



**CIHEAM**

**SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS WORKING GROUP**

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**2020-2022**

**PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES**



**CIHEAM**  
[www.ciheam.org](http://www.ciheam.org)

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The CIHEAM ([www.ciheam.org](http://www.ciheam.org)) is an intergovernmental organization composed of 13 states and dedicated to food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and the development of rural territories.

For the CIHEAM, the importance of developing sustainable food systems in the mediterranean region is linked to unprecedented and interdependent environmental, economic, and social challenges that are increasingly affecting the livelihoods of all Mediterranean people. These challenges highlight the importance of having resilient agri-food systems within a sustainable and circular bioeconomy, to respond to global shocks and mitigate their socio-economic impacts.

In this view, it is of utmost importance, to decouple economic development from intensive exploitation of natural resources and induce changes in consumption and production patterns (UNEP/MAP, 2005) through the transition to Sustainable Food Systems and the adoption of sustainable diets. The interest shown by multiple actors in the region and the adoption of new international policy frameworks highlights the common sense of urgency in addressing these challenges.



## WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM?

A sustainable food system (SFS) is a food system that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social, and environmental bases that generate food security and nutrition for future generations are not compromised.

## INTERNATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS ON SFS

- The 17 SDGs set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The 2021 Food Systems Summit which defined a food systems approach to development, based on five action tracks
- The European Green Deal and its "Farm to Fork Strategy"
- The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program
- CIHEAM Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025)



# THE ACTION OF CIHEAM ON SFS IN THE TWO LAST YEARS

The unsustainability of the food systems in the Mediterranean has brought CIHEAM to implement an ambitious, multifaceted program on the sustainability of food systems and diets in the region, using the Mediterranean Diet as a case study.

Within the framework of CAPMED 2025 and its pillars, the CIHEAM contributes to the transition to SFS through the implementation of several activities and by resorting to a diverse toolkit.

## CIHEAM's TOOLS

**Education** >>> **25** MASTERS & ADVANCED COURSES

**Cooperation** >>> **33** PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

**Research** >>> **79** PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

**Policy Dialogues** >>> **6** INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

### CAPMED PILLARS

- PROTECTION OF THE PLANET
- FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION
- INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT
- CRISES AND RESILIENCE

### 2020-2022 ACTIVITIES

- ORGANIZATION OF 3 SFS-MED DIALOGUES
- SET UP OF CORPORATE WORKING GROUP ON SFS
- ORGANIZATION OF THE 3rd WORLD CONFERENCE ON REVITALIZATION OF MEDITERRANEAN DIET



# SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Several countries and stakeholders of the Mediterranean region have engaged in collective processes to identify pathways for more sustainable food systems based on a common study realized in 2021 by CIHEAM, FAO, and UfM.

In 2021, during the Food Systems Summit Dialogues (FSSDs), convened at cross-national, national, and sub-national levels across the Mediterranean by countries and other stakeholders of the region, common challenges and priorities for sustainable food systems have been identified.

The main issues identified are summarized in the figure below.

## MEDITERRANEAN COMMON PRIORITIES ON SFS

- GREEN AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- CITIES, URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES
- WATER AND LAND MANAGEMENT
- EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL LIVELIHOODS
- BLUE ECONOMY
- MEDITERRANEAN DIET
- TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS
- RESILIENCE



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