



A Mediterranean Observatory on Innovation to feed the knowledge gap in agro-food issues

Press Release

Bari, Italy, 19 May 2018



The meeting of Mediterranean Innovation Partnership (MIP) for youth entrepreneurship and technological transfer in the agro-food sector was held in Bari (Italy) on January 18-19. The aim of this meeting was to launch an MIP-Action Plan 2018-20 based on the needs and the possible solutions expressed by public and private actors of the innovation chain (research centres, extension services, ministries, enterprises, technology transfer agencies, etc.). Innovations of agro-food sector based on Euro-Mediterranean research, cooperation and policy dialogue are the heart of the [CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean \(CAPMED 2025\)](#) in particular when it contributes to support youth employment and Agro-Smart business in fragile territories.

Together with officials of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, the Puglia Region, ICARDA, IFAD, the Union of Arab Banks, the Union of the Mediterranean, ANSA, ARTI, PRIMA, IRESA (Tunisia), Scientific Committee Cluster C.LA.N Confindustria and the European BIC Network (EBN), the 10 member countries of the MIP shared a common vision intended at transforming constraints into opportunities for sustainable growth and development in the Mediterranean.

The Action Plan 2018-2020 approved by the MIP Member countries is aimed at strengthening the network, implementing cooperation activities, capacity building and consolidating dialogue to sustain the innovation chain at local and international levels for youth entrepreneurship.

Observatory on the Mediterranean Innovation Ecosystem

The MIP members announced the establishment of an Observatory on the Mediterranean Innovation Ecosystem managed by the CIHEAM Bari and intended to become a benchmark in the Mediterranean Innovation Scenario and feed the knowledge gap in relevant issues related to the innovation chain in the agro-food sector.

This objective is in line with the results of the 2017 MIP survey “Innovation processes in the Mediterranean: Actors, policies and future perspectives of the innovation chain”, first output of the MIP coordinated by CIHEAM Bari in close collaboration with all the network members for the collection and analysis of relevant information describing the innovation scenario in the Mediterranean agro-food sector.



During the two-day meeting, the discussions also contributed to identify intervention priorities at regional and local levels to facilitate the development of research results transfer processes and the implementation of innovation in enterprises and start-ups.

MIP actions are consistent with the CIHEAM Strategic Agenda CAPMED 2025 (Thematic Priority 8 – Youth employment and life-long learning) and the SDG Agenda 2030. The synergies among public and private actors of the innovation chain in the agro-food sector will be enhanced in the frame of the MIP Network to foster the establishment and innovation of agro-food enterprises through the exchange of knowledge, training and cooperation.

MIP members: Albania (Ministry of Agriculture), Algeria (Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries), Egypt (Climate Change Information Centre & Renewable Energy - CCIRE, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation), Jordan (Ministry of Agriculture), Lebanon (National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), SWG (SWG Headquarters -Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group in the EEA), Palestine (National Agriculture Research Centre (NARC)- Ministry of Agriculture), Morocco (Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries) and Tunisia (Institution of Agricultural Research and high Education (IRESA)- Ministry of Agriculture) were all brought together on the occasion of this meeting together with the Puglia Region, PRIMA initiative, ASCAME, IFAD, EMUNI, Confindustria, Scientific Committee Cluster C.LA.N, EBN, IRESA, ARTI, ICARDA, UBA, UfM and ANSA.

[Agenda of the meeting](#)

More about the MIP Project <http://mip.iamb.it>

More about the CIHEAM Bari www.iamb.ciheam.org

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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 the CIHEAM 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 fragile territories



Preventing risks and managing tensions