



8th meeting of the CIHEAM Member Countries' Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries

Istanbul (Türkiye) – 8 March, 2010

Recommendations

Press release

The 13 CIHEAM member countries' ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, met in Istanbul on 8 March 2010 at the invitation of H.E. Mehmet Mehdi EKER, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

In the current context of climate change, strong adaptation measures and closer regional cooperation must be enhanced to ensure better food security and natural resources management. This is the main ideas to emerge from the recommendations adopted by the Ministers.

Aware that increased agricultural productivity depends both on improved water management and on the access and optimum use of other farm inputs, and given that food security is strategic to the stability and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Area, the Ministers drew particular attention to several measures able to adapt agricultural systems to natural constraints.

They consisted in:

- Promoting national policies to adapt to climate change, based on the principle of complementarity and shared responsibility on the part of national and local stakeholders who are in position to deal with such matters;

- Encouraging Euro-Mediterranean actions, privileging a regional approach based on synergy in scientific and technical cooperation in order to increase the agricultural productivity, intensify irrigated agriculture, introduce new crop varieties more tolerant to heat and drought that are safe and environmentally sustainable, diversify production to natural and climate conditions and improve water use efficiency in agriculture;
- Supporting policies that favour consumption of local quality food products and encouraging the development of recognition of geographical indications and denominations of origin, considering the rich regional biodiversity and the Mediterranean Diet heritage as a tool to combat the adverse effects of climate change;
- Promoting at national and regional levels, the development of a green economy based on renewable energy, with the goal to diversify and secure energy supply for the agro-food sector;

Ministers recommended that European Union support activities of knowledge and capacity building addressing sustainable management of Mediterranean terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity, and enhance agricultural and food cooperation in the region, recognizing that the Union for the Mediterranean should be seen as a suitable multilateral framework.

Ministers also recommended that CIHEAM should help the Mediterranean countries, through its education and cooperative activities, in the task of developing institutional capacity for elaborating integrated and joint scientific research/development programs regarding the effects of climate change, and implementing adaptation strategies to face complexity and emerging challenges dealing with scarce natural resources and food security issues.

You can find the full text of recommendations on www.ciheam.org

CIHEAM

Founded in 1962, CIHEAM is an intergovernmental organisation comprising thirteen member countries from the Mediterranean Basin.

CIHEAM is constituted of a General Secretariat (Paris) and four Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza).

In pursuing its three main complementary missions (post-graduate specialised education, cooperative research and facilitation of the regional debate), CIHEAM is a reference in its fields of activity: Mediterranean agriculture, food, fisheries and rural development.

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