

**Actes de la 9^{ème} réunion des ministres de
l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche des
pays membres du CIHEAM**

Malte, 27 septembre 2012

**Proceedings of the 9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
of CIHEAM's member countries**

Malta, 27th September 2012



Ministère des Ressources et des Affaires Rurales, Malte
Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, Malta



CIHEAM

Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes
International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

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Introduction by the Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs of Malta, the President of CIHEAM and the Secretary General of CIHEAM.

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ECHANGES INFORMELS ET DISCUSSIONS ENTRE DELEGATIONS / INFORMAL EXCHANGES AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS

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de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche et de l'Alimentation
des pays membres du CIHEAM
Malte, 27 septembre 2012**

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of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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PREFACE

A l'invitation de S.E. George Pullicino, Ministre des Ressources et des Affaires Rurales de Malte, et en présence de plusieurs hauts responsables issus des Organisations Internationales, les ministres de l'Agriculture des 13 États membres du Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), ou leurs représentants, se sont réunis à La Valette le 27 septembre 2012, année où le CIHEAM a célébré le 50^{ème} anniversaire de sa création.

La publication des actes de cette réunion ministérielle n'a pas seulement une signification de repère historique : elle se propose de valoriser les politiques, les stratégies et la recherche de synergies entre les pays membres du CIHEAM, qui traduisent l'esprit dynamique de dialogue qu'ils ont instauré dans des domaines stratégiques pour l'avenir de la région méditerranéenne : l'agriculture, l'alimentation et le rural.

Ces rencontres constructives entre les ministres ont démarré en 1999 à Rome et se sont poursuivies à Rabat (2000), Athènes (2001), Beyrouth (2002), Paris (2004), Le Caire (2006), Zaragoza (2008), Istanbul (2010). La réunion de Malte en 2012 en marquait la neuvième édition.

La réunion ministérielle de Malte a tout particulièrement porté sur le sujet : « Sécurité alimentaire et volatilité des prix des produits alimentaires au sein des pays de la Méditerranée », car les Ministres étaient convaincus que ce sujet se situe au cœur des principaux enjeux politiques, économiques, sociaux et écologiques de la région pour l'avenir.

Les déclarations finales, qui sont adoptées à l'issue de ces réunions, constituent la toile de fond qui lie une rencontre ministérielle à l'autre et qui témoigne de l'évolution du dialogue qui s'affirme dans le temps. Mais ces déclarations assument toutes leurs valeurs lorsque nous pouvons reconstruire, par la publication des interventions des participants toute la problématique, toute la particularité des approches qui existent dans le champ multisectoriel de l'agriculture des pays du Nord, du Sud et de l'Est de la Méditerranée.

C'est pourquoi nous publions et souhaitons diffuser les Actes de ces rencontres, convaincus que nous sommes de participer ainsi au processus de coopération dans le domaine de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et du rural en Méditerranée. Ces actes constituent donc aussi le trait d'union entre Malte et la prochaine ministérielle que se tiendra en 2014 en Algérie.

Le présent volume recueille les interventions des ministres, des chefs de délégations et représentants des Organisations Internationales ayant participé à la réunion, sans oublier

d'intégrer la déclaration finale des Ministres et les conclusions d'un séminaire international organisé en amont. Celui-ci a été consacré à la durabilité du système alimentaire dans la région méditerranéenne.

Nous sommes convaincus que cette réunion témoigne de l'utilité de ce cadre de rencontres et constitue désormais une occasion importante entre les pays membres du CIHEAM pour renforcer et consolider leur dialogue.

Francisco MOMBIELA
Secrétaire général

FOREWORD

On the invitation of H.E. George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs of Malta, and in the presence of several senior representatives from International Organisations, the Ministers for Agriculture of the 13 member states of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), or their representatives, met at Valletta on 27 September 2012, in the year when the CIHEAM was celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding.

The publication of the proceedings of this ministerial meeting represents not only a historic point of reference: it also proposes to develop the policies, strategies and the search for synergy between the member states of the CIHEAM, thus expressing the dynamic spirit of dialogue which they have succeeded in establishing in areas of strategic importance for the future of the Mediterranean region: agriculture, food and rural development.

These constructive meetings between Ministers began in 1999 in Rome, and continued in Rabat (2000), Athens (2001), Beirut (2002), Paris (2004), Cairo (2006), Zaragoza (2008) and Istanbul (2010). The meeting in Malta in 2012 marked the ninth such event.

The ministerial meeting in Malta specifically dealt with the subject: «Food security and the volatility of food prices within Mediterranean countries», for the Ministers were convinced that this subject lies at the heart of the region's main political, economic, social and ecological stakes for the future.

The final declarations, adopted at the close of these meetings, form the backdrop linking one ministerial meeting to the other and bear witness to the evolution of a developing dialogue. However, these declarations take on their true value only when we are able to reconstruct, with the publication of all the participants' contributions, the whole problem area together with the specificity of different approaches there are in the multisectorial domain of the agriculture of Northern, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

This is the reason why we are publishing and seeking to distribute the proceedings of these meetings; convinced as we are that in this way we are participating in the process of cooperation in the domain of agriculture, food and rural development in the Mediterranean. These proceedings thus represent the link between Malta and the next ministerial meeting, which will be held in 2014 in Algeria.

The current volume brings together the contributions of the Ministers, the heads of delegations and representatives of International Organisations who had participated in the meeting, as well as incorporating the Ministers' final declaration and the conclusions of a preceding international seminar. The latter had been dedicated to the durability of the food production system in the Mediterranean region.

We are convinced that this meeting demonstrates the usefulness of this framework of encounters, and that from now on it will represent an important occasion for the member states of the CIHEAM to reinforce and consolidate their dialogue.

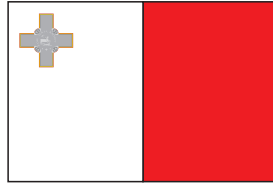
Francisco MOMBIELA
Secretary General

9^{ème} réunion
des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
des pays membres du CIHEAM

9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries of
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Séance d'ouverture

Opening session



MALTE / MALTA

George PULLICINO

Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

*President,
Commissioners,
Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Naghtikom il-merhba fil-gzira taghna llum ghal din il-laqgħa. After that short welcome in Maltese, our language here which though unique, will sound a little familiar to many of you around the table due to its semitic grammar and origins, I will now revert to English.

It's an honour and a pleasure for me to host this meeting today on the topic of food security, at a time such as this when the world is again holding its breath in anxiety as it watches food price indices rising again. The latest major analytical report issued last week highlights the worst drought to hit the US in half a century combined with the dry situation in South America and Russia, and predicts that the first quarter of 2013 will see an all-time high in prices for grains used in feeds, placing enormous stresses on livestock producers around the world. Most Mediterranean countries actually depend on external markets and import increasing volumes of staple foods, making our national agriculture and trade policies highly vulnerable to the threats of price volatility.

Against this backdrop, the presence in Malta of most of the Agriculture Ministers and major decision-makers from the Mediterranean countries forming part of CIHEAM, is an excellent opportunity to keep food security firmly at the top of the global agenda. Ensuring food security at a time when the region is witnessing a period of political, social, economic and environmental transition is a phenomenon that cannot be understated, as indeed we can all remember how it was precisely the difficulty of guaranteeing this most basic of human needs in the region when faced with the global food price crisis which sparked off this process. Malta also recognises the strong stake we all have in ensuring that countries on the Southern coast of the Mediterranean also have

strong food security with a view to reducing migration, with all the problems of this phenomenon. A summit addressing the region's political challenges in the framework of the 5+5 Dialogue in the western Mediterranean will also be taking place in Malta in just a couple of weeks.

It is my sincere hope that through our discussions today, we will be able to provide a concrete basis for moving forward on food security promoting a momentum which others will capitalize on. I hope that the outcome of this Conference can radiate as a beacon for the troubled waters which we are to navigate.

As the Minister responsible for Agriculture in a small island country with a high population density, it is natural for me to look at the various constraints facing our countries individually as an added spur to seek more mutual co-operation. Geo-physical constraints facing agricultural production such as land and water scarcity, demographic growth and urbanisation, together with changing climatic and environmental threats affect all of us to varying degrees, subjecting our countries to the vagaries of international markets. Ensuring continued supplies of the commodities necessary for our population, as well as encouraging our farmers and rural communities to remain active and prosperous, requires trade and exchanges in partnership and backed by mutual co-operation, multi-lateral understanding and regional solidarity.

Food security in the Mediterranean cannot, however, be based solely on securing food imports, and a certain level of self-sufficiency is necessary in order to optimize public spending and decrease dependence.

I believe that every solution starts within each country, and depends on the ability of each of us individually to embrace the right policies and initiatives, in co-operation with and making the best use of all those instruments which we can together construct.

The Fruit and Vegetable market known as the Ta' Qali Pitkalija is the most significant outlet used for Maltese farmers to place their produce on the local market, and hence it has a major impact on their level of income. The existing organisation, administrative and operational setup of this market however does not ensure adequate transparency and accountability of transactions, to the detriment of farmers and consumers.

Thus we have started a full but gradual reform within the market, whose objectives are to ensure full transparency and traceability of all transactions, ensure that a fair price is paid to farmers, improve consumer protection through price-transparency and improved product-traceability.

I am pleased to announce that the recently set-up company has obtained half of the funding of this project from EU funds, of around €4 million that must be invested over the next 2 years to carry out a reform pilot project. The reform pilot project will be carried out in collaboration with a farmers' co-operative that operates from this market. In this way, all those lessons learned in the next two years will be useful when implementing the whole reform across the entire market.

On a broader level, it is clear to me that the policies which we pursue must respond to the multi-faceted constraints which we face, and most notably must be socially responsible and respectful of the holistic environment in which our farmers operate. As we adapt farming practices to climate change and its consequences, we must safeguard the natural resources at our disposal. Water resources are particularly sensitive for the long-term prosperity of agriculture and food production, and this is why the Maltese government has introduced a series of measures to control and maximise the efficient use of groundwater for farming. These measures include the installation of smart-meters on all boreholes which will measure and distribute water allocations based on the farmers' crop plans. Empowering farmers' decision-making through technology is an effective way of increasing their efficiency and ability to obtain fair returns for their efforts. Malta takes this water challenge very seriously, and in fact we are today the only country in the Mediterranean which manages to treat 100% of all its sewage effluent. We intend to use this water both as another source of water to farmers as well as to recharge our aquifers.

We believe that farmers have the potential to be both our food providers and the stewards of our rural landscapes, and we want to create the right tools. To reach this goal, the support of public-private financing through various programmes with different partners including the EU and other international organisations remains a key strategic goal.

The debate on food security in recent years has also devoted new attention to the important role of small-holders, who in many countries represent a significant proportion of agricultural production. Evidently, their role is diverse depending on the domestic context; for instance in Malta for every professional farmer who cultivates areas larger than 2 hectares, there are 15 others, most of them trained part-timers, who cultivate smaller areas. These small and micro farmers together maintain more than a third of Malta's utilised agricultural area, and contribute in no small manner both to food production and especially to keeping a green cover during the dry months, preserving our biodiversity, fighting soil erosion and preventing land abandonment.

Our common challenge then, is putting in place the right mechanisms for them to face production and income risks.

Generational change is the other side of this same coin, since only rewarding agricultural employment can keep young persons interested in the sector. The ageing farming population is also a shared problem, with the lure of urban-jobs and the risks and volatility of farming activity being strong factors in keeping young farmers away. Thus we need to support young farmers and give them the right incentives to embark on and sustain their activities in their early years.

Our inter-dependence for food security cannot be viewed merely on the trade level. We need to aid farmers in producing more quality products in the promotion of the Mediterranean diet, whose benefits have been extolled by the World Health Organization (WHO) since the end of the twentieth century, and which UNESCO has recently included in its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage, but which paradoxically, Mediterraneans are moving away from in their consumption patterns. The use of seasonal, locally grown traditional products

being essential to the Mediterranean Diet, a return to it can promote the development of a sustainable agri-food system for the region.

In this sense, measures to develop environmentally-sound agriculture and promote traditional local products could fit into strategies aimed at adapting the Mediterranean agricultural sector to climate change. To do this, we will need to elaborate more robust regulatory frameworks for the recognition and protection of Geographical Indications, convergent with those of the EU, and in this context we will be listening to the outcome of the CIHEAM's latest efforts in this regard, through the seminar on this topic which was held in this very room over the last couple of days.

Sharing of sound production information by every one of us could also prove to be a key aspect in combating food price volatility through an emphasis on reducing speculation on financial markets. We have all experienced the negative spirals which occur when inaccurate market information fuels the futures markets. Our discussion today needs to consider what policy responses the Mediterranean countries can offer by way of making available sound market information to contribute to curb this situation.

I must stress this latter element in view of the constant anxiety which net importer countries like Malta have of larger players on the global cereals market taking unilateral action which can cause mayhem and exacerbate difficult situations, as has happened in the past, and I am glad to have key international and regional organisations such as the FAO, OECD and the Union for the Mediterranean at the table to discuss these issues with us.

Having the European Commissioners for Agriculture and Health and Consumer Protection as well as the Chair of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee present today is also indicative of the scale of the challenge we face and the importance that the EU is giving to it. At country-level, all of the themes which I have mentioned are already being discussed within the EU's inter-institutional debate on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. I take this opportunity to thank these three gentlemen for the commitment they are showing within their institutions to steer through the right set of common policies to change the CAP to meet the food security challenges we all face, without neglecting the flexibility needed to address very specific challenges faced in some parts of the Community including this island.

The responsibility we all carry in the next months is to have a European policy that is both able to foster those balanced policies that will allow production and trade to meet the needs of the farmers and public within the Member States, while also reaching out to third countries and especially to our closest partners to help develop mutually reinforcing relationships. The new policy instruments for promoting rural development in the EU's Neighbourhood policy will be the focus of particular attention in this context.

This multi-lateral dimension of the food security challenge must also be taken up by the other international organisations which have a stake, and it appears to me that with CIHEAM's long track-record in delivering projects and programmes in capacity building, it would be ideal if greater synergies can be found with this organisation. I also look forward to hearing your contributions and ideas on how this unique intergovernmental organisation

which has united us in this field over the past 50 years can continue to develop itself while adapting to new regional realities and cultivating the organization's mission for Mediterranean cooperation.

Colleagues, I believe that the topic of food security and the struggle against price-volatility is one which forces its own way onto our agenda periodically, and deserves attention at all times. I look forward now to hearing your own ideas on how we can obtain coordinated answers at a political, commercial and logistical level which a Euro-Mediterranean multilateral context can facilitate, and on the best way forward to bring our deliberations to the top of the agenda of our respective countries.



Adel EL-BELTAGY

President of the Governing Board of CIHEAM
Chair of the International Dryland Development Commission

*Madame la Ministre,
Messieurs les Ministres et Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

On behalf of CIHEAM, let me say that it is a great pleasure and an honor to be here today.

I would like to welcome all the Ministers, the Commissioners, the Ambassadors, the member of Medias and all the Delegations. Your presence is a reflection for your commitment to the noble cause of the creation of CIHEAM.

I would like to thank the organizers and the Maltese Authorities for their warm hospitality and their invitation.

I would like to thank especially the Hon. George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs of Malta, who is a great supporter of Mediterranean Cooperation and of CIHEAM.

CIHEAM

Following the signing of the international treaty establishing CIHEAM 50 years ago, the founders of the Centre proceeded to lay the foundations of an unprecedented Euro-Mediterranean Institution.

This institution involves no less than 13 Mediterranean countries: thirteen countries that regard agriculture, food and the environment as important fields for regional cooperation.

CIHEAM offers its own teaching programme, which complements the teaching given in the national institutions of member countries. Over the past 50 years, about 27000 students have passed through the CIHEAM Education System (Master and Specialized Short Courses) and its 4 Institutes localized in Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza.

More than 7000 lecturers or visiting professors (coming from more than 70 different countries) have participated in teaching in our institution.

The second main mission of CIHEAM is to foster regional cooperation through support to research and promotion of networks, regional fora and debates on food, agriculture and environment. At CIHEAM, research-development is promoted as a partnership exercise involving experts from member countries and abroad.

This approach encourages synergies, galvanizes the networks and greatly enhances CIHEAM's scientific standing in its own specialized fields, cooperating also with international and national institutions of the region.

Furthermore, CIHEAM contributes to facilitate the political debate on agricultural issues by organizing some debates and especially this biannual meeting of the ministers of agriculture of our 13 member states.

Today, the one in Malta is the 9th ministerial meeting, after the first initiated in 1999 in Rome at the invitation of the Italian authorities. And I would like to thank Paolo De Castro who was the minister able to launch this ministerial meeting in the framework of CIHEAM.

While in 2012, total contributions from the 13 member countries amounts to 16 million Euros, but the harvests and the outcomes of the work of CIHEAM are far beyond this figure as a result of the synergies and the commitment of the countries.

MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT & FOOD SECURITY ISSUE

In a changing Mediterranean world, we should support the transformations and adapt to them. As the first decade of the 21st century comes to a close, the Mediterranean region is more than ever the focal point of great attention.

Agriculture is the basis of Mediterranean identity and essential for the region's societies. We are currently witnessing a major revival of the political debate in our area, and the spectacular return of agriculture is a subject of major concern. The recent upheavals in food prices, financial markets and the global economy raise questions on food security, on the nature of price volatility and appropriate strategies for agricultural development. It is recognised by all today that food security and pricing will continue to be one of the most critical challenges facing the World and the Mediterranean Countries over this decade.

In many Mediterranean countries, the gap between local capacity for production and the region's growing population and its food demands remains problematic. All forecast scenarios carried out by different institutions suggest that many countries in the Mediterranean area will be deficient in terms of available food per inhabitant. By 2020, demographic growth will mean the need to feed some 530 million people in the region, without any noticeable reduction in rural populations.

Most Mediterranean countries actually depend on external markets. They must import increasing volumes of products, particularly staple commodities and especially cereals. The impact of food price volatility can be viewed at both the macroeconomic and at the individual (producer and consumer) levels. There is considerable heterogeneity across countries in terms of how increased price volatility could affect a given country.

Nevertheless, volatility has a greater impact on developing countries and on the poorer citizens, because it creates major import bill uncertainty. These dynamics result in greater food insecurity. Anger and frustration over food prices could spark riots and social unrest. Sometimes, the problem is not production or imports, but the accessibility to food.

Food security in the Mediterranean cannot, however, be based solely on securing food imports. A certain minimum level of self-sufficiency is necessary, in each country, in order to optimise public spending and to decrease dependence, signalling a call for measures adapted to the specific situation of Mediterranean countries, in particular to guarantee access and availability of safe and nutritious food for the most vulnerable groups.

It is imperative that such measures be accompanied by adaptation strategies at several levels. In a world dominated by scarcities and a global increase in food demand, reducing wastes and losses is now a very strategic imperative. States must reintroduce strong agricultural policies in order to guarantee a minimum of national food sovereignty and to contain rocketing bills in the agro-food trade. Regional cooperation must furthermore be promoted with a view to reducing hazards and developing good relations in the food field. Moreover, there will be no rural development in the Mediterranean region without dynamic agricultural policies and investments, and there can be no agricultural development without rural vitality and political will.

In addition, climate change is highlighting tensions over land and water resources. There is the need to increase agricultural production and productivity on a sustainable basis. Experts predict 50 million environmental refugees as a consequence of climate change in the world. The MENA Region is already a source of 20 million first generation immigrants. Half of them are in Europe. It is expected to increase with climate change and will impact social and economical security in both sides of the Mediterranean.

Agriculture and food security are absolutely interlocked with the broader issue of sustainability. Not one group or institution can respond to the challenge of food insecurity alone. Agricultural and food issues are so global and so complex that countries have to work together and cooperate.

This is the key message that has been delivered by CIHEAM for 50 years. We are committed to deepening our collaboration with other institutions and we will welcome closer partnership with all of us here representing national authorities or multilateral organizations.

The way forward:

- support the establishment of modern knowledge based on the agricultural system in the Arab Mediterranean Countries with massive capacity building programs to implement;
- the trade issue: we need to enhance the Mediterranean Agro-Trade Area;
- cooperation in Research-Development programmes in the field of agriculture.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

After 50 years of sustainable performance, CIHEAM is presently undergoing a dynamic change to better respond to the global and the regional challenges and optimize its efficiency and efficacy.

By your good will, you can enrich and enhance the work of CIHEAM to fulfill its noble action for a peaceful and prosperous Mediterranean area.

Time is running. We depend on your political will to expand the Mediterranean cooperation and partnership to its true potential.

Thank you all very much.

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des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
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9th meeting
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Présentation des thèmes

Introduction of the topics

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Introduction du Secrétaire général du CIHEAM

Introduction by the Secretary General of CIHEAM



Francisco MOMPIELA
Secretary General of CIHEAM

*Honorable Ministers and Ambassadors,
Distinguished Representatives,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

On behalf of CIHEAM, let me say that it's a great pleasure and an honor to be here today.

I would like once again to thank the Maltese Authorities for their warm hospitality and for having invited us to hold the 9th ministerial meeting of CIHEAM Countries.

I would also like to acknowledge the FAO for its valuable contribution to the organization of this meeting.

By way of introducing this meeting, allow me to state some facts.

FACTS

1. Food prices are increasing and are more volatile

In 2012/2013 world agricultural markets will experience a rise in price and price volatility. This will be the third time this happens in five years.

All cereals based products, including meat, are expected to experience price increases, if not this year almost certainly in 2013. The Mediterranean region is likely to be one of the hardest hit.

We are not talking about a level of price volatility that is typical of agricultural markets and is to some extent predictable, as for example when price change can be described by smooth trend lines based on more or less measurable market parameters or well known seasonal patterns. We are talking about wide variations that cannot be anticipated and consequently produce a level of uncertainty that increases risks for all agrifood chain stakeholders and governments.

2. Food demand is growing at a faster pace than food production

The extended downward trend in real prices of past years reflected the effect of technical improvements, which tended to increase yields and food production at a rate that outpaced demand arising from growth in population and incomes. In recent years, however, there has been some slowing down of the rate of yield growth which has coincided with low levels of investment in agriculture and in research and development, whether international or national, public or private. But demand has continued to grow rapidly, fuelled by climate disruption, high rates of economic growth in emerging economies, and a closer linkage of agricultural markets to energy markets. Since CIHEAM was created, 50 years ago, cereals production in MENA countries has increased threefold, but consumer needs have increased by a factor of 6 and cereals imports by a factor of 23.

Arab countries import at least 50 percent of the cereal calories they consume, and this figure is expected to rise to almost 64 percent over the next twenty years.

3. The natural constraints of the Mediterranean are increasing: water and land scarcity

Climate constraints are part of the Mediterranean's ecological identity and a perennial feature throughout its history.

They have always required Mediterranean farmers to show great ingenuity in adapting to and managing fragile environment.

While the ability to adapt to climate constraints is therefore not a new challenge for Mediterranean agriculture, climate disruption is intensifying, with flood, drought and forest fires capturing the attention of the media.

Water alone offers an illustration of the tremendous tensions to which the allocation of a scarce natural resource can give rise. It is often forgotten that in the Mediterranean region water is primarily devoted to producing food and hence to nourishing the population.

As climate constraints increase, living conditions in the rural world will inevitably become harder for those segments of the population that are already vulnerable.

4. Most Mediterranean countries' show a structural deficit with respect to basic commodities

Mediterranean countries as a whole are unable to produce enough to satisfy consumers' food needs.

