

11th MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS OF CIHEAM'S MEMBER COUNTRIES

Tirana (ALBANIA) - 22 September 2016

Tirana Declaration

***Distress Migration
Agriculture and Rural Development can help***

At the invitation of H.E. Edmond Panariti, Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Administration of the Republic of Albania, the Ministers of Agriculture of the 13 Member Countries of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), or their representatives, convened in Tirana on the 22nd of September 2016.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation,

CONSIDERING

- That the Mediterranean is a geographical interface where agricultural, rural and climate challenges are strongly connected and create increasing interdependence between Europe, Africa and the Middle-East placing agriculture, nutrition, rural areas and the environment at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- That the Mediterranean has been a leading migratory space for a long time, that mobility dynamics shall be seen in a perspective of human development and inclusive growth, mainly in the rural areas where the improvement of the living conditions and adaptation to climate change are crucial and essential;
- That instability in the agricultural sector, especially concerning land, food insecurity, malnutrition, extreme climate deregulation and underemployment are among the factors which compel populations to leave their territories and that food security, protection of natural resources, sustainable rural development, and social cohesion shall be included in the strategies that mitigate distress mobility in the Mediterranean region;
- That agriculture and rural development, showing resilience to shocks, technical and environmental innovation, may provide solutions in the agenda of adaptation strategies to climate change;
- That agriculture and food security are closely related to reconciliation, peace and stability in the Mediterranean region, and must be considered as priority sectors for these countries and for the international cooperation thereby underlining the importance of the youth and, in particular, of women's employment in the rural areas in order to prevent distress mobility.

RECALLING

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) many of which regard agriculture, food and environment;

- The declaration of Valletta Summit on migration held in November 2015 and its action plan;
- The declaration adopted on the occasion of the second Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference on agriculture held in Palermo in November 2014, during which the Ministers stated that: *“a greater number of young Mediterranean people must view agriculture and rural regions as dynamics of the future and that, for this to happen, multisectoral tailored policies, both national and regional, are needed and should be adequately funded”*;
- The G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems;
- The guidelines, approved on the 11th of May 2012 by the Global Food Safety Committee, on responsible governance of land tenure system applicable to land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security;
- The declaration adopted on the occasion of the first ministerial conference on agriculture and food security between the Countries of the Western Mediterranean 5 + 5 Dialogue, held in Algiers on the 27th of November 2013;
- The Paris Agreement on Climate of the 12th of December 2015 on the occasion of the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Lima Action Agenda and COP 22, which will take place in November in Marrakech, for the implementation of the adopted measures, the follow-up and the assessment of the commitments made in Paris, including initiatives linked to natural resources crucial for agriculture and food security;
- The Milan Charter, legacy document of Expo Milano 2015 “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, whose goal is to promote the right to food and food security, and that was delivered to the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on 16 October 2015 after being signed by governments, institutions and citizens;
- The report of the United Nations Secretary General published on the 9th of May 2016, which calls for new global commitments on mass movements of refugees and migrants, including a global pact on sharing responsibilities, an intervention plan for refugees and a global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration;
- The Communication of the 7th of June 2016 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council and the European Investment Bank establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration;
- The global strategy for foreign policy and security of the European Union, presented on the 28th of June 2016, by Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, which introduces the resilience of Countries and societies to the east and south of Europe as a priority, and states that the European Union

will encourage different pathways to resilience in government, economy, society, climate and energy, and develop more effective migration policy for Europe and for its partners;

- The United Nations General Assembly High-Level meeting , held on the 19th of September 2016, which invites member States to develop a “coordinated response to large movements of refugees and migrants” and aims at engaging development actors to enhance the contribution of refugees and migrants to their environment;
- The discussions which took place in Tirana, on the 21st of September 2016 during the International Forum on the sustainability of the agro-food value chains, co-organized by CIHEAM, EBRD and FAO with the collaboration of the Albanian Authorities, and the strategic role of the private sector as driver for inclusive development, agricultural competitiveness and food security in the Mediterranean Region.

