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**
Salvino Busuttil  
*President, Fondation de Malte, Valetta*

**Advisory Board Member**
Louis F. Cassar  
*Institute of Earth Systems, University of Malta*

**Education and Training**
*CIHEAM MSc cycles (from 2003/2004-to 2014/2015)*
- 6 Maltese students including 4 scholarships

*CIHEAM Specialized Training (from 2004/2005-to 2014/2015)*
- 61 Maltese participants including 41 scholarships

**Main current networks**
MOAN, Med-Spring, MED-Amin, ERANET-MED, CREAM, MED-ISOLAE

**Last political events with Malta**
Participation in the 5+5 Ministerial Meeting, *Algiers, November 27th, 2013*
Participation in the 10th CIHEAM Ministerial Meeting, *Algiers, February 6th, 2014*
Participation in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Agriculture, *Palermo, November 28th, 2014*

**Last publications**

**To be recorded**
- Salvino Busuttil was President of the Governing Board from 1999 to 2003
- The 74th meeting of CIHEAM Governing Board was held in Valetta in June 1989
CIHEAM Ministerial Meetings

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.

Malta has been involved in all the Meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of the CIHEAM Member Countries. The 9th Ministerial Meeting was held in Valetta on 27 September, 2012 in the frame of the 50th anniversary of the organisation. Discussions were dedicated to food security and pricing in the Mediterranean. Addressing the Press Conference Minister Pullicino said that this is a historical meeting for CIHEAM since this meeting will be taking place in the presence of several high-level representatives of international institutions including the EU Commissioner for Agriculture Dacian Ciolos, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection John Dalli, and the Chair of the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee, Paolo De Castro.

The ministers of agriculture of the 13 member states of CIHEAM, or their representatives, met in Algiers on 6 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.

Hon Roderick Galdes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights was the head of the Maltese delegation to this 10th ministerial meeting. Mr Galdes reiterated the commitment of Malta to food security issues that his country expressed at the 9th ministerial meeting in Valetta. He presented Malta’s strategy for the next 7 years aiming at ensuring better use of water, waste, and energy, and at boosting cooperation, food chain organization and economic development, and social cohesion. Mr Galdes considered that CIHEAM is “an ideal forum where to continue making progress on the regional dimension of the challenges facing our food producers and the communities which depend on them for nourishment”.
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, CIHEAM, UfM, ICARDA, CEJA, SWG-RDD) participated to the Conference. Malta participated in the Conference with the presence of H.E. Mr Salvino Busuttil.
Dr Eman Calleja is a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Applied Science of Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST). Prior to joining MCAST, he carried out a Post-Doc as a Research Fellow with the Islands and Small States Institute, University of Malta. He is an interdisciplinary scientist, having a background in ecology, agriculture and more recently in rural geography. He is representing MCAST in an international EU COST research project titled EUROAGRIWAT. Dr Calleja obtained a PhD in Plant and Environmental Sciences from the University of Warwick (UK) in 2011, following a three-year PhD fellowship funded by DEFRA (UK). Prior to starting his PhD, he worked for the Maltese ministry for agriculture for 10 years. He also represented Malta at an international level and on EU fora on numerous occasions during his 10-year stint with the government. He is also an ecologist, having previously obtained an MSc in ecology and environmental management from CIHEAM-Chania.

Léonard Mizzi is Head of Unit, Unit A3- ACP and development issues (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, UN organisations, G20), Directorate-General for Agriculture & Rural Development at the European Commission. He is a graduate in Public Administration (first class) from the University of Malta. He obtained an MSc from CIHEAM-Montpellier in 1991 on the subject of the accession of Malta to the European Union and the impact on Malta’s agricultural sector. He also obtained a PhD from the University of Reading (UK) in 1998. Mr. Mizzi was the first Director of the Malta Business Bureau (MBB) in Brussels, which was the first Brussels-based office of its kind from Malta to follow the negotiations of the country’s accession, from a private sector angle. In 2007 he joined the European Commission as Unit Head in one of the International Units of the General Directorate on Agriculture and Rural Development. Dr. Mizzi was a part time lecturer at the Open University of Brussels, the Boston University (Brussels) and the Institute of Agriculture in Malta.
Diane Spiteri is currently the Acting Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta where she has been working since 2011. She received the CIHEAM-Zaragoza Postgraduate Specialisation Diploma in Rural Planning in relation to the Environment in 2003. Prior to her appointment last May she was Head of the Communication and Information Section of the Representation. Before joining the Commission, between 2002 and 2007, she was employed as Programme Manager within the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment in Malta where she was responsible for the preparation and managing the first Rural Development Programme for Malta. She obtained her Bachelors and Master degree in Biology from the University of Malta in 1990 and 1994 respectively.