Non-oil-exporting MENA countries that rely significantly on cereal imports all have fiscal and trade deficits that contribute to economic hardship.

Food-price shocks have driven up the cost of government food subsidies and, as the government response to such shocks is commonly to increase the size and scope of the subsidies, costs are being driven up even further. In some countries subsidies may amount to 2 or 3% of GDP. The IMF estimated that the Arab countries' food subsidies for 2011 amounted to 40 billion dollars.

5. Food habits are deviating from the Mediterranean Diet pattern

Even though hunger is being curbed and the prevalence of undernourishment within the population as a whole remains low in the Mediterranean, outbreaks of famine have tended to be more frequent in certain Arab countries. More generally malnutrition has been on the increase, especially among children.

With the rise in the consumption of saturated fat (meat imports have increased one hundredfold in Jordan and twentyfold in Egypt over the past 50 years) and sugar, overweight and obesity are spreading throughout the region. The Mediterranean diet is losing ground at a time when its virtues are recognised worldwide.

6. The complexity of the food chain

Millions of metric tons of foodstuffs are wasted worldwide. Studies of wheat supply chains in the Arab world identified losses of over US\$480 million due to inefficiencies.

As countries develop, food chains become more complicated, consumer price decouple from production prices and shortages affect the least organized links of the chain which are usually the small producers.

THE CHALLENGE

How to build up a price resilient Mediterranean food system that:

- takes advantage of the Mediterranean's natural endowments, to produce agrifood in an efficient and sustainable way;
- and is capable of satisfying food needs of societies in countries with production deficits.

CIHEAM'S MULTIPLE FIELDS OF ACTION

Food Security is always a key consideration in CIHEAM's activities of education and specialized training, joint research networking and co-operation in agrifood at the regional level.

As regards to education, all CIHEAM's activities are directly or indirectly related to the question of food security issue.

As far as research and development is concerned, we focus on pooling skills and gradually developing regional networks, thereby strengthening cooperation across the Mediterranean.

And when it comes to the debate on agro-food policies, the CIHEAM contributes through its publications (Edition 2014 of *Mediterra f.i.* will focus on trade and logistics) and communication activities, as well as its numerous networks - including the present one, for the meeting of our 13 member countries' ministers of agriculture forms the paramount high-level network of our organisation.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

To conclude, allow me to lay down three points for consideration, which I think may be particularly relevant to the subject you are about to address:

1. Pooling of skills, joining efforts and sharing instruments, whether technical, scientific or educational, is becoming a must. The solutions to most of the major issues are not confined within political frontiers. Ways have to be found to facilitate the free circulation of food-market information as well as foodstuffs across the Mediterranean.
2. Likewise, this is no time to be focusing simply on the quantitative dimension of agricultural production. Efforts to improve both quality (to ensure a healthy diet) and efficiency (produce more with less) are also imperative.
3. Finally I would like to draw your attention to the importance of the role of food policy as a means of addressing food security in the Mediterranean, bearing in mind that an important way for the Mediterranean to address the food security issue might consist in changing eating habits and returning to the fundamentals of the Mediterranean Diet.

Excellencies.

Let me once again thank you for attending this meeting. We see CIHEAM as a Mediterranean, problem solving-oriented, knowledge-sharing platform. Reactivity is our watchword. We eagerly await your suggestions for adapting our activities so that they might better serve the Mediterranean agrifood family.

Thank you.

9^{ème} réunion
des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
des pays membres du CIHEAM

9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries of
CIHEAM's member countries

Intervention des Ministres ou Chefs de délégation

Addresses by the Ministers or Heads of Delegation



MAROC / MOROCCO

Aziz AKHANNOUCH

Ministre de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche maritime

*Monsieur le Ministre George Pullicino,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Messieurs le Président du CIHEAM,
Mesdames et Messieurs.*

Je tiens tout d'abord à exprimer mes vifs remerciements aux autorités maltaises en la personne de Son Excellence M. George Pullicino, Ministre des Ressources et des Affaires Rurales pour leur chaleureux accueil et l'excellence de l'organisation.

Je salue la pertinence du thème choisi pour cette rencontre '*La sécurité alimentaire et la volatilité des prix*', qui agite les débats internationaux et domine les priorités des nombreux pays.

Mesdames et Messieurs.

En effet, dans un contexte de flambées des prix des produits alimentaires, la volatilité est une préoccupation grandissante, voire une inquiétude eu égard à ses conséquences et son impact sur la sécurité alimentaire, car elle compromet sérieusement les perspectives de croissance économique et hypothèque la réduction de la pauvreté, particulièrement dans les pays en développement.

C'est le cas notamment dans la région méditerranéenne particulièrement exposée à la volatilité croissante des marchés. Nous sommes en effet bien dépendants des approvisionnements extérieurs en matière de denrées alimentaires pour ne pas subir les conséquences d'une hausse mondiale des prix des matières premières agricoles. Cette vulnérabilité est particulièrement tenace et redoutable dans le cas des céréales.

Tant au niveau mondial qu'à l'échelle des Etats, des réponses importantes ont été apportées pour protéger les populations vulnérables des conséquences préjudiciables des

augmentations de prix. A ce titre, le Royaume du Maroc dispose d'une longue expérience qui lui a permis de bien organiser son approvisionnement alimentaire en dépit des aléas climatiques.

Mesdames et Messieurs.

La hausse récente des prix alimentaires et leur volatilité accrue sont des questions de portée véritablement mondiale, mais il n'en demeure pas moins que leur impact sur les consommateurs dépend amplement des politiques en vigueur dans chaque pays. Notre Méditerranée est marquée par des défis du changement climatique, de la croissance démographique, de la demande, de la réduction des ressources naturelles et énergétiques, de la hausse des prix des produits agricoles, de la responsabilisation des producteurs, et de lutte contre la pauvreté.

A nos Etats de repenser leur propre politique agricole, leur propre politique alimentaire, leur propre politique dans le monde rural. Il est certain que la question alimentaire est une problématique qui a changé la donne sécuritaire et géopolitique dans le monde, mais nous ne devons pas perdre de vue notre mission : nourrir nos populations. C'est pour cela que nous devons apporter des réponses probantes aux questions suivantes :

- l'utilisation des espaces agricoles : ne faut-il pas revoir les priorités d'attribution des terres cultivables ? Nous sommes convaincus qu'il faut d'avantage consacrer les terres agricoles aux productions alimentaires et moins aux autres productions comme les biocarburants ;
- l'augmentation des prix des intrants agricoles est aujourd'hui une donnée réelle, leurs facteurs de production ayant augmenté, ils ont bien franchi un palier. Toutefois, nous ne pouvons continuer à nourrir la bulle de spéculation sur les produits alimentaires. La volatilité des prix devient de plus en plus difficile à contrôler à cause de la spéculation financière. Cette attitude irrationnelle creuse d'avantage le gap entre la réalité de la production agricole mondiale et le prix des denrées alimentaires. Il devient urgent de cadrer l'action des acteurs financiers sur les marchés agricoles, et nous devons revenir à des fondamentaux de « commerce agricole » plus sains.

Nos pays tiennent à leur stabilité et continueront à soutenir les prix à la consommation des denrées de base, bien que cette facture nous coûte de plus en plus cher, nous nous retrouvons alors aujourd'hui piégés dans un système où nos pays vulnérables financent cette dangereuse spéculation par des subventions étatiques.

Mesdames et Messieurs.

Tout en ayant des objectifs d'augmentation significative de la production agricole, le Plan Maroc Vert, stratégie agricole que nous avons lancée depuis 2008, favorise l'insertion de la petite agriculture dans les échanges internationaux à travers l'amélioration de la productivité

et l'appui à la reconversion vers des secteurs de production porteurs. L'ambition est celle du développement de systèmes locaux d'entreprenariats dynamiques qui valorisent les atouts des territoires, permettent un meilleur accès aux marchés et qui s'inscrivent dans des filières rémunératrices et de haute qualité.

C'est ainsi que le Maroc a pensé sa sécurité alimentaire en se positionnant sur les marchés internationaux des produits alimentaires à travers ses avantages comparatifs et la diversité de ses produits, notamment les produits de terroirs à forte création de revenu pour les petits exploitants : « Faire ce que nous savons faire le mieux et qui fait partie intégrante de nos traditions culturelles ». Ceci mené en parallèle avec une politique raisonnée d'approvisionnement du pays en denrée de base.

Ainsi, les échanges sur les marchés internationaux prennent une importance fondamentale dans la stratégie du Plan Maroc Vert pour permettre au Maroc de trouver des débouchés à ses produits les plus compétitifs et en même temps diminuer progressivement les cultures qui ne sont pas rentables et qui continueront à être importées. C'est cet équilibre qui permettra au Maroc d'assurer sa sécurité alimentaire dans le futur.

Mesdames et Messieurs.

Le thème de cette rencontre nous rappelle que l'agriculture, qui a fait l'histoire et la mémoire de la Méditerranée, plus que tout autre endroit au monde, est aujourd'hui l'avenir de cette région et de ses pays riverains. L'agriculture et l'alimentation doivent rester, comme depuis les premiers temps de l'histoire, des priorités stratégiques. Faut-il insister que, l'alimentation et la diète méditerranéenne ne sont pas seulement des traditions et des expressions culturelles, ce sont des leviers de développement et des atouts économiques, ce sont des variables essentielles dans la durabilité environnementale et la santé des populations.

Chers collègues, si l'on peut se féliciter des acquis de coopération dans certains domaines, il reste beaucoup à faire pour assurer la durabilité des actions eu égard aux menaces que constitue l'insécurité alimentaire.

Pour cela, il nous incombe de mieux coordonner nos actions en repensant la coopération multilatérale pour plus de solidarité et d'efficacité afin de mettre l'agriculture et l'alimentation au cœur des politiques euro-méditerranéennes.

Pour ce faire, nous avons besoin de la recherche, de la science, des technologies et de la coopération. Cela pour pouvoir mieux gérer les ressources naturelles, améliorer l'organisation de la chaîne alimentaire et des filières de production, aussi pour renforcer la sécurité sanitaire des produits et lier davantage l'alimentation et la santé des populations.

Au niveau des marchés, il nous faut travailler pour encourager la dynamique des échanges entre nos Etats, notamment nord-sud. Cela doit évidemment être nécessairement

accompagné d'un travail à l'échelle des pays pour relever le défi de l'ouverture du secteur aux marchés internationaux.

A ce sujet, le Maroc s'est toujours inscrit dans une politique d'ouverture, notamment avec l'adoption récente de l'accord de libre-échange agricole avec l'Union européenne. Cet accord représente une opportunité, dans la mesure où il va instaurer une logique gagnant-gagnant favorisant la culture de la spécialisation et augmenter le volume des échanges. C'est là que notre approche trouve son sens : accompagner les agriculteurs et les soutenir, surtout les plus petits parmi eux, afin de les mettre en phase avec cette ouverture.

Mesdames et Messieurs.

Le CIHEAM est alors particulièrement bien indiqué pour bâtir une plateforme scientifique et de savoirs sur la sécurité alimentaire, pour le partage des connaissances et la convergence des politiques agricoles de la Méditerranée. Après 50 ans d'existence, notre institution est arrivée à maturité et possède tous les atouts nécessaires pour jouer un rôle fédérateur, à la hauteur des enjeux et en phase avec l'environnement et les besoins des sociétés méditerranéennes.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.



ESPAGNE / SPAIN

Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Environment

*Minister Pullicino,
President of the CIHEAM,
Ministers,
Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is an honour for me to participate in this ninth meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the CIHEAM, where I am returning after ten years, as I had the honour of representing Spain in the September 2002 meeting in Beirut.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIHEAM

There are special moments in the history of peoples when, whether intended or not, there are noteworthy events. And these moments usually coincide with times of a given collective ethos.

This is what must have occurred in Europe in 1962 when, inspired by their desire for solidarity and cooperation, two particularly significant events took place in the fields of agriculture and food:

- first, the Treaty of Rome, which was the origin of the European Economic Community, was signed together with the Common Agricultural Policy, and
- secondly, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), was established. This organization has driven, and still does, cooperation and solutions based on solidarity amongst peoples around the Mediterranean in the fields of agriculture, food, and rural development.

It would be no exaggeration to assert that 1962 was a fertile year that bore a great deal of fruit in terms of solidarity and cooperation amongst nations in their endeavour to solve problems stemming from the need to ensure food supply for the population.

Here today, I would like to begin by expressing my satisfaction that the CIHEAM, established on the initiative of a Spaniard, is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. And of course over the years, it has constituted itself as a forum for encounters and an avenue to tackle problems we have in common.

While the 1960s were transition years following a particularly convulsive period in world history, fifty years later we still undoubtedly need a great amount of solidarity and cooperation between nations. This is the only way we will stand a chance of succeeding at facing the social, economic and environmental changes that characterize our new global environment, specifically in our own region, at the beginning of the twenty first century.

It is in this vein that I would like to thank those who proposed, implemented, and continue to sustain the idea because, under the current circumstances, if this organization did not exist, it would have to be created. If the CIHEAM's long track record for the service in network-based training and research were not enough, the role assigned to the organization by the European Union to implement the community's ENPARD programme is good proof of its undoubted usefulness.

I am referring to the tool to improve both food security and models for rural development as well as standards for productivity and production quality in the south. Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan will be applying pilot projects from which we can expect to learn a lot. These lessons will also need to serve as a basis for implementing many activities that could be undertaken to further agriculture, ensure food for the population, and promote rural development in countries around the region.

Food Security

And all of this is occurring at a time of severe instability in supplies of agricultural products on world markets as a result of a significant imbalance between:

- supply, which is relatively stagnant, and which was tremendously affected this year in particular by adverse weather conditions; and
- growing demand for food and other uses of agricultural products sharpened by the entry into play of significant financial flows that have found a substantial source of benefits in this market.

I therefore feel that it is especially important for this meeting of Ministers to have chosen such a burning topic as Food Security and Prices, seen from the Mediterranean countries perspective, as the topic for debate.

And this holds true all the more considering that phenomena such as climate change will presumably be noticeably impacting our region, as observed at the last ministerial meeting in Istanbul.

The region lying on the shores of the Mediterranean is home to more than 500 million people whose own food supply, to the South and to the East alike, is not secure. The lack of a secure food supply at home has been offset through accessing international markets to import staples. For the last several years, these markets have become characterized by extremely volatile prices, with exorbitant price increases to bear for the countries supplied. Immediate repercussions have been felt in not only in the health of the population in these countries, but also in their cohesion and stability.

With this backdrop, several measures need to be adopted to help face the food supply problem. First, there must be an attempt to palliate the initial brunt of a lack of food, and then ongoing efforts must be made to solve the problem and bring the situation into line with that on the more developed shore.

Here, it is worth highlighting production and market management systems that have been tried and tested in many countries in the region and that, as members of this organization, we should make available to CIHEAM member countries.

Just to refer to what is closest at hand; Spain's production systems are similar to those in broad areas of the Southern shore, meaning that the modernized systems that have been designed in Spain over time can and should be almost immediately applied in analogous agro-climatic areas, both for rain-fed and irrigated crops.

The same can be said of risk management systems for crop losses due to severe weather events that cause so much financial damage to farmers.

We have a very powerful insurance system in Spain, which has made significant achievements in sectors including cereals and citrus fruits. And we have obtained broad experience that we are transferring, on demand, to countries interested. But these efforts could be stepped up.

Furthering these adverse weather risk management policies at a relatively low cost should be set as a goal to be met in the Mediterranean region. The variability of the climate that we share also forced my country to build and manage a broad public storage system for cereals and other staples which, over a significant period of time, serve to mitigate the effects of variation in crops which so frequent occur in our climate.

Other aspects as important as training, fostering cooperation between producers, and rural development, underpinned mainly by production and, above all, industrial transformation, were included in our national agricultural policies both before and after our joining the European Union.

In short, both in Spain and in other member countries, there is solid experience in these fields that we can and should facilitate through specific CIHEAM implemented programs making use of new technology that enables us to overcome what used to be impossible borders. Most of this experience is now available on the Internet thanks to several public or publicly supported technological platforms. This Internet access affords much broader

accessibility than other conventional media could. But to provide even further access, it would be advisable for the documents to be in the area's common language to facilitate its use by all of those interested.

If we are able to implement this dissemination through the CIHEAM, irrespectively of the implementation of European Union promoted programmes, I am convinced that we will be contributing to improve food security in the countries along the southern shore that so much need it. This is a way to tighten our ties in this common endeavour to build a denser system than we now have that will enhance contact between civil society in our countries interested in issues involved in agriculture, food and rural development.

Prices

But in addition, regardless of action aimed at improving self-reliance in the area, food security has been seriously upset by great price volatility, and thought must be lent in and around the Mediterranean to this issue. And on this point, the Mediterranean perspective does not substantially differ from that of other countries concerned about these same issues. On any market, shortages of a product in the face of demand will trigger higher prices. But what is being called into question is that given a non-qualified shortage of food, countries with availability quantified shortage of food, countries with availability restrict supply by either taxing or setting disproportionate limits on exports. And what is equally as harmful is that countries that need food the most spark price rises by turning to markets with higher than reasonable demand.

Since the 2008 events, several measures have been adopted and the most noteworthy are aimed at bringing about a substantial improvement of available information through the world about stocks. The other measures, to be debated in the World Trade Organization, are generally oriented at liberalizing imports and the need to establish rules that prevent countries that could thwart the freedom of traders to export if they so wish.

Meanwhile, the decision to establish mechanisms to improve the accurate, timely information available regarding markets for agricultural products has been adopted. And as a fruit of this, since September 2011, we have had the Agricultural Market Information System, with its headquarters at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which works through a Global Information and Early Warning System. I consider that in addition to action taken on food security proposed by the CIHEAM, this organization must also become involved, likewise, in establishing an agricultural product price information system similar to and integrated into AMIS. A system of this nature, oriented at decision-making in the member countries, would be of utmost use, particularly with a view towards enhanced management of shortages on the southern shore, a net importer of cereals.

I would like to conclude my intervention by offering my country's help to develop these proposed actions, confident that this will make a contribution to improving food security in the member countries and to perfecting mechanisms for more effective and efficient management in the event of difficulties in supply may be in store in the future.

In order to carry out this task, the Mediterranean has an excellent cooperation tool, the CIHEAEM, to which Spain contributes through its *Instituto Agronómico de Zaragoza*. Yet more than ever, we need to take into account the special circumstances in the Member States economies. In this regard, the work programmes underway must focus on the issues that are most pertinent for the member countries on the whole, and must always foster the most rational and efficient use of available resources.

I will return to my country pleased to that the CIHEAM is in a good condition, and I wish it a long and healthy life. I am thankful for the work of the organization and to all of those who have contributed to the success of this meeting.

Thank you very much.



TURQUIE / TURKEY

Mehmet Mehdi EKER

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock

*Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Chair,
Esteemed Secretary General,
Respected members of the Press.*

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Malta Resources and Rural Affairs Minister, Honorable George Pullicino and those who contributed to the organization of this meeting.

Honourable Ministers.

- Price increases experienced in the recent months have drawn the attention on the subject of food security once again;
- However, prices in 2012 are still lower than those of 2011;
- In August, FAO Food Price Index stayed at the same level. Even though this level is still high, it is 18 points lower in comparison to last year's same period;
- When all these data announced by different institutions recently are examined, we see that there is not enough evidence for a serious crisis situation. In my opinion, the main reason for price volatility in agricultural products is speculation;
- **As Mediterranean Countries while avoiding artificial crisis, we need to act together and take measures to relieve the markets.**

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Guests.

- Today in the world, agricultural land is limited;
- Consumption habits of developing countries have been changing;
- On the other hand, increases in petroleum prices make countries look for alternatives, such as biofuel;
- I believe biofuel production should not be a priority in a world where there are 1 billion hungry people and 1.2 billion undernourished people;
- Especially in developing countries, increases in food prices harm financial and political stability and cause problems in public order;
- A peaceful and stable world can only be possible by providing food security.

Honourable participants.

- In recent years, the impact of food price volatility has been limited in Turkey;
- Adequate amount of production in staple foods such as wheat, barley and maize has been made;
- In general, average rise in food prices was 103% in the world, but this figure was only 32% in Turkey. This is the result of sufficient production and stock levels and pursuing appropriate policies;
- However, these positive conditions which I stated do not mean we are not going to be affected from the price increases in the world;
- Our country is negatively affected by the price volatilities in soybean and oil seeds which we import.

Honourable Ministers.

In this part of my speech, I would like to mention some measures undertaken and policies implemented in Turkey in order to regulate the markets and increase productivity.

- As a result of policies that we implement, the usage of certified seeds was tripled in 2002 - 2010 period. Between 2005 – 2010, 1,3 million decares new orchards was established by using 113 million certified saplings and our total fruit production in last 9 years increased by 29% and reached to 17.2 million tons from 13.3 million tons;

- It is a must for our farmers to have their soils analyzed to benefit from fertilizer supports;
- We are covering 17% of diesel costs of our producers;
- We decreased agricultural credit interest rates from 59% to 5%;
- With the fall in interest rates, an important increase has been achieved in agricultural credits. The amount of credit used has reached from 300 million USD in 2002 to 12,5 billion USD in 2011;
- As expressed in the final declaration of the 8th meeting of Ministers organized in 2012, in Istanbul, climate changes create a problem for food security in the long run;
- In Turkey, in order to decrease the negative effects of climate change:
 - we initiated the agricultural insurance system;
 - we established a **Draught Test Center**;
 - we opened the third biggest seed gene bank in the world in Ankara;
 - for pressurized irrigation systems, we initiated the interest-free credit availability;
 - a programme for the encouragement of private sector R&D projects has been launched;
 - resources mobilized for agricultural research and development increased 12 times in the last decade;
 - an Energy Agriculture Research Centre was established in order to produce biofuels from the secondary products instead of the products intended for direct use as food.
- Licensed warehousing/storage system has been started, particularly for wheat;
- Between the years 2003-2011, 9.8 million farmers had been trained in different subjects. 1.5 million of these were women;
- In 2006, we initiated the Programme of Support for Rural Development Investments:
 - within the scope of the programme, 800 million USD support had been given to 4.000 enterprises between the periods of 2006-2012. In these enterprises, 42 thousand people have been employed;
 - between the years 2003-2011, 1.1 billion USD credit support have been given to 1862 cooperatives.

Distinguished Ministers.

Thanks to the policies which we followed;

- from 2004 till today, agricultural sector grew 7 years in 8, except 2007. This year we also expect a growth even larger than of total economic growth;
- in last 10 years, agriculture's contribution to the national income increased to 61,8 billion USD from 23,7 billion USD and between the years 2002-2011 it multiplied by 2,6 times;
- in 2002, Turkey was the 11th in world economic agricultural size ranking. Now, it is the 7th.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Participants.

- For an effective and rational policy which aims to plan and increase the production, while preserving the natural resources, we have initiated basin based production and support project. This, in future, will provide Turkey flexibility in planning its production;
- Furthermore, within the scope of research and development studies, improving drought tolerant varieties will be our priority;
- Modern irrigation systems will be encouraged;
- Complying with the EU quality criteria on food will be extended;
- Agricultural extension and consultancy services will be improved;
- Supporting small and medium enterprises by low interest rates to integrate them into the system will continue.

Honourable Ministers.