CONVINCED

- That the surge in flows of migrants calls for long-term action plans that may complete humanitarian and security measures in order to promote human, economic and social development and to prevent conflicting situations;
- That the level of interdependence between Mediterranean countries and Europe is increasingly growing and CIHEAM is a very relevant instrument for multilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, nutrition, fisheries, forestry and life in rural areas acting as a platform for knowledge and best practices sharing (i), training, research and innovation (ii), implementation of national development strategies (iii), and of scientific and cultural diplomacy (iv);
- That a global, integrated and participatory approach is necessary to foster economic, social and environmental development in the Mediterranean region where agriculture, food, fisheries, forestry and rural areas provide solutions for inclusion, adaptation, creation of a new solidarity and for the reinforcement of social cohesions, at local and regional level.

Taking account of the above considerations, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation

- Have discussed the following themes:
 - **An exchange of views on distress migration (internal and international)** from the perspective of agricultural development, food security, land policy, development and inclusion of rural territories and climate change in relation to challenges that are specific to the Mediterranean;
 - **The presentation of the CIHEAM Strategic Agenda 2025 (CSA 2025)**, whose mission of cooperation in the Mediterranean revolves around 4 pillars and 15 themes.

Upon completion of their works, the ministers and heads of delegation:

- Have commended on the implementation of the CIHEAM Strategic Agenda 2025, whose framework for action is based on four pillars namely (i) protecting the planet struggling against triple waste (knowledge, natural resources and energy, food products); (ii) food security promoting sustainable agriculture; (iii) inclusive development involving the youth and women and investing in fragile areas; (iv) crises and resilience and managing tensions.
- Have recognised that the issues related to the distress migration and the refugee crises should foster to reflect on the root causes of voluntary and forced migrations in order to provide possible solutions from the perspective of agricultural and rural development and food security in the Mediterranean;

Call on the CIHEAM:

- 1 To set up the **CIHEAM Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025)** through the implementation of its Strategic Agenda 2025 and of the five regional flagships. **CAPMED 2025** will be implemented with the partner Institutions in order to strengthen an institutional complementarity in the field of agriculture, food security and inclusive development.
- 2 To propose with CAPMED2025 a global answer to mitigate the distress migration and to give an important contribution to the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation policy, and to the social resilience in the region, by means of training, research, technical support and values such as intercultural dialogue, multilateralism, multi-stakeholder action and solution of real problems;

Request the Countries and International Organisations:

1. To launch the initiative of CIHEAM Affiliated Centres in its member states, which do not have a Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (MAI), in order to contribute to **CAPMED 2025**, to reinforce regional complementarities in terms of scientific expertise and technical skills; and this through an innovative network for the four CIHEAM Institutes for training, research and development in the Mediterranean region.
2. To continue their efforts to promote the development of agriculture and agro-food value chains through appropriate public policies and encouraging private initiatives in the countries most affected by distress migration.;
3. To establish technical and multidisciplinary training programmes in the field of agriculture, rural development, fisheries and forestry that may contribute to the inclusion of economic migrants or refugees.

4. To promote local initiatives which facilitate co-existence and generate entrepreneurial spirit in relation with food (community vegetable gardens, processing and marketing of food products etc.) through incentives and pooling actors from public institutions, civil society and private sector.
5. To foster the development of rural integration networks in the countries hosting migrants and refugees in order to provide them with social and professional inclusion in the agricultural, forestry or fisheries sectors, but also in agro-food enterprises and associated services, thus contributing to their social recognition as skilled human resources.
6. To develop tools enabling professional migration and the mobility of entrepreneurs, students and researchers, in the field of agriculture, food, fisheries forestry and development of rural territories.
7. To pursue the support provided to PRIMA initiative (Partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean) pursuant to Article 185 TFEU in the water and food sectors, given the important commitment of the EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries, including the CIHEAM Member States.
8. To support the Maltese authorities, also in the light of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2017, and their will to reinforce the Maltese commitments in the CIHEAM Strategic Agenda 2025, to establish a Centre of Excellence in order to improve the research and innovation capacity in the field of water and agriculture.

