research, scientific diplomacy and political partnership. Thanks to its activities, CIHEAM therefore contributes to the elaboration of a global, structural and engaging vision for development in the Mediterranean. Providing concrete solutions, sharing experiences and promoting useful knowledge are among the main objectives of each one of its actions.

Around 170 permanent agents and hundreds of consultants regularly work within the 5 headquarters of the Organisation: the 4 Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAI) based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France), and Zaragoza (Spain); the General Secretariat is located in Paris (France), and are at the same time active in the Mediterranean countries to develop activities and projects.


ciheam.org
Name and Position of the Delegate
Vigan Dervishi
Adviser to the Minister, Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

Advisory Board Member
Tatjana Dishnica
Professor, Agricultural University of Tirana

Education and Training
CIHEAM MSc and SPD cycles (from 2003/2004-to 2014/2015)
164 Albanian students including 157 scholarships
336 Albanian participants including 280 scholarships

Main current projects and networks
MOAN, MED-Amin, No-Ble Ideas, Cooperative Network on Olive Oil Authentification, Medland, BiodivBalkans

Last political event with Albania
Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration and CIHEAM in order to strengthen the cooperation, Tirana, April 14th, 2014
Participation in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture, Palermo, November 28th, 2014
9th Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture in South Eastern Europe, Tirana, 11-12 November 2015

Last publication

To be recorded
In April 2009, the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania officially notified the rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana that the Ministry recognised the MSc Degree awarded by CIHEAM as equivalent to the second-level Master’s Degree awarded by Albanian Universities
Albania has been, since its adhesion in 1992, involved in all the Meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of the CIHEAM Member Countries. It has participated in 8 meetings on 10, with the level of minister. CIHEAM organised the first meeting of its thirteen member countries’ ministers of agriculture in 1999. The aim was to establish a dialogue between Mediterranean countries on agricultural and rural issues and enable them to agree on a common approach to them. These biennial ministerial meetings provide an opportunity for discussion of agricultural, food and rural issues in the Mediterranean area. The strategic dimension of these meetings is enhanced by the participation of the major international organisation active in the region.

The ministers of agriculture of the 13 member states of CIHEAM, or their representatives, met in Algiers on the 6th of February 2014. Organised by Algeria, this meeting took place in the presence of many representatives of international organisations, including the General Director of FAO. The discussions focused on the sustainable food security in the Mediterranean Basin. This was the 10th multilateral meeting of this type organised in fifteen years, demonstrating hence the capacity of the CIHEAM member states to gather regularly around these strategic issues of agriculture, food, and rural territories. Mr. Jani Babi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was the head of the Albanian Delegation to this 10th CIHEAM Ministerial Meeting in Algiers. Mr. Babi praised the “fruitful cooperation” with CIHEAM in the fields of training, technical assistance, projects, and studies. He said “I am confident that this meeting will further encourage the debate and boost the capacity of CIHEAM, will mobilize all levels in the Mediterranean region to strengthen cooperation on issues facing Mediterranean agriculture, strengthening the dialogue between our member countries especially to those European Union members to support us for a sustainable development of agriculture, implementation of joint projects in the dynamism of the private sector in overcoming the challenges and economic constraints arising from the globalization of exchanges of agricultural products”.
Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture (2014)

In the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, on the 28 November 2014, the Italian Authorities have organised a Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture in Palermo (Sicily) and focused on Young Generations and Research in Agriculture. Ministers or Representatives of 27 countries from the European Union, the Balkans, North Africa and the Middle East as well FAO Director General and several international and regional organisations (European Commission, UfM, ICARDA, CEJA, SWG-RDD) participated to the Conference. Albania was represented at the highest level with the presence of H.E. M. Edmond Panariti, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and Water Administration.

2015 Main Event

With Albania, a meeting was held in Paris on the 20 February 2015 on the margins of the International Forum organised in France with Mr. E. Panariti, Minister of Agriculture and the delegate. This was an opportunity to discuss a number of projects in Albania and further the political dialogue with this country that signed a MoU in 2014. Albania will also host the next 12th Ministerial meeting of the CIHEAM.

