



CIHEAM
International Centre for Advanced
Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

Towards More Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems in the Mediterranean

Press Release

22 May 2019

Paris, France



The International Forum "Strategies for More Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean" was held from May 15 to 17 in Palermo, Italy. **Initiated and managed by the CIHEAM Bari and the Forum on Mediterranean Food Cultures**, this important event has been granted the organisational and logistic support of many institutions including the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Tourism, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), UNESCO, the Sicilian Region, the City of Palermo, the Center for Mediterranean Integration of the World Bank (CMI), IFMed (International Foundation of the Mediterranean Diet) and the technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The three-day conference included 18 sessions on health, environment, culture, socio-economic and public policy topics, as well as institutional plenary sessions for which the President, the Secretary-



CIHEAM
International Centre for Advanced
Mediterranean Agricultural Studies

General, the Directors and experts of the four Institutes of the CIHEAM (Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza) were mobilized.

Representatives of intergovernmental organisations, diplomatic delegations, representatives of Mediterranean cities, high-level experts, civil society representatives and private sector actors were invited to share their experiences and discuss the best strategies to adopt for food systems that take into account the major challenges to overcome.

Indeed, if unfortunately, hunger remains a current issue, there are other additional nutrition problems. Today more than 2 billion people in the world are overweight and suffer from micronutrient deficiency. Food systems are not sufficiently providing people with quality food and nutrients for a healthy life. This is a serious public health issue.

Moreover, our production and consumption systems have negative environmental and ecological impacts that weigh heavily on territories (pollution, overexploitation of resources and waste) and on the food and nutritional security of future generations.

Finally, on the one hand, our globalised food systems are no longer able to generate shared growth that benefits local artisans and small producers and, on the other hand, they threaten cultural heritage and food traditions that are precious for community life.

Agreement to co-develop a multi-actors platform

At this Forum, the CIHEAM, the FAO and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) agreed to move jointly together in the co-development of a multi-actors platform for sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean, to be defined in its operational inclusive format.

Open to institutional partners, civil society actors and the private sector, it will be aimed (1) to deepen knowledge and pool expertise (2) to develop and jointly support training activities and actions on the ground (3) to bring these issues at the centre of national, regional the Mediterranean and international debates.

A white paper, the terms of reference of which will be jointly defined, will be prepared to propose the first elements of an action plan for sustainable, responsible and inclusive food systems. A foresight exercise may also be envisaged to make this white paper a tool for decision-making and to help prioritise actions and investment in this area.

During the Palermo Forum, two sessions organized by the Italian authorities were dedicated to the blue economy, the green economy and the circular economy in preparation of the "Summit of the Two Shores, Mediterranean Forum" initiated by the President of France Emmanuel Macron.

Download the program of the Forum

Download the speech of Mohammed Sadiki, President of the CIHEAM Governing Board for the opening remarks

Download the speech of Plácido Plaza Secretary General of the CIHEAM for the concluding remarks

FAO communication



UfM communication

More about the « Sommet des deux rives »

CIHEAM

Established in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is a Mediterranean intergovernmental organisation composed of 13 Member States (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). As a key player in multilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, food, fisheries and rural territories, its missions revolve around four main objectives:



Protection of the planet by combating waste in all its forms including waste of knowledge and know-how;



Food and nutrition security by boosting sustainable agriculture and food;



Inclusive development by investing in new generations and fragile territories;



Prevention of crises and resilience of territories.

The CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean 2025 (**CAPMED 2025**) that falls within the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development of the United Nations is based on these four lines. The CIHEAM carries out its missions through the tools of specialised training, network research, cooperation, technical assistance but also political dialogue and partnerships.

www.ciheam.org