CONCLUSIONS

- The Ministers and Heads of Delegation support the CIHEAM Strategic Agenda 2025 and recognise the efforts deployed by this Organisation at the service of international cooperation and peace. They have reiterated their wish to strengthen and sustainably support the capacity of CIHEAM that is an essential actor of development in the region of Euro-Mediterranean dialogue. They have expressed their commitment to this organisation that devotes its activity to build a true Mediterranean solidarity.
- The Ministers and Heads of Delegation express their wish to encourage interinstitutional synergy in the Mediterranean region for which the CIHEAM represents a key actor, convinced as they are that agricultural, food, rural and climate challenges call for integrated and crosscutting strategies, federating projects between countries and joint initiatives between international organisations. They ask for CAPMED 2025 to be considered as a mobilising tool in this perspective.
- The Ministers and Heads of Delegation have agreed to inform the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the present recommendations so that they can consider them in the international negotiations and the political initiatives in which they are involved since it is necessary to act on the root causes of migration and to mitigate the risks triggered by distress mobility.

- They have congratulated the Minister of Sustainable Development and Water Administration of Albania and his staff on the efforts accomplished towards the success of this meeting.
- They have thanked CIHEAM for its contribution to the success of this meeting.

Annex

CIHEAM Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025)

The CIHEAM Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025) is designed to promote cooperation activities based on the 15 thematic priorities of its Strategic Agenda 2025 and to initiate 5 unprecedented and regional flagship initiatives through institutional partnerships and co-funding.

It builds on the cooperation experience of CIHEAM in the Mediterranean area in the fields of education and training, networking research and support to development; these activities are carried out by its institutes and share common values (multilateralism, bottom-up and problem-solving approach, best practices sharing, expertise tailored to real needs).

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The Mediterranean region is at the crossroads of political, economic, social and climate challenges thus taking centre stage in the international arena. Numerous transitions are at play and the Mediterranean is one of the main laboratories of the planet where a more sustainable and inclusive development may be built. More sustainable since growth patterns must be more sustainable towards the needs of the population and environmental constraints of the region. More inclusive since development across the Mediterranean shall include territories, stakeholders and fragile communities.

This argument brings about several recommendations that are deeply rooted in the firm belief that investments are needed in agriculture, fisheries and rural areas in the Mediterranean. CAPMED 2025 intends to propose solutions that may back up transition and encourage multilateral initiatives able to pool countries, private and public stakeholders around themes which are at the core of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By promoting the inclusion of food, rural and climate challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean strategic debate and by contributing to the inclusion of agricultural and fisheries communities into the national and local communities, CIHEAM's strategy fits into the SDGs for the Mediterranean area with special emphasis on the « Water, Food, Energy » nexus.

In this context, and thanks to its experience in the field of political dialogue, scientific research, expert training and technical assistance, CIHEAM has worked out a Strategic Agenda 2025 to better structure its long-term cooperation missions. This Agenda is structured around 4 pillars and 15 thematic priorities (see box) on which CIHEAM will lay emphasis in the years ahead by strengthening its activities through interinstitutional synergies and higher budgetary means.

The Strategic Agenda 2025 is completed by 5 unprecedented flagship initiatives launched in the framework of CAPMED 2025. These initiatives have an innovative approach and a regional vocation. They match the Strategic Agenda 2025 and intend to turn the Mediterranean area into an interface between Europe, Africa and the Middle-East. One of the goals of CAPMED 2025, perfectly in line with the spirit of the founders of CIHEAM more than 50 years ago, is to give centre stage to the Mediterranean as a region of development and to overcome the idea of an out-of-control peripheral zone.

These flagship initiatives fit into the CIHEAM mission designed to abridge knowledge, expertise and best practices throughout the Mediterranean basin thanks to intercultural dialogue and scientific diplomacy rooted in tangible and multidisciplinary activities. Through its problem-solving approach, CIHEAM mission contributes to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation policies by combining expert training, research and technical assistance for social, economic and environmental development.