From 11 to 13 November 2015, at the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. E. Panariti, CIHEAM participated in the 9th Annual Working Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture in South Eastern Europe (SEE) organized in Tirana by the Albanian Authorities and by the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG). The Secretary General of CIHEAM started his statement by reminding that the first meeting of the ministers of agriculture from Balkan countries was held in April 2004 at CIHEAM-Bari and that Albania has been a very active member state of CIHEAM since the adhesion in 1992. “The fact that CIHEAM is working with your countries is not only linked to Geography. History explains the present: Yugoslavia, in 1962, was one of the seven founding Member countries of CIHEAM”, the Secretary General underlined. “Considering the huge challenges in terms of food security and rural development, recently confirmed through the different international events like Expo Milano or decisions as the new Post-2015 Development Agenda and its 17 SDGs, we are convinced that our mission will be stronger and more efficient by enhancing the cooperation not only with all the Mediterranean Countries but also with the South-Eastern European Countries” he stated during this Ministerial meeting focused on rural areas.
In April 14th 2014, Albanian authorities and CIHEAM signed in Tirana a Memoranda of Understanding.

Cosimo Lacirignola, Secretary General of CIHEAM, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration (MARDWA) of Albania, H.E. Edmond Panariti. This MoU aims to strengthen the cooperation with Albania that became member state of CIHEAM in 1992.

MARDWA and CIHEAM wish to develop cooperative relations in order to support human development, sustainability, knowledge management, technical and post academic training, agricultural and food security research and applied research at national and international level. This agreement provided for cooperative activities in the field of Agricultural, Rural Development and fishing.

The Albanian Ministry of Rural Development and Water Administration and CIHEAM agreed on a list of priority areas to develop cooperation: develop an Institutional support, management of natural resources and sustainable development, Rural Development, Aquaculture and Agro-ecology in order to approach food security field.
Focus on the relationship with CIHEAM-Bari

CIHEAM-Bari has been very actively cooperating with the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration, and the Agriculture University of Tirana. It has been involved in many capacity building, short and specialized courses of Albanian experts in the fields of irrigation, extension service, improvement of quality of agriculture products, management of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity, and valorization of territory management. Very important technical assistance was provided to the Agriculture University of Tirana, and one Meteo Station was donated and installed in the University.

The first project of Italian cooperation in Albania (EU INTERREG) was implemented by CIHEAM-Bari in close cooperation with the Puglia region, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture University of Tirana, with local administrations, the Albanian Academy of Science as well as with different agriculture associations like KASH, the Albanian Council of Agrobusiness, the Bioadra, Association of biological products, Albinspect Tirana, Bio AlBo, and the Association of Biologic Agriculture.

Focus on the relationship with CIHEAM-Montpellier

- 10 International courses were organized from 1998 to 2011 by the Agriculture University of Tirana and CIHEAM-Montpellier. 202 persons participated to the courses, the last one being on Rural Development, Identification of Local Products, and Biodiversity (1-8 May 2011).

- A specialized training dealing with Management of communal forests and agro-silvo-pastoralism, gathered 15 participants on June 2011 in the Institute of Montpellier. This training financed by the World Bank, aimed at presenting the French experience in terms of Mediterranean Communal forests management and targeted the Forest Albanian Services, and the local managers of the communitarian forests.

- In March 2015, the CIHEAM-Montpellier hosted a delegation from the University of Tirana composed of the Vice-Rector of research, scientific cooperation and projects, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, the Dean of the Faculty of Biotechnology and Food and the UAT's coordinator for relations with institutions in France. The discussed points were:
  - Collaborations and joint studies or double degrees at Scientific Master level in the fields of Economy, Agribusiness, Food Security and Food Technology,
  - Joint projects, financed by the European Community (HORIZON 2020 or Erasmus Plus),
  - Bilateral cooperation projects,
  - Bilateral exchanges between the UAT and CIHEAM-Montpellier,
  - Invitations to French teachers who will teach in the fields mentioned above,
  - Collaboration with the Institute of Economic Research and Knowledge Exchange (part of the Faculty of Economy and Agribusiness) to evaluate the effectiveness of the development of specific products of the territory, typology of farms, development of forest products etc...