In the upcoming period:

- CIHEAM should carry out research and training projects for implementation and development rather than basic research;
- Under the roof of CIHEAM, there is no institute specialized on food processing. A new institute could be established to meet this need;

- Research & Development projects aiming at protection and increase of soil productivity should be prioritized;
- Instead of using corn and canola as biofuel, usage of second generation crops should be investigated;
- The breeding of drought tolerant varieties should be prioritized.

Honourable Ministers.

At the end of my speech, I would like to talk about what Turkey did at regional and global scale and what can be done in the forthcoming period. I believe that the improvements we achieved in agriculture can be a good model.

- Turkey contributes to food security on global scale;
- Turkey provides assistance to countries facing hard conditions such as Somalia and Myanmar;
- We want to see the same efforts from international community that didn't put enough efforts up till now;
- In addition, we actively participate in the international meetings and initiatives on agriculture and food security;
- Through the FAO Sub-Regional Office, we support food security projects in Central Asia;
- In addition to support package for Least Developed Countries announced by our Government, Turkey continues to provide technical assistance on Research & Development to many countries within the scope of bilateral relation.

Honourable Ministers.

- As CIHEAM countries, I believe that we can increase our agricultural production dramatically with the measures to be taken to increase productivity in agriculture sector;
- We support the development of a market information system like AMIS between CIHEAM members in order to secure market transparency;
- I believe that biofuel policies must be revised and use of agricultural products of biofuel production must be limited or reduced;

- 40% of USA's total maize production (approximately 125 million tons) is used for biofuel production. This amount is enough to feed 412 million hungry people for one year;
- Social assistance networks should be established for protecting the poor in case of excess price volatility;
- In order to ease small holders' access to the market, governments should increase their resources for infrastructures such as roads, storing...

Moreover:

- exporters of staple foods must avoid taking measures that limit food exports;
- due to high investment return rates, private sector should take measures in order to increase their investment on R&D;
- the population is aging gradually. Measures should be taken in order to direct young people to the agriculture;
- in year 2050, in order to feed 9.3 billion people, annual investment budget for agriculture should be increased to 209 billion USD. In other terms, it should be increased by 50% in comparison to now.

Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Participants.

Before ending my speech, I would like to wish this meeting is a success and would like to thank you for your participation.



ALBANIE / ALBANIA

Tokli THOMAJ

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection

*Honourable Host,
Distinguished Colleagues Ministers.*

Please allow me, first of all, to express my appreciation for the event and my gratitude for the organizers of this panel.

We have all witnessed a dramatic raise in food prices in the last few years, while all estimations show that we should expect a further increase. It is a serious issue, considering the limited resources of our planet, as well as the rapid increase of the world population, especially in less developed, rural-based countries.

These are pretty good reasons to see the "Food Price Shock" as a real threat to our well-being in general. On the other hand, the global warming with all its consequences is proving to be a real obstacle for the progress of the agricultural sector. Climate change, combined with other factors, such as the sharp rise in oil prices, bring about a very complicated scenario for our global goal, which is to guarantee food security for all our countries. Under such conditions, I believe it is vital for all of us to develop short-term and long-term plans, in order to put in place sound and efficient agriculture policies.

We are all aware that in this branch of the economy, it becomes very difficult to respond to market price changes, because of the low elasticity of demand with respect to the price of products. In addition to that, the life cycle for the agricultural production (i.e. the low elasticity on the supply side) makes it even harder to respond in the short term.

The changes in oil prices have their direct and indirect effects on the prices in agriculture products, mainly by causing higher input costs. It is known that the extent to which global prices affect domestic markets, depends on how strongly integrated the latter are with the former. The impact of the high import prices has been felt in Albania's balance of payments. Although I would like to point out that this impact has been quite small, due to the positive changes during the last 3-4 years in the export/import ratio, which went from 1/7 to 1/10, something which was caused by the increase of domestic agricultural production. This has

helped to soften the impact of price volatility on our agricultural sector, which, together with the food exports has seen an annual growth of 25% during the last 3 years.

Given that Albania has not any safety mechanisms in place to assist those who are most affected by price volatility and food crises in general, the issue of food security has already become very sensitive to my Government. One of the ways to mitigate the effects of food price volatility is through the increase of productivity, and that is achieved by investments in technology and innovation. It has been 6 years since we have started our financial support schemes, delivering more than 55 million US dollars for the farming and processing sectors. The central objective in our strategy for "Agriculture & Food" is the increase of competitiveness and efficiency of Albanian agricultural and food products, through improvements in technology and innovation.

Our support schemes are focused on green houses, new fruit plants, olives, nuts, livestock, organic agriculture, modern irrigation structures, herbs and spices, vineyards etc. Other financial instruments include zero-interest loans as well as the Guarantee Fund for those investing in agribusiness. These have proved to be very effective tools and the results are pretty impressive. They are reflected in the increase of agricultural production - even during these difficult times that we are experiencing worldwide - as well as in the significant increases in crops productivity, in addition to the further specialization of farms and the resulting changes in farm patterns. Despite that, the number of farms remains high compared to the total number of both rural and urban population.

Agriculture still employs 45% of the labor force and its contribution to the GDP is around 18%. We have not yet in place any kind of insurances against risks in the agriculture sector and the access to loans is still considered to be low. I am hopeful this situation will improve with Albania being a beneficiary of EU IPA funds. That will lower the risk assessments of the banks providing the loans and will make them more active in the agricultural sector.

Small-scale farms dominate the Albanian agriculture and, at a time when the food market systems are rapidly changing, requiring greater volumes, higher quality and more consistency, the **absence** of the right policy measures makes our farmers and producers less advantaged and excludes them from these market systems. That is the reason why we are promoting cooperation among farmers and, at the same time, the improvement of production technologies even in a small-scale scenario.

The exploitation of the comparative advantages by the farmers, combined with the support from the Government are the elements on which we are based when drafting our policies and then implementing them. A good example is the big Nuts Industry programme that we are already implementing, given the great potential that this industry offers. Incomes from exports are expected to be 160 millions of USD. According to these calculations, the employees in all the chains of such commodities will benefit 14.5 million USD per year. The program includes the whole chain of activities: production, post-harvest facilities, processing and marketing and it aims at achieving successful public-private partnerships.

We do agree that, being part of a region, we should make strategic investments to establish climate-resistant agricultural production systems, as well as to make efficient use of our resources. This requires the involvement of business and the civil society, as well as the promotion of scientific and technological innovation.

Since 1995, Albania has ratified the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. Albania is eligible for hosting CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) projects. However, the studies carried out so far suggest that Albania's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions are relatively low compared to other countries. The Government of Albania has in place a National Plan on Waste Management in water waste management, which envisions the construction of regional municipal waste landfills in 12 areas. Also a Clean Development Mechanism unit has been established within the Albanian Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration, for training of its staff and the preparation of a set of potential CDM projects within the framework of the Carbon Finance Policy Paper.

Albania is also implementing a successful program which aims to combine Economic Aid with supplementary assistance packages to improve the knowledge on child nutrition; monitoring the growth of children in marginalized groups and those at risk of exclusion; providing supplemental meals and food packages with adequate nutritional values for children at difficult times of the year.

In a global economy, interrelated movements of positive and negative events are unavoidable. This requires sharing and coordinating with countries you are partners in trade. As stated in the World Summit for Sustainable Development, existing and future investments in information and knowledge must be structured to identify limits, inform tradeoffs and deliver practical guidance for a sustainable future. Ladies and gentlemen, let us be more conscious about the environment, wastes and climate change and make globally sound agriculture policies prevail in our goals.

Thank you for your attention.



ALGERIE / ALGERIA

Rachid BENAÏSSA

Ministre de l'Agriculture et du Développement rural

*Monsieur le Président de la 9^{ème} Réunion des Ministres de l'Agriculture des Pays Membres du CIHEAM,
Chers collègues Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation,
Monsieur le Président du CIHEAM,
Monsieur le Secrétaire Général du CIHEAM,
Monsieur le Commissaire européen,
Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des Organisations Internationales,
Honorable assistance.*

Je voudrais remercier son Excellence Monsieur George Pullicino, Ministre des Ressources et des Affaires Rurales de Malte, pour l'organisation parfaite de cette réunion et l'accueil chaleureux qui nous est réservé et vous exprimer tout le plaisir que j'ai de me retrouver aujourd'hui parmi vous, pour participer aux travaux de cette 9^{ème} réunion des Ministres de l'agriculture des pays membres du CIHEAM.

Notre réunion de ce jour, revêt, sans aucun doute, un cachet particulier puisqu'elle coïncide avec le cinquantième anniversaire du CIHEAM et qu'elle constitue ainsi une occasion exceptionnelle de renouveler notre confiance et notre ferme soutien à cette institution commune, dont la création et le développement nous ont permis de partager savoir et savoir-faire tout au long du demi siècle écoulé. Comme par hasard, l'Algérie célèbre aussi cette année son cinquantième anniversaire d'indépendance, et il ya aussi d'autres anniversaires symbole de solidarité, d'espoir et de progrès qu'on peut aussi célébrer (Union Européenne...). Que de chemins parcourus depuis et que d'expériences acquises...

C'est pourquoi, je tiens à féliciter vivement, au nom de l'Algérie, toutes celles et tous ceux, qui ont œuvré sans relâche pour garantir l'épanouissement du CIHEAM à travers ses quatre Instituts et pour avoir veillé à mettre l'ensemble des moyens humains et matériels mobilisés au service du renforcement des capacités et du développement de la recherche au profit des agricultures et des populations rurales des treize pays membres et de la Méditerranée en général.

Je tiens aussi à rendre un hommage au Professeur Adel El-BELTAGY, Président du CIHEAM ainsi qu'au Docteur Francisco MOMPIELA MURUZABAL Secrétaire Général du CIHEAM pour leur dévouement et pour les efforts inlassables qu'ils ont déployés à la tête de notre Centre.

**Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs.**

Le thème inscrit à l'ordre du jour de notre réunion constitue une préoccupation majeure pour nos sociétés, celle de la « Sécurité alimentaire et la menace que constitue pour celle-ci la volatilité et le niveau des prix des produits agricoles dans les pays Méditerranéens », mais pas seulement, puisque la question est inscrite depuis plusieurs années de manière permanente et présente dans presque tous les agendas politiques mondiaux de très haut niveau et nécessite des messages et des actions à la hauteur des défis à relever. Certains ont été annoncés ce matin.

**Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs.**

Dès 2008, au lendemain des crises alimentaire et financière qui ont touché le monde, mon pays a procédé au recentrage de ses approches, a adopté une loi d'orientation agricole et a engagé une politique de renouveau agricole et rural dont les objectifs se résument comme suit:

- la promotion d'une autre manière de gouverner le secteur agricole et rural ;
- la recherche d'une croissance économique soutenue, internalisée et durable (14% en moyenne ces trois dernières années) reste toutefois fragile ;
- un renouvellement et une efficacité accrue des outils de gestion publique ;
- un développement humain perceptible et continu.

Dans ce processus de développement global et durable, la dimension rurale a été vite perçue comme essentielle. Elle vise la revitalisation des espaces ruraux en se fondant sur les certitudes suivantes : « Il n'existe pas de territoires sans avenir mais il n'existe que des territoires sans projets », que « le développement ne sera durable que s'il touche l'ensemble des territoires sans exclusion ni marginalisation aucune » et que « le rural est synonyme d'avenir et de potentialité à découvrir et à valoriser ».

Ces principes de base peuvent, à notre sens, être facilement partagés par plus d'un pays dans notre région.

**Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs.**

Bien que ce soit prématuré, nous tenons à exprimer notre convergence avec ce qui a été annoncé depuis ce matin et en particulier l'appui au projet de déclaration finale de notre rencontre qui exprime les principales préoccupations de l'heure et qui s'adresse autant aux pays membres qu'aux institutions internationales, principalement à l'Union européenne ainsi qu'au CIHEAM.

En février 2012, la réunion des experts des 5 + 5 sur la sécurité alimentaire, tenue à Alger s'est inscrite dans le même sens et avait même émis des recommandations visant:

- a renforcer la coopération entre les pays du 5+5 : en matière d'échange d'informations et de suivi des prix agricoles sur les marchés internationaux, permettant de développer les capacités d'anticipation sur les crises des prix agricoles ;
- a construire un espace de formation et de recherche euro-méditerranéen (5 + 5) intégrant la diffusion des savoir-faire, l'expérience et la technologie ; la mise en place d'un dispositif permanent (réseau des institutions de recherche 5+5) dans le but de dresser un état des lieux des activités et des résultats de la recherche enregistrés au niveau régional ;
- a mettre en place un observatoire sur la sécurité alimentaire des pays du 5+5 ;
- a favoriser les partenariats publics-privés et privés-privés (échanges et investissements dans la recherche, l'innovation, le transfert de technologies) ;
- a renforcer la coopération régionale des pays 5+5 dans le cadre des stratégies nationales et régionale d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire, relatives à la protection des ressources naturelles (adaptation au changement climatique, lutte contre la désertification et la sécheresse, gestion durable de la ressource en eau et en sol, lutte préventive contre le criquet pèlerin, protection de la diversité biologique) ;
- a promouvoir l'alimentation durable (respect de la biodiversité locale, équitable, accessible) et développer l'approche nutrition-santé (recherche, alimentation équilibrée du point de vue nutritionnel, éducation nutritionnelle, diète méditerranéenne, produits de terroir) ;
- a promouvoir les produits de terroir au niveau national et œuvrer pour la protection des signes distinctifs de l'origine (indications géographiques,...) au niveau international ;
- a créer un groupe de travail chargé de définir des programmes de recherche prioritaires structurants au niveau régional en les accompagnant par les financements nécessaires.

En rappelant ces recommandations et ces objectifs, c'est la convergence des approches et la nécessité de mettre nos efforts et moyens en synergie pour leur atteinte.

**Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs.**

Les défis que nous devons relever, exigent de passer à des actions concrètes, toujours dans un esprit de solidarité, par l'établissement d'une stratégie capable de prendre en charge nos multiples préoccupations et mettre en valeur nos complémentarités agricoles.

**Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs.**

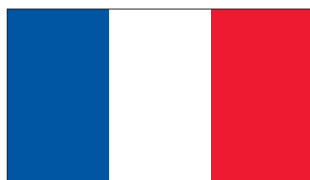
Le CIHEAM, notre Institution commune, doit demeurer une Institution solide, active et efficace. Il pourra œuvrer au partage de l'information et des expériences nationales par la création et la consolidation de réseaux de recherche euro-méditerranéens centrés sur les stratégies de sécurité alimentaire, la gestion raisonnée des ressources naturelles et, plus particulièrement, la gestion de l'eau.

De plus, au vu des résultats positifs que le CIHEAM a accumulés au cours du dernier demi-siècle, nos pays devraient continuer à lui accorder un soutien indéfectible pour le rendre davantage opérationnel et performant, et le mettre en mesure de remplir ses missions naturelles au service de la formation des hommes pour l'agriculture et l'agroalimentaire de demain. Cela lui permettra aussi de contribuer plus largement au partage du savoir et au transfert des technologies, principaux vecteurs d'une solidarité régionale indispensable au développement de nos agricultures et de nos territoires ruraux.

L'Algérie sera honorée de recevoir en 2014 la 10^{ème} réunion des ministres pour faire le point sur la coopération Nord-Sud mais aussi pour impulser une nouvelle dynamique pour les cinquante prochaines années, tenant compte des défis à relever, des expériences acquises et des mutations enregistrées et à venir.

Ce sont là, Mesdames et Messieurs, quelques réflexions et une conviction puissante que j'ai voulu partager avec vous.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.



FRANCE

Stéphane LE FOLL

Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt

*Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres,
Messieurs les Commissaires européens,
Messieurs le Président et le Secrétaire général du CIHEAM,
Mesdames et Messieurs.*

C'est avec plaisir que je participe à cette réunion ministérielle qui me donne l'occasion de rencontrer pour la première fois plusieurs de mes collègues de l'Est et du Sud de la Méditerranée. Je tiens à adresser mes remerciements à Monsieur George Pullicino pour l'accueil qu'il nous a réservé. Je remercie également l'équipe du CIHEAM et son secrétariat général pour l'organisation de cette rencontre.

La thématique retenue, sécurité alimentaire et la volatilité des prix, revêt une importance stratégique dans la zone Méditerranéenne, nous le savons tous. La période actuelle, avec la flambée des prix des céréales observée ces derniers mois, nous rappelle l'urgence de traiter ce problème.

1. L'impact de la volatilité des prix sur la sécurité alimentaire est-elle une réalité en France ?

La France bénéficie certes de conditions géo-climatiques favorables, elle est un pays exportateur qui n'est donc pas en situation de risque de pénurie. Pour autant, elle souhaite assurer une stabilité de ses marchés et du revenu des agriculteurs.

En effet, de grandes variations des prix agricoles n'incitent pas les agriculteurs à investir ni les jeunes à s'installer alors que nous savons tous que l'accroissement de la production agricole globale est une nécessité si nous voulons nourrir les 9 milliards d'êtres humains qui peupleront la terre à l'horizon 2050.

En outre, la volatilité des prix impacte particulièrement le secteur de l'élevage, activité à faible marge dont la rentabilité est compromise en cas de hausse des cours de

l'alimentation du bétail. La hausse des prix des céréales est par ailleurs souvent liée à celle des intrants (énergie, engrais,...), aggravant encore les conséquences sur le revenu des agriculteurs.

Je souligne aussi l'effet de ces hausses sur les consommateurs et leurs conséquences sur leur pouvoir d'achat.

2. Comment avons nous réagi en France pour réguler les marchés et faire face aux effets de la volatilité des prix, notamment en ce qui concerne la production agricole ?

Je souhaite rappeler que la France et l'Union européenne n'ont pas toujours connu l'autosuffisance, notamment au sortir de la seconde guerre mondiale où il était nécessaire d'importer massivement des céréales américaines. Ce fut précisément l'objet de la Politique Agricole Commune (PAC) en 1957 : une productivité accrue pour que les consommateurs aient accès à des approvisionnements stables et des denrées à prix abordable, et un revenu agricole comparable à celui des autres secteurs. La PAC a atteint ses objectifs, et s'est progressivement adaptée aux évolutions économiques et sociales : la gestion des surplus, les questions environnementales, le développement rural avec son 2^{ème} pilier, la conditionnalité, les modulations, ...

Au plan national, nous avons veillé à améliorer l'interactivité des acteurs des filières agricoles et agroalimentaires pour en renforcer la stabilité. Je citerai notamment nos actions en faveur du regroupement des producteurs au sein d'organisations, de la création d'interprofessions, de la structuration de filières, de la solidarité entre céréaliers et éleveurs, la contractualisation dans le secteur laitier, ...

Je souligne aussi que les mesures sanitaires, les signes de qualité ou le développement rural contribuent également à la stabilité de la production, des prix et à la valorisation des productions agricoles.

Et l'actualité nous rattrape : la situation actuelle provoquée par la forte sécheresse et la chaleur extrême aux Etats-Unis, ainsi que les conditions météorologiques défavorables affectant les récoltes dans les pays de la CEI, est préoccupante. Ceci dépasse évidemment le cadre national, mais la France a eu à coeur ces dernières années de contribuer à apporter des réponses en matière de sécurité alimentaire mondiale : la réforme de la FAO, celle du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire (CSA) où je me rendrai mi-octobre et bien entendu au G20 depuis que la France l'a inscrite à l'ordre du jour en 2011.

L'agriculture, un peu trop oubliée ces dernières années, revient au centre des préoccupations. Plusieurs chantiers sont en cours :

- il faut augmenter la productivité de l'agriculture, notamment en accélérant les efforts de recherche et en coordonnant nos efforts ;

- il faut plus de transparence et de coordination entre Etats sur les marchés agricoles, c'est ce que nous nous efforçons de faire à travers d'AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System), base de données conjointe créée pour permettre d'améliorer les données de production, de consommation et des stocks pour quatre cultures dans un premier temps (blé, riz, maïs, soja), et son organe politique, le Forum de réaction rapide (RRF), qui regroupe les décideurs politiques des ministères de l'agriculture des pays participants et permet de faciliter la coordination internationale des politiques ;
- il faut travailler à mettre en place des outils de gestion du risque pour les pays les plus vulnérables ;
- il faut mettre en place des réserves alimentaires d'urgence au plus près des besoins ;
- et enfin, une régulation des marchés financiers fondés sur les matières premières agricoles est indispensable.

Plusieurs pays ici représentés sont membres du G20, qui sont déjà très engagés dans ces actions. Nous avons la responsabilité d'intégrer davantage la Méditerranée dans ces démarches.

3. Quelles actions préconisons-nous à l'avenir ?

a) au niveau des pays

Je crois sincèrement à l'efficacité de la mise en œuvre de politiques agricoles garantissant aux producteurs une stabilité économique et juridique, promouvant les investissements et le développement territorial en faveur des populations rurales et les impliquant. Des solutions existent via des projets concrets relatifs au développement durable en milieu rural, au développement et à la promotion de produits de qualité ainsi qu'à la coordination de la recherche agricole sur des questions telles que les espèces végétales résistantes au stress hydrique et la gestion des ressources en eau. La France a une tradition de coopération avec les pays méditerranéens membres du CIHEAM, et nous les assurons de notre souhait de poursuivre des partenariats soutenus en faveur de la définition et de la mise en œuvre de ces politiques, qu'ils ont d'ores et déjà lancées.

b) au niveau régional (méditerranéen)

La sécurité alimentaire et la volatilité des prix revêtent une acuité particulière en Méditerranée, qui risque de devenir la région la plus déficitaire au monde. Je crois que nous sommes tous d'accord pour favoriser la mise en commun des efforts et les synergies dans ce contexte.

Dans ce contexte, je souhaite revenir sur AMIS et le Forum de réaction rapide : une déclinaison méditerranéenne de ces outils me paraîtrait particulièrement pertinente.

Plusieurs de nos pays y sont déjà, au titre de membres du G20 (France, Italie, Turquie), de membres de l'UE (Espagne, en tant qu'invité) ou de grands pays importateurs (Egypte). Par ailleurs, plusieurs de vos pays développent des outils statistiques d'évaluation de la production et de la consommation. Aussi je propose que nous travaillions ensemble en faveur d'une connexion de leurs programmes afin de construire un système d'information des marchés des pays méditerranéens étroitement relié à AMIS. Et je ne doute pas que d'autres pays méditerranéens puissent un jour intégrer AMIS et le Forum de réaction rapide.

Au-delà de la transparence et de la coordination, bien d'autres enjeux sont à considérer. Je vous invite d'ailleurs à venir à Rome le 16 octobre, journée de l'alimentation dans le cadre de la réunion annuelle du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire pour faire le point avec la FAO sur les actions entreprises en matière de lutte contre la volatilité des prix alimentaires.

Très concrètement, concernant le rôle des actions en faveur du développement rural, je souhaite remercier la Commission européenne, en particulier Monsieur le Commissaire Dacian Ciolos, pour son initiative d'accompagnement du développement rural des pays méditerranéens, au travers du Programme Européen de Voisinage pour l'agriculture et le développement rural (European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development - ENPARD). Cet outil doit nous permettre de conduire des projets extrêmement intéressants avec les pays du voisinage de l'UE et membres du CIHEAM.

Concernant justement le CIHEAM, je loue l'excellence de ses travaux. Il dispose d'une véritable légitimité académique et joue un rôle intéressant d'appui aux organismes de recherche. La France apprécie l'excellence de ses travaux et leur pertinence en tant qu'élément d'expertise, en particulier sa publication annuelle MEDITERRA. Au plan français, je veillerai d'ailleurs à modifier la législation pour que son diplôme dispose d'une reconnaissance officielle.

