



# AGRICULTURE, RURAL AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN – CIHEAM’S CONTRIBUTION



## About CIHEAM

Created in 1962, the CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) is a Mediterranean organisation which strives for the improvement of sustainable agriculture and fisheries, to ensure food and nutrition security and the development of rural and coastal territories capacities. The organisation brings together 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 in collaboration with several international and regional institutions.

With our Member States, public and private partners and academics, we strive to promote solutions that lead to human development and sustainable growth. The CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025) identifies the major challenges and the strategic priorities to address in the Mediterranean today.

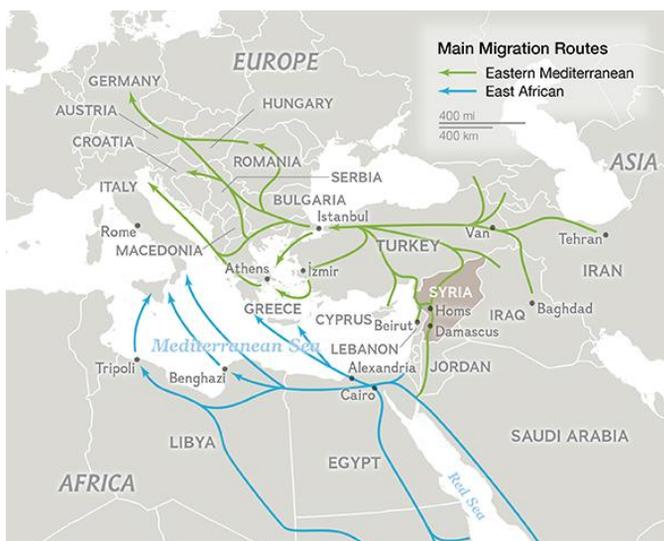
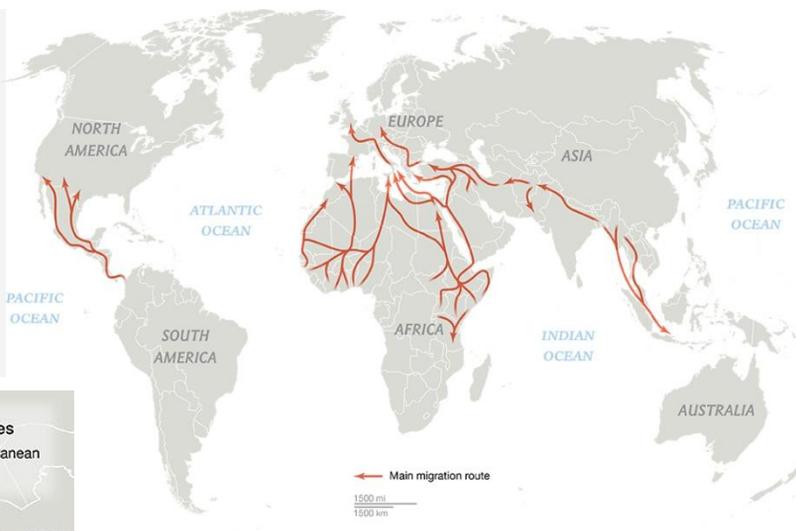
## The Mediterranean: a region of migration

### Key statistics on migration in the Mediterranean region (2017)

- Total international migrants worldwide: 257 715 425
- Total migrants migrating to the Mediterranean region: 34 810 398
- Total migrants migrating from the Mediterranean region: 38 387 083

>> The Mediterranean as **destination** of **13,5%** of total migrants

>> The Mediterranean as **origin** of **14,9%** of total migrants



Source: [National Geographic](#); Sources: Missing Migrants Project, International Organization for Migration; UNCHR; I-map; Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 2015

### Key statistics on migration in CIHEAM countries (2017)

- Total migrants migrating to CIHEAM countries : 29 657 566
- Total migrants migrating from CIHEAM countries: 24 148 020

>> CIHEAM countries as **destination** of **11,5%** of total migrants

>> CIHEAM countries as **origin** of **9,37%** of total migrants

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2017). Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 revision.