- The 4th Albania Workshop was organized by the IDEMEC (Institute d'Ethnologie Méditerranéenne, Européenne et Comparative), the CETOBAC (Centre d’Etudes Turques, Ottomanes, Balkaniques et Centrasiatiques) and the CIHEAM- Montpellier in 1-2 June 2015 at CIHEAM- Montpellier.
**FORMER STUDENTS FOCUS**

**Tokli Thomaj** is a professor at the Agricultural University of Tirana. He holds a PhD in Postharvest Technology. He studied at the University of Aristotle of Thessaloniki and in CIHEAM-Chania (M.Sc. in Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences from 1991 to 1993). In recent years, he was Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection in Albania. He currently works as a lecturer in horticulture and food technology at the Agricultural University of Tirana. He has written about 26 scientific articles and books related to his field of research.

**Fatmir Guri** finished a M.Sc., at CIHEAM-Montpellier in 2002. His master thesis deals with the farming strategies in coastal areas in Albania and the duality existing between the agriculture and tourism. In 2009 he finished his PhD thesis in SupAgro of Montpellier. The PhD thesis deals with land market on the coastal areas of Albania and the policy instruments to improve the resource management. From 2002 he works as a lecturer of Economics of natural resources and environment at the Agricultural University of Tirana. From 2012, he is completing a post-doctoral research period at the European Commission, Joint Research Center, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (JRC-IPTS) dealing mainly with farming systems in the EU and candidate countries.

**Myrta Arben** graduated from the Agriculture University of Tirana in 1985. He obtained his M.Sc from CIHEAM-Bari in 1994 in Plant Virology and his PhD from the University of Bari in 1999 on Crop Protection. He was from 1999-2007 a researcher at CIHEAM-Bari, coordinating research and teaching activities on fruit tree crops. He was the coordinator of the Mediterranean Network on Fruit Tree Viruses from 2000-2005. He is author or co-author of more than 250 scientific papers and 2 books, whereas he has acted as scientific editor for other 14 books. He acts as paper reviewer of many international journals and is member of board of two of them. Actually he is also a member of board of the Italian Society of Nematology. Now he is a European Development Manager for the company Certis Europe, based in Brussels, dealing with the research and development of new soil plant protection products to be registered at EU level.
**Pandeli Pasko**, graduated in agronomy from the University of Tirana, specialized in disease resistance at INRA-Montfavet (1989-1990). He was the first Albanian CIHEAM’s student at Zaragoza from 1990-1993, where his MSc research “A study on pepper resistance to PVY” won the price of the best year CIHEAM thesis for putting in evidence new resistance genes. Ambassador of Albania in Italy, Israel and Malta as well as Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP (1995-1998), he worked for setting up the FAO Network on greenhouses in Southern and Eastern Europe countries as well as for other FAO and IFAD projects in Albania and in other countries (2001-2006). Since 2003, he coordinates and contributes to the management of regional and country projects implemented by CIHEAM-Bari in the Balkan area.

**Mithat Mema** is since 2010 Rector of the Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës (AMUD), Albania. He graduated in Finance from the Agricultural University of Tirana in 1989, and in 1998 was awarded a Master of Science in Rural Planning in Relation to the Environment by CIHEAM-Zaragoza. In 2006 he completed his PhD in Economics at Zaragoza University. Since 2006 he has worked as a professor in the Department of Economy at the Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës (AMUD). From 2008 to 2010 he was appointed Deputy Rector of this University.
Establishment and promotion of new approaches and tools for the strengthening of primary sector’s competitiveness and innovation in south East Europe (APP4INNO)

The project addresses the low competitiveness of the agricultural SMEs due to the lack of innovation, R&D and internationalization services. It focuses on the innovation potentials by the high quality/traditional productions and establishes a transnational platform of services for the support of innovation, technology transfer and cooperation of SMEs for their competitiveness in the international markets.

http://www.app4inno.com/

Albanian Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection of Albania

Innovative Rural Development Strategy based on local and transnational (IRENE)

Promoting structural change and restructuring employment through the diversification of rural economy based on the setting up of local and transnational Multifunctional Economic Networks (2000-2006).