Je pense que le CIHEAM doit contribuer à l'établissement d'un diagnostic multi-acteur partagé de la situation méditerranéenne et à la définition des solutions adaptées aux contraintes de la région, et continuer à être un pôle d'expertise sur les questions agricoles et de développement rural.

Notamment, il peut apporter une contribution concrète en faveur des petits et moyens agriculteurs, en lien avec le groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition créé pour conseiller le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale de la FAO. Il peut aussi contribuer à l'innovation dans les secteurs agricole et agroalimentaire pour renforcer la création d'emplois ou de valeur ajoutée en milieu rural.

Le CIHEAM peut aussi apporter, comme indiqué précédemment, un soutien aux pays méditerranéens dans le développement, en étroite collaboration avec le groupe de suivi du G20, d'un système d'information des marchés des pays méditerranéens relié à AMIS.

Il peut également œuvrer à la mise en commun et aux échanges sur les bonnes pratiques concernant les organisations de producteurs et la gestion des risques, sur la base d'un échange avec les acteurs institutionnels et agricoles concernés.

Je souhaite enfin souligner son rôle politique : le CIHEAM, réunissant les ministres tous les 2 ans, doit avoir cette fonction, parallèlement à ses activités de recherche et d'enseignement supérieur.

Enfin, nous devons articuler nos travaux de ceux du dialogue 5+5 et je remercie l'Algérie d'avoir inscrit la sécurité alimentaire à l'ordre du jour de cette enceinte. Je souhaite que le résultat de cette réunion soit porté à la connaissance des chefs d'Etats du 5+5 qui se réuniront ici-même à Malte début octobre.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie.



GRECE / GREECE

Athanasios TSAFTARIS

Minister of Rural Development and Food

1. IMPACT OF FOOD PRICES VOLATILITY ON FOOD SECURITY IN YOUR COUNTRY

(Objective: present the main impacts of food prices volatility in your country in terms of farm productivity and supply of local agricultural products).

It is true that the world today faces high food prices combining with international Food Price volatility that has a serious impact on the agricultural economy of Greece. Simultaneously with the above threat, my country faces extreme financial constraints that exacerbate the impact as farmers find it more difficult to finance input purchases or have no access to credit. In addition we have to face, as most of the Mediterranean countries, the increased impact of climate change.

Greece is also characterised by a great number of small size agricultural holdings. Small farmers are more vulnerable to price volatility as they usually lack the capacity, the means and the knowledge to hedge the increased risks. High input prices in combination with the increased difficulty to obtain credit had a serious impact on the income of farmers which deteriorates the last 10 years. Moreover, the agrifood chain in Greece is characterised by a number of inefficiencies. As a result farmers have more difficulties to cope with price volatility. They are unable to gain substantially from the increased prices, as the intermediaries gain the most while they experience the full effect of price decreases.

The combination of these various challenges affected the efficiency and the value of the economic investments made over the last few years in the agricultural sector and as a result farm productivity compared with the north European countries.

Although, we cannot isolate the impact of the price volatility per se, it is certain that it had serious negative effect in farm productivity as well as supply of agricultural products, as shown by the statistics.

2. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO REGULATE MARKETS AND COPE WITH THE EFFECTS OF PRICE VOLATILITY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT FARM PRODUCTIVITY

(Objective: expose the main actions undertaken in your country to adapt your agricultural sector to food price volatility and minimize food insecurity and malnutrition (in particular actions taken/measures adopted to increase farm productivity and reduce risks related to food products' quality and supply stability)).

In order to overcome the effect of price volatility we undertake a series of actions. Firstly, we tried to turn agricultural production towards products with increased value added with are less affected from price volatility. We promote differentiated products, with identity, origin and certification. Products which are part of the Greek traditional diet and the Mediterranean diet. Products of our long tradition with historical and cultural references to our agriculture.

We gave emphasis to the development of collective organizations of producers. Cooperation increases farmers' bargaining power and renders them more capable to face price volatility. Farmers, especially the small ones, should be actively involved in producer groups, cooperatives and other organizations in order to make effective use of their production. Hence, we proceeded to the modernization of laws governing organizational forms of production, including cooperatives and farmers' groups, as well as contractual agriculture. Our goal was the effective organization of production and supply, with new type cooperatives, productive and profitable for their members. With active producer groups and professional organizations that leverage productive and developmental capabilities of national and Community legislation.

Furthermore, we brought education, research and certification under one organization. We established the Greek Agricultural Organisation (ELGO) in order to actively assist the rural economy with usable and applicable research results, to promote innovation and boost productivity in a sustainable manner. The same organization provides reliable certification on quality products and also provides timely and effective education for the training of farmers, focusing on the young.

We gave emphasis to the consolidation of supply chains. We promoted short and local supply chains for the benefit of farmers and consumers alike, boosting local economies and empowering consumers to play an active part in the economic development of their local area. The economic woes in my country sparked the creation of a direct channel, through social networking, for selling potatoes at prices 60% lower than through the conventional channels. This is an initiative that we supported and we would like to see it extended and established in a more coherent way.

Through our rural development programme we aim to enhance the competitiveness of agriculture, to use natural resources wisely and with a sustainable manner and to achieve balanced territorial development of rural areas. We use all instruments available through

the second pillar of CAP. In addition, we make use of CAP mechanisms concerning intense price fluctuations in order to ameliorate the effects of intense price fluctuations in order to protect farmers and consumers.

Part of the mechanisms provided by the EU legislation is the “food for the needy” programme, which most deprived people rely to feed their families. In this time of economic crisis we gave emphasis to this programme in order to back families with low incomes.

3. ACTIONS THAT YOU CONSIDER SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE

- a. at country level*
- b. at regional (Mediterranean) level*

(Objective: to identify the main actions that should be undertaken both at national and regional levels to reduce the impact of food prices volatility. In particular, what do you suggest to CIHEAM in relation to research priorities, Euro-Mediterranean networking and cooperation projects and capacity building).

Research, development, innovation, education and information applied in the agriculture and food sectors would play a vital role in the future. We have to accord a higher priority towards these goals in order to secure stable supply of agricultural goods and cope with market risks and climate change that implies changing patterns of precipitation, temperature and extreme weather events.

Research should be directed towards the development of different crop varieties that are more resistant to climatic stress with increased heat and drought tolerant, better fitted at regional level. Research is also needed on the timing or location of cropping activities; on pest disease and weed management practices and on species with greater resistance to pests and diseases.

Another field for improvement is the sustainable use of natural resources. Especially the water which is in limited supply in most of the Mediterranean regions. We have to promote more efficient water use in agriculture through the development of more efficient irrigations systems by further refinement of drip systems, including developments towards the next generation of drip technology including, for example, computerised systems, fertigation by applying fertilisers directly to the plant roots, pressurised drippers and the sub-surface drip irrigation.

Investment is needed to support some expansion in agricultural land use in areas that this is feasible, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. On the other hand, better management practices are needed to reduce food waste especially in industrialized countries and post-harvest losses in developing countries.

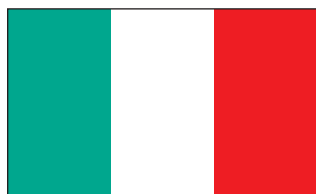
Promotion of the model of the Mediterranean diet is another key element. It implies a more diversified agricultural production, affected less from price fluctuations with lower dependency on cereals. Western dietary patterns are calorie-intensive and generate large quantities of greenhouse gases emissions. The model of the Mediterranean diet with less protein could be an attractive answer on promoting a new energy and environmental paradigm.

Providing consistent support to small-scale farmers, which form a big part of Mediterranean agriculture, is essential to promote food security. Small scale farmers need improved access to local, national and regional markets and simple mechanisms to meet production and income risks.

It has to be clear to all of us and to international organizations that we have to place agriculture among the main political priorities while informing society on the strategic role of this sector for the future not only for securing sufficient supply of quality foods but also to avoid social unrest triggered by "food riots" and finally protecting our natural resources.

International coordination and coherency of national policies is critical to face future challenges. A cooperative multilateral approach is less costly and more equitable than separate national approaches.

Thank you very much for your attention.



ITALIE / ITALY

Franco BRAGA

Under-secretary – Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies

*Honorable President and Secretary General,
Ministers and Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates.*

It is with real pleasure that I am here today to represent the Italian Ministry of Agriculture.

I am particularly grateful to notice the high-level participation of representatives from all our Mediterranean countries. I welcome the shared aspiration for a fruitful partnership in democracy, stability and prosperity.

Looking back at the first meeting held in Rome in 1999 we came a long way. The pathway that CIHEAM tracked on that occasion is still with us today. CIHEAM meetings were born with the intent to constitute “an exceptional platform of dialogue” for the agricultural policy makers of the Mediterranean. During these past thirteen years we have agreed upon many policy issues, building on so many commonalities in agriculture and our specific climatic region.

As Italians, we believe that our Mediterranean alliance will allow us to fight united against several challenges facing the future of the Euro-Mediterranean agriculture.

Above all we urge to control food price volatility while increasing agricultural production and productivity.

In relation to measures recently adopted to fight against price volatility, we recognize the importance of timely, accurate, transparent and comparable information in helping to address food price volatility. We support the proposal to create a simple and operational platform and to link it with CIHEAM. In this regard, the aim of strengthening collaboration and dialogue among main producing, exporting and importing countries, commercial enterprises and international organizations was at the origin of the last G20 decision to launch the so-called AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System – concerning wheat, maize, rice and soybeans).

The Rapid Response Forum (RRF) was also designed to promote early discussion among decision-level officials about abnormal international market conditions to encourage the coordination of policies and the development of common strategies.

The economic crisis that hit so badly our planet is not yet over and in spite some rules changed, the financial markets' transparency is still far from being achieved. The control over these markets is above us but we can stand together at international multilateral negotiations coordinating our positions and speak up with a single voice.

For a balanced market it is necessary to act in compliance with environmental, social and economic sustainability. In Italy we are committed to regulate markets and to provide farmers with a higher value in the agro-food chain. At the initiative of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Italy recently issued a new legislation on the agro-food production enhancing previous rules of transparency in the food market and better fighting against unfair practices.

We do need a renewed approach although our principles and values will still be the same. We cannot simply increase productivity without taking into account high quality production standards, food safety and traceability. This is why research and innovation become a key element that can make the difference.

With regard to actions that could be undertaken in the near future, I believe that the agro-food industry in the Mediterranean region could better benefit of synergic efforts in building research platforms and cooperation among education centres. Therefore, we support the proposal to establish a Mediterranean research and information-sharing network to be linked to CIHEAM.

Furthermore, we call the European Commission to value and strengthen the CIHEAM mission in the Mediterranean, also through the use of delegate cooperation tools foreseen for International organisations.

Now I would like to focus my attention on the issue of food security for vulnerable population. The leit-motive is always to find a way to provide food for all, with a special attention to the most vulnerable people. The strategic policy to approach this issue is not an easy one and we must take into account multiple factors: the fragility of southern Mediterranean agriculture in the light of climatic uncertainties and resources' scarcity.

Particularly adequate water management is key to tackle the issue of agricultural productivity. Integrated efforts in water saving, land and water conservation have been incorporated in recent national and regional directives as the best management strategy and the most effective way to contribute to a more efficient use of natural resources enhancing sustainable development of the region.

It is urgent to combine natural resources' preservation with the promotion of a sustainable rural development respectful of the environment. In fact, the contribution to a sustainable environment and, in general, to sustainable development is increasingly pursued at

European level as a strategy that should be developed across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

We do not have final solutions but reflections to share with you today. There is a huge debate on the possibilities that strategic emergency food reserves can offer to the fight against hunger. We believe that the high budgetary cost and the difficulty in setting up these reserves work against their establishment and management. Regarding export restrictions by food exporters, I would like to recall the G20 commitment (adopted in Los Cabos) to remove restrictions for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by WFP (World Food Program).

We strongly believe that our common opportunity stands in increasing our training activities and spreading innovation on the issue of sustainable resources management.

We agreed upon the concept of "sustainable rural development" and we are still strongly supporting the need of concertation and harmonization of national agricultural policies in the regional and international frameworks.

Thank you for your attention.



LIBAN / LEBANON

Hussein HAJJ HASSAN

Ministre de l'Agriculture

*Monsieur le Président,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation,
Mesdames, Messieurs.*

Je suis ravi de me retrouver avec vous à Malte pour participer à cette 9^{ème} Réunion des Ministres de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche des pays membres du CIHEAM. Je voudrais tout d'abord vivement remercier les autorités Maltaises et le CIHEAM d'avoir organisé ce forum stratégique.

Cette réunion est certes une excellente opportunité qui nous est régulièrement offerte pour discuter de sujets d'actualité aussi pertinents que la place de l'Agriculture et de l'alimentation dans nos sociétés.

La conjoncture actuelle dans la région méditerranéenne a complètement bouleversé les priorités. Les défis sont nombreux et nul pays n'est capable d'y faire face en dehors d'une coopération efficace entre nos pays. De même le partenariat du Sud avec l'Europe représente une des issues à la crise actuelle de l'Agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire.

Les organisateurs de cette réunion ministérielle ont choisi comme thème principal pour nos débats « La sécurité alimentaire et les prix dans les pays méditerranéens », auquel nous voudrions ajouter nos préoccupations majeures en sécurité et sûreté alimentaires dans les pays du Sud.

Je n'ai pas besoin de plaider cette cause devant vous puisque la situation économique est alarmante, et nous sommes tous également concernés par ce qui se passe dans le pourtour méditerranéen. C'est pourquoi je suis venu vous adresser ce message afin que tous ensemble nous fassions face à ces problèmes devenus, au-delà de l'économique, politiques par excellence.

Le Liban est loin d'être à l'abri des agitations et des bouleversements socio-politiques qui secouent la région, mais je puis vous assurer que notre gouvernement déploie tous les

efforts nécessaires en vue de maintenir le pays à l'abri de ces troubles. Nous poursuivons donc nos démarches afin d'exécuter nos plans et projets de restructuration de l'Agriculture et de développement de la communauté rurale.

Notre politique vise la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, la résolution des problèmes majeurs d'approvisionnement en eau, l'amélioration de la qualité des produits, la recherche de nouveaux marchés, la dynamisation de la recherche scientifique et de l'innovation, la formation spécialisée des cadres et, bien entendu, la mise à jour de la législation relative à l'agriculture et au rural.

Mesdames, Messieurs.

L'urbanisation des pays du Sud, rapide et récente comparée à celle des pays du Nord, a modifié l'importance des enjeux pour la recherche agricole : la satisfaction du marché intérieur est devenue un défi au moins aussi important que l'accès aux marchés extérieurs.

Malgré des pouvoirs d'achat souvent très limités, nos citoyens ont des attentes multiples de qualité concernant leur alimentation. Les qualités nutritionnelles et sanitaires des aliments, leur origine territoriale ou culturelle, leur authenticité sont devenus des facteurs majeurs de leur appréciation par le consommateur et donc de leur compétitivité. Là encore, la prise en compte simultanée des contraintes de production, de qualité mais aussi de prix compétitif constitue un nouveau défi qui nous insiste à mener une réflexion approfondie, loin des contraintes politiques et territoriales. En d'autres termes, l'établissement des relations équilibrées et durables est un chantier considérable, où nos expériences respectives peuvent s'enrichir mutuellement afin d'aboutir à une coopération respectueuse des partenaires. Nous sommes convaincus que la sécurité alimentaire et, au-delà, la sécurité géopolitique impliquent une réorientation profonde des politiques agricoles et leur élargissement à la question alimentaire.

Les recherches sur une agriculture et une alimentation durables ont été initiées voilà une cinquantaine d'années. Cependant, les résultats de l'innovation sont encore le fait d'un très faible nombre d'acteurs, leur diffusion ne peut se faire qu'à partir d'un effort massif de formation pour changer les mentalités, développer de nouvelles techniques et modifier les comportements.

Pour remédier à cette situation d'instabilité alimentaire tant sur le plan de la sécurité que celui de la sûreté, nous pourrions préconiser la création de réseaux de laboratoires associés comme mécanisme de renforcement des laboratoires de nos pays. Ces outils sont essentiels pour la gestion de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, et seraient profitables tant aux industriels qu'aux agences régulatrices.

De même nous faut-il songer à la préservation de l'environnement. L'affirmation que les systèmes agricoles peuvent être à la fois plus productifs, plus résistants, et avec une empreinte carbone plus faible n'est pas un slogan. En effet, le modèle de certains pays

européens, et d'autres du sud, tels le Brésil, la Chine et certains pays africains, nous prouvent que la détermination politique est capable d'associer « l'utile à l'agréable ».

Mesdames, Messieurs.

Le CIHEAM continue à être, 50 ans après sa création, une organisation utile et indispensable pour tous les décideurs dans le domaine de l'agriculture. Sachez que nous vous soutenons et encourageons les instituts à aller de l'avant sur la voie de l'excellence. Nous sommes plus que satisfaits de votre performance dans la formation de nos cadres et les opportunités précieuses de développement que vous mettez à notre disposition.

J'ai appris avec beaucoup d'intérêt votre décision de mener une réflexion sur le rôle, la place et les perspectives de l'action du CIHEAM dans la région. Que cette consultation s'accomplisse de manière participative mobilisant aussi bien les partenaires que les bénéficiaires.

Dans cette perspective, les gouverneurs du CIHEAM sont appelés à prendre en considération, au cours de ce chantier, notre intérêt pour les thèmes suivants :

- établir de nouveaux programmes de formation de générations de chercheurs, d'universitaires et de technocrates capables d'innover dans les domaines stratégiques de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, des ressources naturelles et des relations économiques régionales.
- offrir des études doctorales, en partenariat avec les universités et les centres de recherche du Sud, compétentes et prêtes à administrer ces programmes avec les Instituts Agronomiques Méditerranéens du CIHEAM, dans le domaine pluridisciplinaire par excellence, que représente la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous nous engageons à vous soutenir dans la prise de décisions et leur mise en œuvre.

Pour conclure, je remercie Son Excellence Monsieur le Ministre George Pullicino, les autorités Maltaises et notre ami le Professeur Salvino Busuttil, ainsi que le Président et le Secrétaire général du CIHEAM, d'avoir organisé, au moment et à l'endroit opportuns, ce forum d'amitié et de coopération entre nos pays.



TUNISIE/ TUNISIA

Mohamed BEN SALEM

Ministre de l'Agriculture

Discours prononcé par le chef de délégation, M. Habib AMAMOU, Président de l'IRESA

*Excellence Monsieur George Pullicino, Ministre de l'Agriculture et des Affaires Rurales de Malte,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Monsieur le Commissaire,
Monsieur le Président de la commission Agriculture du Parlement européen,
Monsieur le Président du CIHEAM,
Messieurs les Ambassadeurs,
Mesdames et Messieurs.*

- Permettez-moi de vous adresser les salutations de Son Excellence Mohamed Ben Salem, le Ministre de l'Agriculture, qui n'a pu participer à cette 9^{ème} réunion des Ministres de l'Agriculture des pays membres du CIHEAM, du fait d'empêchements majeurs.

Il m'a chargé de prononcer ce matin le discours qu'il avait préparé.

- il m'est agréable de prendre part aux travaux de cette réunion qui constitue pour nous tous une occasion de débat et de partage sur la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire et de la volatilité des prix et ses perspectives au niveau de la Méditerranée ;
- cette problématique constitue, sans aucun doute, une préoccupation majeure prenant de plus en plus d'ampleur dans la plupart des pays, notamment, ceux de la Méditerranée. Elle place ces pays devant une multitude d'enjeux et de défis assez complexes liés à des facteurs d'ordre naturel, technique, économique, social et politique ;
- je voudrais saisir cette occasion, pour présenter mes vifs remerciements à la République de Malte pour l'aimable invitation, l'accueil chaleureux et l'hospitalité qui nous ont été réservés depuis notre arrivée dans ce beau pays ;

- mes remerciements, s'adressent aussi à tous ceux qui ont contribué à l'organisation excellente de cette rencontre, pour le choix pertinent du thème qui est à l'ordre du jour du débat international ;
- et si l'on ne peut que se féliciter de la volonté des instances internationales exprimée pour faire face à cette situation difficile pour beaucoup de pays notamment ceux en voie de développement, la réalisation des objectifs fixés dans ce domaine nécessitent des efforts supplémentaires et des mesures concrètes. A cet égard, nous sommes appelés à mieux coordonner nos actions et coopérer davantage.

Mesdames et Messieur.

La problématique de la sécurité alimentaire de la volatilité des prix s'est manifestée dans la plupart des pays. En Tunisie en 2007 et 2008 les marchés ont enregistré une intense flambée des prix des produits alimentaires de base. Cette flambée s'est confirmée en 2010 et 2011. Un pic historique des prix a été atteint en avril 2011.

La volatilité des prix semble ainsi durablement s'installer sur les marchés internationaux des denrées alimentaires avec un fond de tendance haussière eu égard aux aléas climatiques, à la réduction des stocks, au développement des agro-carburants et à certaines restrictions à l'exportation. Le tout est accentué par des pratiques spéculatives sur les marchés agricoles internationaux.

Fortement dépendante des importations des produits alimentaires de base, en particulier les céréales, la Tunisie a enregistré une hausse vertigineuse de la facture d'importation alimentaire. La balance agroalimentaire de l'année 2011 s'est soldée par un déficit d'environ 709 MD contre un déficit de 557 MD à la fin décembre 2010. Ce déficit s'explique en grande partie par la hausse des prix à l'import principalement ceux des produits de base (céréales, sucre, huiles végétales).

Ainsi, bien que la Tunisie ait accompli des avancées importantes en matière d'accroissement de la production agricole et l'amélioration des disponibilités alimentaires durant les trois dernières décennies, l'avènement de la crise financière depuis 2007-2008 qui a secoué les marchés des produits agricoles et alimentaires a montré qu'elle n'est pas suffisamment prémunie contre les risques du marché.

La transmission de la flambée et la volatilité des prix alimentaires internationaux a été relativement amortie au niveau des prix à la consommation en Tunisie grâce à la politique des prix adoptée en faveur du consommateur.

Cette stabilisation des prix des denrées alimentaires est assurée grâce à une ponction importante sur le budget public en creusant davantage le déséquilibre de la balance commerciale agricole et agroalimentaire. Les dépenses de la caisse générale de compensation ont atteint 1150 MD en 2011 contre 730 MD en 2010.

La politique des prix adoptée en Tunisie se caractérise essentiellement par une administration des prix des céréales du lait et des huiles végétales et du sucre, et leurs prix sont maintenus à des niveaux inférieurs aux prix sur le marché international.

D'autres produits comme la pomme de terre, les viandes de volailles, les œufs font l'objet d'un système de régulation du marché (la régulation à travers le stockage pour une durée déterminée par les organismes interprofessionnels, le recours à l'importation de quantités limitées, etc.) qui vise à assurer la rentabilité de l'agriculteur et maintenir les prix à un niveau abordable pour les consommateurs.

Du côté de l'offre agricole, des ajustements des prix à la production vers la hausse ont été enregistrés pour les céréales, le lait, les produits avicoles afin de combler la hausse des intrants agricoles à des niveaux parfois insupportables par les agriculteurs notamment les petits qui représentent plus de 80% de l'effectif des agriculteurs, afin de protéger l'agriculteur et préserver la durabilité de l'activité agricole.