CIHEAM STRATEGIC AGENDA 2025

- A. Protect the Planet *"by Struggling Against Triple Waste"*
 - 1. Sharing Knowledge and Defending traditional Know-How
 - 2. Managing Natural Resources and Energy (water, soil forests, energy, biodiversity, sea...)
 - 3. Reducing agricultural losses and food waste all along food chains

- B. Food Security and Nutrition *"by Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food"*
 - 4. Promoting the Mediterranean Diet
 - 5. Enhancing Agro-Ecological practices
 - 6. Improving food safety and quality
 - 7. Increasing access to food

- C. Inclusive Development *"by Investing in New Generations and Fragile Territories"*
 - 8. Youth Employment and Life-long Learning
 - 9. Development of rural and coastal regions
 - 10. Vulnerable Groups Participation and Gender Equality
 - 11. Emergence of smart rural territories and of inclusive agro-fishing models

- D. Crises and Resilience *"by contributing to tensions management"*
 - 12. Population mobility and Migrations
 - 13. Climate Change prevention and adaptation solutions
 - 14. Animal and Plant Health
 - 15. Agricultural commercial markets

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°01

Mediterranean Platform for Policy Dialogue on Drivers of Rural Migration

The Mediterranean has long been an area of migrations. Over the last few years, the number of forced migrations has grown also as a result of depletion of natural resources, environmental constraints and hard economic conditions in rural areas. Migratory dynamics in the region are both international and internal (within a State or region) often responding to the movement of people from rural areas to coastal cities. In order to understand the root causes of migrations, challenges shall be considered in terms of human development, agriculture, and adaptation to climate change.

To this end, a Mediterranean platform for policy dialogue on the drivers of rural migration could be a tool to make progress towards the understanding of phenomena, identification of solutions enabling a better living for both indigenous and immigrants and economic growth in rural areas and adaptation strategies to environmental constraints. This platform shall encompass a high-level group of multisectoral coordination including national and international decision-makers and a consortium of experts, representatives of public authorities and local actors. Awareness raising, research and studies, expert training, sharing of experience and development of specific programmes shall be the main activities of this platform on the rural and agricultural dimension of migration in the Mediterranean area.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°02

Mediterranean Compact for Sustainable Agriculture and Food

Faced with demographic, food and climate challenges, Mediterranean countries must produce more and better with fewer resources. This is a new agricultural equation that the Mediterranean area has to apply in order to improve access to food, quality of products and people's health, while increasing competitiveness and viability especially of small and medium sized farms. The Mediterranean diet, acknowledged by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage, is based on principles complying with environmental, nutritional, health, social, economic and cultural criteria. Additionally, it can be considered as a development asset which can create interfaces with other sectors such as tourism and gastronomy and contribute to growth and job creation to local economies. It is therefore a major asset even more so if it is included in the strategies of the private sector especially in philanthropic initiatives or social and environmental responsibility. Similarly, the promotion of agro-ecological practices could be beneficial for the countries, on the understanding that these experiences fall within a regional circular approach from the south to the north.

The Mediterranean compact for sustainable agriculture and food intends to bring together several actors (farmers, researchers, agro-food businesses, professional organisations, civil society, etc.) and involve them in actions addressing the sustainable management of natural resources, the efficient organisation of supply chains and higher food security. Based on knowledge sharing and stakeholders' dialogue, this compact aims at decompartmentalizing the approach between research and economic development and at raising the awareness of the youth on the benefits of an environment-friendly agriculture and healthier nutrition. Regional meetings will be organized, development programmes initiated (rural territories will be better connected to markets) and corporate charters implemented (giving a tangible effect to social and environmental responsibility policies).