## **Agriculture, Rural and Coastal Development actions to mitigate distress migration and build resilience in the Mediterranean - CIHEAM's Contribution**

**António Guterres:** *«The 21st century is the century of people on the move».*

**Cosimo Lacirignola**, Secretary General of the CIHEAM: *“There can be no peace without food security, no food security without agricultural production, and no agriculture without development dynamics in rural areas. Food Security and agriculture are closely linked to peace and stability in these areas, and should be considered priority issues to prevent forced displacements and migration”.*

### **Migration - a long-standing phenomenon with new challenges**

Throughout history, people have always been on the move, especially in the Mediterranean, which has long been a region of migration and mobility. However, this phenomenon has dramatically increased due to the effects of population increase, socioeconomic inequalities, globalisation, climate change, conflicts and crises. Since some years now, the refugees crisis made the issue become a visible and crucial one, placing it at the very heart of today's concerns in the region.

Although migration has always been a phenomenon at the core of the dynamics characterising the Mediterranean, the factors triggering displacements have changed. At present, the situation has become more complex, and today it is necessary to identify and understand the drivers of migration in order to integrate them in a model of sustainable development, so as to successfully face the major challenges brought by this situation.

### **How can Agriculture and Rural and Coastal Development help in mitigating distress migration and building resilience?**

In the light of these multiple and interconnected challenges, agriculture and rural development can provide new insights and actions towards practical and effective solutions to mitigate and better manage the distress migration phenomenon. Indeed, instability, poverty and marginalization of rural and coastal areas, especially related to land access, food insecurity, depleted natural resources, extreme climatic events, underemployment, lack of opportunities and conflicts are among the factors which compel populations to leave their territories. Thus, agricultural and rural development policies ensuring food security, rational use of natural resources, sustainable rural development, job creation in value chains, as well as social cohesion can contribute to mitigate distress mobility.

Agriculture and fishing improvement within a broader context of rural and coastal development can provide both the major keys to understanding and the indispensable tools to meet the challenges brought by the issue of migration.

It is our mission to make the best use of them to strengthen and ensure the resilience of the rural communities towards the major changes and crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

To this end, the CIHEAM is strongly committed to contribute to the expertise and solution development through the three strands of actions constituting its overall mission: (i) production of knowledge, (ii) implementation of concrete actions, projects and programs, and (iii) political dialogue.

### **A promising political dialogue**

During the **11<sup>th</sup> CIHEAM Ministerial meeting held in Tirana** in 2016, specifically focused on “Distress Migration: Agriculture and Rural Development can help”, the 13 Ministers of Agriculture of the CIHEAM Member States **reaffirmed that** *“agriculture and food security are closely related to reconciliation, peace and stability in the Mediterranean region, and must be considered as priority sectors for these countries and for the international cooperation (...) in order to prevent distress mobility”, “the issues related to the distress migration and the refugee crises should [thus] foster to reflect on the root causes of (...) migrations in order to provide possible solutions from the perspective of agricultural and rural development and food security in the Mediterranean”* and **recognised the role** of the *“CIHEAM [as] an essential actor of development in the region of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue”* and its efforts *“at the service of international cooperation and peace.”*

The Tirana declaration made by the Ministers of Agriculture of the CIHEAM Member States has been broadly welcomed and supported by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the **5+5 Dialogue** in the Western Mediterranean Member States during their 13<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Marseille on the 28 October 2016.