Par ailleurs, des mesures dont les retombées positives sur le moyen et le long terme sont en cours de mise en œuvre ou d'élaboration (objectifs du XI^{ème} et XII^{ème} Plans). Ces mesures ont pour objectif l'amélioration de la capacité de l'agriculture tunisienne à faire face aux défis majeurs notamment l'évolution quantitative et qualitative des besoins nutritionnels de la population tunisienne, la raréfaction des ressources hydriques, les changements climatiques en plus des contraintes organisationnelles.

Les mesures prises concernent essentiellement les aspects suivants:

- *l'incitation aux investissements agricoles en vue de la modernisation des systèmes de culture et d'élevage, l'utilisation des variétés adaptées et des semences performantes, l'amélioration des systèmes d'irrigation économiseur d'eau ;*
- *l'encadrement technique, la formation de compétences et l'organisation professionnelle comme moyens pour l'amélioration de la productivité et de la rentabilité des activités agricoles ;*
- *la prise en compte de la dimension de développement social notamment la création d'emplois décents et durables*
- *l'instauration de filets de protection sociale qui ciblent les familles nécessiteuses et ceux qui ne sont pas capables de travailler (plus de 130000 bénéficiaires) ;*
- *le développement des infrastructures et l'amélioration du cadre de vie dans les zones rurales qui auront entre autres comme conséquence la promotion de l'emploi des jeunes en milieu rural.*

Mesdames et Messieurs.

Le gouvernement actuel a désigné un comité permanent visant le suivi des prix des denrées alimentaires et de l'état d'approvisionnement des marchés. Ce comité a aussi une fonction de communication pour sensibiliser et impliquer la population dans la rationalisation de la consommation.

Le gouvernement a également choisi le dialogue avec les différents acteurs et intervenants aussi bien du côté des opérateurs du secteur agricole que de la société civile pour recueillir les points de vue et développer un large consensus sur les réformes à entreprendre dans les différents domaines y compris la sécurité alimentaire des tunisiens qui demeure une préoccupation primordiale.

Aussi, il y a lieu de signaler que les efforts en matière de lutte contre la corruption ont commencé à porter leurs fruits en matière de disponibilités budgétaires qui profiteront essentiellement à la création d'emploi et l'amélioration du revenu du citoyen tunisien.

La coopération dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire dans un contexte de volatilité des prix au niveau méditerranéen pourrait prendre plusieurs aspects:

- *complémentarité et solidarité régionale dans la gestion de la hausse des prix des denrées alimentaires, particulièrement pour les céréales ;*
- *réalisation des économies d'échelles à travers la mutualisation des moyens et des potentialités matérielles et humaines dans le domaine de la recherche agronomique et le développement agricole et rural (recherche variétale, production de semence, bonnes pratiques agricoles) ;*
- *création d'une bourse régionale de denrées alimentaires pour assurer l'approvisionnement régulier et à moindre coût des différents pays de la région ;*
- *améliorer la transparence des marchés pour donner des bases plus solides aux anticipations des opérateurs économiques et des gouvernements en vue d'une régulation efficace de ces marchés ;*
- *améliorer et développer les outils de gestion du risque pour les entreprises, les agriculteurs afin de renforcer leur capacité à gérer et à limiter le risque lié à la volatilité des prix ;*
- *renforcement des capacités de recueil et d'analyse des données et de partage aux niveaux national et régional.*

Mesdames, Messieurs.

Nous sommes persuadés et convaincus que pour les pays méditerranéens, la bonne gestion de la volatilité des prix et de ses répercussions sur leur sécurité alimentaire ne peut se

faire qu'à travers le renforcement de leurs capacités et la mise en œuvre d'outils et de mécanismes politiques partagés et consensuels. Ces rencontres offrent une opportunité réelle de dialogue et de réflexion participative et partagée entre nous tous, permettant d'évaluer notre coopération et d'en enrichir ses programmes, dans le but de préserver et de consolider la sécurité alimentaire à l'échelle mondiale en général et dans les pays méditerranéens en particulier.

Dans cette perspective, l'Union européenne qui a toujours joué un rôle important dans la coopération technique et scientifique à travers notamment le CIHEAM, doit renforcer et appuyer davantage les efforts déployés par ce centre dans l'animation des débats et de réflexions autour des problématiques posées au niveau de la Méditerranée et dans l'identification des solutions préconisées et la mise en œuvre d'actions concrètes.

Nous devons souligner que CIHEAM a beaucoup contribué aux contacts et aux échanges entre les décideurs et les communautés scientifiques des deux rives. Il constitue sans doute un partenaire de choix des pays méditerranéens pour relever les défis du secteur agricole et assurer notre sécurité alimentaire.

Nous suggérons alors :

1. qu'il renforce les expériences accumulées depuis un demi-siècle d'action en faveur de la coopération méditerranéenne dans le **domaine de l'agriculture, de la sécurité alimentaire et du développement des territoires ruraux**, en mobilisant notamment son immense réseau d'anciens du CIHEAM ;
2. qu'il s'adapte aux enjeux émergents de la région méditerranéenne, qui traverse une période de transition politique, sociale, économique et environnementale, en défendant les **politiques de réseaux et de partage des compétences** ;
3. qu'il poursuive ses missions d'éducation en direction des jeunes méditerranéens (ce qui est toujours utile pour promouvoir aussi le **dialogue interculturel**) et des **professionnels** des questions agricoles en combinant son offre de formation par des parcours diplômant de qualité et des enseignements techniques précis utiles pour le développement dans les pays méditerranéens et l'insertion professionnelle (et surtout **l'emploi rural**). **A ce titre, il faut soutenir la démarche en cours qui consiste à associer de plus en plus aux activités du CIHEAM le secteur privé agricole et les entreprises agro-alimentaires des pays pour stimuler le développement local, l'économie et l'emploi** ;
4. qu'il continue à favoriser **le partage de la connaissance et le débat d'idées dans la région**, à travers les programmes de recherche scientifique, les publications (ex. : le rapport Mediterra) et les observations de terrain ;
5. qu'il maintienne son esprit de coopération et de solidarité entre les pays méditerranéens, base essentielle pour le **renforcement des capacités humaines et institutionnelles** ;

6. que le CIHEAM puisse **participer ou animer un réseau méditerranéen chargé des questions de sécurité alimentaire et de volatilité des prix**, en concertation avec les pays de la région, les organisations internationales, les producteurs et les différents acteurs publics et privés concernés par le sujet ;
7. qu'il soit **un partenaire stratégique et l'interface naturel de l'Union européenne** pour contribuer à la mise en œuvre des programmes de développement agricole et rural (ex: ENPARD, nouvelle initiative dans laquelle la Tunisie se trouve et un joue un rôle de pays pilote) et les programmes de recherche scientifique (les différents ERA-NET, Med-Spring, etc..) déployés dans le cadre euro-méditerranéen. Le CIHEAM peut être l'instrument de l'Union européenne pour la Méditerranée et les questions agricoles, alimentaires et rurales dans cet espace ;
8. qu'il soit (politiquement et financièrement) soutenu par ses pays membres et les organisations internationales partenaires.

Enfin je ne saurais conclure mon intervention sans réitérer mes remerciements au gouvernement maltais et au CIHEAM pour les efforts déployés pour la réussite de cette rencontre dont la dimension multilatérale est précieuse.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.



EGYPTE / EGYPT

Salah ABDEL-MOMEN

Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

Speech delivered by the Head of Delegation, Ms. Mona MEHREZ ALY, Supervisor of Foreign Agricultural Relations

*H.E. George Pullicino,
H.E. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy,
Your Excellences, honourables Ministers, head of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates,
Representatives of CIHEAM member states,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is a pleasure and honor to participate in this very important event which is organized by CIHEAM and hosted by the government of Malta.

Since 1980s, Egyptian agriculture has benefitted from articulating and implementing three agricultural development strategies, namely of the 1980s, the 1990s and towards 2017. Meanwhile, agricultural development efforts have also experienced major changes in the different fields of plant production, due to synergized expansion of agricultural areas, and improving productivity. These efforts have led to increase the agricultural land from 5.87 m feddans to approximately 8.44 m feddans in 2007, as well as increasing cropped area from 11.1 m feddans in 1980 to be 15.18 m feddans at present. This period has also experienced major changes in the cropping pattern. Agricultural productivity per land unit, animal meat and milk productivity per head have also been significantly increased. The horizontal and vertical improvement in cultivated lands and crop productivity led to notable success in meeting increased population needs and achieving an average growth rate in agriculture of 3-4% annually.

Within the framework of these considerations, the vision, message and objectives of the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy towards 2030 have been articulated as follows:

The Vision

To achieve a comprehensive economic and social development based on a dynamic agricultural sector capable of sustained and rapid growth, while paying a special attention to helping the underprivileged social groups and reducing rural poverty.

The Mission

Modernizing Egyptian agriculture based on achieving food security and improving the livelihood of the rural inhabitants, through the efficient use of resources, the utilization of the geopolitical and environmental advantages, and the comparative advantages of the different agro-ecological regions.

The aforementioned vision and mission are the building blocks of the main strategic objectives of the SADS towards 2030, and are as follows:

- sustainable use of natural agricultural resources;
- increasing the productivity of both the land and water units;
- raising the degree of food security of the strategic food commodities;
- increasing the competitiveness of agricultural products in local and international markets;
- improving the environment of the agricultural investment; and
- improving the living standards of the rural inhabitants, and reducing poverty rates in the rural areas.

The world has experienced a global food crisis in 2008. Food prices rose sharply. Available indicators show that this crisis is expected to be recurrent possibly for a long period after the present financial crisis. Keeping this in mind; the SADS towards 2030 is based on achieving the following objectives.

1. Promoting self-sufficiency in strategic food commodities

To keep up with population increase from 80m to 106m by 2030, the strategy is based on development programs, institutional reforms and the introduction of new policies. In this context, Egypt would be capable of achieving near-self-sufficiency in some food commodities imported at present, particularly wheat, maize, sugar and fish. The rate of self-sufficiency is expected to rise from 54% to 81% for wheat, from 53% to 92% for maize, from 77% to 93% for sugar, from 67% to 93% for red meat, and from 97% to 99% for fish by the year 2030.

2. Improving consumption patterns in order to improve nutritional standards and vital physical functions

The strategy gives considerable attention to improving nutritional standards and dietary patterns. This will be attained through application of policies and programs to encourage the consumption of local high-value food products, including meat, milk, eggs, fish, as well as food high in vitamins and minerals such as vegetables and fruits, while achieving a positive development in *per capita* consumption of the staple food.

3. Reducing pre- and post-harvest losses

The strategy includes detailed policies and work programs to improve marketing efficiency, increase agro-industries and reduce pre- and post-harvest losses to half their present levels, through improving marketing policies and systems, and reviewing the presently applied policies of in-kind support. The introduction of more efficient and targeted support policies will play an important role in rational food policies implementation.

4. Improving food quality and safety

Achieving this goal would require updating of food standards of agricultural commodities and products, as well as enacting necessary laws and control arrangements to enforce standards and improve consumer safety measures.

5. Improving social safety nets

Egypt is one of the first states to establish a system for in-kind food support. However, resulting price distortions have been detrimental to the support policy. For this and other reasons, food support policies have to be reviewed in light of related international experiences. The strategy includes a specific proposal to discontinue present in-kind system and replace it with targeted financial or food coupons.

The Ministry of Agriculture and land Reclamation of Egypt has set up tremendous changes in most of the different sectors related to agricultural production and great results were being achieved having increased yields in some main crops such as rice and also in animal production and fisheries. The Agricultural Strategy for Egypt was prepared to cover up to the year 2030, where it includes some main programs needed to be implemented through the national bilateral and international cooperation which could be an opportunity to strengthen our cooperation between the CIHEAM member states.

I believe that CIHEAM will undertake the process of repositioning to respond the global, regional challenges and we hope that this process will lead to a need driven of CIHEAM strategies which will encourage the cooperation between North and South Mediterranean and certainly will help modernization of Agricultural Development in the South of Mediterranean.

I am sure that our meeting of today will be a good opportunity for our nations in CIHEAM states to work on the increase of food production to achieve food security and expand our trade possibilities together and to exchange experiences and technology including the improvement of the agricultural production.

Thank you for your attention.

9^{ème} réunion
des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
des pays membres du CIHEAM

9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries of
CIHEAM's member countries

Interventions des Organisations internationales

Adresses by International Organisations



FAO

Mustapha SINACEUR

Representative in Turkey & Sub-Regional Coordinator for Central Asia

*Excellencies Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Mr. Chairman.*

It is my honour to participate and take the floor on behalf of FAO in this significant event.

It is one of the most important meetings to address important global issues and thus contribute to ongoing dialogue on regional development which would support progress in development and recovery and help to stimulate economic growth.

First I would like to thank CIHEAM for extending the invitation to FAO to attend this 9th Session of the CIHEAM Ministerial Conference. Also, I would like to express my sincere gladness that this year food security and high food prices' are in the centre of the conference's attention.

When we mention the food security, to remember its definition would be very useful in terms of seeing where we are about the security. **Food security** exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Household food security is the application of this concept to the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern.

I would like to call your attention, now, to some facts to see the current situation: FAO estimates that a total of 925 million people are undernourished in 2010 compared with 1.023 billion in 2009. That is higher than before the food and economic crises of 2008-2009 and higher than the level that existed when world leaders agreed to reduce the number of hungry by half at the World Food Summit in 1996.

In addition, by mid-2008, international food prices had peaked up to their highest level in 30 years. This, coupled with the global economic downturn, pushed millions more people into poverty and hunger.

On the prevalence of hunger worldwide, 'The State of Food Insecurity in the World', published annually by FAO, raises awareness, discusses underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition and monitors progress towards hunger reduction targets established at the 1996 World Food Summit and the Millennium Summit. The publication is targeted at a wide audience, including policy-makers, international organizations, academic institutions and the general public with a general interest in linkages between food security, and human and economic development. The 2011 edition of the State of Food Insecurity in the World focuses on food price volatility. FAO continues to monitor food prices, and has alerted the world through a number of analytical reports on food price trends and ongoing volatility.

Also it highlights the differential impacts that the world food crisis of 2006-08 had on different countries, with the poorest being most affected.

Since 2007 several shocks have made food security more fragile in the world. A food price crisis followed by global economic crisis combined with natural disasters and social conflicts has made it necessary to give more attention to current food security trends.

There are growing concerns about increasing market volatility and these were reinforced in July 2010, when cereal prices- particularly for wheat and maize – increased, reflecting drought and wild fires in Russia, extreme high temperatures in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and excess rains in Canada and USA. The situation has been further complicated by floods in Australia, and low level of precipitation in China and Central Asia since autumn 2010.

The mentioned events of the past few years, along with climate change and "human-induced" threat to food supply and access, have underlined the vulnerability of food security. While some large countries were able to deal with the worst of the crisis, people in many small import-dependent countries experienced large price increases that, even when only temporary, can have permanent effects on their future earnings capacity and ability to escape poverty.

These facts send a clear message: Unfortunately we are still very far away from food security's existence in the world and we need to focus constantly on global food security and the related issues like food prices volatility.

Although nowadays Food Security issues begin to be in the centre of World's attention, unfortunately current progress in fighting hunger is too slow. The international community must do more. Because each stakeholder has a specific role to play: that is why FAO invites to increase the number of inclusive partnerships involving civil society, farmers' organizations, the private sector, regional bodies, bilateral donors, development banks, foundations and the research community.

As the members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO, you know well that the mandate of FAO is to lead international efforts to defeat hunger to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO's efforts.

In addition FAO is working with its Members and the entire international community for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Goal 1 relates directly to hunger, which is the primary global issue of concern for FAO. FAO helps developing countries to improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, to sustainably manage their forest, fisheries and natural resources and ensure good nutrition for all. FAO promotes greater investment in agriculture and rural development and has assisted governments to establish National Programmes for Food Security aimed at smallholder farmers.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

As it is known almost all parts of the world, governments have formed regional economic organizations to address common concerns. These organizations are encouraged to formulate and implement regional programmes. Since 2005, FAO had assisted in the formulation of over 20 Regional Programmes for Food Security.

As a response to the emerging food price crisis in 2007, FAO launched its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP), which followed a twin-track approach combining the promotion of quick-response interventions with medium- and longer-term programmes for agricultural growth. As a part of the immediate response, FAO launched 74 Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects in 80 countries, distributing agricultural inputs such as seeds and fertilizers, for the most part free of cost, to vulnerable smallholder farmers to boost their production. FAO made available approximately USD 30 million for these emergency agriculture input distribution projects.

In addition, in May 2008, as part of its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP), FAO had produced a "Guide for immediate country level action" that was reviewing various measures available to governments and highlighting the pros and cons of each of these measures. In January 2010, FAO has published an updated the Guide under title "*Guide for policy and programmatic actions at country level to address high food prices*". In order to ensure that the Guide will be used to assist high level government officials in designing their immediate actions in response to the current price crisis, it is proposed to organise a series of face-to-face seminars. These seminars would provide an opportunity to map out a way forward with a view to accessing possible funding for policy and investment planning and programming for concrete country level actions. Within this framework 12 seminars has been organized in the different regions and subregions of the world, with participation of all the stakeholders.

*Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

In the current environment, it is very important that the international community assist and advise governments not to implement inappropriate "panic" policies that may have welfare consequences far larger than the welfare losses resulting directly from the shocks

themselves. In 2007-08, some countries imposed trade restrictions and price controls in response to rising food prices. Such policies redistributed income away from rural food producers to urban consumers. The net social impact may be even larger when considering the impact of such policies on production incentives and the likely spill-over impacts of restrictive trade policies on neighbouring countries.

On the other hand, the impact of world price changes on household food security and nutrition is highly context-specific. The impact depends on the commodity, the national policies that affect price transmission from world markets to domestic markets, the demographic and production characteristics of different households and a range of other factors. This diversity of impacts, both within and between countries, points to a need for improved data and analysis so that governments can implement better policies. Better and more predictable policies can not only reduce unwanted side-effects on other countries, but can simultaneously reduce food insecurity and domestic price volatility at home.

FAO continues to highlight the importance of the twin track approach – improving both short-term access to food and food production in the medium term – in achieving long-lasting improvements in food security.

In the short term, it is critical to design cost-effective safety nets that deliver the right targeted assistance to the right people at the right time.

These short-term interventions are important for poor families because even temporary interruptions in intake of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals during the first 1 000 days of a child's life can lead to permanent reductions in cognitive capacities and, hence, earnings potential. In some cases, this will be consumers whose disposable income is severely affected by higher food prices. In other cases, it will be poor smallholder farmers who need help to cope with high input prices that, in the absence of well-functioning credit markets, may prevent these farmers from boosting their production and providing much-needed supplies on domestic and global markets, as well as increasing their income.

In the long term, investment in agriculture and improving resilience among farmers remain key to providing sustained access to food for all and reducing vulnerability to price volatility and natural disasters such as drought. Improved seeds and farm management techniques, as well as irrigation and fertilizer, that sustainably increase productivity and reduce production risk must be delivered to farmers, especially smallholders, by both the private and the public sector.

Governments must ensure that a transparent and predictable regulatory environment is in place, one that promotes private investment and increases farm productivity. We must reduce food waste in developed countries through education and policies, and reduce food losses in developing countries by boosting investment in the entire value chain, especially post-harvest processing. More sustainable management of our natural resources, forests and fisheries are critical for the food security of many of the poorest members of society.

FAO is optimistic that global food security will be achieved. We have made progress in the past and will make more progress in the future, but only if we are committed to favourable policies, market information transparency, sound analysis, good science and adequate funding for appropriate interventions. The entire international community must commit to raising the profile of the agriculture–food system not just for the next few years but until the time when everyone, at all times, has physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

And even then, agriculture and food security must continue to be a priority for both national governments and the global community to ensure sustainability of achievements.

At the end of my words I would like to mention the joint UNESCO-PAM-FAO-CIHEAM initiative with parliamentarians of the Mediterranean involved. The initiative is co funded by the FAO and Agence Nationale de Recherche (ANR) of the Government of France. This initiative/project will promote a systematic, multidisciplinary approach of sustainable development to address the challenges of the Mediterranean including the challenges of food insecurities. The activities will be supported by CIHEAM and the NGO “Communauté des Universités de la Méditerranée”.

Bearing in mind working together can break the cycle of hunger and build a more secure and sustainable world for all I would like to underline that FAO is willing to establish such kind of mutual collaboration in the future.

Thank you for your attention.

OCDE / OECD

Dimitris DIAKOSAVVAS

Senior Economist – Trade and Agriculture Directorate

*Mr. President,
Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is an honour and a great pleasure to participate in your meeting, representing the OECD, which is, as you know, one of the co-founders of the Centre.

Let me start by saying that OECD is somewhat different from other international organisations in that we do not offer technical agronomic services, we do not offer financing – either in the form of loans or grants – we do not negotiate international agreements and we do not make and implement policy. We are in the business of providing economic and policy information, analysis and advice to help governments improve the performance of their policies.

The 2007-08 sharp increase in the level and volatility of global food prices triggered a debate on food security. It also turned attention onto the agricultural sector, which, in many countries and over many decades, has been somewhat neglected. Today, however, the critical importance of the sector in creating sustainable economic and political landscapes is fully recognised. The recent events in several Mediterranean countries are a case in point.

Although the main drivers underlying food price increases and their magnitude have varied by commodity, overall, these are ranging from structural imbalances between supply and demand. Also, short-term factors, such as higher energy prices, the promotion of biofuel markets, adverse climatic conditions and currency depreciation, have all been further exacerbated by certain policy responses, such as the imposition of restrictions on food exports, have served as a catalyst to these abrupt changes in global markets.

High food prices and volatility are here to stay. According to the latest **OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2012-2021** (which is the outcome of a very fruitful co-operation between the two organisations) food commodity prices are projected to remain high and

price volatility – which has been a major source of concern in recent years – will continue to feature prominently in policymakers’ agenda over the next 10 years. Population growth, higher *per capita* incomes, urban migration and changing diets in developing countries, as well as policy-induced demand for food and feed crops for the production of biofuels, are the main causes of higher and more volatile food prices.

The *Outlook* anticipates that growth of agricultural output will slow to an average of 1.7% p.a. over the next 10 years, down from a rate of over 2% p.a. in recent decades. Much of the projected growth will come from developing countries, which will become the increasingly dominate producers of most agricultural commodities, and which will also assume a more important role in the area of commodity trade.

The turmoil in global grain markets began in May 2012, and concomitant increases in food prices, are once again making the headlines. The good news is that, with a rebound in crop production, stocks have improved somewhat, and today markets appear less turbulent. Price levels have fallen from recent peaks, and food price inflation has eased.

But in the context of tightening resource constraints, how we should respond? How can we contain food prices and reduce global food insecurity? The OECD answer is clear: a much-needed boost to the level of food production will have to come from increased productivity. But increased productivity must go hand-in-hand with greater sustainability.

Achieving sustainable agricultural productivity growth is an imperative. The challenge is not only to increase production, but to do so in a way that addresses serious environmental challenges, such as land degradation (some 25% of agricultural land is already highly degraded), deforestation, soil erosion and inefficient water use. To make matters worse, let’s not forget that critical water scarcity in agriculture is a fact of life in many countries, several of which are in the Mediterranean area. There is a growing consensus on the frequency of extreme weather events and changing climatic patterns in many parts of the world.