Albanian Partner

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

Conservation of Endemic rarities and transborder organism for nature of Italy and Albania (CERATONIA)

Conservation of biodiversity by conservation of genetic resource; reproduction and economic employment of selected vegetal species; formulation of catalogues of procedures, rules and treatments to ensure the reproduction of the same species; diffusion of selected species in the Mediterranean countries; Application of best practices and procedures among public/private bodies (2000-2006).

http://www.ceratonia.unile.it

Albanian Partners

Ministry of Environmental, Forestry and Water Management
University of Tirana
Remotely Accessed Decision Support System for Transnational Environmental Risk Management (STRIM)

Establish a remotely and commonly accessed system for decision support of risk management at the transnational level, comprising a user-friendly automated Risk assessment model linked to GIS environment for implementing best practice and a complete set of documents and software available to the users in order to examine and justify alternative scenarios (2006-2008).

http://strim.maich.gr

Albanian Partners

*Institute of Informatics and Applied Mathematics*

*Center for Geographical Studies*
Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN)
MOAN is an institutional Network created in 2006 (first, it was launched in 1999 by involving experts) that plans to gather the Ministries of Agriculture of 24 Euro-Mediterranean countries. MOAN is a tool for decision makers to exchange information and good practices related to organic agriculture, to share common strategies for its further development in the Mediterranean area and to valorise its potential and identity in the global debate.
http://moan.iamb.it/

Albanian Partner
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

Feeding Knowledge
Developed by CIHEAM-Bari and Politecnico di Milano, Feeding Knowledge is the Expo 2015 Program for cooperation on research and innovation on Food Security. It will contribute to building up the Legacy of Expo, whose claim is:"Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". The main purposes are the creation of a Mediterranean network focused on research, innovation and transfer of knowledge for Food Security (i), the implementation of a collaborative online environment based on an International Technology Platform (ii), the identification of 12 national local points in order to strengthen National Extension Services in gathering needs related to the transfer of knowledge to stakeholders and farmers (iii), the identification and enhancement of the Best Sustainable Development Practices for Food Security in the frame of Expo Milano 2015 (iv) and the support for policy makers in the elaboration of programmes and policies (v).
www.feedingknowledge.net

Albanian Partner
Agriculture Technology Transfer Center
The Young Innovators Network for Sustainable Ideas in the Agro-Food Sector (NO-BLE Ideas)
Creating framework conditions to increase dialogue, exchange and mobility among public/private research centers and to promote the development and application of young innovators ideas; creating a system of interlinked offices and a technological platform for the exchange and development of young innovators ideas; increasing young innovators visibility among enterprises and increasing awareness on the importance of innovation; favoring the merging between research demand (enterprises) and supply (young researchers) in order to start-up innovative ideas in the agro-food industry (2012-2014).

http://www.nobleideas.ro

Albanian Partner
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

Developing cooperation in the Mediterranean fishery sector; labour market, producers’ organizations, consumers’ organizations and training (PESCAMED)
Development of the fisheries sector in the Mediterranean countries by reconciling ecological and socio-economic needs (2008-2010).

Albanian Partner
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration
Bilateral Environmental Status Assessment of Micro Prespa Lake/ Best-Prespa
Investigate what are the main obstacles and difficulties which might hinder the application of Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment TEIA studies between Albania and Greece (2005-2007).
http://best-prespa.maich.gr

Albanian Partners
Institute of Informatics and Applied Mathematics
Center for Geographical Studies
Institute of hydrometeorology

MedLand 2020 - Design of a future common integrated land management scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorization
Improve the area's competitiveness in a way that guarantees growth and employment for the next generations (Lisbon strategy); promote territorial cohesion and environmental protection, according to the logic of sustainable development (Goteborg strategy). The MEDLAND2020 final international conference will take place in Marseille on the 18th of September 2014 (2013-2014).
http://www.medland2020.eu/

Albanian Partner
Regional Council of Shkodra

Cooperative Network on Olive Oil Authentification
Enhance the dissemination of the prospects of innovative technologies and fill the gap between research and service development. Cooperation in know-how transfer to all Mediterranean countries will promote its use and lead to acceptance by regional stakeholders and industry (2014-...).
http://www.maich.gr/en/education/horticultural_genetics_and_biotechnology/networks

