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Platform

## GID - CIHEAM - Conférence Parménides XI

Montpellier – France, 17-19 June 2025  
*Preliminary programme (version of 10/04/2025)*

### *Feeding the Mediterranean*

**17 June 2025**

#### Opening speech

- 10:00 am **Thierry Dupeuble**, Director of the CIHEAM Montpellier
- 10:05 am **Frida Krifca**, President of the CIHEAM Governing Board or **Teodoro Miano**, Secretary General of the CIHEAM
- 10:10 am **Catherine Bréchignac**, President of the GID
- 10:15 am **Isabelle Touzard**, Vice-President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole
- **Annie Genevard**, Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty of France (*subject to confirmation*)

**10:30 am - 11:00 am Opening session**

#### Speakers:

- **Jacques Brulhet**, Vice-President of the GID
- **Denis Lacroix**, Vice-President of the Plan Bleu/ Foresight Delegate IFREMER
- **Prof. Akissa Bahri**, Board of Governors of the International Water Management Institute IWMI, Former Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries in Tunisia

**11:00 am - 11:30 am: Introductory round table “Water and agriculture in the Mediterranean climate”**

Moderator: **Patrick Caron**, Member of the Académie d’agriculture de France

- **Éric Servat**, President of the French National Committee of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
- **Antoine Bréchignac**, Regional Director of Suez Occitanie.

**11:30 am - 12:00 pm** General debate on the opening session.

**Lunch 12:00 pm - 02:00 pm**  
&  
**Exhibition visit "Je mange donc je suis"**

**2:00 pm - 6:30 pm Session 1 - Agricultural Production Models and Food Security in the Light of Climate Change**

Moderators: **Roberto Bassi**, Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei/GID, Italy  
and **Jean-Louis Rastoin**, Honorary Professor of Economics and Business Management, Institut agro-Montpellier, Member of the Académie d'Agriculture de France

Rapporteurs : **Iciar Pavez**, Lecturer-Researcher, CIHEAM Montpellier and **Georgios Prekatsakis**  
Director of the Soil Sciences and Plant Diagnostics Laboratory of the CIHEAM Chania

**2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Round table 1.1 - Can Agroecology Feed Populations?**

The imperatives of preserving natural resources have led to the promotion of agroecology as a "new productive model" in the North, while in the South, it raises doubts about its ability to meet food security requirements. However, a number of successful initiatives in these regions have demonstrated their effectiveness such as the Songhaï farms in Benin and the Sahelian bocage in Burkina Faso.

This round table will discuss current production conditions and the challenges they pose in environmental, social and economic terms. It will also seek to define the conditions, including shifts in our relationship with living organisms under which agroecological agriculture could meet global food needs.

**Underlying questions:**

- What are the current main production models ?
- How can the performance of different models be assessed?
- Under what conditions could agroecological agriculture meet the world's food needs?

**Speakers:**

- **Jacques Wéry**, Professor, Institut Agro, France
  - **Amin Benabdallah**, Tunisian farmer
  - **Zeynep Bilgi Buluş**, Independent consultant in sustainable and inclusive development, Member of the board of the Buğday Association for the Support of Ecological Life, Türkiye
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**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Round table 1.2 - Is Irrigation Over?**

In the context of climate change and increased pressure on water resources, the expansion of irrigated lands appears to some as a necessity. On the other hand, others are calling for an overhaul of practices by exploring agricultural models that are less dependent on irrigation, using more water-efficient techniques or even models that do not require irrigation at all.

This round table will explore both the possibilities for increasing water availability and the innovations for optimising its use in agriculture, focusing as much on saving demand as on increasing supply.

**Underlying questions:**

- What water resources are available today (including brackish and sea water, wastewater, etc.)?
- What technological advances can help change the situation?
- How can water efficiency in agriculture be improved?

**Speakers:**

- **Hatem Belhouchette**, Scientific Administrator, CIHEAM Montpellier

- **Mostafa Errahj**, Lecturer-Researcher, Ecole Nationale d'agriculture de Meknès, Morocco
- **Roula Khadra**, Scientific Coordinator, CIHEAM Bari/ Arab Water Council

### **Break - 30 minutes**

#### **4:30 pm - 5:30 pm Round table 1.3 - Food, An Impossible Autonomy?**

This round table will address the concept of food sovereignty, behind which divergent visions are emerging in Mediterranean countries. From self-sufficiency, relocation of production, fair access to markets, diversification of supply sources to resilience in the face of external shocks - the aim is to clarify the contours of this concept and analyse the possible strategies for improving food security while reducing dependence on international markets.