Later, the **G7 Agriculture Ministers' meeting** on “Empowering farmers, developing rural areas and enhancing cooperation to feed the planet”, held in Bergamo in 2017, **recalled that** *“in line with the G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué calling for coordinated efforts at the national and international level on migration, (...) [the necessity] to encourage policies aimed at improving livelihoods in rural areas and strengthening agricultural systems, in order to support the diverse needs of countries of origin, transit and destination ”.* During the summit, the G7 Ministers of Agriculture also recognised the role of the *“International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies [in considering] the possible linkages of migration with agriculture and rural development”.*



## What We Do

>> *The CIHEAM is involved in several cooperation projects and actions, directly and indirectly tackling the drivers, setbacks and challenges of migration in the Mediterranean.*

→ **ENPARD** – Launched in 2012 by the European Union, the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development aims to strengthen the partnership between the EU and EU Neighbouring countries in the field of agriculture and rural policies, recognizing the major contribution rural areas can make to the development and stability of the countries. It aims to support partner countries in designing their public policies to better address food insecurity, diversify rural economy and improve the global governance of the agricultural and rural sectors.

→ **DEVLOK – Strengthening the Maritime, Agricultural and Rural Economy of the Kerkennah Islands (Dec 2017 – Dec 2020)**: this project aims to develop a participative and inclusive approach based on the sustainable use of the natural resources and development of the territory in order to strengthen the maritime, agricultural and rural economy of the Kerkennah islands in Tunisia.

→ **SAMSIMIFA – Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization System Improvement in Minia and Fayoum Governorates (2016-2018)**: this project aims to contribute to the economic growth of rural communities through the sustainable development of agricultural sector in two Egyptian Governorates (Minia and Fayoum). The project will encourage the sustainable use of natural resources, a more efficient use of agriculture inputs and the stabilisation of rural population.

→ **HASAD – Hilly Areas Sustainable Agricultural Development Project (May 2016-May 2018)**: This project intends to provide technical assistance to small-scale farmers in two disadvantaged areas in Lebanon through the establishment and management of self-sustaining Farming Service Centres by the regional cooperative unions. If this project proves to be successful, it might result in an increase of production quality, the creation of local brands and of an Organic label, the improvement of the income of farmers in both target regions, and the enhancement of the technical and financial autonomy of the Farming Service Centres

→ **NEMO – Rural Coastal Community Development (2015-2018)**: this project intends to develop autonomous and synergic social and economic activities for the benefit of the rural, coastal communities of three neighboring countries (Egypt, Libya, Tunisia). NEMO tackles multiple challenges: the loss of human resources, failure to enhance

and manage natural resources, integrated rural, coastal development, poor promotion and enhancement of biodiversity and local wildlife, the need to promote local traditions and foods.

→ **Agriculture and Livestock Support for Syrian People (Jan 2015 to Dec 2017)**: managed from Turkey, the programme aimed to support the resilience of the Syrian rural communities located in the Northern districts of Aleppo and Idleb Governorates with the support of the Agriculture Ministry of the Syrian Interim Government. The objective was to increase agricultural and livestock production and household incomes of local communities through provision of inputs and services, in order to strengthen the agricultural production and improve the livelihood of the rural population.

→ **MARSADEV – Matrouh Rural Sustainable Development Project (Jan 2014-Jan 2017)**: The purpose of this project was to develop and maximise the use of natural resources in the Matrouh region in Egypt, and provide support for poverty alleviation among local communities in the project area falling under four DRC Technical Support Units. The project activities were focused on the rehabilitation of some coastal desert valleys, rain water harvesting and the increase of water storage capacity, watershed management, and women empowerment.

→ **UE Emploi Sud Tunisie : Creation of Jobs in South Tunisia to Support Agriculture and Handicraft : Solidarity Economy and Professionalisation (Oct 2014-April 2017)**: This project enhanced the creation of jobs in the fields of agricultural and local handicraft in the Medenine Governorate. The objective was to foster the integration of women and young people in the regional economy, and thus to respond to the needs of farmers and agricultural cooperatives in terms of skills and service gaps.

→ **UK SYRIA – Agriculture Support to the Aleppo and Idlib Governorates in Syria (Jan 2015-Dec 2016)**: this project was intended to assist Syrian rural communities by supplying agriculture inputs, establishing and organising units for technical assistance, developing training modules for basic agriculture operation and interacting with the emergency programmes. The observed outcomes are very encouraging: the capacity of the Syrian technicians to deliver activities within Syria has been developed; the Syrian technicians have been supported to deliver services and inputs to the local farmers and communities linked to Syrian Local Councils Administrations; the resilience of communities in the Northern part of Aleppo Governorate has been enhanced through support provided to re-develop agriculture livelihoods and improve economic sustainability.



