



## ÉGYPTE / EGYPT

### **Adel Abdelazeem ELAKHEDAR**

Vice Minister  
President of Agricultural Research Center  
Speech on behalf of the Minister

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*Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Esteemed Guests,*

It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today to address the pressing issues affecting our agricultural sectors.

Please allow me first to extend my gratitude to all those who contributed to the preparation of the final statement of this meeting, and I sincerely appreciate the significant efforts of the working team.

We face challenges such as food security, sustainable development, and climate resilience, however, by sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and collaborating on innovative solutions, we can make tangible progress. In this regard, I fully endorse the challenges identified for the CIHEAM region, Africa, and the world, as well as the proposed actions. To overcome these challenges, we must coordinate collective studies and efforts, with clear roles and responsibilities. Addressing these regional and global challenges - particularly climate change - requires practical projects and programs rather than just strategies. We urgently need solutions to fight hunger, poverty, and disease, especially since we already have the resources to do so.

As CIHEAM member countries, we have the necessary means - arable land, water, an affordable labor force, and advanced technologies - to achieve our goals of eliminating poverty and improving the well-being of our populations.

## **Distinguished Guests,**

Africa's key needs from International Organizations can be summarized in the following areas:

1. Implementing joint projects focused on training, research, and technology transfer to enhance the national capacities of African countries.
2. Accelerating sustainable agricultural investments to develop the agricultural sector.
3. Fostering collaboration in areas such as transboundary diseases, food traceability, quality control, gender equality, and women and youth empowerment.

On the other hand, CIHEAM can support African countries by:

1. Strengthening capacities through training and joint partnerships.
2. Implementing actions in research, innovation, sustainable agriculture, and food systems, and promoting knowledge sharing.
3. Integrating gender issues, youth, and women empowerment, and supporting small and medium farms.

Moreover, Egypt fully supports CIHEAM's initiatives in these areas. We propose establishing an African CIHEAM, headquartered in Egypt, to serve as a coordinated framework for agricultural collaboration and development. This African CIHEAM can:

1. Foster collaboration between African CIHEAM and African Agricultural Research Centers.
2. Develop a comprehensive roadmap, covering short, medium, and longterm goals.
3. Strengthen communication between CIHEAM and African countries, as well as International Organizations.
4. Encourage engagement between CIHEAM and universities in the member states.

In Egypt, we have achieved remarkable progress in key areas such as plant and animal production, water management, and agricultural exports. Our initiatives in vertical and

horizontal expansion of arable land, alongside advancements in irrigation technology, have enabled us to cultivate 9.8 million feddans of land, with plans to add another 3 million. In animal production, we have implemented national projects, enhance dairy collection, improve genetics, and achieve self-sufficiency in poultry production. Moreover, Egypt operates several reference laboratories that play a crucial role in supporting agricultural development and ensuring the quality and safety of agricultural products that led to increasing agricultural exports from 4 million tons to 7.3 tons last year and aiming to reach 9 million tons this year.

The Agricultural Research Center (ARC) in Egypt is the entity responsible for these achievements. As the executive scientific arm of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the ARC plays a central role in implementing policies related to agricultural development, innovation, and resources management.

In essence, the ARC is a key player in advancing food security and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources.

In conclusion, as we face mounting challenges - including regional conflicts, climate change, and resource scarcity - time is of the essence. Through collective action and shared innovation, we can create a more secure, sustainable future for all.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Morocco, and CIHEAM colleagues for the considerable efforts that have made this event a success.

Thank you.