Timothy Pace-Lupi is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Applied Sciences of the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology - Centre for Agriculture, Aquatics and Animal Sciences (MCAST - CAAAS). Mr. Pace-Lupi successfully read for a Diploma in Agricultural Sciences (Dip. Agric.) at the University of Malta, a Bachelor of Science degree with first class honours in Applied Biosciences (BSc. Hons.) at the University of Ulster, a Postgraduate Specialisation Diploma (D.S.P.U.) and a Master of Science degree in Integrated Pest Management of Mediterranean Fruit Trees with Cum Maxima Laude honours (MSc.) at CIHEAM-Bari. Mr. Pace-Lupi has gained over 12 years’ experience working in the Horticultural sectors in Malta, he has fulfilled several roles in the public service, the private sector and also in various non-governmental organisations. Mr. Pace-Lupi has served as a consultant mycologist to the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment (MRAE). He also administered the EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project with BirdLife Malta and he fulfilled the role of phyto-pharmaceutical contact point in Malta for eight different international companies.
Mediterranean Dialogue on Integrated Water Management (MELIA)
Structuring a dialogue among the key stakeholders concerned and affected by water use and management, such as scientists, professionals, decision makers, policy makers, water providers, media professionals, educators and citizens. The achievement of this dialog and the dissemination and exploitations of the recommendations obtained creates real added value at the European and Mediterranean scale (2006-2010).
http://www.meliaproject.eu

Maltese Partners
Water Service Corporation (WSC)
The Institute for Agriculture, University of Malta (IOA)
Malta Resources Authority (MRA)

Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (MIRA)
Develop and support the dialogue between EU-MPCs by bringing together policymakers and stakeholders from each MPC and EU Member States; create a dialogue and action platform to identify common interest in research areas, set up S&T priorities, support capacity building activities and enhance the interaction between different cooperation instruments of the EC; promote actions in order to monitor, develop and contribute to creating synergies among the various S&T cooperation programmes between MPCs/EU and foster the participation of the MPCs in the framework Programmes (2008-2011). This project was valorized by a 2013 Options Méditerranéennes publication.
http://www.miraproject.eu/project-mira

Maltese Partner
The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)
Pitkali Market: feasibility study on the building of a fruit and vegetable grading station and cold storage facility in Malta
Adjustment and re-organization of the Maltese fruit and vegetable productive and commercial system, promoting the competitiveness of sectorial firms.

Maltese Partner
Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment of Malta
Producers’ Associations

Higher Education Innovation in Plant Diversity: flexible learning paths for emerging labour market - HEI-PLADI
HEI PLADI aims to build a strategic partnership throughout an interdisciplinary co-operation, between higher education institutions, conservation and research organizations (botanic gardens, gene banks, universities, research institutes, non-governmental organization), in order to improve mobility and provide more opportunities for students to gain additional skills in the field of plant diversity.

Maltese Partner
Universita ta Malta /MALTA

Establishing common models of integrated sustainable monitoring, planning and management of high environmental value areas to control natural resources degradation (INNOVA)
The final objective is to improve sustainable management of high environmental value area, through the adoption of common guidelines of monitoring, planning and management of the Mediterranean eco-region. CIHEAM-Bari is a partner of the project. (2006-2008).
http://www.innovaproject.net

Maltese Partners
Institute of Agriculture, University of Malta
Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment MRAE
Market and Trade Policies for Mediterranean Agriculture: The case of fruit/vegetable and olive oil (MEDFROL)

The project analyses the macroeconomic environment and agricultural sectors of the thirteen Mediterranean, non-EU countries. Although the analysis will cover all main commodities of the investigated regions, particular emphasis will be placed on their fruit and vegetables and olive oil production, since these products are among the most important commodities produced in these countries with significant contribution to the national economies (2004 – 2007).

