

BEANS Executive Committee Meeting Report

Decisions and Follow-Up Steps CIHEAM-Bari, 6 November 2025

Participants

Executive Committee Members:

- Teodoro Miano – Secretary General, CIHEAM (Chair)
- Biagio Di Terlizzi – Director, CIHEAM Bari (Host)
- Mouin Hamze – EC Coordinator
- Aly Abou Sabaa – Director General, ICARDA
- Shiv Kumar Agrawal – ICARDA
- Juan Lucas Restrepo – Director General, Alliance Bioversity International & CIAT
- Gianpiero Menza – Alliance Bioversity International & CIAT
- Jean Claude Ryubogo – Alliance Bioversity International & CIAT (remote)
- Zohra Chabaane – President, IRESA, Tunisia (remote)
- Mariem Bouhadida – INRA, Tunisia
- Andrea Brunori – ENEA, Italy
- Massimo Iannetta – ENEA, Italy (remote)

Experts-CIHEAM-SG & Bari:

Virginia Belsanti, Gianluigi Cardone, Lamberto Lamberti, Daniela Palermo, Antonio Trani

(**Excused:** Yasmine Seghirate, Maroun El Mujabber, Mara Semeraro)

Agenda

1. Opening Session – Welcome remarks. BEANS EC Chair, CIHEAM Bari Director, BEANS EC Coordinator, and partner organizations.
2. Assessment of the BEANS General Assembly (June 2025) – Review of outcomes and key messages.
3. Membership of the BEANS Meta-Network – Definition, confirmation, and updates.
4. Action Plan 2026 – Priorities, activities, and task allocation.
5. Financial Support – CIHEAM-Bari, CIHEAM-SG, and partners.
6. Communication and Visibility – Website, press releases, and social media.
7. Next Executive Committee Meeting – Date, venue, and organization.

Main Decisions and Follow-Up Actions

1. Membership Framework

- The **proposed Membership Framework** for the BEANS Meta-Network (Initial Phase 2025–2026) was **approved** as an *Open Collaborative Membership (Non-Formal Network)* to facilitate operational flexibility and partner engagement.
- A **draft Letter of Invitation** to institutions and experts will be circulated via the shared Drive for comments and finalization.

2. Action Plan 2026

- The **Action Plan** will be updated shortly to incorporate inputs from EC members, mainly: **Alliance Bioversity-CIAT** (Doc. Provided), **ICARDA** (To provide written inputs addressing the role of the private sector, gender, and food legume processing) & **ENEA** (To contribute sections on legume value chains).
- Additional topics for inclusion: **restoration of forages, TANIT Project**, and **Erasmus Africa** collaboration.
- All updated documents will be shared on the **BEANS Drive** for review and contributions.

3. Collaboration and Funding Opportunities

- **CIHEAM** will cover the essential costs of EC operations and communication tools for 2026.
- **Opportunities** to be explored include **PRIMA, Horizon Europe**, and other international or bilateral funding mechanisms.
- Additional resources may be mobilized by EC members through bilateral or institutional projects.
- Members agreed to **strengthen joint proposals** between Northern and Southern Mediterranean partners.

4. Knowledge Sharing and Communication

- CIHEAM-Bari will coordinate the preparation of a **“FEED Report”** summarizing BEANS’ key themes, best practices, and existing publications, with inputs from experts and partners. The Report can also be posted on the BEANS website.
- The **BEANS website** is under development and open for discussion and contributions from all EC members.
- Enhanced visibility through **press releases, social media, and partner platforms** was endorsed.

5. Next Meetings and Key Events

- An **online EC meeting** will be organized once the final versions of the main documents (General Assembly Minutes, Membership Framework, and Action Plan) are ready.
- The **next in-person Executive Committee meeting** will be hosted by **ICARDA in Morocco** during the week of **20–26 April 2026**, including a field visit (**Meknès**).

Major 2026 Events to Consider:

- Global Dryland Conference (ICAEDA) – September 2026
- CIHEAM Ministerial Meeting (Rome) – October 2026

Link to the CIHEAM BEANS Network Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/142FyKf4zLeXf1YJ0o4fhanuF3at297Uy>

Prepared by:

Teodoro Miano (Chair) & **Mouin Hamzé** (Coordinator)

Paris, November 14, 2025