#### **Underlying questions:**

- Should we focus on a local approach or large-scale supply chains? How can local food systems be connected to international trade dynamics?
- Is regional food sovereignty combining solidarity and complementarity possible in the Mediterranean?

#### **Speakers:**

- **Giulio Malorgio**, Professor at the University of Bologna, Italy
- **Rami Zurayk**, Professor at the American University Beirut, ex-HLPE, Lebanon
- **Omar Bessaoud**, Member of the Académie d'agriculture de France / Associated Professor at the CIHEAM Montpellier / University of Algiers, Algeria

#### **5:30 pm - 6:00 pm General debate of the first session**

#### **Dinner**

**18 June 2025**

#### **9:00 am - 12:30 pm Session 2 - Agricultural Prices, Food Prices and Public Policies**

**Moderators:** **Thierry Chambolle**, Member of the Academy of Technologies/GID and **Marie de Lattre Gasquet**, Member of the Académie d'agriculture de France/GID

**Rapporteurs:** **Hala El Solh**, Secretary General of the GID and XX, PhD student at the CIHEAM Montpellier

#### **9:00 am - 10:15 am Round table 2.1- Support Production or Support Consumption, or Combining both ? Towards social food security?**

This round table will explore the tensions and complementarities between measures to support agricultural production and those aimed at guaranteeing access to healthy, sustainable food for all. While agricultural policies have historically favoured support for production and operators in the sector, notably through farm subsidies and a priority given to lowering food prices, the issue of more direct support for consumers is now becoming increasingly acute. Faced with growing inequalities in access to quality food, some people are calling for a system of social food security, inspired by existing models in health or employment. The aim of this discussion will be to achieve a better understanding of the possible levers for action to ensure both the economic viability of producers and the accessibility of quality foodstuffs for all.

**Underlying questions:**

- How can we ensure both fair remuneration for producers and access to quality products for the most disadvantaged?
- Should we ensure the right to eat well through a " food social security" system? Under what conditions?
- What role should short supply chains, the territorialisation of food systems and food education play in these considerations?

**Speakers:**

- **Nicolas Bricas**, Director of the UNESCO ADM Chair, CIRAD, France
  - **Dominique Paturel**, Researcher, INRAE UMR Innovation/ "Démocratie alimentaire" Collective, France
  - **Christophe Alliot**, Director, Bureau d'analyse sociétale d'intérêt collectif, BASIC, France
  - **Amb. Gabriel Ferrero de Loma Osorio**, Strategic Advisor, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program - GAFSP, Spain
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**10:15 am - 11:30 am Round table 2.2- International Regulations: Should Externalities Be Taken into Account ?**

Since the WTO debates on public support for agriculture in the 2000s, international markets have been governed mainly by bi- or multilateral agreements, leaving aside the environmental, social and economic externalities inherent in production methods. In the face of growing instability and imbalances exacerbated by recent crises, this round table will analyse the need to incorporate these externalities into trade regulations.

**Underlying questions:**

- Can we continue to pit farmers against each other when they are subject to very different rules and costs ?
- Should we reconsider integrating negative externalities into agricultural trade regulations?
- What tools are required to take better account of the hidden costs (social, environmental) of food systems?

**Speakers:**

- **Franck Galtier**, research economist, CIRAD, Montpellier, France,
- **Tristan Le Cotty**, Economist, CIRAD, Montpellier, France,
- **Rachid Harbouze**, Professor, Institut Agronomique Vétérinaire Hassan II, Rabat, Maroc
- **Eve Fouilleux**, Research Director,, CNRS, UMR MOISA, France

**Break - 30 minutes****12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Round table 2.3 - Food Safety, Strategies and Markets in the Mediterranean**

Ensuring food safety is a major challenge in the Mediterranean, a region marked by the diversity of its food systems, supply and distribution chains, and the growing effects of climate change on agricultural production. Harmonisation of standards, traceability and health risk management are essential to ensure safe, high-quality food for all consumers. This round table will therefore explore strategies for cooperation between Mediterranean countries to strengthen cooperation in these fields.

**Underlying questions:**

- How can we strengthen regional cooperation to harmonise food safety standards and improve food traceability in the Mediterranean?

- What are the main challenges faced by the Mediterranean agri-food industry in complying with international standards, and how can they be supported?
- To what extent does climate change affect food safety, and what adaptation strategies should be implemented?
- How can new technologies improve food risk monitoring and management?