Albanian Partner
Faculty of natural Sciences, University of Tirana
Pastoralism and societies (TerrAMed NETWORK)
The Mediterranean network "Pastoralism and Society" gathered researchers, operators, and institutions linked to pastoralism for it being recognized as a cultural and landscape heritage according to the UNESCO Convention on World Heritage. It was created to help the State party and inter manager although "The Causses and the Cévennes" Agreement, to fulfill their commitment to support the construction of a "balanced and representative" list in the Mediterranean countries. An agreement was signed between the Ciheam Montpellier and the Agreement on the basis of partnership and networking. The network develops three themes: "landscape and heritage", "sustainable development" and "Culture and Society" (2008 -...). He has organized three regional expert meetings in Tirana, Albania (2009), Montpellier, France (2011) and Kalambaka, Greece (2014).

https://terramed.iamm.fr

Albanian Partners
Agricultural University of Tirana (UBT)
European University of Tirana
Mountain Areas Development Agency (MADA)
Academy of Sciences of Albania

Conservation et Valorisation de la Biodiversité dans les régions de montagnes en Albanie (BiodivBalkans)
BiodivBalkans (2012-2016) is a research-action project aiming at crossing environmental injunction of biodiversity conservation with economic objectives of rural development, in Albanian mountainous rural areas.
The main hypothesis is that the building process of an appropriate label of quality/origin/equity/sustainability (especially geographical indications –GI) could provide an effective tool for territorial development and conservation of agro-biodiversity.
http://www.iamm.fr/recherche_cooperation/projets/BiodivBalkans

Albanian Partners
Mountain Area Development Agency (MADA)
Albanian Ministry of Agriculture (Mardwa)
Mediterranean Agricultural Market Information Network (MED-Amin)
MED-Amin, launched in 2014, aims at fostering cooperation and experience sharing among the national information systems on agricultural markets. It is dedicated to grain (wheat, corn, barley, and rice), that are strategic for food security in the Mediterranean countries. This network, involving the 13 Member Countries of CIHEAM, operates in relation with the secretariat of the multilateral initiative AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System) located at FAO, and with the European Commission services. Italy has organized the 3rd meeting of the Network in Rome in October 2015.


Albanian Partner
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

Drought management network for the Middle East, Mediterranean Region and Central Asia (NEMEDCA)
Drought management network whose main purpose is to promote cooperation in this field between countries in the Middle Eastern, Mediterranean and Central Asian regions (2001-2011).

http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/fr/pages/paginas/pag_investigacion4a.htm

Albanian Partner
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration

SAFE MEDITERRANEAN FOOD Network
It is an initiative promoted since 2013 by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza with the following general objectives: To strengthen scientific cooperation for food safety in the Mediterranean Basin (focusing especially on North-South and South-South cooperation) and to promote a scientifically-based risk approach in food safety risk assessment and communication in the Mediterranean countries. The kick-off Seminar of SAMEFOOD was organized by CIHEAM-Zaragoza the 10 and 11 of June 2014 and was entitled “Food Safety Challenges for Mediterranean Products”.

http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/samefood/

Albanian Partner
Albanian National Food Authority (NFA)
Mediterra

Options méditerranéennes


**Watch Letter**


**New Medit**


- Zhllima E., Viaggi D., Müller D., Property rights to land and its perception in rural part of central Albania, in New Medit, vol. 9, n.3, September 2010, pp. 56-64.

**Press Review**

PAB I project: INTERREG III A ITALIA-ALBANIA. Asse III Misura 3.1 Azione B Manuals on organic agriculture (eds.): Petruzzella D., Myrta A. Organic viticulture; Petruzzella, D., Tarelli I On organic compostage; Petruzzella D., Myrta A. On organic Fruit cropping; Petruzzella D., Myrta A. On organic Olive cropping Petruzzella D., Myrta A. Results of trials on organic olive and vinyard cropping (2005-2007)

Towards an Action Plan for the development of Organic agriculture in Albania, 2006
This activity report is intended to synthetically present the main actions currently or recently conducted by CIHEAM with the Albanian authorities and national partners for training, research and cooperation.

This report is prepared annually and published every January on the website of CIHEAM. It is produced and edited within the General Secretariat based on information provided by the CIHEAM Institutes and capitalizing the institutional current events between the Organization and the country.

The contents of this report commits only CIHEAM.

Request and information: seghirate@ciheam.org