



145th Governing Board Meeting of the CIHEAM (Videoconference, 2 July 2020)

The Governing Board of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) held its 145th meeting on 2 July 2020 under the presidency of the Governing Board President, Prof Mohammed SADIKI, by videoconference due to the COVID-19 context.

After opening the meeting by welcoming the 13 Delegates representing the 13 Member States, Mr Mohammed SADIKI (President of the Governing Board) commended the efforts made by the Directors of the 4 Institutes of the CIHEAM for their crisis management of the situation brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Institutes were able to be proactive and take immediate and efficient action, thus quickly adapting the necessary measures.

The speeches of Mr Mohammed Sadiki, of Mr Plácido PLAZA (Secretary General) and the Directors of the 4 Institutes have generally highlighted three components:

- (1) **The pre-COVID19 period** : Training and capacity building, cooperation and development, partnerships and institutional dialogue in line with priority development areas (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the CIHEAM Mediterranean Action Plan for the Mediterranean/ CAPMED).
- (2) **The COVID19 crisis**: Crisis management marked by a great capacity for anticipation and adaptation as well as by great solidarity at different levels.
- (3) **The Post-COVID19** : Projections and perspectives especially with regard to the challenges of the COVID-19 impacts on food security in the Mediterranean.

“In the situation of the COVID-19 crisis, the CIHEAM defends agricultural cooperation and Mediterranean multilateral dialogue even more than ever”

After analysing the activities of the CIHEAM, the Delegations welcomed the mobilisation of the Secretary General and the Directors to guarantee the continuity of service as much as possible throughout the pandemic lockdown period, by implementing **preventive measures** to minimise contamination risks and protect students, staff and visitors and by setting up a new corporate group devoted to the COVID-19.

The Governing Board also welcomed the mobilisation of the Directors and teaching staff of the Institutes to provide **remote courses** during lockdown and to keep **in touch with the students of the CIHEAM**.



He congratulated the CIHEAM for having **maintained and even strengthened the dynamics** of work despite the pandemic through the corporate thematic working groups focusing on the following fundamental fields:

- Socioeconomic empowerment and inclusion of women and youth;
- Sustainable food systems;
- Sustainable management of coastal areas and fisheries.





The COVID-19 crisis has particularly revealed the strategic dimension of these priority areas of cooperation and development, that will be the subject of enhanced partnerships with **International and Regional Organisations** that are active in the Mediterranean (including the FAO, the EU, the UfM, the OIV and the CMI) especially revolving around joint publications or cooperation projects.

In this respect, the Delegations of the CIHEAM Member States reaffirmed their support to the **Multi-stakeholder Platform on Sustainable Food Systems**, a project led by the CIHEAM, the FAO and the UfM in the framework of the UN initiative “**One Planet Network**” and in view of the “**2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit**”.

Lastly, on the occasion of the 145th Governing Board meeting of the CIHEAM, the **Delegate of Algeria, Mr Farid HAROUADI** was appointed Vice-President. He therefore joined the Steering Committee of the Governing Board composed of the President, Mr Mohammed SADIKI, and the Vice-Presidents Mrs Valérie BADUEL (France), Mr Teodoro MIANO (Italy) and Mr Charalambos KASIMIS (Greece).

CIHEAM

Créé en 1962, le Centre international de hautes études agronomiques méditerranéennes (CIHEAM) est une organisation intergouvernementale méditerranéenne. Acteur de la coopération multilatérale dans les domaines de l’agriculture, de l’alimentation, de la pêche et des territoires ruraux, ses missions s’articulent autour de quatre objectifs :

-  La protection de la planète, à travers la lutte contre toutes les formes de gaspillage y compris celle des savoir-faire et des connaissances
-  La sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle en favorisant l’agriculture et l’alimentation durables
-  Le développement inclusif en investissant dans les nouvelles générations et dans les territoires fragiles
-  La prévention des crises et la résilience des territoires.

Pour mener ces missions, le CIHEAM s’appuie sur les outils de la formation spécialisée, de la recherche en réseaux, de la coopération et de l’assistance technique, mais aussi sur le dialogue politique et les partenariats.

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