## Upcoming initiatives

>> In order to reflect upon and address the issue of migration, the CIHEAM is currently working on two complementary projects:

### →2018: Implementation of the Mediterranean Platform for Policy Dialogue on Drivers of Rural Migration

>> First of the five flagship initiatives in the CIHEAM strategic Agenda 2025 (CAPMED 2025), this platform is intended to be a tool to make progress towards the understanding of migration phenomena, the identification of solutions enabling a better living for both local populations and immigrants as well as the economic growth in rural areas, and the identification of adaptation strategies to environmental and socioeconomic constraints. To this end, this platform shall include a high-level multi-sector coordination group including national and international decision-makers and a consortium of experts, representatives of public authorities, academia, development and local actors. Awareness rising, research and studies, expert training, sharing of experience, development of specific programmes, advocacy and political dialogue will be the main activities of this platform on the rural and agricultural dimension of migration in the Mediterranean region.

To set a basis for this platform, the CIHEAM, in collaboration with the FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) and the European University Institute, will organize in spring 2018 a **forum** on “**Agriculture, Rural Development And Migration In The Mediterranean: towards a better understanding of the drivers and impacts for forward-looking policies and programmes**”. Bringing international organisations, research institutions, policy practitioners and civil society organisations together, at expert-level, this event will provide an overview of the overall situation and of the characteristics of migration in the Mediterranean, so as to draw up some preliminary proposals and recommendations. Such outcomes will constitute a key basis on which future policies, programmes, and concrete actions adopted in the framework of the multi-actors platform could be further elaborated.

### →MEDITERRA 2018 – Inclusion and Migration Challenges around the Mediterranean

>> **MEDITERRA**: Published every two years in English and in French, MEDITERRA is the CIHEAM’s flagship publication. It provides an in-depth analysis of the major challenges related to agriculture, food and rural areas in the Mediterranean.

The CIHEAM has recognised inclusive development, migration and displacement trends in the Mediterranean as correlated and central issues for the future of the region. **The 2018 Edition of MEDITERRA** will contribute to the production of knowledge on these important issues. This edition will be co-produced by the CIHEAM and the AFD, co-directed and co-funded by the CIHEAM and the FAO.



**CIHEAM**  
SHARING KNOWLEDGE, FEEDING FUTURE

## Recent Publications

### CIHEAM - WATCH LETTER

→ *Crisis and resilience in the Mediterranean*, Watch Letter n° 36, CIHEAM, April 2016

→ *Mediterranean Agriculture and Climate Change: impacts, adaptations, solutions*, Watch Letter n° 37, CIHEAM, September 2016

### IREMMO (INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET D’ETUDES MÉDITERRANÉE MOYEN-ORIENT)

→ Cosimo Laricignola (under the direction of), *Crises et conflits en Méditerranée : l’agriculture comme résilience*, L’Harmattan, Paris, January 2018

## Political Dialogue

→ **22/09/2016** – Tirana, Albania, **11<sup>th</sup> CIHEAM Ministerial Meeting** on “Distress Migration: Agriculture and rural development can help”

→ **28/10/2016** – Marseille, France, **13<sup>th</sup> 5+5 Dialogue in the Western Mediterranean Foreign Ministers’ Meeting**

→ **15/10/2017** – Bergamo, Italy : **G7 Agriculture** on “Empowering farmers, developing rural areas and enhancing cooperation to feed the planet”. The CIHEAM strongly committed to the identification of the links between migration, agriculture and rural economies and of the solutions that can be adopted accordingly.

## For Further Information...

> CIHEAM Corporate Website: <http://www.ciheam.org/>

> More details on the [CAPMED 2025](#)

CIHEAM Corporate Facebook Page

CIHEAM Twitter account

## Contact

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