The long-term challenges for world food security are acute, implying that a “business-as-usual” growth model is not a viable option. We must encourage better agronomic practices and promote the green growth potential of agriculture. This is what the OECD Green Growth Strategy (delivered in June 2011 to Heads of State and Ministers from over 40 countries) is all about: expanding economic opportunities without overly straining natural resources. Green growth was also identified as one of the key priorities by Agricultural Ministers at their meeting at the OECD in 2010.

The essence of green growth is the provision of enough food, in an efficient and sustainable way to sustain a growing and increasingly affluent global population. It is not only desirable and achievable – it is also essential if the food and nutritional requirements of future generations are to be met.

Adoption of sound agronomic practices to close the yield gap in developing countries is urgent, as is an ongoing commitment to research and development. Meeting the challenge

of “sustainable intensification” – the **double Green Revolution** – will not be possible without considerable investment in agricultural R&D.

We must encourage agricultural innovation. This is no easy task and involves making improvements to institutional design (e.g. Agricultural knowledge and innovation systems) and to the regulatory environment for innovation, tailoring R&D and innovation to the needs of small family farms, and adequately enforcing effective intellectual property rights, such as patents. We should also address the need for better policy coherence for agricultural innovation, for more demand-driven research systems, for more agricultural education and training programmes, and for greater private-sector engagement.

Creating the right enabling environment also means ensuring that the business climate is conducive to domestic and foreign investments, so governments should limit trade restrictions as well as those domestic support schemes that distort incentives for production and investment in agriculture. There is a need to develop national investment schemes and to increase development assistance to agriculture for R&D, innovation adoption and infrastructure development.

The developing world requires increased investment in its infrastructure, especially to improve storage, transportation and irrigation, and also for upgrading its electrification, information and communication systems. Investment in human capital is equally important and requires increased public spending on health care, education and training. Policies should also address the reduction of food loss and food waste both post-harvest and all along the food chain.

Biofuel policies should be re-evaluated. The demand for biofuel is a leading factor in tighter markets for the main commodity crops, including wheat and maize, which are also used to produce fuel. Fixed mandates and subsidies for grain and oilseed-based biofuels can have the effect of amplifying price volatility by depleted stocks, and their use should be reconsidered. Removing economic distortions, and investing in R&D of advanced and second-generation biofuels will contribute to more effectively reducing reliance on fossil fuels without jeopardizing food security.

The OECD has highlighted many of these issues in its work on price volatility and food security, as well as in the more recent study on **Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Growth and Bridging the Gap for Small Family Farms**, published in June 2012 for the G20, which provides concrete policy recommendations to governments on how to close the agriculture productivity gap in a sustainable way. Following the recommendations, we are currently working on how best to contribute towards establishing a framework to establish best policy practices for increasing agricultural productivity growth and ensuring sustainable resource use in G20 (and other) countries.

In conjunction with the FAO, the OECD Secretariat has co-ordinated the G20 report **Price Volatility in Food and Agricultural Markets: Policy Responses**, which contains a number of policy recommendations, some of which are currently being implemented. The OECD also participates in the **Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)**, set up

by the G20 “to enhance food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty”.

In addition, several studies are underway to further analyse these issues, including work on: **Green Growth for Agriculture and Food**, which focuses on identifying policy options and market approaches that would encourage green growth; **Agriculture and Climate Change**, which seeks to assess the cost-effectiveness of various greenhouse gas mitigation policies and practices in the agricultural sector, and on groundwater pollution and depletion issues; **Innovation in Food and Agriculture**, which aims to provide in-depth reviews of selected national innovation systems; and **Investment in Agriculture** aims to establish a policy framework for investment in agriculture to support countries in evaluating and designing policies to mobilise private investment to boost agricultural production and foster food security. The key focus of the work on **Agriculture and Development** is on the coherence between OECD member countries’ agricultural and related policies and development and food security objectives; in the area of **Food and Agricultural Policy** key emphasis is on monitoring and evaluating agricultural policies in OECD and selected non-OECD countries (China, Indonesia, Russia, Brazil, Ukraine, S. Africa): this report is a unique source of up-to-date estimates of support to agriculture in the OECD area and is complemented by individual chapters on agricultural policy developments in various OECD countries. Moreover, occasional country case studies are undertaken, analysing agricultural policy reforms in a specific country (e.g. a report on the *Evaluation of Agricultural Policy Reforms in Turkey*, which has the 6th -largest agricultural sector in the world, was published in 2011).

In closing, while high farm prices create opportunities for farmers, high and volatile food prices have particularly severe impacts on the poorest people on the planet, who spend a large proportion of their available income on food. Greater global food demand, higher prices, more volatile markets and increasing resource pressures are arguments for moving beyond “status quo” policies. Countries should focus on improving farm productivity, sustainability and long-term competitiveness, rather than pursuing policies that distort markets. Farm policy should also offer greater support to research, innovation and education.

But, while agriculture has played – and will continue to play – a predominant role in reducing food insecurity, food insecurity is first and foremost the result of poverty, and needs to be targeted by policies that go beyond the area of agriculture alone.

The current situation is again serious, with maize and soybean prices reaching all-time highs due to an unprecedented summer of droughts in the US and eastern Europe. But the present situation of high grain prices is entirely different from that which sparked the food riots of 2008. The situation today is worrying, but there is no immediate threat to global food security and it is important to avoid over-reaction.

It might be argued that the international community is in a better position to cope with the current higher food prices than was the case during the 2007/08 crisis, due, in part, to the creation, last year, by the G20, under the Presidency of France, of the AMIS, which aims to improve food market transparency and help governments make informed responses to global food price spikes.

Progress is being made, but much more can and needs to be done. In the face of a growing global population, we must confront food security with new thinking, new approaches and a strong political will. Both the current market situation, as well as the outlook, pose important challenges for policy makers. But there are also opportunities for farmers worldwide. The solution involves both national and international actions.

International collaboration to improve agricultural productivity growth is a key to feeding 9 billion people. With growing food demand from a larger and more wealthy population and increased pressure on our natural resources – in particular water – there is no other choice. To this end, the OECD welcomes the importance of ongoing efforts in various international fora (including the G20) to improve policy coherence and strengthen global governance of the food system.

Thank you for your attention.



UNION EUROPEENNE / UNION EUROPEENNE

John DALLI

European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy

*President,
Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

First, may I congratulate your organisation on its 50th anniversary – and wish you continued success for the next 50 years.

This is a good opportunity to speak about *the dual challenge of food safety and food security* with particular reference to the *Mediterranean region*.

Food safety

Let me start with a brief word on *food safety* as this is the starting block – the essential precursor – for all other food related issues. Without food safety, there can be no food quality and no food security.

As you will know, we have a comprehensive body of European legislation in place to ensure, as far as possible, that the EU *food supply is safe*. It is constantly being updated and fine-tuned in the light of new science and new evidence.

As well as protecting people, it enables the European single market in food and food products to operate smoothly. It sets *standards* for safety, including for hygiene and for traceability. These standards are in line with the EU's international obligations, ensuring safe, efficient and transparent trade of food stuffs with European neighbours and global partners.

Food security

With food safety as the bedrock, let me now turn to the challenge of *food security* – a constant concern and an ever-pressing issue right across the world, including of course in the *Mediterranean region*.

The Middle East & North Africa region is the *most food import-dependent region in the world*, with food imports accounting for between 25 and 50% of national consumption.

The basic factors affecting food security can be broken down into four dimensions – **access, availability, adequacy and acceptability**.

(i) Access to food

First – *access*. Estimates suggest that over *40 million* people in Europe cannot afford an adequate diet. In 2010, *23%* of the EU population were at risk of *poverty or social exclusion*.

Three Mediterranean countries are above this EU average – Greece (28%), Spain (26%) and Italy (25%). And for the whole Mediterranean region, *8%* of the population is estimated to be *undernourished*.

Expenditure on food represents a very significant part of family budgets in the Mediterranean region – to a much greater extent, on average, than in the EU.

Price spikes for basic foods can have a dramatic effect on household expenditure. In Egypt, for example, the price of local foods increased in 2008-2010 by more than a third.

Price volatility makes both smallholder farmers and poor consumers increasingly vulnerable to *poverty*. This is particularly evident in South Mediterranean countries, where the contribution of agriculture to GDP reaches up to 20%, and a quarter of total employment stems from the agricultural sector.

(ii) Availability of food

As regards *availability*, ensuring sufficient safe and healthy food through *secure supplies* was one of the original European goals in the area of agriculture and food.

Whilst this goal has been broadly achieved through 50 years of the Common Agricultural Policy, security of supplies is always vulnerable to the threat of outbreaks of serious animal and plant diseases.

This calls for a strong focus on *more resilient production systems* incorporating the principle of *prevention* – biosecurity in animal husbandry; integrated crop management for plant production.

Further threats to food supplies are posed by *population growth, climate change* and the *scarcity of resources*.

These factors are already exerting strong pressure on food security in certain regions of the European Union including the *Mediterranean area*.

Since 1970, temperatures have risen by nearly 2°C in Europe's South-West region with similar increases in North Africa.

Water scarcity is an increasingly serious issue in some river basins, particularly in Southern EU Member States where, according to climate models, freshwater supply is predicted to decrease further, putting more strain on already tight supplies.

Coastal regions, such as those located by the Mediterranean Sea, have a high vulnerability to climate change. It is estimated that a further 2°C temperature increase would lead to a potential 20 – 30% decrease in water availability in the Mediterranean's vulnerable regions.

In addition, *soil erosion* is increasing in Europe, with consequences on the availability of arable land. According to the European Environment Agency, 115 million hectares of Europe's total land area is affected by water erosion and 42 million hectares affected by wind erosion.

In the *Mediterranean region*, which is particularly prone to erosion by rainwater, this could result in the loss of 20-40 tonnes of soil per hectare after just a single cloudburst.

(iii) Adequacy and (iv) Acceptability of food

Turning to issues of *adequacy* and *acceptability*, food consumption patterns are constantly evolving, reflecting changing lifestyles and consumer choices. Diets have become more diverse and substantial over recent decades.

The "Mediterranean diet" is widely recognised as a specifically nutritious and varied diet. Thanks to its traditional characteristics, it has been included in the list of UNESCO 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' in 2010.

The adequacy and value of the Mediterranean diet in terms of health and nutrition is illustrated by the fact that, in Europe, the countries with the lowest Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD) mortality rates are France, Portugal, Spain and Italy.

However, Southern Europe has witnessed a significant shift in recent years away from the traditional Mediterranean diet towards *diets richer in energy and fat*, triggering a rise in over-weight and obesity.

For example, daily calorie intake in Southern EU Member States has *increased by 25%* over the past 40 years. An increase in fat consumption has also been observed.

A reflection of this *dietary transition* in Mediterranean countries can be found in the increasing obesity rates among the adult population in Southern European Member States, as well as in many of the non-EU Mediterranean countries.

Thus *malnutrition arises in two forms*, with both *undernourished* and *overweight* individuals lacking food of high nutritional quality, essential for good health.

This *dual burden of malnutrition* is evidenced by the startling statistic that while *one billion* of the world's population suffers from undernourishment, more than *1.4 billion adults* are overweight, of which *half a billion* are obese.

Acceptability – or the willingness to eat more wisely – requires sufficient knowledge, information and skills to make healthy choices.

This calls for adequate *consumer education and information* through effective labelling, and also production systems that ensure diversity, quality and cultural acceptance, and which preserve local traditions and diets.

The way forward

Reflecting the multi-dimensional issue of food security, the **policy response** of regional, national and international policy actors also comprises several dimensions:

First, *access to food*, a key issue for food security especially in the Mediterranean region as reliance on imports is expected to rise even further primarily because of population growth in the region on the one hand and the limited potential for land expansion and the scarce availability of valuable resources such as water and land on the other.

Trade in food products is therefore a key factor for the Mediterranean region, which is why, since 1995, trade growth in the Mediterranean market has been promoted through the *Barcelona process*.

A key element of this process is the *Union of the Mediterranean*, a partnership between the EU Member States and 16 Mediterranean partners from North Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans.

Improving food security has been identified as a key challenge, with the following priorities:

- further trade liberalisation in agricultural products between the members of the partnership; and
- enhancement of the prevention, monitoring and coordinated responses in cases of animal diseases and plant pests and the monitoring and management of drought and floods.

Second, as regards the *availability of safe food*, several Mediterranean countries have reformed their food safety systems and updated their national legislation.

In addition, the effects of these efforts become visible in the monitoring and control mechanisms of the European Union.

Improvements in *food safety conditions* are registered through audit reports from our Food and Veterinary Office (FVO). One example is Turkey's adoption of measures to bring pesticide controls in line with EU legislation.

Another indicator is notifications through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) regarding *exported food products* which represent a risk to human health and have thus been subject to border rejection by EU competent authorities.

I have to say that a *significant number of border rejections* notified to the EU RASFF concern the Mediterranean area relating, in particular, to **fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts**.

The European Commission *actively promotes* a correct and harmonised implementation of its food safety legislation. Its main tool in this respect are training activities through the *Better Training for Safer Food* (BTSF) programme which is open to participants also from non EU countries.

Staff members of competent authorities from Mediterranean countries regularly attend such training events, helping to improve understanding of EU food rules and foster the exchange of best practices.

Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We all recognise that effective food safety and quality standards and policies are crucial, not least in terms of their *social and economic impact*.

The *economic integration started by the Barcelona process* has brought yielded positive results in terms of *access and availability*, in particular given that these countries have a high share of food imports.

In addition, closer co-operation and trade liberalisation has also brought benefits in terms of food *adequacy and acceptability*. Food safety standards applied in South Mediterranean countries are getting closer to EU standards.

However, the economic crisis, increasing globalisation, climate change, rising commodity prices and scarcity of commodities as well as socio-demographic changes are having, and will continue to have, a considerable impact on the food supply chain at every level.

Challenging times lie ahead for all of us. We need to *turn these challenges into opportunities* to ensure adequate and secure food supplies whilst maintaining high levels of food safety and quality.

Thank you.



UNION EUROPEENNE / EUROPEAN UNION

Paolo DE CASTRO

Président de la Commission de l'agriculture et du développement rural (COMAGRI)
du Parlement européen

*Messieurs les Commissaires,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Monsieur le Président et Monsieur le Secrétaire général du CIHEAM,
Chers délégués.*

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi d'être ici parmi vous et de participer à cette réunion très importante.

La ministérielle du CIHEAM constitue une occasion unique en son genre : celle de discuter de l'agriculture comme d'un nouveau grand défi qui nous attend, et de le réaliser en mobilisant des pays qui partagent une histoire millénaire et s'inscrivent dans un espace géographique ayant une importance politique, économique et sociale extraordinaire.

Qui mieux que le CIHEAM peut se charger d'une telle initiative, puisque - depuis 50 ans déjà - cette organisation est engagée dans le développement de l'agriculture dans les pays méditerranéens à travers des activités de recherche, formation et coopération, et pour laquelle je souhaite, entre autres, une reconnaissance et un soutien de la Commission européenne.

Le dialogue entre les deux rives de la Méditerranée est fondamental, en particulier dans le domaine de l'agriculture, objet de notre débat d'aujourd'hui.

L'agriculture et l'alimentation représentent deux enjeux stratégiques dont dépendent non seulement le bien-être quotidien des populations, mais aussi la stabilité des Etats comme en témoignent les événements récents liés à ce qu'on appelle le printemps arabe.

Nous entrons actuellement dans une nouvelle ère, l'ère de la pénurie : pénurie alimentaire et pénurie des ressources naturelles.

La pénurie alimentaire est la base de la grande volatilité des prix qui a caractérisé ces dernières années les marchés des principales denrées alimentaires. Après plusieurs

décennies marquées par des prix des biens agricoles toujours à la baisse, nous assistons actuellement à une inversion de tendance, avec des cours qui s'envolent et des chocs de prix de plus en plus fréquents.

Les causes d'une telle pénurie alimentaire sont multiples. Tout d'abord, la croissance démographique qui génère une augmentation naturelle de la demande de denrées alimentaires. Il est important d'en discuter, à cette occasion, compte tenu que ce sont les pays de la rive sud de la Méditerranée qui enregistrent une croissance importante de la population.

A cela s'ajoute l'évolution qu'a connue la diète méditerranéenne dans les pays émergents suite à une augmentation du revenu moyen par habitant. Lorsque le revenu disponible s'élève, des hommes, des femmes, des enfants de toute latitude, de tout pays, de toute ethnie ou religion demandent un régime alimentaire différent non seulement au niveau de la quantité mais aussi - et surtout - de la qualité.

De plus, les choix en matière de politique énergétique mis en place par certains pays, forts producteurs agricoles, viennent compléter ce scénario. Tel est le cas, par exemple, du maïs destiné à la production de biocarburants au lieu d'être utilisé pour l'alimentation du bétail.

Nous sommes donc confrontés à une demande croissante de produits agricoles qui ne peut être satisfaite faute d'une offre suffisante.

La volatilité peut avoir des répercussions graves aussi bien sur les agriculteurs que sur les consommateurs. Si les agriculteurs ne sont pas protégés de manière appropriée, ils risquent d'être exclus du marché, avec des conséquences considérables tant sur le plan économique et social que sur le plan environnemental compte tenu de l'apport que l'agriculture peut assurer en termes d'aménagement du territoire, protection du sol et de la biodiversité.

Par ailleurs, la volatilité frappe les consommateurs qui, au fur et à mesure que les prix augmentent, voient leur pouvoir d'achat diminuer, avec des conséquences néfastes pour les groupes ayant les revenus les plus faibles.

Les prix élevés enregistrés entre 2007 et 2008 ont poussé un nombre, sans cesse croissant, d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants vers la faim. Ces données s'avèrent encore plus préoccupantes si nous considérons que la part du revenu allouée à l'alimentation s'accroît au détriment de la proportion consacrée à d'autres dépenses, l'éducation par exemple, avec pour risque d'élargir un peu plus l'écart entre les pays développés et ceux en développement.

La pénurie alimentaire s'accompagne de la raréfaction des ressources naturelles. La terre et l'eau, pour n'en citer que quelques-unes sont, de par leur définition, des ressources limitées qui constituent une contrainte majeure pour l'accroissement de la production. Mais, ce sont là aussi des facteurs importants dans un système qui a besoin d'une plus grande quantité d'aliments. La pénurie alimentaire risque ainsi de créer une plus forte pression sur l'écosystème mondial déjà très délicat, mis à rude épreuve, entre autres, par le changement climatique.

Face à cette situation, nous nous devons de repenser nos politiques. Et surtout, il est impératif de mettre l'agriculture au plus haut niveau dans l'agenda politique mondiale.

C'est en cela que réside l'actualité et la grande importance de la réunion à laquelle nous participons aujourd'hui.

A l'heure actuelle, nous ressentons le besoin de conjuguer la sécurité alimentaire avec un système de production durable. Nos producteurs doivent être capables de produire davantage, en polluant moins et en exploitant d'une manière plus raisonnée les ressources naturelles limitées dont nous disposons.

Nous sommes appelés – chacun dans sa fonction - à mettre au point des solutions et à élaborer des politiques en mesure de créer un contexte favorable à l'action des agriculteurs.

A cet effet, la Commission de l'agriculture et du développement rural du Parlement européen, que je représente dans cette rencontre, s'est engagée à élaborer les modifications nécessaires à apporter à la PAC, ainsi que préconisé par la Commission européenne, pour qu'elle soit en phase avec les besoins actuels.

Ainsi, nous essayons d'intervenir sur les aspects concernant l'écologisation afin de concilier viabilité économique et durabilité environnementale dans l'activité agricole ; nous travaillons à la définition des instruments utiles pour protéger nos producteurs contre les risques de la volatilité des marchés et à l'identification des mécanismes qui permettent une distribution plus équitable du revenu tout au long de la chaîne alimentaire.

Pour faire face à l'enjeu de la sécurité alimentaire, l'UE doit tout d'abord préserver son potentiel productif.

En dernier lieu, avant de conclure, permettez-moi de souligner la centralité de la recherche et de l'innovation dans le domaine agricole.

Ce n'est qu'en investissant davantage dans la connaissance que nous pourrons assurer le gain de productivité nécessaire sans pour autant aggraver la pression sur les ressources naturelles.

J'espère que nous réussirons à exploiter entièrement l'opportunité que le CIHEAM nous offre pour débattre les défis futurs et parvenir ensemble aux solutions les plus appropriées pour nos besoins.

Je voudrais, enfin, saisir l'occasion pour remercier les organisateurs de l'accueil chaleureux qui nous a été réservé.



UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANÉE / UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Rafiq HUSSEINI

Deputy Secretary General for Environment & Water

*Your Excellency George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs - Malta,
Excellencies,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this important and timely meeting discussing issues of vital importance and relevance to our Euro-Mediterranean region.

Let me start by congratulating CIHEAM on its 50th Anniversary, during which it has proved itself as a very useful, successful and durable organization which faithfully served not only its member countries but the Mediterranean region as a whole.

Although the Agriculture sector per se is not a direct competency of the Union for the Mediterranean, water, being the basic and main ingredient for agriculture, is at the heart of UfM's work.

Your chosen topic of discussion today, "Food Security and Pricing", comes at a time when the Mediterranean region's poor - and we know that there are tens of millions in the region who are barely surviving on or below the poverty line - those poor are suffering from the global rises of food prices and, in many countries, have taken to the streets to reflect and protest their inability to buy basic food commodities. Yet, we all know that food has become a globally-supplied market commodity whose price is dependent on many factors, but first and foremost is the availability and price of Water.

At the same time, water - for many reasons including population increase, global warming and desertification- is becoming much scarcer and therefore more expensive to find and supply.

The fact is that almost two-thirds of water in our Mediterranean region is used for agricultural purposes: 45% in the North and 82% in the South and East. In numerous Mediterranean countries, water use is approaching the limit level of available sustainable

resources. In some countries, the water use has surpassed the available resources. The number of *water poor* Mediterranean populations, living in countries with less than 1000 m³/capita/year, reached 180 million inhabitants, 60 million of whom face shortage conditions, with less than 500 m³/capita/year. Twenty million Mediterranean people are still deprived of access to drinking water, particularly in the South and East. Water supply in several Mediterranean countries is endangered by both the over-exploitation of a part of the renewable underground water (generating salt-water intrusion, which makes the water unusable) and the exploitation of non-renewable resources (including fossil water).

Aquifers therefore are either drying up due to over exploitation or filling up with intruding sea water. Rivers are also affected by reduced flows due to climate change/global warming, but also due to more utilization by increasing population numbers in the different countries. This results in more water being abstracted in upstream countries, leaving much less for downstream countries. These actions are leading to tensions and conflicts between riparian countries.

The UfM Secretariat can act as a bridge not only between North and South, but also between South and South. It can act as a bridge between the public sector, the private sector and the civil society.

One of the Secretariat's Divisions has a main interest in identifying, developing and promoting joint projects that would lead to the efficient utilization of water, whether in infrastructure, governance and regulatory frameworks, or technology and know-how transfer, or projects that leads to increasing availability of water for agriculture uses through treatment of waste water, brackish or sea water.

The first UfM "labeled" (or endorsed) project was the Gaza Desalination Project to provide fresh clean drinking water and –at the same time – relieve the coastal aquifer, the only source of fresh water for 1.7 m Palestinians living in the south eastern corner of the Mediterranean, and even save it from total collapse. This project will have a profound impact on agriculture in the Gaza strip.

