



Mediterranean integration: the challenges of enhanced cooperation for the promotion of sustainable and resilient food systems

16th SEPTEMBER 2022 from 14:30 to 17:00

The debate will be held in a hybrid format: In the [CIHEAM Montpellier Institute](#) and online ([ZOOM LIVE STREAM](#))

Factors of stability and peace, drivers of development...

Could agriculture and food represent an opportunity to overcome crises, share regional growth in the medium term, and a path for a more sustainable and resilient Mediterranean integration?

Doesn't responding successfully to new challenges require strengthening regional cooperation?

The Centre for Mediterranean Integration ([CMI](#)) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies ([CIHEAM](#)) are joining forces around a round table that aims to shed additional light on the challenges faced by agriculture and food actors in the Mediterranean region, to propose courses of action in terms of regional cooperation and to identify research priorities for future joint analyses. This meeting will give the floor to partners engaged in the research and implementation of sustainable solutions, experts from the CMI and the CIHEAM, regional leader on the issues of sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security, development of rural and coastal territories and who has the capacity to play a key role in accelerating regional integration in the agri-food sector.

This round table is an opportunity to present the report of the CMI and the Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences ([FEMISE](#)) published in February 2022 "[Post Covid-19: growth opportunities, regional value chains and Mediterranean integration](#)" which analyzes the impacts of the global health crisis of **COVID-19 on the food security of Mediterranean South Shore countries**. These countries, already challenged by the scarcity of their natural resources, climatic crises, and heavily dependent on food imports are today **confronted with the Russian-Ukrainian war and its consequences on the agricultural commodity markets**. In addition to a documented inventory of the food and agricultural situation in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East, the report also offers **recommendations to strengthen the resilience of**



agri-food systems, capable of producing enough and being more productive, and for which the dynamics of regional cooperation seem to be the keystone.

Format of the meeting

The CIHEAM Montpellier Institute will host this round table on **September 16th 2022** in the afternoon from **14:30 to 17:00**; it will consist of two parts.

The first part will aim to examine the necessary transitions in Mediterranean agricultural models to produce sufficiently in the face of growing demand in a region marked by tensions and crises. Speakers will share their expertise on possible responses to food safety requirements. They will discuss possible options for sustainably increasing production taking into account environmental constraints, including climate change and pressure on water resources. They will also be invited to present guidelines for more balanced and inclusive growth to reduce territorial development gaps and act on poverty, particularly in rural areas.

The second part will focus on the revitalization of cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean countries in the agri-food sector. Considerations on developments in the European Agricultural Policy, the Neighbourhood Policy and national strategies will be discussed by experts in order to integrate the imperatives of enhanced food security in the South and to support the development of sustainable agricultural practices. The new types of Mediterranean partnerships for training, information, knowledge sharing and capacity building will also be discussed, involving a plurality of actors in agri-food systems (administrations, universities and research centres, companies, civil society...).

At the end of this meeting, **joint recommendations from the CIHEAM and the CMI** will be presented to call in particular for more ambitious regional cooperation, endowed with resources and focused on the synergies of action research to help decision-making and the development of field projects as close as possible to the needs of the Mediterranean countries.

Provisional agenda

Moderator of the event : Ms. Yasmine Seghirate El Guerrab, CIHEAM

14h30-14h40	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Thierry Dupeuble, Director, CIHEAM Montpellier
14:40-15:40	The necessary transitions of Mediterranean agricultural models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Director, UNOPS CMI ● Mr. Aniss Ben Rayana, PhD, Head of Office, Arab Office for Olives ● Ms. Sandrine Dury, CIRAD Regional Director and INRAE and Agreenium representative in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Balkan countries ● M. Hatem Bellouchette, Agro-economist, Teacher-Researcher, CIHEAM Montpellier <p>followed by 10 min Q&A</p>



15h40-16h40	Revitalization of cooperation between Europe and the Mediterranean countries in the agri-food sector <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dr Brahim Adam Ahmed Doukheiry, Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (OADA)● Mr. Constantin Tsakas, Senior Programme Officer, CMI-UNOPS● Mrs. Maryse Louis, General Manager, FEMISE● Mr. Mohamed Sgheir BEN YOUSSEF, Project Officer, BusinessMed followed by 10 min Q&A
16h40-17h00	Conclusions and recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mr. Plácido Plaza Lopez, Secretary General, CIHEAM● Ms. Blanca Moreno-Dodson, Director, UNOPS CMI● Mr. Thierry Dupeuble, Director, CIHEAM Montpellier

[Link to join the round table: https://zoom.us/j/92683262947](https://zoom.us/j/92683262947)

Websites

- The Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI-UNOPS): <https://www.cmimarseille.org/>
- The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM): <https://www.ciheam.org/>
- The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM Montpellier): <https://www.iamm.ciheam.org/en/>