



10th meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of CIHEAM's Member Countries

Algiers (Algeria)

Press Release

6 February 2014

The ministers of agriculture of the 13 member states of CIHEAM, or their representatives, met in **Algiers on 6 February 2014**. Organised by **Algeria** at the invitation of H.E. Abdelwahab NOURI, the Algerian Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, 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.

In the official declaration adopted, the ministers and head of delegations recalled in a first time that **food security** depends on many interrelated factors, whether agricultural, environmental, demographic, social, territorial, economic or political, and that a **holistic approach** is therefore called for in dealing with this matter, which has a decisive effect on development, stability and peace in the region. They insisted on strengthening Mediterranean **cooperation** to meet the challenges of food security, in particular through the exchange of experience on agricultural and food policies, and a better management of food markets and products. The implementation of strategies must however be **tailored to local situations**, and develop innovative **funding measures**, which might be applied over a period of time.

They also underlined that the original make-up of CIHEAM provided an **appropriate forum** in which to identify mutual interests in the fields of rural and agricultural development, food security and sustainable management of natural resources, as well as sustainability of food systems.

The ministers and head of delegations, addressed their **recommendations** as usual to Mediterranean countries, to international organisations active in the region and to CIHEAM.

They requested the Mediterranean countries to implement national and regional policies to develop agriculture, agrifood and rural areas, together with ecologically and socially responsible food strategies. They recalled the necessity of ensuring a shift towards a sustainable rural development model focusing on employment, socially and territorially inclusive growth. These issues were largely addressed during the international technical seminar on rural development held the day before (4 and 5 February 2014 in Algiers) and co-organised by Algeria and CIHEAM-MAI Montpellier.

As regards **international organisations**, they recommended in particular that the European Union confirm its commitment to Mediterranean agriculture, food and rural territories by continuing to support research and cooperation work through the ENPARD initiative, the Horizon 2020 Programme, or the 185 article on research and innovation. They also wished for the European Union, the FAO and CIHEAM to examine the idea of defining a common strategic cooperation agenda designed to support agricultural, food and rural development in the Mediterranean.

At CIHEAM, the ministers and head of delegations requested in particular that CIHEAM ensure greater coherence and operational linkage between cooperation projects and research and innovation in the context of such project as ENPARD, ARIMNET2, MED-AMIN, MEDSPRING and ERANETMED). They also proposed for CIHEAM to strengthen instruments and networks that are in a position to promote and encourage the mobility of researchers and experts, foster innovation and the pooling of information on good practice between rural players, including young farmers, in order to promote the role of women and young people in agriculture, encourage initiatives to counter food waste, establish concrete measures for diversifying income and improve management of natural resources (water, land, forests, etc.) while taking account of the effects of climate change. They finally expressed their recognition for the efforts made by CIHEAM over the past few years, and stated their willingness to strengthen its capacity and sustainably support its action, calling, through this organisation, for a new agricultural and food diplomacy in the Mediterranean.

*The entire text of the declaration of the Ministers can be found in Annex,
as the recommendations of the technical seminar*

CIHEAM

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).

The 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**. The CIHEAM pursues this cooperation mission through **specialised training, networked research, scientific diplomacy and political partnership**.

Thanks to its activities, the CIHEAM therefore contributes to the elaboration of a global, structural and engaging vision for development in the Mediterranean. Providing concrete solutions, sharing experiences and avoiding the waste of knowledge are among the main objectives of each one of its actions.

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.

For more information: www.ciheam.org



Contacts for Media

General Secretariat
11 rue Newton - 75116 Paris – France
E-mail: abis@ciheam.org
Tel: +33 (0)1 53 23 91 00

www.ciheam.org