**Speakers:**

- **Abdelhakim Hammoudi**, research Director, Paris Saclay University,,INRAE-PSAE, France
- **Mohammed Ait Hou**, Professor, Moulay Ismail University, Errachidia, Morocco
- **Yamna Erraach**, Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie, INAT, Tunisia

**1:00 pm General debate on the second session.**

**Lunch 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm**

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**2:30 pm - 6:30 pm Session 3 - Mediterranean Diet, Dietary Patterns and Food Education and Training**

**Moderators:** **Roberto Capone**, Principal Administrateur, CIHEAM and **Yasmine Seghirate**, Administrator, CIHEAM

**Rapporteurs:** **Ramzi Belkhodja**, Academic Coordinator and Administrator, CIHEAM Zaragoza and **Francesco Bottalico**, Research Officer, CIHEAM Bari

**2:30 pm - 3:45 pm Round table 3.1 - But Where Has the Mediterranean Diet Gone?**

Recognised by nutritionists for its many benefits, the Mediterranean diet is nevertheless losing ground in Mediterranean countries, where dietary imbalances are contributing to an increase in chronic diseases. Listed as an Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2010 and praised for its positive effects on health, the environment and the economy, the Mediterranean diet is struggling to maintain its place in contemporary eating habits. This round table will address the causes of this decline and strategies to revive interest in this food model.

**Underlying questions:**

- The realities of the Mediterranean diet: history, spread, and evolution
- What are the current trends in eating habits in the Mediterranean?
- How are urbanisation and the globalisation of food systems changing eating habits?

**Speakers:**

- **Antonia Trichopoulou**, Professor, Yale University, Athens University, Academy of Athens, Greece
  - **Sandro Dernini**, Coordinator of the SFS MED Platform (FAO-UfM-CIHEAM-PRIMA)
  - **Jalila El Ati**, Faculty of Sciences, University of Tunis, Tunisia
  - **Gilles Boëtsch**, Emeritus Research Director at CNRS, President of Institut Balanités
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**3:45 pm - 4:45 pm Round table 3.2 -A Bulwark Against Junk Food ?!**

Despite being harshly criticized, "junk food" remains a major public health concern. While tools such as nutrition labelling, the Nutri-score and applications to help people make food choices have been introduced, consumers are still heavily influenced by marketing and the ubiquity of ultra-processed food products. The discussions of this round table will focus on what can be done to improve the food

environment and encourage healthier food choices. It will also address educational strategies and public policies to support this change.

**Underlying questions:**

- How can we act on the food environment to encourage better consumption practices and a commitment on the part of processing and distribution operators?
- What are the best strategies for educating people about food, at school and in their families, in order to raise awareness from an early age?
- Can mass catering be a lever for changing eating habits?
- What role can public policy and regulation play to counteract the influence of food marketing?

**Speakers:**

- **Christophe Lavelle**, Researcher,, CNRS, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France)
- **Pascale Hébel**, Associate Director, C-Ways
- **Sonia Boudiche**, Professor, Institut National des Sciences Appliquées et de Technologie, ESIAT, Tunis)

**Break - 15 minutes**

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***5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Round table 3.3 - From Diet to Production: What Strategies?***

While the European Union has structured its agricultural policy around the Farm to Fork approach, it is legitimate to wonder about the opposite approach: shouldn't food demand and nutritional imperatives guide production strategies? This round table will explore the relevance of a "Fork to Farm" approach, based on nutritional needs and sustainable food models, in order to define priorities for agricultural production. It will also look at the challenges involved in implementing this approach on different levels, from local to global, and the levers that can be used to establish connections between these two approaches.

**Underlying questions:**

- Can nutritional imperatives influence agricultural strategies?
- At what levels is this approach applicable (local, national, regional) ?
- What levers can be used to reconcile public health imperatives with the economic and environmental constraints of agricultural production?
- How can "Farm to Fork" and "Fork to Farm" approaches be combined to ensure sustainable food systems?

**Speakers:**

- **Alexandre Meybeck**, High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) Coordinator, UN Committee on World Food Security
- **Dr Parviz Koohafkan**, President of the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation,, Iran
- **Bezaiet Dessalegn**, Researcher in Food Systems and Resilience, International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas,,ICARDA, Ethiopia
- **Eric Verger**, Researcher, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, IRD, France

**6:00 pm Debate on the third session.**

**Evening stroll, dinner and festive cocktail**

**19 June 2025**

**9:00 am - 12:00 pm Session 4: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Moderator:** **Bernard Hubert**, member of the Académie d'agriculture de France

- Summary of the work by the rapporteurs of the four sessions (40 minutes).

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

- **Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux**, Vice-President of the GID
- **Mohammed Sadiki**, Former Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Rural Development, Kingdom of Morocco
- **Michaël Delafosse**, Mayor of Montpellier and President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole
- **Carole Delga**, President of the Occitanie Region

**Afternoon:**

***Presentation of the works created during the artist Mustapha Tabaa's residency, as part of a collaboration with high school students, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers.***

**External visits**