



Union for the Mediterranean  
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**25** YEARS 1995 - 2020  
**BARCELONA**  
**PROCESS**  
Union for the Mediterranean

**#WOMEN4**  
**MEDITERRANEAN**

## SIDE EVENT

19 NOVEMBER 2020 (14.00-17.00 ONLINE)

# Mainstreaming Gender in Covid-19 recovery responses of Agri-food sectors and rural areas

A side-event organized by the CIHEAM and the UfM during the UfM High-level  
#Women4Mediterranean Conference 2020

During COVID-19, the role of women has been and still is essential. **They have been on the frontline in the agriculture sector** but also in processing and distribution professions. Yet, this role came with a high exposure to risks and infection.

In many countries, specific measures have been taken to support informal workers who did not have access to the “standard” social protection systems. However, **a significant proportion of women working in the informal economy remained excluded from welfare schemes and financial compensation** during lockdown. In rural areas, women have less access to essential services and during times of emergency this access to services is often more compromised.

Existing inequalities are often exacerbated during pandemics and crises. For that, **COVID-19 threatens the livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable populations**. A rise in poverty will have an impact on the food and nutritional security of families, particularly on women and girls who have already present nutritional vulnerabilities.

### Discussion points :

- **How has COVID-19 impacted women in agriculture** and what measures should be promoted to address the gendered impact of COVID-19 in rural Mediterranean areas with reference to agriculture, food security and nutrition?
- **Which alliances, networks could better serve a gender responsive agenda** in post COVID-19 recovery?
- **How can education, research and innovations in agri-food fields** better help to limit the negative impacts of crises like COVID-19 on women?

Registration here: <https://register.women4mediterranean.org/>



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## AGENDA

### 14:00 **Opening session**

H.E Ms. **Akissa Bahri**, Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries in Tunisia

M. **Plácido Plaza Lopez**, Secretary General of the CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies)

Ms. **Marcela Villarreal**, Director of the Partnerships Division Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN-FAO

M. **Leonard Mizzi**, Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate-General (DG) for International Cooperation and Development - Rural development, food security and nutrition

Moderated by Ms. **Yasmine Seghirate El Guerrab** (Women empowerment and Gender Policy, CIHEAM Headquarters)

### 14:45 **Gender Impacts and Responses to protect and promote the role of women during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Session 1)**

Moderated by Ms. **Gaëlle Ferrant** (OECD Development Center)

How COVID-19 has impacted women in agriculture but also in processing and distribution professions? How the pandemic is changing gender relations, within and outside the family in rural Mediterranean areas?

What measures at international, national and local level should be promoted to address the gendered impact of COVID-19 in rural Mediterranean areas with reference to agriculture, food security and nutrition?

Which alliances/networks could better serve a gender responsive agenda in post COVID-19 recovery?

Panellists:

- Ms. **Silvia Barbatello**, Project Coordinator, **GEMAISA Network**
- Ms. **Ghizlaine El Manjra Maghnoúj**, Social Entrepreneur and Activist for Regenerative Economy, Founder of **Human for Human**
- M. **Meher Khelifi**, developer of the **“Ahmini”** start-up dedicated to the social coverage of rural women working in the agricultural sector
- Video Message from a CIHEAM Project Beneficiary (**DEVLOK**)



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15:20 Questions and Answers and wrap Up by Ms. Gaëlle Ferrant

16:00 **Strengthening resilience of women through training, research and innovations in rural areas and agri-food sectors (Session 2)**

**Moderator: M. Tomas Garcia Azcarate**, Vice-Director of the Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography of the Spanish CNRS (IEGD-CSIC); Associate researcher at the Center for Studies and Research for the Management of Agricultural and Environmental Risks (CEIGRAM)

How can education, training and research in agri-food fields better help to limit the negative impacts of crises like COVID19 on women?  
What instruments can be mobilized.....? With whom .....? What are the goals.....? What is the place of innovations and technologies?

Panellists:

- **M. Maroun El Moujabber**, Projects coordinator, representing CIHEAM Bari in the "Gender smart" project (Gender in Science Management of Agriculture; life sciences, including Research and Teaching)
- **Ms. Carmen Urbano**, DG for agrifood innovation and promotion at Aragon's Spanish government.

16:25 Questions and answers and wrap-up by M. Tomas Garcia Azcarate

16:50 Conclusions by Ms. Yasmine Seghirate El Guerrab