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°03

Mediterranean Empowerment Action for the Young and Women in Rural Area

One third of the Mediterranean population lives in rural areas and one job out of ten is linked to agriculture. The development of rural areas passes through agriculture. This is a reservoir of jobs and incomes for rural people and an essential driver of economic growth for these areas. Women are at the heart of these challenges. Despite their crucial role in food security, agriculture, water and land management, women often have limited access to ownership, education and credit. Empowering women is thus crucial for their growth. Ending gender inequalities and promoting social, technical and economic innovations driven by women are a tool that shows how smart rural areas are alongside sustainable towns and cities. More broadly, the youth of these rural and agricultural areas shall be at the heart of actions encouraging intergeneration dynamics along with social and economic inclusion.

The implementation of capacity building programmes for the rural youth and women in the Mediterranean countries will result in a better inclusion in the local policies, training tailored to their needs (emphasis shall be laid on their rights), support to the creation of enterprises, associations or cooperatives and national or regional networks. These strategies for the inclusion of the youth and women in the rural areas shall be completed by awareness-raising campaigns of decision-makers and investors involved in the human, rural and agricultural development of the Mediterranean area.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°04

Training for Zero Waste in the Mediterranean – Natural Resources, Food and Knowledge

To build the future on the heritage of the past, to improve food security and to protect the planet, knowledge, agricultural production and natural resources must not be wasted in the Mediterranean area. Systemic and simultaneous actions are needed, Losses and wastes are multidimensional (social, economic and environmental) and must be addressed from three different although complementary angles. By combining the analysis of natural resources (land, water, energy, forestry, biodiversity, etc.), food production and consumption (post-harvest, transports, catering services, etc.) and knowledge (empirical, practical or traditional knowledge, technical and technological innovation, etc.), human beings, take centre stage in the strategies of sustainable development.

It is therefore proposed to set up education and training on the sustainable management of natural resources and waste eradication in order to promote food security, agroecology and better development of rural territories. It will be proposed by CIHEAM through its four Institutes jointly with their university and institutional partners, their experts' networks and former trainees willing to contribute to this regional multidisciplinary training. Master courses or expert training (in order to respond to specific needs, including training of trainees) and lifelong courses (e-learning modules may be proposed) will be delivered. The setting up of a virtual platform is envisaged for the exchange of information and interactive dialogue between participants and experts at regional or international level to promote Mediterranean solutions and to learn how to transform the Mediterranean.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°05

CIHEAM Affiliated Centres: a tangible contribution to the European Neighbourhood Policy

For the implementation of its Strategic Agenda 2025, CIHEAM intends to affiliate centres identified in its member States which do not host the Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAI). The CIHEAM Affiliated Centres initiative will be launched in 2017 in order to strengthen regional complementarities in terms of scientific expertise and technical skills but also to broaden CIHEAM institutional network for training, research and development activities across the Mediterranean area. CIHEAM member states are invited to explore this new tool that may boost actions around the 15 thematic priorities of its Strategic Agenda 2025. Such a process may be considered as a tangible contribution to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in line with its goals of excellence, mobility and knowledge-based economy in the Mediterranean region. The latter needs to be renewed through its contribution to the development of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, adjusted to the needs of North Africa and Near East but also to the needs of the EU member states. The CIHEAM Affiliated Centres could give greater visibility to agricultural, food, fishery and rural issues in the framework of European Neighbourhood policies. These issues are rooted in the challenges of sustainability, inclusive growth, training and innovation in the Mediterranean area. Through appropriate means for the development of this initiative, the EU could also back up research and cooperation in key economic sectors for the youth, job creation, markets and adaptation strategies to climate change.

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CAPMED 2025 is based on the 15 thematic priorities of the strategic agenda and the 5 unprecedented regional flagship initiatives.

CAPMED 2025 demands synergies between States, international/regional institutions and actors working for the development of the Mediterranean. It necessitates the mobilisation of additional funding from public and private resources to conduct these initiatives in the long run.

In this perspective, CAPMED 2025 is addressed to the EU by which it could be considered as a key programme in its Mediterranean cooperation policy and may contribute to the implementation of SDGs in this region where security and prosperity rely on nutrition, rural territories and agriculture.