http://medfrol.maich.gr

SEMCLIMED (semence, climat et Méditerranée)

The project proposes a series of actions aiming at evaluating climate change on the biodiversity of flora in the Mediterranean Basin, proposing measures of active conservation of species and habitats at danger, and increasing the public awareness on the ecological and social magnitude of the process of global warming (2006-2008).

http://www.semclimed.org/fr/Default.aspx

Maltese Partner

Faculty of Science, Mansouri University
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/

Maltese Partner

Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change

Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway (MEDSPRING)
The Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway is a coordination and support action (FP7). The project is focused on three societal challenges (Energy, High Quality Affordable Food, and Scarcity of resources) and aims at tackling policy objectives by creating a dialogue and coordination platform of governmental institutions, research organisations, associations and civil society (2013-2016).

http://www.medspring.eu/

Maltese Partner

The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)
Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Eranet Joint Activities and Beyond (ERANETMED)
The main aim of the project is to enhance Euro-Mediterranean co-ownership through innovation and competitive research in the societal challenges of the region. The project aims at reducing fragmentation of programming in the Mediterranean region by increasing coordination among national research programmes of European Member States, Associated Countries and Mediterranean Partner Countries. The ERANETMED will consider a broad area for research, addressing not only the most important societal challenges of the region but also actions to enhance innovation through applied research, capacity building, mobility and clustering. Its action will result in concrete co-operation between research programmes, such as networking, definition of strategic scientific activities, research structuring for long-lasting and stable cooperation beyond ERANET (2013-2017).

http://www.eranetmed.eu/

Maltese Partner
The Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)

Land Conservation Management to Combat Land Degradation for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Mediterranean Coastal Zones
The main goal is the Mediterranean coordination and dissemination of land conservation management to combat land degradation for the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mediterranean region with special emphases on coastal areas.

Maltese Partners
Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries
Institute of Agriculture University of Malta
Farmers Central Co-operative Society, Ltd
Transnational Network for enhancing the Mediterranean organic olive-growing competitiveness (BIOLMED)
The general objective is the improvement of the Mediterranean organic olive growing competitiveness through the sharing and the know-how transfer. In order to obtain a coordinated development of the whole Mediterranean olive-growing sector is needed the direct involvement of the operators, the comparison among them and with the scientific institutions and the experience exchange in order to sustain the entrepreneurial development and the acquisition of the scientific innovations (2007-2013)

Maltese Partner
Mgarr Local council

Water saving in Mediterranean Countries (WASAMED)
WASAMED is a thematic network project of integrated water management funded by the European Commission (EC), within the 5th framework program for the international cooperation with Mediterranean countries (INCO-MED), aiming at establishing a platform for effective Mediterranean communication and debate on water saving in agriculture. The overall objective of WASAMED is to contribute to improve management of limited water resources and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region. Furthermore, WASAMED network aimed to improve regional co-ordination of present and future actions in water saving. At the end, the specific objective is to develop water saving research projects and actions and to facilitate access of different stakeholders to an easy-to-use knowledge-base. WASAMED is coordinated by the CIHEAM-Bari Institute and includes 42 partners from universities, research centres, policy-making institutions, and user associations from 16 countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey).
http://wasamed.iamb.it/programmi/home.php

Maltese Partner
University of Malta
Water Service Corporation (WSC) Malta
MRAE (Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment of Malta)
Common enhancement of Mediterranean rural areas through the harmonization of regulations and the establishment of commercial complementary of typical products (LEADER MED)

Born in 2005 the project ended in the year 2010. The aim was to promote cooperation and dialogue among territories such as Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Malta. The general objective was the Development of Mediterranean rural areas in order to improve quality of life and to increase work opportunities and environmental sustainability. Furthermore the project was aimed to increase availability of socio-cultural services and the self-confidence of the groups and of the individuals. The CIHEAM-Bari was designated as a technical support structure to implement the project. LEADER MED project was a successful experience of integrated rural development and implemented transnational cooperation.

Maltese Partner

Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment of Malta (MRAE)

Drafting of Safeguard Clause and setting up of a monitoring system for its implementation (Safeguard Clause Malta)

The main objective is to support the Maltese government in implementing the Safeguard Clause and submit it to the Commission, and in setting up a monitoring system for the implementation of the Safeguard Clause. In this project, CIHEAM-Bari acted as adviser for the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment of Malta.