Another important multi-country water project recently labeled by UfM is the OECD/GWP Med led project entitled "Overcoming Governance Challenges to the Mobilisation of Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector". Supported to date by five UfM countries (Tunisia, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Albania), the overall objective of this project is to identify and provide realistic solutions (in the form of a set of operational guidance and a compilation of good practices) to the governance challenges for effective mobilisation of financing to the Mediterranean water sector.

In conclusion, the UfM Secretariat is glad to support Mediterranean countries with its knowledge and experience and according to its mandate in the delivery of concrete regional, sub-regional or trans-national projects, or national projects that have a clear impact on the region as a whole.

The Secretariat stands ready to develop with CIHEAM and your respective authorities any joint concrete project that would help preserve water or utilize less water for more agricultural produce.

Once again thank you for inviting the UfM to be with you today and we wish this meeting progress and success for the benefit of our historic and important region.

Thank you.

9^{ème} réunion
des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
des pays membres du CIHEAM

9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries of
CIHEAM's member countries

Conclusions du séminaire international

Conclusions of the International Seminar

Conclusions du séminaire international
**« La durabilité des systèmes alimentaires
dans la région méditerranéenne »**

25-26 septembre 2012

Malte

Le CIHEAM, avec la coopération technique de la FAO (Département de la nutrition et de la protection des consommateurs) et en partenariat avec le MOAN (Réseau méditerranéen sur l'agriculture biologique), a organisé un séminaire international sur « La durabilité des systèmes alimentaires dans la région méditerranéenne » qui s'est tenu à Malte du 25 au 26 septembre 2012. Le présent document résume les principaux problèmes abordés et formule des propositions d'actions à mener dans le bassin méditerranéen, en soulignant les projets concrets qui peuvent être financés dans les années à venir.

L'objectif principal du séminaire, outre la valeur intrinsèque des échanges qui se sont opérés entre les participants (environ 70 experts euro-méditerranéens, représentants de ministères et d'organisations internationales, chercheurs, etc.), était de trouver une approche innovante permettant de concilier durabilité et sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, en tenant compte de l'utilisation des ressources, tout en assurant la protection de l'environnement, l'adaptation des systèmes de production au changement climatique, le renforcement de la cohésion sociale et la conservation du patrimoine culturel de la diète méditerranéenne.

Dans cette optique, les participants espèrent que les recommandations énoncées à l'issue du séminaire seront portées à l'attention des ministres de

l'Agriculture des 13 pays membres du CIHEAM, au cours de leur 9^{ème} réunion, le 27 septembre 2012.

Les participants ont également souligné l'importance du rôle joué par le CIHEAM, enceinte de choix pour les échanges et analyses dont le but est de développer la coopération dans le bassin méditerranéen, rôle qui a été confirmé et renforcé durant l'année 2012 par la célébration du 50^{ème} anniversaire de sa fondation.

Les participants ont été consultés sur deux thèmes distincts qui ont fait l'objet de deux sessions séparées :

1. systèmes et régimes alimentaires méditerranéens durables : la diète méditerranéenne en tant qu'étude pilote ;
2. programmes biologiques et de qualité : les défis en termes de durabilité et les perspectives dans la région méditerranéenne.

Contexte

Les participants du séminaire ont fait les observations suivantes concernant l'évolution des systèmes alimentaires dans les pays méditerranéens :

- La consommation actuelle de denrées alimentaires et les modalités de production ne sont pas durables dans le bassin méditerranéen, en raison de l'atteinte à la biodiversité, de la dégradation des ressources naturelles, de la contamination par les pesticides, du changement climatique, de la forte consommation d'énergie et d'eau, du changement dans les régimes et habitudes alimentaires qui dépendent largement des importations, ainsi que de la pauvreté et vulnérabilité de nombreuses communautés rurales et urbaines méditerranéennes, mais aussi et surtout de l'abandon progressif de la diète méditerranéenne.
- Actuellement, dans le bassin méditerranéen, on observe de nombreux symptômes de malnutrition – sous-alimentation, carence de micronutriments, surcharge pondérale et obésité – imputables à des changements profonds dans les habitudes alimentaires. La tendance des maladies liées au régime alimentaire (surcharge pondérale, obésité, maladies cardiovasculaires, diabète de type 2, syndrome métabolique et certains cancers) est alarmante et révèle l'inadéquation des systèmes et régimes alimentaires actuels. D'après l'OMS (profil pays NCD, 2011), les taux de surcharge pondérale et d'obésité dans les pays méditerranéens continuent à augmenter.
- L'effet bénéfique sur la santé de l'adoption d'une diète de type méditerranéen a été maintes fois prouvé par des études scientifiques et

médicales depuis les années 60, date d'une première étude réalisée sur sept pays.

- Par conséquent, il est impératif et urgent de prendre des mesures pour promouvoir et disséminer le concept global des « régimes durables ² ». Par exemple, des scénarios récents, élaborés afin de modéliser l'agriculture durable pour l'avenir et la consommation de denrées alimentaires, reconnaissent la nécessité d'infléchir les pratiques vers des systèmes de production intégrés et agro-écologiques, de même que vers des modes de consommation privilégiant les denrées alimentaires d'origine végétale sur les denrées alimentaires d'origine animale.
- En 2012, la Commission Européenne a présenté au Parlement Européen, au Conseil, au Comité Économique et Social Européen et au Comité des Régions un document intitulé « Innovation et croissance durable : une bio-économie pour l'Europe ». Le document envisage, entre autres choses, des activités destinées à disséminer parmi les consommateurs l'information sur les denrées alimentaires en adoptant une approche scientifique (soulignant les bénéfices nutritionnels, les méthodes de production et la durabilité de l'environnement) et à promouvoir un style de vie sain et durable.
- En 2008, dans le cadre de la 26^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, il a été recommandé de promouvoir les produits alimentaires locaux et traditionnels, afin d'assurer la souveraineté alimentaire et une production de denrées alimentaires basée sur la biodiversité et résiliente. Plusieurs états membres ont demandé à la FAO de déployer davantage d'efforts pour favoriser l'accès au marché et la visibilité auprès des consommateurs des produits traditionnels de forte valeur, reconnaissant que les pratiques agricoles traditionnelles sont souvent les seules méthodes d'exploitation possibles dans des régions agro-climatiques difficiles. Plusieurs délégations sont convenues que la désignation « biologique » est un label de qualité important pour les consommateurs et significatif pour l'agriculture durable et l'environnement, et que les pays ont besoin du soutien de la FAO pour mettre en place un cadre réglementaire qui permette l'application et la protection de cette désignation. De nombreuses délégations ont souligné que la diète méditerranéenne est riche et saine, tant du point de vue de la biodiversité que de la teneur nutritive. La promotion de la diète méditerranéenne pourrait même jouer un rôle déterminant dans le développement d'une agriculture durable dans la région méditerranéenne.

² « ... par régimes alimentaires durables on entend les régimes alimentaires à faible impact environnemental, qui contribuent à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et assurent une vie saine aux générations présentes et futures. Les régimes alimentaires durables protègent et respectent la biodiversité et les écosystèmes, sont culturellement acceptables, accessibles, économiquement justes et abordables; ils ont une teneur nutritionnelle adéquate, sont sans danger et sains; tout en optimisant les ressources naturelles et humaines. » FAO/ Biodiversité Internationale (2010). Biodiversité et régimes alimentaires durables – Unis contre la faim. Rapport d'un symposium scientifique; 3-5 novembre 2010, Rome.

- Les produits traditionnels ou les produits qui innovent à partir de la tradition sont un bon moyen pour conférer de la valeur aux économies, communautés et biosystèmes locaux et, partant, pour dynamiser le développement durable.
- Le développement rural durable, l'agriculture biologique et les indications géographiques ont été spécifiquement mentionnés lors de la première Conférence des ministres de l'Agriculture, qui s'est tenue à Venise en 2003, dans le cadre du partenariat euro-méditerranéen. L'agriculture biologique et les indications géographiques sont également citées et associées dans différents documents stratégiques concernant la région méditerranéenne. En outre, les agences de développement, les gouvernements nationaux, les opérateurs privés et les ONG, qui travaillent au développement des capacités individuelles et institutionnelles pour la durabilité des systèmes agroalimentaires, tablent de plus en plus sur les nombreuses synergies potentielles entre les dispositifs d'assurance de la qualité des aliments et la certification. Les participants ont également estimé que la « diète méditerranéenne traditionnelle », que l'UNESCO a reconnue en 2010³ comme faisant partie du patrimoine intangible de l'humanité, devrait être considérée comme un modèle durable dans le bassin méditerranéen, capable même de contribuer à la durabilité des systèmes agro-alimentaires de la région et de valoriser les produits de qualité.

Ces observations faites, les participants du séminaire ont estimé que l'attention des ministres de l'Agriculture des 13 pays membres du CIHEAM, qui se réuniront le 27 septembre 2012, devrait être particulièrement attirée sur la situation de moins en moins viable des systèmes alimentaires du bassin méditerranéen, qui affecte une partie importante des habitants du Sud et du Nord de la Méditerranée, ainsi que sur les méthodes et les stratégies à adopter pour renverser cette tendance négative.

Propositions pour un programme d'action

Les participants sont convenus qu'il est urgent d'agir pour que cette situation change, pour que soient réunies les conditions d'une modification permanente des processus observés et pour que soient développées et mises en œuvre de nouvelles stratégies en vue de systèmes alimentaires durables en Méditerranée.

³ « ... dérive du mot grec "diata" – mode de vie. C'est une pratique sociale basée sur le savoir-faire, des connaissances et des traditions allant du paysage à la table et qui concerne, dans le bassin méditerranéen, les cultures, les récoltes, la pêche, la conservation, la préparation, la façon de cuisiner et surtout de consommer ». UNESCO, 2010

Cet impératif est notamment attesté par :

- Les déclarations faites par les ministres de l'Agriculture des pays du CIHEAM en 2008 et 2010 et résumées dans leur déclaration finale d'Istanbul (8 mai 2010), selon laquelle il faut impérativement : *«...Œuvrer à la promotion d'un système régional de production alimentaire sain et durable, suivant les normes de la diète méditerranéenne, qui favorise l'esprit de convivialité et la consommation de produits locaux et saisonniers, notamment en encourageant les réseaux nationaux à soutenir les décisions publiques de protection, de promotion et de marketing des produits méditerranéens, ainsi que de développement de systèmes de production agricole en adéquation avec le respect de l'environnement... ».*
- La nécessité de concilier sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle avec l'utilisation durable des ressources, tout en satisfaisant à la demande locale et en protégeant l'environnement, ainsi qu'avec la résilience des systèmes de production face au changement climatique, qu'ils peuvent d'ailleurs contribuer à modérer.
- La durabilité des systèmes alimentaires méditerranéens, qui représente un domaine de réflexion et d'action important pour les gouvernements et les organisations internationales, devrait se substituer aux approches à court terme. A ce titre, l'utilisation de la certification et de mesures d'assurance qualité (indications géographiques, agriculture biologique, AOP, etc.) constitue un moyen efficace de conférer une valeur ajoutée aux produits sur les marchés locaux et internationaux.

Activités à développer

Session I

Systemes et régimes alimentaires méditerranéens durables : la diète méditerranéenne en tant qu'étude pilote

avec la collaboration technique de la FAO

Les activités doivent envisager la mise en œuvre, dans les 13 pays membres du CIHEAM et les états membres de la FAO, d'un projet pilote d'élaboration de « Lignes directrices pour l'amélioration de la durabilité des régimes et habitudes de consommation alimentaires dans la région méditerranéenne ». La diète méditerranéenne, dans ses différentes formes nationales, servira de modèle pour décrire, comprendre et améliorer la durabilité des régimes et systèmes alimentaires actuels.

Pour évaluer cette durabilité, il conviendra d'identifier des indicateurs spécifiques, puis de les développer et de les affiner de manière à pouvoir les appliquer dans les 13 pays membres du CIHEAM. Ces indicateurs serviront, dans un premier temps, à cerner les systèmes actuels de production et de consommation dans les différents pays méditerranéens et, dans un deuxième temps, à identifier les changements nécessaires pour parvenir à des systèmes de production et des schémas de consommation présentant une durabilité et une résilience nettement meilleure. Le travail effectué donnera lieu à des mesures de protection et d'amélioration de la diète méditerranéenne, ainsi qu'à des scénarios élaborés à partir de différentes options de modélisation, constituant ainsi le substrat nécessaire à la formulation de recommandations pour la mise en place d'instruments de politique trans-sectorielle destinés à améliorer la durabilité des systèmes et habitudes alimentaires méditerranéens.

Un atelier technique et un séminaire international ont rassemblé 51 experts à l'IAM de Bari en 2011, afin d'initier les échanges sur les indicateurs à définir dans cette optique. Ce groupe d'étude a déjà établi une première liste d'indicateurs possibles et pertinents dans quatre domaines : environnement et ressources naturelles; économie; société et culture; nutrition, santé et style de vie. Un plan d'action a également été proposé.

Ces indicateurs pourraient aussi servir à évaluer la durabilité des régimes alimentaires dans d'autres régions du monde.

Session II

Programmes biologiques et de qualité : les défis en termes de durabilité et les perspectives dans la région méditerranéenne

en partenariat avec le MOAN

S'agissant des programmes qualité pour les produits agricoles et les denrées alimentaires, il est suggéré :

- de promouvoir les échanges transfrontaliers et le dialogue public – privé permanent via le renforcement d'**initiatives spécifiques de mise en réseau** axées sur les programmes et labels de qualité (ex. : agriculture biologique et produits d'identité locale) et assorties de potentiels d'exportation prometteurs et d'implications positives significatives pour le développement des communautés et territoires locaux ;
- de mettre en place une **passerelle méditerranéenne** transfrontalière, intergouvernementale sur les programmes qualités et de renforcer la bioéconomie à travers : i) la facilitation continue de l'accès à des informations actualisées sur les changements intervenant au niveau des règles, des normes et des pratiques en matière de qualité des aliments; ii) la prestation d'une assistance technique et d'un soutien en matière de développement des capacités aux acteurs institutionnels et aux entreprises; iii) un soutien à la mise en place de politiques adaptées pour l'intégration des petites et moyennes exploitations et entreprises de transformation des pays méditerranéens dans la chaîne internationale d'alimentation en produits alimentaires de qualité; iv) la promotion de l'équivalence et de l'appropriation locale des normes et dispositifs de qualité alimentaire; v) le développement des synergies et complémentarités entre les dispositifs de qualité; vi) la corrélation entre la recherche et l'entreprise (clusters) pour renforcer l'innovation dans l'agroalimentaire.



Conclusions of the International Seminar
“The Sustainability of Food Systems in the Mediterranean Area”

25-26 September 2012

Malta

CIHEAM with the technical cooperation of FAO (Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division) and in partnership with MOAN has organized the International Seminar on “The Sustainability of Food Systems in the Mediterranean Area”, held in Malta, from 25 to 26 September 2012. This document summarises the main issues and makes proposals for actions to be implemented in the Mediterranean basin and highlights concrete projects that can be funded in the coming years.

The main objective of this Seminar, beyond the intrinsic value of the exchanges that took place among the participants (about 70 Euro-Mediterranean experts, senior officials of ministries and international organizations, researchers, etc.), was to provide an innovative approach to reconcile food and nutrition security with sustainability including the use of resources while ensuring the protection of the environment, the adaptation of production systems to climate change, social enhancement and conservation of the Mediterranean diet cultural heritage.

To this end, the participants hope that the recommendations of the seminar will be brought to the attention of the Ministers of Agriculture of the 13 CIHEAM member countries, during their 9th meeting on 27 September 2012.

The participants have also emphasized the importance of the role played by CIHEAM, a privileged space for exchanges and analyses aimed at developing cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, a role that has been confirmed and strengthened in the year 2012 by the 50th anniversary of its establishment.

The participants focused their consultations in two separate sessions:

1. food Systems and Mediterranean Sustainable Diets: the Mediterranean Diet as a pilot study;
2. organic and Quality Schemes: Sustainability challenges and prospects in the Mediterranean Region.

Context

The participants in the Seminar have made the following observations about the evolution of food systems in the Mediterranean countries:

- current food consumption and production patterns are not sustainable in the Mediterranean basin due to biodiversity loss, degradation of natural resources, pesticide contamination, climate change, high energy and water consumption, dietary patterns and eating habits changes and high dependency on imports as well as poverty and vulnerability of many rural and urban Mediterranean communities, and particularly the erosion of the Mediterranean diet;
- currently, in the Mediterranean basin, we have multiple burdens of malnutrition - undernourishment, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity - due to recent and dramatic shift in dietary patterns. The trends of diet-related diseases (e.g. overweight, obesity, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and certain cancers) are alarming, highlighting the inadequacy of the present food systems and dietary patterns. According to WHO (NCD Country Profiles, 2011), overweight and obesity rates in Mediterranean countries continue to rise;
- the protective effect on health of a good adherence to a Mediterranean-type diet has been repeatedly evidenced by scientific and medical studies since the 1960's pioneer seven countries study;
- consequently, urgent measures are needed to promote and disseminate the global concept of «sustainable diets⁴».

For instance, recent scenarios built to model future sustainable agriculture and food consumption acknowledge the necessary changes towards integrated and agro-ecological systems of production as well as a change in the consumption pattern with a higher plant/ animal food ratio:

⁴ "...Sustainable diets are those diets with low environmental impacts which contribute to food and nutrition security and to healthy life for present and future generations. Sustainable diets are protective and respectful of biodiversity and ecosystems, culturally acceptable, accessible, economically fair and affordable; nutritionally adequate, safe and healthy; while optimizing natural and human resources." FAO/Bioversity International (2010). Biodiversity and Sustainable Diets - United Against Hunger. Report of a scientific symposium; 3-5 November 2010, Rome.

- in 2012 the European Commission has presented to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, «Innovation for sustainable growth: a bioeconomy for Europe», which, among other things, envisages activities to spread information among consumers about food products adopting a scientific approach (highlighting the benefits of nutrition, methods of production and sustainability of the environment) and to promote a healthy and sustainable lifestyle;
- in 2008, at the 26th FAO Regional Conference for Europe, it was recommended to promote local and traditional food products as an essential way for realizing food sovereignty and biodiverse and resilient food production. Several member nations urged FAO to direct more efforts towards market access and consumer awareness of high value traditional products, acknowledging that traditional agriculture practices are often the only farming methods possible in difficult agro-climatic areas. Several delegations agreed that “organic” was a quality designation important for consumers and significant for sustainable agriculture and environment, and countries needed FAO support in establishing a regulatory framework for implementing and protecting this designation. Many delegations highlighted the Mediterranean Diet being rich in biodiversity and nutritionally healthy. Indeed, the promotion of the Mediterranean Diet could play a beneficial role in the development of sustainable agriculture in the Mediterranean region;
- the traditional and tradition-based innovative food products are a good way to give value to local biosystems, economies and communities and to improve sustainable development;
- sustainable rural development, organic agriculture and geographical indications were mentioned specifically in the First Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Venice in 2003 within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Organic farming and geographical indications are also mentioned together in various international strategic documents concerning Mediterranean region. Furthermore, development agencies, national governments, private operators and NGOs, working on individual and institutional capacity building for the sustainability of agrofood system, are increasingly taking account the many potential synergies between food quality schemes and certification.

The participants also reflected that the «traditional Mediterranean Diet», recognized by UNESCO as an intangible heritage of humanity in 2010⁵, should be considered as a model of sustainable diet in the Mediterranean basin, and able to contribute to the sustainability of the agro-food systems around the Mediterranean and to the valorisation of quality products.

⁵ « ... derives from the Greek word "diaita" – way of living – it is a social practice based on "know-how, knowledge, and traditions ranging from the landscape to the table and that concern, in the Mediterranean basin, cultures, harvest, fishery, conservation, preparation, cooking and, in particular, the way of consuming » UNESCO, 2010.

As a result of these observations, the participants to the seminar felt that the attention of the Ministers of Agriculture of the 13 member countries of CIHEAM, who will meet on 27 September 2012, should be drawn particularly on the increasingly unsustainable situation of food systems around the Mediterranean affecting a large proportion of citizens who currently reside in the Southern and Northern Mediterranean, and on methods and strategies to be adopted to reverse this negative trend.

Proposals for an action program

The participants agreed that actions to be undertaken in order to change this situation are urgent and represent the conditions to permanently modify the observed processes and to develop and implement new strategies for achieving sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean. They relate in particular to:

- the previous statements made by the CIHEAM's countries Ministers of agriculture in 2008 and 2010, summarized by their final declaration in (Istanbul, May 8, 2010), reporting that it is necessary to: *"...Work to promote a healthy and sustainable regional food production system following the standards of the Mediterranean diet that foster the spirit of conviviality and favour consumption of local and seasonal products, particularly by encouraging regional networks to support public decisions for the protection, promotion and marketing of Mediterranean products and the development of environmentally sound agricultural production systems..."*;
- the need to reconcile food and nutrition security and sustainable use of resources while ensuring the local food demand and the protection of the environment, and resilience of production systems to climate change and their contribution to its mitigation;
- the sustainability of Mediterranean food systems , which represents an important area of thinking and action for governments and international organisations should replace the short-term approaches. In this context, the use of certification and quality assurance measures (geographical indications, organic agriculture, PDO, etc.) is a very effective means of adding value to products in local and international markets.

Activities to be developed

Session I

Food Systems and Mediterranean Sustainable Diets:

The Mediterranean Diet as a pilot study

with technical collaboration of FAO

Activities must envisage the implementation, in the 13 member countries of CIHEAM and also member States of FAO, of a pilot project to develop **“Guidelines for improving the sustainability of diets and food consumption patterns in the Mediterranean area”**. The Mediterranean diet, in its various national forms, will be used as a model to describe, understand and improve the sustainability of current diets and food systems.

In order to assess this sustainability, specific indicators should be identified and further developed to be applied to the different 13 CIHEAM’s member countries. These indicators will be used, in a first step, to characterize the current production and consumption systems in the various Mediterranean countries and, in a second step, to identify the changes needed to achieve both production systems and consumption patterns with noticeably better sustainability and resilience. Measures to protect and improve the Mediterranean diet are expected. Scenarios will be constructed through modelling various options. This will form the basis to formulate recommendations for cross-sectoral policy instruments allowing the improvement of the sustainability of Mediterranean food systems and food consumption patterns.

A previous technical workshop and an international seminar gathered 51 experts in CIHEAM-MAI in Bari in 2011 to launch a first exchange on the necessary indicators to be implemented for that purpose. This Task Force already raised a first list of possible and relevant indicators in four domains, environment and natural resources; economy; society and culture; nutrition, health and lifestyle. An action plan was also proposed.

These indicators could also be used to assess the sustainability of diets in other parts of the world.

Session II

Organic and Quality Schemes: Sustainability challenges and prospects in the Mediterranean Region

in partnership with MOAN

Concerning quality schemes for agricultural products and foods it is suggested to:

- foster cross-border exchange and public-private permanent dialogue through the strengthening of specific **Network initiatives** focussing on quality schemes and labels (e.g. organic agriculture and local identity products) with promising export potential and significant positive implications for the development of local communities and territories;
- establish a cross-border, intergovernmental **Mediterranean Gateway** on quality schemes as well as enhancing bioeconomy through: i) facilitating continued access to up-to-date information on food quality rules, standards and practices changes; ii) providing technical assistance and capacity building to institutional and corporate actors; iii) supporting the design of adequate policies for the integration of Mediterranean small and medium producers and processors into global food quality supply chains; iv) promoting equivalence and local ownership of food quality standards and schemes; v) furthering synergies and complementarities between quality schemes; vi) linking research and enterprising (and clusters) to enhance innovation in agro-food.

