



Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan and CIHEAM Working together on common development challenges

Press Release

Amman, Jordan, 7 April 2016

Today M. Akef Zu'bi, the Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and M. Cosimo Lacirignola, the Secretary General of the CIHEAM (International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide a long time framework for cooperation on agricultural, food security and rural development issues.

This new partnership strengthens relations between Jordan, a non-member state, and the CIHEAM who gathers countries facing common challenges in the fields of agriculture, sustainability and development in marginalized territories. Jordan and CIHEAM share a common vision of development, seeking for a better inclusive growth and a greater stability in a context of increasing population, scarcity of natural resources, international agricultural markets dependency and climate change.

Given the challenges of Jordan on the one hand, and considering the capabilities for scientific and technical expertise of the CIHEAM on the other hand, the collaboration will focus on **Institutional support activities** (rural policies, training and lifelong learning of technical staff in the Ministry of Agriculture, animal health, production of university courses connected to the country priorities and needs..); on **Sustainable Agriculture and Food projects** (Irrigation, nutrition policies, waste and losses...); on **Inclusive Development in Rural Areas** (boosting economic activities, reducing poverty, reinforcing the capacities of young people and women, supporting family agriculture and small farms, promoting "terroir" products...) and on **Economic Performance and Competitiveness** (entrepreneurship, organic agriculture, safety and quality control, crop production and processing, analyses and monitoring of international agricultural markets of fruits and vegetables...).

The discourse of M. Masum Burak, President of the CIHEAM, during the signature ceremony, highlighted the importance of preparing a better future for food and nutrition security in the Mediterranean Region based on a dynamic of inclusiveness. He defended the idea that the "emphasis should be on agriculture because it is a wonderful reservoir of solutions. Its purpose in providing food is inescapable, but agriculture is also a provider of jobs and stability". He added that public policies should implement innovative and inclusive approaches designed to further involve vulnerable groups, in the governance, the decision making process and also in the knowledge sharing systems.





M. Akef Zu'bi, Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and M. Cosimo Lacirignola, the Secretary General of the CIHEAM signing the MoU, in presence of M. Masum Burak, President of the CIHEAM

M. Cosimo Lacirignola, Secretary General of the CIHEAM, expressed his satisfaction to collaborate with Jordan and said he was honoured by this testimony of confidence. He declared that "In a context of necessary multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean, these kinds of partnerships are precious and should be encouraged because they maximise the impact of the projects and take best part of existing complementarities and synergies". Commenting the new CIHEAM Agenda 2025, representatives of the organization promoted the importance of a broader collaboration with non-member states and other stakeholders (Academics, NGO's, Regional and International organizations, private sector...) in the field of higher education, specialised training, networked applied research, development and technical assistance, scientific diplomacy and policy dialogue. Pursuing these objectives, the CIHEAM delegation present in Amman scheduled, the 8th of April, a coordination working session with ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas). In November 2015, the two organizations renewed their strategic partnership in ten major fields in the agricultural sector, including adaptation to climate change, inclusive growth and empowerment of youth, women and smallholders in rural areas.

CIHEAM

Created in 1962, the CIHEAM is a Mediterranean organization which works for improving sustainable agriculture and fisheries, for ensuring food and nutrition security and for developing rural and coastal territories. The organization gathers 13 Member States from both shores of the Mediterranean (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and works with several international and regional institutions. CIHEAM's actions rely on a bottom-up collaboration and are problem-solving oriented, connected to the peculiar needs of the countries. With our Member States, public and private partners and academics we strive to meet the 4 following challenges:



Struggling against "triple waste" (Knowledge-Natural Resources-Food)



Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food



Investing in new generations and marginal territories



Preventing risks and managing tensions

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