



CIHEAM

Centre International de Hautes Études
Agronomiques Méditerranéennes

Speech by Nahla Hwalla, former President of the CIHEAM Advisory Board, delivered on 15 December 2023 at the medal ceremony during the 154th session of the CIHEAM Governing Board.

I am filled with great pleasure and gratitude as I stand before you today to convey my heartfelt appreciation to CIHEAM for bestowing upon me this prestigious medal. I am honored to receive this recognition for my service on the advisory board. Serving on the board and assuming the role of its president has been a fruitful journey, providing me with the opportunity to collaborate with distinguished colleagues and apply my expertise to assess and promote research within the organization.

The strategy of the advisory board consistently strives to endorse initiatives addressing crucial issues, empowering CIHEAM to fulfill its mission in supporting countries in the Mediterranean region. This encompasses activities related to knowledge generation, capacity building, policy support, networking, and partnerships in the realms of sustainable agriculture, food security, and rural development—all aimed at assisting MED countries in realizing their aspirations.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend CIHEAM for its strategic approach, which incorporates comprehensive and holistic considerations of the specific characteristics and needs of the Mediterranean region. This approach enables the organization to tailor solutions to the unique challenges faced by its member countries.

CIHEAM's insightful policy analysis and support have played a pivotal role in shaping policies that foster sustainable agriculture and rural development

On a personal note, I want to express my appreciation for the inclusive vision of CIHEAM, which afforded me the opportunity to become the first female president of the advisory board.

Subsequently, CIHEAM has continued to appoint outstanding female exemplified by her Excellency Mme Frida Krifa leading the board. This commitment to diversity and gender equality is commendable, reflecting the organization's dedication to promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities.

In closing I extend my gratitude to professor Teodoro Miano and all the organizers of this event for their professionalism and attendance to details

This medal serves both as a reminder and opportunity responsibility to continue striving for excellence in research and innovation-for-the betterment of the Mediterranean region.

Thank you once again for this prestigious recognition.

