



Biography of the Secretary General

Cosimo Lacirignola has worked on issues of Mediterranean agriculture, food security and rural development for over 30 years. He is the Secretary General of CIHEAM since the 1st October of 2013.

Cosimo Lacirignola is an agricultural economist and graduate of the University of Bologna. After having been an official of the European Commission from 1982 to 1983, he became administrator at the CIHEAM General Secretariat from 1983 to 1987; He became head of the CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari in 1987. This professional background has allowed him to gain extensive experience in the field of scientific and technical cooperation in the Mediterranean, developing numerous training and research projects and being at the heart of high-level regional diplomacy.

Cosimo Lacirignola has also acted as advisor for international relations to the Ministers of Agriculture of three different Italian governments. He was also head of the International Relations Office of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF) from 1998 to 2000, then from 2002 to 2006. He was the president of the *Fiera del Levante* in Bari from 2006 to 2011. Cosimo Lacirignola is the author of numerous articles and several books on agricultural, water and Euro-Mediterranean issues. He is also Commander of the Italian Republic, Commander of the National Order of the Cedar of the Republic of Lebanon and *Laurea Honoris Causa* of the Agricultural University of Tirana in Albania.

Born on 31 May 1957, Cosimo Lacirignola is Italian. He is married and has three children. He speaks Italian, French and English.

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