Maltese Partner

Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment of Malta (MRAE)

Promoting a sounder & more sustainable evolution (environmental, social, economic & administrative) for Med-Islands is of paramount importance to EU. This requires adoption of island-specific development strategies which: Take more fully into account interests of all stakeholders concerned; are based on a larger & more diversified palette of economic, social & administrative opportunities; Do not exceed carrying capacity of environment. For the first time Med-Islands will be educated to implement “ISO-based” island-specific & long-term sustainability management plans (2006-2015); Initiate implementation of ISO-type EU/JRC Spatial Database Infrastructure (EU SDI-Inspire standards); Be communicating for technology & know-how transfer with the Member-States (EU-25) and among themselves via a Med-Topic Centre (repository of knowledge, information & assistance); Feel as being an integral part of the Continental Europe.

Maltese Partner

Malta Resources Authority

ECOlogical NETwork for the promotion of convergent conservation strategies in Coastal HAbitatS of CommunitTy Significance (ECONET-COHAST)

The aim of the project is to promote convergent conservation strategies at landscape scale for coastal habitats of Community significance. An ecological network of stakeholders and a knowledge base on impact assessment for coastal habitats will be established, which will support capacity building and policy actions throughout the region. The dissemination of best practices for coastal habitats management will promote harmonious territorial integration throughout ARCHIMED (2006-2007).

http://www.econet-coast.eu/

Maltese Partner

Foundation for International Studies, University of Malta
**Mediterranean Islands 3D Aerial Navigation (MedIsolae-3D)**

MedIsolae-3D aims at delivering for 100+ European Mediterranean islands a dynamic Portal for islands information & navigation also linked to and hosted by Google Earth™, Virtual Earth™, and ArcGlobe™ SDI/GIS technologies;

a spatial database infrastructure technology (SDI) in EU-INSPIRE format via webGIS; a 3D-aerial webGIS flying-over application, for island navigation as a virtual-visiting; and a dissemination, exploitation and sustainability plan for commercial use of the Portal.

MedIsolae-3D has as an endeavour to make its Portal, “the Portal” to be used by many EU islands; promote its flying over technology world-wide; promote its flying over technology world-wide; Link to Google™, Microsoft™, and ESRI™ for future business (2007-2008).

*Maltese Partner*
*Paragon Limited*

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**CIHEAM-Montpellier**

**Mediterranean Agricultural Markets 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.


*Maltese Partner*

*Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change*
ARIMNET2
ARIMNet is an ERA-Net supporting collaborative interdisciplinary projects based on complementarities between scientists, disciplines and countries in the Mediterranean. It promotes international collaborations to create research consortia in order to respond appropriately to the global stakes and challenges Mediterranean Agriculture is facing. The network identifies scientific priorities, provides funding and cooperation opportunities for researchers to work efficiently on a variety of transnational research projects or other joint activities that contribute to address the huge societal challenges related to food, rural development, water and natural resources that Mediterranean countries are facing today. ARIMNET2 (2014-2017) will develop an integrated strategic research agenda (ISRA) describing key priorities for Europe and Mediterranean Partners Countries in the field of Mediterranean Agriculture Research and Innovation, will carry on joint activities and will foster agricultural knowledge and innovation system in order to ensure that the agricultural research impact the stakeholders of the Mediterranean basin and support their economies.

http://www.arimnet2.net/

Maltese Partner
Office of the Prime Minister (MCST)
Coordinating Research in Support to Application of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Management Advice in the Mediterranean and Black Seas (CREAM)

Identify the gaps (in terms of data, knowledge, training, coordination) which hamper at present the full application of the Ecosystem Approach in the management of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries; training and capacity building to help harmonize date collection and methodologies used in fisheries assessment and management in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Establish the guidelines for the applications of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, both in EU member states and third countries (2011-2014).

http://www.cream-fp7.eu

Maltese Partner

Ministry of Resources and Rural Affairs

SAMEFOOD

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/

Maltese partners

Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA)
LAST PUBLICATIONS

Mediterra


Options méditerranéennes


Watch Letters


Press Review

This activity report is intended to synthetically present the main actions currently or recently conducted by CIHEAM with the Maltese 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.

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