9^{ème} réunion
des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
des pays membres du CIHEAM

9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries of
CIHEAM's member countries

RECOMMANDATIONS

***à l'issue de la 9^{ème} réunion des
ministres de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation
et de la Pêche des pays membres du CIHEAM***

Malte, 27 septembre 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

***Issued at the close of the 9th meeting of
the CIHEAM member countries' Ministers
of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries***

Malta, 27th September 2012

9^{ème} réunion des ministres de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche des pays membres du CIHEAM

RECOMMANDATIONS

A l'invitation de S.E. George Pullicino, Ministre pour les Ressources et les Affaires Rurales de Malte, les Ministres de l'Agriculture des 13 États membres du Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM), ou leurs représentants, se sont réunis à La Valette le 27 septembre 2012, année où le CIHEAM célèbre le 50^{ème} anniversaire de sa création. A ce propos, les Ministres et les chefs de délégation soulignent l'importance de cette organisation intergouvernementale et reconnaissent sa contribution en faveur de la formation, de la recherche et de la coopération en Méditerranée.

LES MINISTRES ET LES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION

Conscients que la configuration originale du CIHEAM, offre un cadre approprié pour l'identification des intérêts mutuels dans le domaine du développement agricole et rural, de la sécurité alimentaire et de la gestion durable des ressources naturelles, au moment où la région méditerranéenne connaît une période de transitions politiques, sociales, économiques et environnementales ;

Considérant que l'agriculture et l'alimentation représentent des questions stratégiques pour la stabilité des Nations du CIHEAM, la prospérité et le bien-être quotidien des populations, et que toutes les formes d'agriculture durables s'avèrent

9th meeting of the CIHEAM member countries' Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the invitation of the Hon. George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs of Malta, the Ministers of Agriculture, or their representatives, of the 13 member states of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), met in Valletta on 27 September, 2012, the year in which CIHEAM celebrates its 50th anniversary since its inception. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation wish to emphasize the importance of this intergovernmental organization and acknowledge its contribution to education, research and cooperation in the Mediterranean.

THE MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION

Aware that the original configuration of CIHEAM offers an appropriate framework for the identification of mutual interests in agriculture and rural development, food security and the sustainable management of natural resources at a time when the Mediterranean region is witnessing a period of political, social, economic and environmental transition;

Considering that, for the stability of CIHEAM Nations, agriculture and food are strategic issues for the prosperity and for the daily well-being of the population, and that all forms of sustainable agriculture are necessary to meet the challenge of

nécessaires pour relever le défi de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, sans oublier les contributions des secteurs aquaculture et forestier ;

Conscients que l'exigence de la sécurité alimentaire en Méditerranée doit être relevée dans un contexte où les défis sont multiples (contraintes géographiques avec la rareté de l'eau et de la terre, croissance démographique et urbanisation, changements climatiques et menaces environnementales appelant à davantage de coopérations multilatérales et à des solidarités régionales entre pays riverains pour faire face à ces défis, ainsi que l'ont analysé de nombreuses études du CIHEAM (dont les rapports *Mediterra*) et l'ont recommandé les précédentes réunions des Ministres de l'agriculture des 13 Etats membres ;

Considérant les constats effectués, la série de recommandations émises et l'ensemble des mesures envisagées en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et de la lutte contre la volatilité des prix agricoles, dans les forum internationaux, en particulier au sein de la FAO (sommet de novembre 2009 à Rome), du G8 (sommet de juillet 2009 à L'Aquila) et du G20 (sommet de novembre 2011 à Cannes), et plus récemment à travers le Dialogue 5+5 de la Méditerranée occidentale (séminaire de février 2012 à Alger) et la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable dite « Rio+20 » (sommet de Rio de Janeiro en juin 2012) ;

Conscients que la tendance pour le prix des denrées de base est à la hausse et que la dépendance de la majorité des pays méditerranéens envers les marchés internationaux pourrait s'amplifier à l'avenir, et que le commerce et des échanges en partenariat contribueront à garantir des approvisionnements réguliers ;

global food security, without overlooking the contributions of the aquaculture and forestry sectors;

Aware that the requirements of food security in the Mediterranean must be seen in a context of multiple challenges (geographical constraints including water and land scarcity, demographic growth and urbanisation, climatic changes and environmental threats) and calls for more multilateral cooperation and regional solidarity among Mediterranean countries to face these challenges, as has been analyzed in the numerous studies conducted by CIHEAM (i.a. *Mediterra* reports) and recommended at previous meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture of the 13 member states;

Considering the observations made, the different recommendations submitted, and the overall measures deliberated in particular on food security and the struggle against the volatility of agricultural commodities prices in international fora, particularly within the FAO, (Rome summit - November 2009), the G8 (Aquila summit - July 2009) and the G20 (Cannes summit - November 2011), and more recently at the 5+5 Dialogue in the western Mediterranean (Algiers Seminar - February 2012) and United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development called 'Rio+20' (Rio de Janeiro summit - June 2012);

Aware of the trend for the prices of basic commodities to increase and that the dependence of the majority of the Mediterranean countries on the international markets could intensify in the future, and that trade and exchanges through partnership will contribute to guarantee regular supplies;

Prenant connaissance des débats qui ont eu lieu à Malte, les 25 et 26 septembre 2012, lors du séminaire international portant sur la durabilité des systèmes agro-alimentaires en Méditerranée, organisé par le CIHEAM avec la collaboration des autorités maltaises, et soulignant le rôle de la diète méditerranéenne comme l'un des vecteurs de systèmes alimentaires durables dans les stratégies de développement régional et des produits locaux traditionnels, car la sécurité alimentaire quantitative doit être complétée par une approche qualitative ;

Ont consacré leurs débats aux actions communes à envisager pour « **La Sécurité alimentaire et la volatilité des prix des produits alimentaires au sein des pays de la Méditerranée** », convaincus que ce sujet se situe au cœur des principaux enjeux politiques, économiques, sociaux et écologiques de la région ;

Au terme de leurs débats, les ministres et les chefs de délégation ont adressé des recommandations aux pays méditerranéens (i), aux organisations internationales qui opèrent dans l'espace méditerranéen (ii) et au CIHEAM (iii).

LES MINISTRES RECOMMANDENT,

Aux pays méditerranéens :

1. De mener des politiques nationales de développement agricole et rural et des stratégies alimentaires écologiquement et socialement responsables, afin de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire de ses citoyens et de soutenir les producteurs agricoles (ii), de favoriser une croissance plus inclusive sur l'ensemble des territoires et notamment dans les régions de l'intérieur en stimulant la gouvernance locale (iii), de poursuivre les efforts d'adaptation et d'atténuation aux

Taking cognizance of the discussions which took place in Malta, on the 25th and 26th September 2012 during the International Seminar on the Sustainability of Agro-alimentary Systems in the Mediterranean, organized by CIHEAM with the collaboration of the Maltese authorities, and underlining the role of the Mediterranean diet as a driver of sustainable food systems within the strategies of regional development and on that of traditional local products, since quantitative food security must also be complemented by qualitative approaches;

Dedicated their deliberations on joint actions to consider "**Food security and food price volatility within the countries of the Mediterranean**", convinced that this topic is central to the key political, economic, social and ecological policy issues of the region;

At the end of their debates, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation submitted recommendations to: (i) Mediterranean countries: (ii) to international organizations operating in the Mediterranean region (iii) and to CIHEAM.

THE MINISTERS RECOMMEND,

To the Mediterranean countries:

1. Implement national agricultural and rural development policies as well as ecologically and socially responsible food strategies, in order to reinforce food security for their citizens, /while supporting agricultural producers (ii) Encourage a more inclusive growth on their territories - notably in remote regions while stimulating local governance, (iii) Pursue adaptation efforts for climate change in agriculture, (iv) Develop innovative public-private financing

changements climatiques de l'agriculture (iv), de soutenir les producteurs agricoles à travers des financements publics-privés innovants et des instruments sur la gestion des risques en agriculture (v) et de placer l'agriculture parmi les principales priorités politiques en insistant auprès des opinions publiques sur le rôle stratégique de ce secteur pour l'avenir ;

2. De reconnaître, dans ces politiques, le rôle essentiel

- des petits et moyens agriculteurs, apportant un soutien constant à l'activité de ces communautés, en renforçant leur accès aux marchés locaux, nationaux et régionaux, en instaurant davantage de mécanisme d'assurance pour faire face aux risques et en développant des stratégies pour l'emploi capables de rendre attractif la profession agricole et l'économie rurale ;
- des femmes et des jeunes agriculteurs pour les mêmes considérations.

3. De partager les préoccupations, les informations et les expériences nationales en matière de sécurité alimentaire, dans l'optique d'élaborer progressivement des projets régionaux concrets et durables et de s'appuyer à cet effet sur les réseaux de coopération et de recherche méditerranéens pour formuler de telles initiatives concertées et diffuser les savoirs au niveau régional, ceci au moyen de projets relatifs au développement durable en milieu rural, au développement et à la promotion de produits de qualité ainsi qu'à la coordination de la recherche agricole sur des questions telles que les espèces végétales résistantes au stress hydrique et la gestion des ressources hydriques ;

and risk -management tools in agriculture and (v) Place agriculture among the main political priorities while fostering public opinion on the strategic role of this sector for the future;

2. Recognize in these policies the essential role of

- small-scale farmers, providing consistent support to these groups' activities, while strengthening their access to local, national and regional markets, providing them with mechanisms to meet production and income risks and developing employment strategies capable of making agricultural jobs and the rural economy more attractive; and
- women and young farmers in the same manner.

3. Share the concerns, information and the national experiences concerning food security in order to progressively elaborate concrete and sustainable regional projects; and relying on these inputs towards Mediterranean cooperation and research networks to formulate such concerted initiatives and to disseminate the expertise so acquired at regional level, this through projects related to sustainable rural development, to the development and promotion of quality products and the coordination of agricultural research on topics such as water stress resistant plant species and water resources management;

4. De développer les opportunités de complémentarités agricoles et logistiques entre pays riverains du Bassin méditerranéens sur le plan des échanges commerciaux et d'accroître les investissements en infrastructure et dans les transports et, de promouvoir leurs activités en prenant acte que la lutte contre les pertes et les gaspillages contribue à renforcer la sécurité alimentaire ;

5. De contribuer, en étroite collaboration avec le groupe de suivi du G20, au développement d'un système d'information des marchés des pays méditerranéens relié à AMIS (Système d'information sur les marchés agricoles), et partager l'information dans la lutte contre la volatilité des prix dans les marchés agricoles ;

6. De poursuivre leur soutien au CIHEAM, organisme qui oeuvre depuis sa création en 1962 à la formation du capital humain, aux progrès de la recherche scientifique et au développement des relations méditerranéennes, sur les thèmes essentiels de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation et de l'environnement, et de renforcer cet instrument unique de coopération multilatérale en projetant son action vers les grands enjeux régionaux et les défis émergents, dont notamment la construction d'une plus grande sécurité alimentaire.

Aux organisations internationales et regionales

1. Que l'Union européenne puisse poursuivre, dans le cadre de sa politique de voisinage, sa coopération dans l'espace méditerranéen en accordant une place importante au développement agricole et rurale comme l'ambitionne le nouveau programme ENPARD ;

4. Develop agricultural and logistical complementary opportunities among the Mediterranean countries on the level of commercial exchanges, to foster growth in investments in infrastructure and transport and promote further joint ventures, while noting that efforts against inefficiency and wastage contribute towards re-enforcing food security;

5. Contribute to the development of a market information system of the Mediterranean countries, linked to AMIS, in close collaboration with the G20 monitoring panel, as a way to share sound information in order to help prevent price volatility in agricultural markets;

6. Contribute to back CIHEAM, an organisation that since its creation in 1962 has made every effort in building up human capacity, support scientific research and the development of Mediterranean relationships on the essential themes of agriculture, food and the environment, and to reinforce this unique multilateral cooperation instrument while projecting its actions toward the large regional issues and upcoming challenges, notably the improving of food security.

To the International and Regional Organizations

1. European Union may pursue, within the setting of its neighbourhood policies, cooperation in the Mediterranean area while attributing an important place to agricultural and rural development contained in the new ENPARD programme;

2. Que l'Union européenne puisse renforcer la mission du CIHEAM en Méditerranée, notamment par l'utilisation des instruments de coopération déléguée prévus pour les organisations internationales ;

3. Que le Secrétariat de l'Union pour la Méditerranée puisse appuyer les projets en matière de sécurité alimentaire étant donné sa vocation à promouvoir les actions multilatérales euro-méditerranéennes et à identifier des initiatives dans ce domaine qui touche le quotidien des populations et constitue un champ de solidarités ;

4. Que les différentes institutions internationales chargées de la coopération en Méditerranée ou de la sécurité alimentaire, puissent, en associant le CIHEAM, mettre en synergie des programmes de formation et de recherche, des projets de développement et de gestion durable des ressources naturelles pour mutualiser les moyens humains et financiers mobilisés dans le dialogue régional et la volonté de faire face aux tensions alimentaires, en impliquant les acteurs du secteur privé, les fondations et les pays extra-méditerranéens soucieux de jouer un rôle dans la stabilité et le développement de la région méditerranéenne ;

5. Que les institutions internationales soutiennent la mise en œuvre des recommandations formulées dans le cadre du séminaire international portant sur la durabilité des systèmes agro-alimentaires en Méditerranée, dont les conclusions sont annexées à la présente déclaration.

AU CIHEAM :

1. Qu'il consolide les acquis d'un demi-siècle d'existence en s'adaptant aux nouvelles réalités régionales et en cultivant sa volonté méditerranéenne pour le

2. European Union could strengthen the CIHEAM mission in the Mediterranean, also through the use of delegated cooperation tools foreseen for international organisations;

3. The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean supports the projects concerning food security considering its vocation to promote Euro-Mediterranean multilateral actions, identifying initiatives in this sector which affects the daily lives of the population and constitutes an area for solidarity;

4. Different international institutions responsible for cooperation in the Mediterranean or for food security, may, by allying themselves with CIHEAM, synergise training and research programmes, for development projects and sustainable management of natural resources pooling together regional human and financial resources and tackling food tensions, while involving the private sector, foundations and non-Mediterranean countries anxious to play a role in the stability and the development of the Mediterranean region;

5. International Organizations give this support to the implementation of the recommendations formulated during the International Seminar on the Sustainability of Agro-alimentary Systems in the Mediterranean, the findings of which are annexed to the present declaration.

TO THE CIHEAM:

1. Consolidates and strengthen the experience of half a century of existence while adapting to new regional realities and cultivating the organization's mission for

partage des connaissances en matière de Développement Rural soutenable parmi les cadres de demain ;

2. Qu'il continue sa mission, de formation, de coopération et d'observation en développant ses activités sur la sécurité alimentaire à tous les niveaux (local, national, régional), en s'efforçant de proposer des parcours éducatifs innovants et itinérants et ainsi contribuer au renforcement des capacités institutionnelles, en mettant en place de nouveaux indicateurs adaptés aux spécificités de la région, et en explorant de nouveaux champs d'expertise pour promouvoir une vision holistique des enjeux liés à l'agriculture et l'alimentation ;

3. Qu'il soutienne les pays méditerranéen dans le développement, en étroite collaboration avec le groupe de suivi du G20, d'un système d'information des marchés des pays méditerranéens relié à AMIS, avec la collaboration de la FAO, tirant profit de ses compétences et de sa spécialisation pour le renforcement des capacités des pays ;

4. Qu'il œuvre à la construction d'un réseau euro-méditerranéen sur la sécurité alimentaire rassemblant des fonctionnaires, des experts, des entrepreneurs des pays et des organisations de producteurs qui souhaiteraient s'associer à cette démarche, pour partager les connaissances, promouvoir des actions communes à l'échelle régionale, former un groupe de contacts réguliers dans ce domaine ;

5. Qu'il s'engage sur un travail en faveur des petits et moyens agriculteurs tel que préconisé précédemment, en lien avec le groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition créé pour conseiller le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale de la FAO ;

Mediterranean cooperation and knowledge-sharing, intercultural dialogue and training within the frameworks of tomorrow ;

2. Continues its mission of observation, education and cooperation while developing its activities on food security at all levels (local, national, regional), and endeavours to propose innovative educational courses and so contribute to the strengthening of institutional capacities, thus establishing new guidelines adapted to the requirements of the region, while exploring new fields of expertise to promote a holistic vision of agriculture and food;

3. Supports Mediterranean countries in the development of a market information system of the Mediterranean countries, linked to AMIS, in close collaboration with the G20 monitoring panel in collaboration with FAO, and to make use of its expertise and specialisation to reinforce the capacity building of the countries;

4. Sustains the establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean network on food security bringing together civil servants, experts, entrepreneurs and producer organizations of the countries wishing to adhere to this programme, share knowledge, promote common actions at a regional level and form a group of regular contacts in this field;

5. Commit to work for small-scale farmers, as recommended above, in connection with the High Level Panel of Experts (HPLE) on food security and nutrition that has been created to advise the FAO's Committee on World Food Security (CFS);

6. Qu'il œuvre à la mise en commun et aux échanges sur les bonnes pratiques concernant les organisations de producteurs et la gestion des risques ;

7. Qu'il poursuive son action engagée consistant à contribuer à l'amélioration de la gestion responsable des ressources naturelles dans la région, notamment l'eau dans le domaine de l'irrigation, pilier incontournable des stratégies de sécurité alimentaire en matière de formation, de recherche et d'aide au développement au sein de ses pays membres ;

8. Qu'il contribue à l'innovation dans les secteurs agricole et agroalimentaire pour renforcer la création d'emplois ou de valeur ajoutée en milieu rural.

CONCLUSIONS

- Au terme de leurs travaux, les ministres et les chefs de délégations ont reconnu que les questions liées à la sécurité alimentaire et à la lutte contre la volatilité des prix, ainsi que celles liées à la bio-économie, à l'innovation dans le secteur agroalimentaire, à la préservation de l'eau, des sols et de la biodiversité, à la promotion de la diète méditerranéenne et à l'efficacité de la chaîne agro-alimentaire méritaient une attention de tous les instants, exigeant des réponses coordonnées sur le plan politique, commercial et logistique, que le cadre multilatéral euro-méditerranéen doit faciliter.

- Sur ces sujets et dans un contexte où beaucoup de pays méditerranéens souffrent de différentes crises, les ministres et les chefs de délégations ont reconnu les efforts démontrés par le Centre ces dernières années et ont exprimé leur

6. Sustains sharing and exchange of good practices on producer organizations and risk management;

7. Pursues its committed action, comprising the improvement of responsible management for natural resources in the region, notably water in the domain of irrigation, an essential pillar of food security strategies for training, research and development aid to member countries;

8. Contributes to innovation in agriculture and agrifood sectors to reinforce job or added-value creation in rural areas.

CONCLUSIONS

- At the end of their meetings, the Ministers and the Heads of Delegation acknowledged that the topics on food security and the struggle against price-volatility, bio-economy and innovation in the agro-food sector, as well as on, but also the preservation of water, soil and biodiversity, the promotion of the Mediterranean diet and an efficient food chain, deserve attention at all times. They demand coordinated answers at a political, commercial and logistical level which a Euro-Mediterranean multilateral context can facilitate.

- On these topics and in a context in which many Mediterranean countries are suffering different crises, the ministers and Heads of Delegation acknowledged the efforts made by the Centre in the last decades and voiced their hope for CIHEAM

attente à l'égard du CIHEAM pour renforcer ses capacités et soutenir durablement son action.

- Les ministres et les chefs de délégations ont convenu de porter à la connaissance des ministres des Affaires étrangères de leurs pays les présentes recommandations afin qu'ils puissent en tenir compte dans les négociations internationales et les initiatives politiques dans lesquelles ils sont engagés.

- Suite à l'invitation de S.E. Mr Rachid Benaïssa, ministre de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural de l'Algérie, les ministres et chefs de délégations sont convenus de tenir leur dixième réunion en 2014 en Algérie.

- Ils ont félicité S.E. Mr George Pullicino, ministre des Ressources et des Affaires Rurales de Malte et tous ses collaborateurs, pour les efforts accomplis en vue du succès de la présente réunion.

- Ils ont remercié le CIHEAM pour sa contribution apportée à la réussite de la réunion, et ont exprimé leur attachement à cette organisation qui consacre toute son activité à édifier quotidiennement une solidarité méditerranéenne véritable.

to reinforce its capabilities and keep up its good work for many years to come.

- The Ministers and Heads of Delegation agreed to bring the present recommendations to the attention of the Foreign Ministers of their respective countries so that they can take them into account in international negotiations and in political initiatives in which they are involved.

- Following the invitation of the Hon. Rachid Benaïssa, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Algeria, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation agreed to hold their tenth meeting in 2014 in Algeria.

- They congratulated the Hon. George Pullicino, Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs of Malta, and all his collaborators, for the efforts accomplished towards the success of the present meeting.

- They thanked CIHEAM for its contribution to the success of the meeting, and expressed their full appreciation for this organization that dedicates its daily activities to foster a long-lasting Mediterranean solidarity.

9^{ème} réunion
des ministres de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et de la Pêche
des pays membres du CIHEAM

9th meeting
of the Ministers of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries of
CIHEAM's member countries

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS

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MINISTERIAL DELEGATIONS

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- Salvino **BUSUTTIL**
- Justin **ZAHRA**
- Paul **RADMILLI**
- Gabriel **CAMENZULI**

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ESPAGNE / SPAIN

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Secretary General for Agriculture and Food

Head of cabinet

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- Stéphane **LE MOING**
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- Marie-Hélène **LE HENAFF**

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Conseiller diplomatique

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- Gianni **BONINI**
- Giuseppe **AMBROSIO**
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Head of Staff to the Under-secretary

Diplomatic adviser

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- Salah **HAJJ HASSAN**
- Mouin **HAMZE**

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- Paulo **PIMENTEL DE CASTRO COELHO**

Chef de délégation – Chef de cabinet de la Ministre de l'Agriculture, de la Mer, de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du territoire

Délégué du Portugal. Président de l'INIAV

TUNISIE / TUNISIA

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- Habib **AMAMOU**

Ministre de l'Agriculture

Vice-président et délégué de la Tunisie. Président de l'IRESA

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- Mehmet **MEHDI EKER**
- Vedat **MIRMAHMUTOGULLARI**
- Kenan **YALVAÇ**
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General Director of Agricultural Research and Policy. President of the Scientific Advisory Committee of CIHEAM

Head of Department

Head of Department

Assistant EU Expert

Executive Assistant

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FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization

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|----------------------------|--|
| - Mustapha SINACEUR | Sub-regional representative for Central Asia |
| - David HALLAM | Director of the Trade and Markets Division |

OCDE / OECD

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| - Dimitris DIAKOSAVVAS | Senior Economist – Trade and Agriculture Directorate |
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UNION EUROPEENNE / EUROPEAN UNION

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| - Dacian CIOLOS | European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development |
| - John DALLI | European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy |
| - Paolo DE CASTRO | Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development |

UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANÉE / UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Rafiq HUSSEINI | Deputy Secretary General |
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CIHEAM

SECRETARIAT GENERAL / GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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