



Sharing Knowledge, Feeding Future

Cosimo Lacirignola

***New Secretary General of the International Centre for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)***

Press release

Antalya, Turkey, 31 of May 2016

The 136th CIHEAM Governing Board, which took place in Antalya on the 30th and 31st of May, unanimously elected Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola, the candidate proposed by the Italian authorities, Secretary General of CIHEAM. Mr. Cosimo Lacirignola will enter into office on the 1st of January 2017, after an interim period.

With his strong passion for the Mediterranean, Cosimo Lacirignola has been working on issues related to agriculture, food security and rural development for over 30 years in this region. He is an agricultural economist and graduate from the University of Bologna. After his experience as official of the European Commission from 1982 to 1983, he became principal administrator at the CIHEAM Headquarters from 1983 to 1987 and Director of the CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari in 1987. This professional background has allowed him to gain extensive experience in the field of scientific and technical cooperation in the Mediterranean, developing numerous training and research projects and being at the heart of high-level regional diplomacy. When he was Director of CIHEAM-Bari Institute, he introduced several reforms aimed at increasing its visibility and improving the efficiency of its core activities. The Institute became in few years a key actor of education and training and of Mediterranean cooperation in the field of agriculture, fisheries and rural issues.



*Cosimo Lacirignola, elected Secretary General,
on the occasion of the 136th CIHEAM Governing Board*

Advisor for international relations to the Ministers of Agriculture of three different Italian governments, Cosimo Lacirignola was nominated as new Secretary General of CIHEAM by the Italian authorities, a post he had held for an interim period at the request of the 13 Member States of the Organization.

During his pro-bono interim mission, he carried out significant actions in the framework of the repositioning process of the CIHEAM required by the Governing Board, such as the elaboration and implementation of a new CIHEAM Strategic Agenda 2025 that focuses on four main objectives: Struggling against “triple waste” (Knowledge-Natural Resources-Food); Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food; Investing in new generations and fragile territories; Preventing risks and managing tensions. He also contributed to a greater visibility of the Organization in regional and international High-Level meetings, where he helped raise awareness on the importance of agriculture, food, rural and climate issues in the Mediterranean region among decision-makers, research institutions and the media.

M. Cosimo Lacirignola was unanimously elected on the occasion of the 136th CIHEAM Governing Board held in Antalya on May 30-31, 2016. The Member States expressed their trust in his skills to pursue the repositioning process of the Organization aiming to respond to the needs of the Mediterranean countries in a regional context marked by important challenges for human development and food security.

Finally, his dozen years’ experience as head of the International Relations Office of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF), facilitated the CIHEAM partnership policy with United-Nations agencies like the FAO and with the European Commission and its different Directorates General.

Born on 31 May 1957, Cosimo Lacirignola is Italian. He is married and has three children. He speaks Italian, French and English.

CIHEAM

Created in 1962, the CIHEAM is a Mediterranean organization which works for improving sustainable agriculture and fisheries, for ensuring food and nutrition security and for developing rural and coastal territories. The organization gathers 13 Member States from both shores of the Mediterranean (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and works with several international and regional institutions. CIHEAM’s actions rely on a bottom-up collaboration and are problem-solving oriented, connected to the peculiar needs of the countries. With our Member States, public and private partners and academics we strive to meet the 4 following challenges:



Struggling against “triple waste” (Knowledge-Natural Resources-Food)



Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food



Investing in new generations and fragile territories



Preventing risks and managing tensions

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